

Give home 'lived in look' police say after break-ins

By MARTA MARYCHUK

Following a series of break-ins during the weekend, including a number in the Stouffville area, York Regional Police are advising residents to give their home a "lived-in look," while they are away.

Police report that on Friday nine homes were broken in to in Markham, Stouffville and Unionville. Sergeant Rodney Sine said the thieves took made off with stereos, jewelry, alcohol, money and video cassette recorders (VCRs).

"Many people are still away on holiday," said Sine. And thieves can tell when nobody is home, Sine added. "Their papers aren't picked up, the grass isn't trimmed."

Sine said a home timer the best way to burglar-proof your home.

The timer should be hooked up to your television, lights and radio and should run from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

In Unionville thieves broke into a Lot 43, Concession 4 home and removed \$3,000 worth of jewelry on Friday. Police said the thieves kicked in a door, causing \$200 worth of damage, to gain entry into the home. Police estimate the theft took place between 1 p.m. and just after 2:30 p.m.

Elsewhere in Unionville, thieves kicked in a door and made off with \$1,000 worth of jewelry at a Lot 31, Conc. 5 home. According to the police report, this break-in took place between 10:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

That same day in Whitchurch-Stouffville, police said thieves broke into a Lot 1, Conc. 4 residence and stole a microwave

oven. Police said the break-in happened between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thieves then hit a Hollanrake St. home shortly before 6 p.m. and took \$458 worth of property.

In Markham, thieves stole a Porterfield Cr. woman's purse from her home. Police report the burglary happened sometime after midnight and before 5:30 a.m. More than \$80 in cash was taken from a Harper Way home on Friday. A wallet and a watch, worth roughly \$270 were also stolen from a Gordon Way home, between 1 and 6:30 p.m.

Sgt. Sine said the rash of break-ins are related and the suspects are known to police.

But Sine said this problem is not unique to York Region. The number of burglaries is on the rise throughout Canada.



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