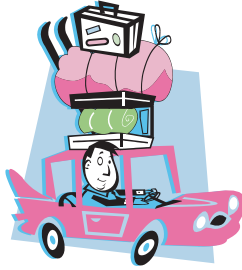




Summer is prime time for housebreaking thieves!



While thousands of families plan their summer vacations, others are busy making plans of their own.

Burglars go to work every summer stealing valuables from temporarily unoccupied homes while owners are away. Homeowners can take precautions to keep burglars out and safeguard their possessions.

- Lock and bolt all windows and doors. In more than 40% of residential burglaries, thieves enter through an unlocked door or window.
- Install deadbolt locks in all exterior doors. Most thieves are skilled at picking doorknob locks. Deadbolts offer added security.
- If you just moved into a previously owned house or apartment, re-key the locks.
- Do not hide keys in secret locations outside the home. Thieves know where to look for such keys. Instead, give a set of keys to a trusted friend or neighbour.
- Trim shrubs and bushes that obscure windows so thieves can't use them for cover while they break in.
- Cut back tree limbs that could be used to climb into second-storey windows.
- Secure sliding glass doors. Lock sliding doors, then cut a broom handle or other long piece of wood so that it fits in the door's bottom track. With this wooden barrier in place, the door will not easily slide open when forced.
- Lock and bolt the door inside your garage that leads into your home.

- Lock ladders inside the garage when not in use.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off to follow normal daily usage patterns.



Safe Cycling Tips: Rules of the Road for Young Cyclists

A bicycle is not a toy...it's a child's first vehicle! After you have determined that your children are properly equipped to ride their bikes, help them navigate the roads both lawfully and safely. Review these rules with your children.

- Wear a helmet. It's the law.
- Wear it at all times with the straps firmly fastened.
- Obey traffic rules.
- Keep to the right, ride single file in a straight line, and always with the traffic.
- Shoulder check. Look all ways, right then left shoulder check, and signal before turning or stopping.
- Turn with care. Most incidents occur at intersections. Look and listen before proceeding, use turn signals, and obey all traffic signs and lights.
- Beware of parked cars. Pass parked cars with caution. Leave adequate distance to prevent being hit if a car door opens or a vehicle pulls out into the traffic lane.
- Beware of roadway hazards. Stop and look all ways



before entering a street, driveway, or alley. Try to make eye contact with the driver. When weather conditions are poor, slow down, apply brakes earlier and be extra careful. Avoid riding over potholes.

- Pedestrians have the right of way on paths and walkways.
- Be visible. Equip your bicycle with front and rear lights and a red rear reflector. Wear light coloured or reflective clothing. Avoid bicycling at night.
- Avoid heavy traffic. Plan your route to use bike paths and less heavily travelled streets.
- Ride safely, don't weave, race or stunt-ride in traffic.
- Don't carry a passenger on a one-seated bicycle.
- Never tow or pull anybody.
- Keep both hands on the handlebars unless signalling.
- If passing another cyclist, look behind for approaching traffic and use a bell or voice to indicate passing.

New Car Theft Trick

Cpl. Kate Anderson, Steveston COPS wants to tell everyone about the latest trick to steal your car, your key and your purse.....

You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. Then you lock your doors, start the engine and shift into reverse. You look into the rearview mirror to back out and you notice a piece of paper stuck to your back window. So you shift into park, unlock your doors and jump out of your car to remove the paper that is obstructing your view.

When you reach the back of your car, that is when the car-jacker appears out of nowhere, jumps in your car and takes off! Your car is running, and guess what – your purse is probably sitting in the car on the passenger seat! The thief now has your car, your keys and all your ID! He just has to look at your Driver's Licence or registration to find out where you live, and he has the keys to get in!

Be aware of this scam and tell your friends!

If you see paper on your back window, just drive away!

Be smart and be safe!



Calling 9-1-1

If you call 9-1-1 by mistake, please stay on the line and let the operator know you have made a mistake.

Do not program 9-1-1 into your programmable phone, it is too easy to accidentally call 9-1-1.

If you call 9-1-1 and cannot speak, help can still be sent to you. This problem is not uncommon, sometimes people are panicked or disoriented when they call in an emergency, or they are in personal danger and cannot speak.



Report that crime...

We cannot convince some people to report crime. They say, "I left the car unlocked and am too embarrassed to report it," "the police won't/can't do anything about it," or "nothing was taken". We have to convince such people that they are only looking at things from a personal view instead of a community view. Maybe nothing can be done about their personal victimization at the time, but if the police are not informed they cannot take action, increase patrols in the area, or be aware of trends.

