

# Rash of vehicle break-ins prompts police reminder

A recent spate of car-break ins in Georgetown has Halton Police reminding area residents again to lock their vehicles and ensure any valuables are removed or out of sight.

Det. Sgt. Nick Millinovich said since May there have been 54 thefts from auto in Georgetown— 21 occurred last week alone. Many of the entries have been in Georgetown South.

Of all the entries, in nearly 90 per cent of them, the vehicles were unlocked and valuables left in plain sight.

By leaving a vehicle unlocked Milinovich said residents are “completing their portion of the crime triangle, which is opportunity.”

He said in most cases the criminal will go from car to car checking door handles and entering those that are unlocked. Smashing a window would be noisy, and increase their chances of getting caught.

“It’s so preventable,” said Milinovich. He said most of these crimes could be prevented if the public just locked their

doors and removed any valuables. That would mean a lot less frustration and property loss on the part of the vehicle owner and more time for officers to focus on other crimes.

“The resources we end up expending in investigating these crimes is significant and disproportionate to the effort that would be required to prevent it,” said Milinovich.

For example, a recent incident in which a credit card was stolen from an unlocked car at an apartment complex on Mountainview Rd. and later used in a store took police several hours to investigate. Fortunately their work paid off resulting in a Georgetown man being charged.

Det. Sean Baker estimated it took officers one to two hours to take and complete the initial report, then there was time spent viewing video footage and identifying a suspect. Officers then spent approximately six hours locating the suspect, and another three hours or so to complete the arrest, and lay the charge.





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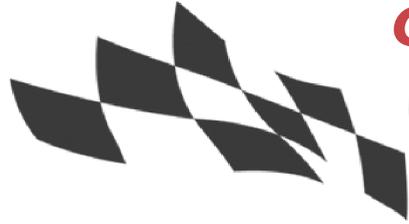
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