

# NEWS

## Police say idling cars are ripe pickings for thieves

Halton Police remind area residents not to leave their unlocked, unattended vehicles warming up in their driveway after someone stole an SUV from a Lauchlin Cr. residence Friday morning.

About 8:25 a.m. an unoccupied Toyota Highlander was running in a driveway when police say a white mini van pulled up and a man got out. He jumped into the Highlander and both vehicles took off in tandem.

Police say just around the corner the driver of the Highlander lost control and drove into a snow bank. He tried to free the vehicle, but couldn't, so abandoned it and jumped into the white van, which left the area.

The suspect is described as having a dark complexion, 5'8" to 5'9" with a thin build, wearing a 3/4 length coat and a winter hat.

With the frigid temperatures recently more

and more residents have been warming up their vehicles. But Halton Police say that unlocked running unoccupied vehicles are easy targets for car thieves.

Since Jan. 30, police have been running Project Warm Up in Milton and with Friday's incident they have extended it to Halton Hills.

Through March 1 officers will be patrolling residential neighbourhoods in Halton Hills between 5 and 8 a.m. looking for unoccupied, unlocked, running vehicles. If they find one an officer will go to the door of the home and discuss the potential theft opportunity and pass along some crime prevention tips.

The project is an educational awareness campaign to get people thinking about protecting themselves and proactively preventing crimes in their communities.

## Police charge three for Georgetown break-in

Halton Police arrested three men in Toronto on Feb. 19 for a break-in that occurred in Georgetown on Feb. 4.

Georgetown homeowners were out and returned home to find a basement window had been

pried open and several electronics, including laptops, ipods and a television as well as cash and jewelry, stolen. Charged with break and enter are Luis Inostroza-Pina, 25, Bryan Inostroza-Pina, 30, and Diego Pinto-Palma, 26. All have no fixed address.

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