

Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin – December 1, 2014

This bulletin is prepared by the Wellington Community Police Centre (1064 Wellington St., 613-236-1222 ext. 5870) for distribution to area residents to promote safety and security in our neighbourhoods. Please distribute it to anyone who might be interested. Any questions or information concerning safety or security issues in your neighbourhood may be forwarded to wellingtoncpc@gmail.com.

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1. “Lock It OR Lose It”

On November 27, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) launched its annual crime prevention program “Lock It OR Lose It” to encourage drivers to take precautions to protect their vehicles and vehicle contents from theft, as the Holiday Season approaches.

Did you know that thefts from vehicles increase dramatically during this popular shopping time of the year? As you shop for items in stores, would-be-thieves shop for items in your vehicle.

The Ottawa Police Service’s equivalent crime prevention program “*All Valuables Removed*” Campaign tips can help you ensure your gifts are not the target of would-be-thieves.

You can place an “*All Valuables Removed*” warning card in your window to help deter thieves. These cards - designed to be displayed by vehicle owners on the inside of the driver’s side window - are letting would-be-thieves know not to bother searching your vehicle and alerting others to take the same precautions.

During this initiative, Community Police Centre Officers were at the following locations on Thursday, November 27th distributing the cards and instructing people on the best—and worst—ways to keep valuables out of view in their vehicle:

Tips & Hints

- • Remove valuables and shopping bags from view. This includes loose change and electronic devices such as iPods, cell phones and GPS navigation systems.
- • Never leave your vehicle running and unattended.
- • Close windows and lock the doors.
- • Never leave your car or house keys in your vehicle.
- • Park in well lit areas with pedestrian traffic.
- • When returning to your vehicle carrying bags, place them in trunk, and then drive away to a different parking spot if shopping is not completed. Thieves notice unattended vehicles that have new purchases for them to take.

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Pop quiz:

The Question:

Thefts from vehicles are a citywide crime trend. From the scenarios below, which vehicle is at risk?

- a) An unlocked vehicle with a GPS on the dash.
- b) A locked vehicle with a wallet sitting on the passenger seat.
- c) A locked vehicle parked on a poorly lit street with minimal pedestrian traffic.
- d) They are all at risk.

The Answer:

- • *The right answer is D.* Thefts from vehicles are a crime of opportunity and can happen anywhere, and at any time. It is therefore important to take as many preventative measures as possible to try and safeguard yourself from becoming a victim.

“All Valuables Removed” Warning cards are available at Community Police Centres, Ottawa Police stations’ Information Desks, and by request at pia@ottawapolice.ca.

2. Scam alert!

The Ottawa Police Service Organized Fraud Section has seen an increase in reports of the *Canada Revenue /utilities* scam.

The scam involves victims receiving phone calls from persons identifying themselves as Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) employees. They inform the victims that they owe the government money for back taxes and indicate to them that payment must be made immediately or they will be arrested.

Victims are directed to go to the nearest store and purchase “Visa Pay Power Cards” in various amounts. Once purchased, the victims are contacted again and asked for the card number and the security codes for payment of their “debt”. The suspects then access the cards and withdraw the funds purchased by the victim.

An alternate variation of the scam is a person calling and indicating that an immediate payment is required for hydro/water or the utility will be disconnected forthwith. Payment is again requested via the Visa Pay Power Cards.

“The public should be suspicious of any phone calls demanding immediate payment via this method of payment,” said Sgt. Mitch Proteau, Fraud Section, Ottawa Police Service. “The Ottawa Police recommends that any person contacted about an unpaid bill should contact the utility (or CRA) using the publicly available telephone number to verify their account status and the legitimacy of the call they received.”

Anyone with information regarding this type of fraud is asked to call Ottawa Police Fraud Section at [613-236-1222](tel:613-236-1222), ext. 5162. Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at [613-233-8477](tel:613-233-8477)(TIPS), toll free at [1-800-222-8477](tel:1-800-222-8477) or by downloading the Ottawa Police iOS app.

