

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in North America and an important step to help prevent it is to properly destroy any sensitive and confidential information. Vancity-Tsawwassen and Urban Impact are partnering for a third year in a row to sponsor a shredding fundraising event on Saturday January 17 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to benefit Delta Gymnastics Society. Businesses and individuals are welcome to bring in their bags and boxes of documents to shred as well as refundable containers (bottles, cans, juice boxes, etc) outside of Vancity-Tsawwassen/Tim Hortons area where a shredding truck will be stationed. Donations will be accepted by members of Delta Gymnastics who will be assisting with the removal of boxes and refundable containers.

“We hope to establish a new tradition in South Delta and helping our local businesses and residents to annually plan to properly destroy their confidential information as the New Year begins,” said Sue Ragona, Urban Impact Customer Service Supervisor. “Clean up office drawers, storage rooms and files and bring them to us for safe disposal.” Urban Impact believes that properly shredding personal and business documents will help alleviate any risk of identity theft. “We are very happy to support Delta Gymnastics by offering this service to the community of Delta.”

Identity theft is a form of stealing an individual’s personal or business information to access resources, obtain credit and other benefits in the victim’s name. “Once stolen, thieves can use your personal or business name and financial information to open credit cards and run up expenses,” explained Michelle Laviolette, Manager at the Vancity Tsawwassen Branch. “Once identity thieves steal your name, it’s very difficult to clear up your credit history afterwards, so it is critical that you protect your personal information – proper shredding is at the top of the list!”

Shredding of transaction records, credit applications, insurance forms, cheques, financial statements, credit card statements, mortgage or other home information, payroll information, and tax returns is highly recommended. “We are 100% behind Delta Gymnastics’ fundraising activity,” added Laviolette. “We are proud when our members take the initiative to protect themselves and others in the community and we love the fact that the proceeds will benefit very hard working athletes who want the opportunity to represent their club in western and national competitions.”

Delta Gymnastics athletes commit between 15 to 25 hours per week to perfect their skills. They have the opportunity to show their dedication and hard work during local, national and international competitions but it represents a big financial commitment to the families. During the year, the families undertake various fundraising initiatives to raise funds for the athletes.

All people who give a donation for shredding their documents or donates refundable containers will be entered in a draw to win various prizes donated by local merchants. “Our neighbouring businesses and Urban Impact were very happy to contribute towards prizes,” said Laviolette. “We will set up in a

convenient way that will allow people to drive thru to our tents and truck, drop off your boxes or bags and continue on your way quickly and efficiently.”

For more information about the event visit Vancity, Tsawwassen branch or contact Delta Gymnastics at 604-943-0460 or visit the website at www.deltagymnastics.com