Lock it up . . . or you could lose it, says regional police officer

You could be next. You don't have to be rich or It can take only a few

famous. Just be away. You don't have to go far or thief to pick a lock and gain be away long. It could take as entry to any home or busilittle as a few minutes for you to become one of the week's the area just aren't as secure break and enter statistics.

Police could be called upon round home security. to do such investigations as vacationers return home to find they are victims of theft.

"Many of these break-ins and burglaries could be prevented." explained Bill McGrath. Identifications Unit, Halton Regional Police District One. "People seldom secure their homes properly when they leave whether it is for work or

a weekend." seconds for an experienced ness. "Many locks throughout as people think." Good locks

are an important point in all

"The price of a lock is a

good indicator of the security value of any given lock," P.C. McGrath. "Hardened steel components and proper installation are important factors in making

the most from a lock." High security, dead bolt lock with one inch steel bolts are available for both home and business and when combined with a hardened steel

collar around the tumbler lock portion, is highly resistant to being forced open. "The sealing collar prevents the entire assembly from being manipulated by a

Even the best locks will not stop a determined experienced thief, but a good lock can serve as a deterrent to an amateur, and can serve to prevent a break-in if allround security is kept up.

"There is no point in locking a door and leaving all the windows open." Sliding windows are difficult to lock as are sliding glass doors. The only really effective way to lock these is to put a barrier in the track to prevent unauthorized opening from

"Dowelling is good for this purpose," said McGrath "and can be painted not to show." In addition to installing and using good locks throughout the premises, timers and the premises, making goods

the outside.

"The obvious things still pile-up, cancel the paper and when possible have someone check the house on a regular

basis when you're away." As an added effort to thwart would be theives and to make stolen goods traceable, started a few years ago in co-

identify goods with a personalized number permanently affixed to the articles. The program serves as a deterrent to thieves with warning stickers displayed on alarm systems can complete traceable and an added the home or business security identification in court to convict a thief.

"The social insurance apply, don't leave mail to number is written with a special fluid that is invisible by visible light," explained McGrath. "Under ultra-violet light the owner's number is visible proving ownership."

Ownership and possession is an important point to prove Operation Indentification was in investigating a theft of any kind. Operation Identification operation with police and has aided greatly in the insurance organizations to recovery of many items

rendered traceable.

Some insurance companies require positive identification of goods such as cameras, lenses, stereo equipment, art and jewellery objects before insurance is made available. In cases of high value art and jewellery ltems insurers require photographs of the goods in addition to bills of sale and appraisal certificates before insurance is

issued. Many policies have maximum of deductible clauses and the insured could find himself without sufficient coverage in the event of a break-in. It is important to update your policy as your possessions grow." Whether or not they are gifts," added

the officer. Prevention through aware-

ness on the public's part is the key in reducing crime. awareness before and after the fact.

Should you be a victim of break and enter, the same awareness could aid police in investigation leading to a speedy arrest and recovery of the items.

Once it has been determined that a break-in has occurred, call the police immediately and avoid disturbing evidence such as supplied, color, value, age other items. and identifying marks.

It is possible for stolen items to be discovered missing over a period of days following the occurrence and

these should be reported to police as soon as possible. broken glass, wood splinters and ransacked areas. Fingerprints and footprints can be collected as to ald in proving

illegal entry. In describing stolen Items to the police be as accurate as possible in all information

When looking for fingerprints, the point of entry is the main area of concentration. Fingerprints around the actual theft area may be difficult to get without damaging the furniture or

"The silver dust used will not come off wooden furniexplained P.C. McGrath. "It just penetrates into the pores of the wood." A

phonograph record would be rendered unplayable by fingerprint dust.

New plaza

Georgetown is to have three movie theatres, when a new plaza is built beside the Gordon Alcott arena there. The three theatres will seat a

total of 1,000 people. Georgetown hasn't had a

theatre for 23 years. Mayor Hill confirmed he worked with Jerry Sprackman of Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd., developer of the

plaza, to include the theatres. Mr. Sprakman has also approached Halton Hills concerning a proposed plaza for

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