

CRIME: Large vehicle needed for haul, police say

Couple has no insurance to cover \$50,000 break-in

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Anthony Basnicki and his wife, Barb McCrory, saved for months so they could move to a home with heat.

But their first and last month's rent, along with their moving expenses, were stolen last week when their home on Kennedy Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville was broken into.

The thief or thieves also stole about \$50,000 worth of tools from their garage and an ATV the couple used to clear snow from their driveway, which was parked in their yard, Feb. 11.

"It was out and out vandalism. I think it was targeted for the tools and the ATV," Mr. Basnicki said. "We know it's somebody we knew because (our three cats) weren't scared."

"They destroyed everything of mine, but they took everything of his," Ms McCrory added.

Stolen were tools Mr. Basnicki used for plumbing, electrical, drywall, carpentry and mechanics, as well as landscaping equipment. None of it was insured.

"We can't afford it because the only one working is my wife," Mr. Basnicki said.

In May 2009, Mr. Basnicki was severely injured in a car accident at McCowan and Aurora roads.

"Because of the accident, I'm not supposed to be working," he said.

On the day of the break-in, the house was left unoccupied between 7 a.m. and noon as Mr. Basnicki drove his wife to work,

which was normal.

The couple returned home to find wood from the door that leads into the house from the garage, all over the floor and a footprint on the door.

When they entered the home, it was ransacked.

The couple immediately called York Regional Police, who arrived and processed the scene.

According to Mr. Basnicki, 52, a detective was to be assigned to the case by Monday morning. One was not assigned until Tuesday, he said.

"They're not handling it right. They say if they don't get them within 48 hours, the case goes unsolved," he said. "I think they're ignoring me because (I was in trouble a long time ago). I haven't been in trouble since I was a kid. ... I never hurt anybody. It was just stupid stuff."

Everything is being done by the book, according to Const. Rebecca Boyd of York Regional Police, who noted no sergeants are on duty over the weekend to assign cases.

"There's not a whole lot we can do" because there was no surveillance footage, she said. "I would think these items would need to be transported in a large vehicle."

If you know anything about this incident, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com, or text your tip by sending TIPYORK and your message to CRIMES (274637).



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Anthony Basnicki says thieves broke into his Kennedy Road garage, stole his ATV and a large array of tools, leaving a mess. He thinks the thieves are people his family knows.

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