



**Richmond RCMP Crime Prevention Unit  
Business Watch Newsletters  
March, 2008**

**Cyber Security - Securing a Wireless Network**

In today's technological age, wireless networks contain confidential information that may be vulnerable to outside manipulation. Here are some basic steps you can take to increase the security of your wireless network.

- ❖ Ensure that all user accounts are password protected
- ❖ Disable identifier broadcasting to prevent hackers from discovering that you have a wireless network
- ❖ Use either Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) or Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) to encrypt your data, thereby only allowing intended recipients to read it
- ❖ Personal firewall and anti-virus software should also be installed on your computer and should be kept up to date as new viruses are frequent

**How do thieves GAIN ENTRY into YOUR business?**

As security measures become more advanced, burglars become more cunning and "creative". Thieves are finding different ways to gain entry into homes and businesses. The traditional point of entry strategies, including prying, smashing windows and removing doors/windows of hinges are still evident today. However, current point of entry trends depict an increase in the use of lock bumping keys, and entering establishments through the drywall of a vacant neighboring business.

Lock bumping is a method used to defeat common pin tumbler locks, which are equip on most homes and business' doors. This technique requires a specifically made key that is placed into the lock and bumped with another object. For a split second pins "jump" and the lock can be turned. It is important to ensure your locks have a UL rating of at least UL437. This means that the lock has been preliminarily tested again picking, drilling and physical resistance, but this still may not entirely protect you. For best results against lock bumping, contact a licensed locksmith.

Is your neighboring business vacant? Is your business physically connected to another? Police are seeing an increase in the number of businesses that fall victim to break and enters, through the drywall of a vacant neighbor. Typically a vacant lot will have less security measures than that of an operating business. Thus, thieves will break into the vacant unit with less effort, and proceed through the drywall or roof into the operating business. Some tips to protect against this include; ensuring you have furniture, shelves or heavy equipment secured against/to the vulnerable wall. Ideally, furniture will be placed between major structure beams or studs. Be aware of who is entering and exiting the vacant business beside you, as they may be surveilling the physical design and setup.

Please take note of these trends and take the proper precautions to safeguard your businesses!