

Neighbourhood Watch



January 2021 Bulletin



New Vehicle Theft Method and Prevention Tips

A new method of vehicle theft has been identified by Peel Regional Police. This new method targets newer model vehicles. It requires criminals to physically break into the vehicle to install a device to hack and extract information from the vehicle. Once the vehicle's information is downloaded, it can be programmed onto a separate keyfob which will then be used to start the vehicle and drive away with it. Police noted criminals may leave the vehicle unattended for 24 hours or so to determine if that vehicle has GPS tracking. If the vehicle is not tracked and reclaimed by the owners, the criminals will return to take the vehicle for good.

It is unfortunate that as technology evolves, so do the abilities of criminals. However, note that the length of time required to fully succeed in this crime is a potential vulnerability in this particular method. This provides plenty of opportunity to reduce the risk and prevent vehicle theft.

Here are a few of options to consider to help prevent theft by this new method:

Consider investing in surveillance systems with motion/person detection, intercom functions, and/or mobile phone synchronization/notifications - Surveillance systems with these added features may provide opportunities to take advantage of the length of time needed to complete the crime and catch the incident in progress.

Consider investing in non-digital "unhackable" tools like steering wheel locks - Though it may be an inconvenience, it can further hinder digital hacking methods. It may also increase the amount of time it takes to successfully commit the crime and increase the opportunity for thieves to get caught.

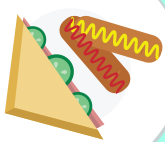
Park higher-end vehicles that might be vulnerable to hacking in locked garages - This can hinder criminals from easily accessing or targeting your vehicle. Ensure garage door openers are secured as well (ex. don't leave the garage door opener anywhere it may be visible and vulnerable).

If the garage is not an option, try to ensure as much visibility around your vehicle and limit as many hiding spaces around your vehicle as possible - Improving visibility around your vehicle will provide more opportunity for the criminals to be spotted in the act.

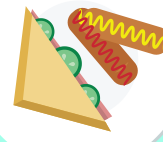
Consider investing in GPS trackers - GPS tracking will help you track your vehicle if it does leave the driveway with thieves.

Whether criminals continue to employ this new method of vehicle theft, community and NW members should stay vigilant and make use of the considerations to mitigate against crime towards their vehicles.





Holiday Charity Drives



Over the holiday season, Linda Coombs and the 1591 South Parade Court Neighbourhood Watch collaborated with the Mississauga Food Bank to organize a holiday food drive. Over the last few weeks of December, The 1591 South Parade Court Neighbourhood Watch managed to raise around 560 lbs of food, which is enough for 602 meals for families across Mississauga.

At the Applewood Road Neighbourhood Watch, Kimberlee Hutchison and Darlene Devane, organized a community charity drive that gathered nearly 300 items of winter clothing and was donated to the Salvation Army.



Just SOME of the food collected by South Parade Court!



Clothing Drive in action at Applewood Road!

Consider the effects of food insecurity and poverty on crime prevention. Consider the criminal activities one might have to consider just to put food on the table in times of desperation. Consider the stress that food insecurity and poverty can have on mental health, and how mental health under strain can encourage deviant and/or criminal behaviour.

Crime prevention can take on more forms than you might think! It's important to keep our eyes and hearts open for opportunities to help our communities in need to encourage a safe city for all.



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