

Champion Country

Covering Rural Halton & Wellington County

Summer brings out more thieves

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**
Special to *The Champion*

The warmer weather seems to have brought about a rash of break-ins in Nassagaweya.

With approximately seven break-ins in the past three months, Halton Regional Police are warning residents to take precautions to protect their homes and valuables.

"Good weather lends itself to more activity and bad guys are no different in that they'd rather commit crimes when it's 30 (Degrees C) not -3 (Degrees C) outside," said Halton police Staff Sgt. Susan Delaney.

"Since more people tend to be outside in the warmer months, a suspicious person can be a bit less conspicuous since it is not unreasonable to see someone out and about on a nice day."

Staff Sgt. Delaney said that a group of thieves from Hamilton may be the culprits in the latest rash of burglaries.

"One of the biggest reasons that B&Es (break and enters) are up is that a particular bunch of bandits are active and they keep going until they are caught," she said. "It is our understanding that the recent bunch of B&Es in our rural area are being done by a group out of Hamilton. That has not been confirmed with arrests, though our task force is working on it."

With many people taking vacations during the summer months, their homes are prime targets for thieves, she added.

Protect yourself

Staff Sgt. Delaney said the chances of being caught in the act are reduced when thieves know the home will be vacant for a period of time, but there are measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of being burglarized.

- Lock all doors and windows and place a broom stick or wood in sliding doors to prevent them from opening.
- Set lights on automatic timers.
- Have a neighbour check on your home daily and bring in the mail and newspapers.
- Stop mail through the post office while you're away.
- Arrange for someone to cut the grass in your absence.
- Keep a car parked in the driveway to let it seem that someone is home.
- If there's a car in the driveway, hide the remote garage door opener.
- Install a home alarm system.
- Make sure doors and windows aren't hidden by bushes or trees.

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