3. \$100K to Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa

On November 24, Ottawa Police Service Chief Charles Bordeleau presented a cheque totaling \$100,000 to *the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa* at the Ottawa Police Service Board’s meeting. The cheque represents the total funds raised at the fifth annual Police Gala held on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the Ottawa Convention Centre.

“A key pillar in the programming we offer youth is education,” said Graham Macmillan, Chair of the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa. “And thanks to the proceeds raised by the Ottawa Police Service, we will be funding a special scholarship for them – a gift that is both significant and lasting.”

The Ottawa Police has been hosting the Gala since 2010 and has raised \$472,000 to date.

“Every year I look forward to the Ottawa Police Gala,” said Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau. “It’s an evening that celebrates our police service and our community, and has a lasting impact beyond the event itself through the funds we raise for local charities delivering much needed services and programs to our community.”

The OPS would like to acknowledge this year's Gala sponsors for their commitment and leadership, particularly the four Platinum Sponsors [Adobe](#), [Barley Mow](#), [TELUS](#), and [Valley Associates](#).

The sixth annual Police Gala will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at the Ottawa Convention Centre. Tickets for this event will go on sale in the spring of 2015.

Beginning in December, the OPS will be accepting applications from local registered charities who wish to be the charity of choice for next year's Gala.

The applications are received through [Charity Village](#) and will be scored by a committee that includes the Platinum sponsors. The final decision on which organizations will receive the support is made by the Ottawa Police Service. The deadline for applications will be Friday, January 30, 2015.

4. Information sought in homicide

The Ottawa Police Service major crime Section continues to investigate the homicide of a 23 year old man discovered Thursday. His family, who resides outside of Canada has been notified. The name of the victim is Tausif CHOWDHURY.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call Ottawa Police's Major Crime Unit at [613-236-1222, ext. 5493](#). Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at [613-233-8477](#)(TIPS), toll free at [1-800-222-8477](#) or by downloading the Ottawa Police iOS app.

5. Speed recruiting

The Ottawa Police Service Outreach and Recruitment Team is pleased to announce its second 'Speed Recruiting' event on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at the Ottawa Police Association located at 141 Catherine Street.

Due to the immense popularity of the first speed recruiting event held in August, Ottawa Police will be holding two sessions on the evening of December 2nd.

The first session will commence at 5:00pm; and the second at 7:00pm. Those who wish to participate must register [online](#).

"During the evening, there will be several stations set up, hosted by current Ottawa Police Service officers and civilians," said Cst. Sheldon Baptiste, with the Ottawa Police Outreach Recruitment and Resourcing. "As attendees rotate between the stations they

will be offered a brief glimpse at what a day might look like working for the Ottawa Police Service."

Don't miss out on this opportunity. Register today!

Key Ottawa Police Service numbers:

- * Life threatening emergency assistance or to report a crime in progress .. **911**
- * Other emergency **613-230-6211**
- * Non-emergencies and general inquiries **613-236-1222**
- * To have the police attend your location **613-236-1222**
ext. 7500
- * To make a police report **613-236-1222**
ext. 7300

OPS and By-Law services base their work on call statistics. The more calls that you make, the more neighbourhood services we receive. There are three steps to making the call:

a) Deciding which number to phone.

If you have an emergency or see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. If your car was broken into or you need police to attend another non-urgent situation, please call the "other emergencies" number (613-230-6211). To report an incident after it occurred without police attending the scene, please call 613-236-1222 – ext. 7300. You can reach by-law services at 3-1-1.

b) Getting a report number.

When the dispatcher answers, it is a good idea to ask for a report number immediately. We've found that dispatchers sometimes hang up before we get to ask for a number or we forget. Asking for a report number right away solves these problems.

c) Share your report number and incident.

Please e-mail your report numbers and a brief description of the incident to your Block Captain (if you have one), or directly to us.

Importance of Reporting Prostitution and Problem Addresses

Neighbourhood Watch members can support the police by writing down and phoning in important information such as: vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers (specify Ontario or Quebec) of anyone soliciting prostitutes, descriptions of drug dealers and addresses of crack houses.

Graffiti

If you spot graffiti, call 3-1-1. Graffiti kits are available from your city councillor.