

Lock it or lose it

Several community residents ought to find this article interesting as they have recently been victims of car entries and thefts, and hopefully they won't mind if we can all learn from their mistakes.

There is a common belief that if a thief wants into your car bad enough they will get in, either by breaking the window, or damaging the locks, and the thought of this damage outweighs the loss of loose change, sun glasses, CDs and so on. Here are some recent FACTS.

A small, quiet street in Georgetown had six cars entered with various small items taken. ALL six of these cars were left unlocked in the front driveway. NOT ONE theft occurred from a locked car and NO damage was done to enter a locked car.

Hopefully I won't offend the perpetrators of these thefts with my next few comments, but, these thieves are not particularly skilled, educated or practiced in the art of breaking into cars. They are inherently lazy and small-risk takers. They are drawn towards easy opportunities.

Suspects are typically 15-25 years old and work with one or two friends. In the wee hours of the morning they casually walk up the sidewalk, sometimes wearing hooded sweaters to avoid easy identification, and carry backpacks to fill with pilfered loot. Every once and a while one of the group will stroll up a driveway and check to see if any car doors are unlocked, and if locked,

**Const.
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Borak**



they move on.

Are you in the habit of leaving your car doors unlocked? Do you keep a garage door opener in your car? Is there a door from your garage to your home? Is that door locked? Unlocked car doors can result in a lot more than the loss of your coffee money.

To prevent thefts from your car, the wisest course of action is to park in your locked garage, with your car doors locked. Consider the use of motion lighting to startle anyone meandering up your driveway in the night. Also, report all thefts and attempt thefts to police as we take these criminal offences very seriously and do follow up on all leads.

Finally, to all you thieving individuals, mark my words, "WE WILL CATCH YOU!"

Contact me personally for crime prevention tips at 905 878 5511 extension 2470, or by e-mailing chris.borak@hrps.on.ca. Please reserve the 911 system for emergency calls only.

—Const. Chris Borak is the community support officer for District 1

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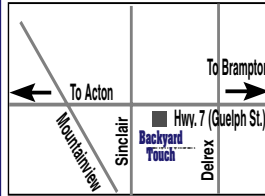
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