We need to help the police by letting them know what is occurring by *reporting all crime*.



Recycling benefits thieves

Like many of us, it would appear that thieves are into recycling, albeit not for the same reasons as most of us. We have the Blue Boxes for cans, bottles and plastics; the Blue Bag for newsprint; and the Yellow Bag, the catch-all for paper products. It can also be a source of valuable information for a thief. The Yellow Bag is meant for recycling magazines, catalogues, telephone books, cardboard and general paper products. In our eagerness to help the planet, we must ensure that we are not putting sensitive personal information, credit card or banking information and receipts into the Yellow Bag.



There have been a number of cases recently where a man presented himself to local banks as the owner of a business, deposited a bogus cheque into the bank, then withdrew several thousand dollars. He also persuaded the tellers to print him several counter cheques on the company accounts. He then used these cheques to make additional withdrawals. That his signature didn't match the authorized signatory or that he did not carry any identification did not seem to matter to the banks; as long as he had the account number, they appeared to be eager to help him.

Please do not stop recycling. The planet needs our concerted effort. But be very cautious about throwing out sensitive information. Personal paper shredders are relatively inexpensive and will ensure that your private information is kept out of the wrong hands!

Counterfeit Money



The rate of counterfeiting monies has been on the rise in Canada because of easier access to improved computer technology which is relatively affordable. In 2003 alone, it has increased 72%. This makes it the 6th most common crime in the country. In BC alone it has seen a 50% increase in 2003.

A new trend has been occurring, counterfeit money showing up at garage sales. A counterfeiter went to a neighbourhood garage sale and purchased items using counterfeit bills. The homeowner accepted the bills and went to a home improvement store to purchase home reno supplies. The clerk took the bills and they failed the counterfeit detection scanner. The homeowner was able to trace the bills back to the garage sale but is now out-of-pocket for the money.

Another example happened at a local bank. An off duty police officer withdrew \$100 from his account. When the teller handed him the money, he noticed it did not feel "right". Upon closer inspection of the identifying security features, he concluded it was a fake. The Bank Manager was called and the bill was taken out of circulation.

The morale of these two stories is to always check your bills. To find out how, please log on to the Bank of Canada's website www.bankofcanada.ca/en/banknotes

Although the number of counterfeit notes detected in circulation is extremely small in comparison to the more than 1 billion genuine Canadian bank notes in circulation, it is important that we all be vigilant.

Lock Out Auto Crime Audit Results

The Lock Out Auto Crime volunteers at South Arm Community Police Station in conjunction with ICBC performed a recent audit at a local shopping centre. Here are the results:

Total cars audited = 357

2 keys and 33 garage door openers left in view

Cars left open = 0

Windows left open = 6

Steering wheel locks in use = 46

Steering wheel locks not in use = 6

Alarm or immobilizers in use = 46

Possessions or cash left in view = 114



Garage Door Alarm



You've got your front and back door alarmed, but...did you ever think about putting an alarm system on your garage doors? Just think of all stuff you have stored in the garage – if you are like me – you don't even remember what's in there! Alarms for garage doors are a must when your garage is attached to the house. Just remember – you need a longer entry time (to get out of the car and collect all your belongings, etc.), most people have 20-30 second delay for their front and back doors, use a 60 second delay for the garage door. (This only works if your alarm system is capable of 2 different entry delays!) Tip: Don't have your alarm box (the one with the backup battery) in your garage!

However, for most people with "Basic Alarm Packages" cannot do this and need to upgrade all the electronics in the alarm. Isn't it better to be safer than sorry – get an alarm system for the garage today – you'll be happy you did!

What Have You got to Lose?

Next time you park, look around your vehicle and see what tempting items you've left in plain sight. Something that seems worthless to you could be attractive to a thief. Thieves always cause damage. If your car is a target, you may lose your insurance deductible. You will lose the time it takes to make a claim and repair the damage. You will probably lose personal items as well as your peace of mind.

You could even lose your car. Some are stolen simply because their ignitions are easy to break. And while in the hands of a thief, your vehicle is likely to lose its stereo and the contents of your glove compartment and trunk. Closing your windows and locking your doors is the first step to prevention.



To listen to a recorded message listing the weekly residential break and enters, please call 604 207-4715.

Look for the monthly Island Beat crime prevention newspaper column in the Richmond Review. This column is co-written by Cst. Jack Harrison and Cst. Tai Chang of the Richmond RCMP Crime Prevention Unit and Wendy Milford and Sheila Yamamoto of the Richmond Block Watch program.

