

Residents 'afraid to leave house'

From page 1.

my neighbourhood. As a community, all of the community can do a little to prevent," Mr. Somasunadaram said.

All of the recent residential break-and-enters took place during the day.

"It's a shame. People are afraid to leave their house, even during the day, because they think it's going to get broken into," said Joanne Iannuzzi, chairperson of the Stouffville Community Policing Centre. "You've got to have a lot of nerve to do what these people do, to kick in somebody's front door in the middle of the day."

York Regional Police Const. Ivan Liew said perpetrators kick doors in because it is "quick and easy to get in and out. ... A 120-pound person can kick through a front door easily, usually with one kick."

The crime prevention officer is also in favour of bringing back Neighbourhood Watch programs.

"I think a neighbourhood is lucky to have neighbours who are retired or stay-at-home moms," the crime prevention specialist told The Sun-Tribune when the rash of break and enters began, noting they are the people who know when things aren't quite right and can immediately call police about it.

Break-in artists are usually very quick, taking as little as a minute inside, according to Const. Liew. It doesn't help we make it easy for them.

"Most people keep their stuff in the same

place," he said.

Some of the items robbers look for include jewelry, laptops, spare car keys, passports and social insurance numbers.

"Whatever they think they can sell-off for a quick buck," Const. Liew said, adding passports can net them thousands of dollars.

'You've got to have a lot of nerve to do what these people do, to kick in somebody's front door in the middle of the day.'

A York Regional Police officer, along with representatives from the Stouffville Community Policing Centre will be at the Neighbourhood Watch meeting to provide some helpful tips on how to protect your home.

But in a nutshell as homeowners, the goal is to slow the would-be burglars down, "not totally prevent the perpetrators from getting into the residence because if they have the right tools and want to, they will get in," according to Const. Liew.

Proper dead bolts on the doors, locking the windows, including those on the second floor, along with using laptop cable locks and storing valuables in a safety deposit box are all preventative measures. As well, don't keep garage door openers in vehicles.

"Don't make it so convenient for them," Const. Liew said.

Stouffville, is about 49 acres in size and currently consists of the recently refurbished ball diamond, Lebovic Leisure Centre, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club and Sangsters Grove.

In 2007, council adopted the Memorial Park Master Plan to guide the future development/redevelopment of the park. Among other items it consisted of the reconstruction and extension of Park Drive between Main Street and Hoover Park Drive.

For more details, contact Rob Raycroft, director of leisure and community services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, at 905-640-1910 ext. 2290 or rob.raycroft@townofws.ca

Have your say on Memorial Park

You may have missed out on your chance to provide input on where the toboggan hill should be moved or how the skateboard park could have been downsized, but now is your chance to provide the town with your thoughts on the rest of Stouffville Memorial Park.

The town is hosting a public information meeting Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 111 Sandiford Dr., to receive input from residents on the future opportunities for the redevelopment/development of the downtown park.

The park, which is located in the centre of

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