



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

FROM/DE: SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY DETACHMENT DATE: March 8, 2010

TARGET HARDENING YOUR PROPERTY CAN HELP TO REDUCE CRIME

(PENETANGUISHENE, ON)- Throughout the calendar year more often when temperatures outside are tolerable for thieves, members of the Southern Georgian Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are dispatched to the communities within Tiny, Tay and Georgian Bay Townships, and The Town of Penetanguishene to investigate break and enters to seasonal and year round residences. Despite the continuous education, awareness and investigations reducing the numbers requires community assistance and partnerships with their location Police.

In January, February and March 2010 break and enter investigations have remained or dropped in frequency in areas that are patrolled by Southern Georgian Bay Detachment. Some recent break and enters have occurred during daylight hours on week days when the majority of home owners are away at work. Home owners should get to know and communicate with their neighbours and get to know each others routines and daily habits.

Home owners can participate in the Neighbourhood Watch Program that has proven to be a successful crime prevention resource. Currently in Penetanguishene and Tiny Township Neighbourhood Watch exists in some neighbourhoods and if anyone is interested in bringing this to their street they should contact Southern Georgian Bay Detachment.

Residents should be cautious of the information that family members are entering into social networking site's such as Face Book , My Space and Twitter to name a few as this is a modern day tool for opportunistic individuals who seek to know when homeowners are away. When you leave your home/apartment you should be asking yourself "Have I done everything I could do to secure my home and possessions?"

"Target Hardening" is one step within the C.P.T.E.D. (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles. C.P.T.E.D. is the design and effective use of a built up environment to improve our quality of life by reducing fear and the incidence of crime.

Target Hardening is accomplished by using items that prohibit entry or access onto your property. Through the use of window films, alarm systems and security hardware, such as quality dead-bolts, it is much harder for the opportunist to gain access to your home or business.

Through the use of the C.P.T.E.D. principles, criminal behaviour may be reduced and at the same time people may be encouraged "to keep an eye out" for each other.



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-2-

There are main concepts that make up C.P.T.E.D.: Natural Surveillance, Natural Access Control, Landscaping and Fencing, Territorial Reinforcement, Target Hardening and Lighting. Providing good lighting systems will enhance police on patrol and community residents' ability for surveillance and identification of property and suspects.

Tips for residents:

- record license plate numbers and descriptions of any suspicious vehicles in your neighborhood,
- watch for strangers in your neighbourhood,
- watch for persons taking "shortcuts" through your property,
- watch for vehicles making repeat visits through your neighbourhood.

The “Lock it or Lose it” program’s message says it all. These types of crime can be prevented. Lock your unattended vehicles at all times, ensure windows are rolled up and valuables are not left in plain view so as not to entice thieves to target your vehicle.

For more information on this concepts of C.P.T.E.D. please go to www.opp.ca/crimeprevention/communityissues/tipsheets/CPTED .

For more information on the Lock it or Lose program please go to www.opp.ca/crimeprevention/communityissues/Lockitorloseit .

You can also contact Southern Georgian Bay OPP, Community Services Officer for further information or presentations on these topics for your community groups.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact the OPP at (705) 526-3761 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can submit your information online at www.sdm-crimestoppers.com. or if you have any information on this crime or any other crime. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.00.

- 30 -

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