



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

# Thefts don't worry GO Transit travellers

BY SEAN PEARCE  
Staff Writer

While thieves might be turning some GO Transit parking lots into auto parts stores, York Region commuters say they still feel secure about the sites.

Local residents found tales of vehicle thefts and parts stripping coming out of some areas surrounding Toronto troubling, but still felt safe parking their vehicles at GO Transit lots around the region.

Keswick resident Natasha Stribbell didn't have any qualms about leaving her vehicle at the GO lot in East Gwillimbury, but added she might not feel the same in Toronto.

"In this area up here I (feel safe)," she said. "I don't know if I'd park my car down in Toronto though."

Others, such as Joyce Moore, expressed similar sentiments.

She doesn't park in the GO Transit lots very often, but her daughter does on a daily basis, she added.

"She's never mentioned anything about (theft) to me," Ms Moore said. "I never would have thought about theft in these parking lots until I saw it in the paper."

Thefts from vehicles do occur from time to time in parking lots all over the region, not just those belonging to GO Transit, York Regional Police Const. Gary Phillips said.

Thefts of auto parts and wheels, however, have been rare, he added.

Most of the time, the thefts reported are smash-and-grabs more than anything else and Mr. Phillips said motorists should ensure they do not leave

## HAVE YOUR SAY

► What do you think of this issue?  
E-mail [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

valuables in plain sight whenever they park their cars.

If that rule is followed, motorists typically won't have a problem, he said.

"I've taken GO Transit and parked my car at the lot in Newmarket numerous times and never had an issue," Mr. Phillips said.

"I've even left my truck there overnight and never thought anything of it."

Since downplaying the problem in an article about the issue that ran in a Toronto newspaper, GO Transit has since altered its attitude and announced it will institute some new security measures. GO Transit's managing director and CEO Gary McNeil said a security review will be forthcoming as the first step.

"I have directed that a review of security practices across our network be undertaken," he said in a letter.

"We will also conduct staff training for our frontline workers to better understand established protocols for incident reporting."

Mr. McNeil is also promising a more pro-active approach to ensuring GO's parking lots are secure and an added level of vigilance by staff.

He further expressed who regrets to anyone that may have experienced theft or damage to their vehicle.

GO Transit spokesperson Jessica Kosmack, said improved security has been in the works for the past few months and is always a priority.

New measures now being rolled out by GO Transit should definitely help the situation, she added.

"These aren't a reaction to the article in the Toronto Star," Ms Kosmack said. "They were already in the works."

## Parking lot security tips

- Lock all vehicle doors and roll up the windows
- Ensure any valuables are some place out of sight, such as the trunk or don't bring them at all
- Never leave a wallet or purse in the car
- Always be aware of your surroundings and be watchful for suspicious people
- Report any unusual or suspicious activity to the police
- Report all thefts, regardless of how small
- Keep in mind that criminals are opportunistic; don't make it easy for them

## FIBROMYALGIA

If you suffer from **FIBROMYALGIA** or **CHRONIC FATIGUE** then attending this free symposium may be the most important thing you do this year. You will discover the true cause of these conditions and natural solutions and options you can use right away. Many are now able to drive, take vacations, hold a job, go to school and socialize for the first time in years. Dr. Allen Turner is an international speaker and lecturer who has been featured on the *Dini Petty Show, National News and Canada AM*. He will present a free symposium on Thursday, July 24th at 7:30 pm at the Stouffville Health Centre.  
Call 905-640-4440 for reservations.

Vehicles sit at the GO Transit parking lot at the Stouffville Station Friday. While thieves might be turning some GO parking lots into auto parts stores, York Region commuters say they still feel secure about the sites.

**Want Some Fun?**  
*Tango, Salsa, Nite-Club & more...*  
For Singles or Couple  
Partner: **NOT** Required  
Beginners Welcome  
Champions Created  
Ask about Our Studio's  
July Trial Special  
**Call Now**  
Call (905) 415-1160  
1 (800) 327-0267  
Class for Adult or Teens  
[freewebs.com/ourstudio](http://freewebs.com/ourstudio)  
[ourstudio@canoemail.com](mailto:ourstudio@canoemail.com)

# HOCKEY MOMS & DADS

## TIRED OF GAS GUZZLING SUV'S?

# TIME FOR THE NEW '09 FORD FLEX

Available for immediate delivery

**HOUSTON FORD LTD.**  
5786 Main St., Stouffville  
**905-640-4541**  
[www.billhoustonford.com](http://www.billhoustonford.com)

**HOUSTON FAMILY PRICING**  
*Welcome*

Available for a limited time only

**A Safer Community Is Your Call**

Cash Rewards For Anonymous Tips On Crime

1-800-222-TIPS

www.crimestoppersyr.ca

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Sun-Tribune