

**Subject: "Theft from the Blue Box" or yet another sign of the increasing disrespect and lawlessness in this society albeit petty as it may be in this case.**

**Date:** Sun, 14 Mar 2004 14:38:16 -0800

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

I have received a copy of a letter sent by RCMP Inspector Howard Eaton (below) in response to a letter a resident residing in the Edgemont area had sent to me. It was in regards to the theft from the Blue Box of recyclable material located on private properties. You may find the letter ( copy) from Inspector Eaton ( below) to the resident interesting.

My personal opinion on the matter is that while I appreciate the Courts ruling and subsequently the position of the RCMP I do not agree with the Court's ruling

Dear Mr. M.....

RE Recycling Concerns

I am in receipt of a copy of your email to the District of North Vancouver Council dated Feb. 6,2004. A copy of your letter was forwarded to me by Councillor Crist and I feel obliged to respond.

I share your concerns regarding people rummaging through your blue box which is situated next to your house. The blue box has spawned a significant industry of persons collecting cans and bottles from them, throughout the GVRD.

There is no offence related to the gathering of these items. The Courts have ruled that garbage and items set out for pickup by waste collectors are not subject to property rights and can be taken by anyone. Obviously the recycling contractors have a concern as it is taking money out of their pockets, but this is definitely not a police matter.

The issue of having someone prowling around on your property is another issue and could result in police action, however, it is a very minor offence - trespassing - and would result in a nominal fine.


I believe the best way to deal with this situation is to keep the blue box in a secure area, such as your garage, to eliminate the problem. It would also keep unwanted animals, such as bears and raccoons from visiting your yard.

I would be happy to discuss this further should you have any other questions of concerns.

Yours truly,

Inspector Howard Eaton,  
Operations Officer, North Vancouver RCMP.

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