



Oak Bay Police Department

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News Release

Date: August 15, 2011

Police File #: N/A

For Immediate Release:

August 1, 2011 – August 7, 2011-08-08

Weekly News Release

Over the past week, Oak Bay Police responded to 117 calls for service. Of particular note, is the fact that despite responding to 8 residential Break and Enters in the last half of July, the first week of August saw no residential Break and Enters reported.

Oak Bay officers have increased patrols of the targeted areas (mainly the Uplands) and have been in the areas on bike and on foot in addition to the patrols by vehicle. As noted in previous media releases, residents had also been encouraged to contact the police department and provide details of any planned extended absences from their homes. With this information in hand, officers have been attending vacant residences and have been checking to ensure that the homes are secure and even, in some cases, relocating mail and newspaper deliveries that had been piling up to help ensure that there were no obvious signs that the homes were empty.

Police responded to two crashes this week where cars and cyclists collided. The first incidence occurred at 9:30pm on August 1st when a 21 year old cyclist was travelling eastbound on Bowker Avenue. As she passed a row of parked cars, one of the vehicles turned out from the curb, clipping the rear wheel of the bicycle. The cyclist suffered a bruised leg when she fell to the ground. The 28 year old driver was charged under the Motor Vehicle Act.

The second cyclist vs. car incident occurred at 12:30pm on August 4th on Oak Bay Avenue. The vehicle was pulling into a parking space along the Avenue when a cyclist, approaching from the rear and on the right of the vehicle, collided with the side of the car, breaking the side view mirror off and crashing. The cyclist suffered minor injuries.

Cyclists are reminded that they have the same rights and duties as the driver of a motor vehicle. They must obey all of the same rules and regulations as drivers of cars and trucks and can be ticketed for violations. This includes section 158 of the Motor Vehicle Act which prohibits passing another vehicle on the right except in very specific circumstances (ie: the other vehicle is signalling a left hand turn). While cyclists passing vehicles on the right may be common practice, it should be considered that, in the case of a collision, the cyclist may be held responsible for any damages that are caused and, further, likely will not be compensated for any injuries that they sustain.

In addition to the rules of the road for drivers of vehicles, cyclists must also wear a helmet (\$29 fine), have lights both front and back at night (\$109 fine), mustn't ride on sidewalks (\$109 fine), must ride to the right of the road (\$109 fine), and can even be charged with careless cycling or cycling without reasonable consideration(\$109 fine).

Oak Bay Police were called to Gonzales Bay on the night of August 2nd when four males were heard yelling and swearing by a local resident. The males, aged 16-18, were located by police in varying levels of intoxication. A search of the males located liquor and a relatively large quantity of marihuana. One youth received a violation ticket for possession of liquor and another was released on a Promise to Appear in court with a charge of "Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purposes of Trafficking" to be recommended. The youths were released into the custody of their parents.

Police were kept busy on the night of August 4th with alcohol fuelled events. A number of large and noisy house parties were reported to police with the first coming in at 9:30pm. The last alcohol related event was at 2:30am and involved an intoxicated 21 year old female on Oak Bay Avenue.

The remainder of this weekend was relatively quiet with the exception of two noise complaints on Sunday. In both of these incidences, neighbours found themselves disturbed by the noise of power tools being used on adjacent properties. Renovations, repairs etc of any building or structure within Oak Bay are limited to the hours of 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and are prohibited on Sunday. The offending persons were warned accordingly.

Sgt. R. Smith
Oak Bay Police