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# OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

Working together for a safer community La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe

By Sr. Constable Tom Mosco - OPS

Protection of our property is important to feeling secure at home and when away on vacation.

• If you are travelling consider the following precautions to protect your home and personal property:

Photocopy the contents of your wallet, i.e. driver's license, credit cards, vehicle insurance to make cancelling and replacement easier in case of loss or theft.

- Inform your neighbours that you are away so that they are alert to any suspicious activity around your vacant home. Leave a key with a neighbour and have the house checked regularly, in compliance with your house insurance requirements. A broken pipe or severe thunderstorm can cause basement flooding which needs to be dealt with immediately to minimize damage.
- In summer months arrange to have the grass mowed, as with snow removal in the winter. Mail should be stopped or removed by a neighbour, curtains re-arranged periodically, and lights on varying cycle timers. Consider putting a radio on a timer as well to increase the impression that someone is in the house, and leave a car in the driveway or have your neighbour park there.
- If you have an automatic garage door it should be disabled when you are away for an extended period. This prevents would be thieves from using electronic equipment to open the door and use the garage as a

secure place to hide while attempting to access the home.

- When working around the house, inside and out, keep all doors locked at all times. Intruders are very bold and will enter insecure residences even in mid-day to quickly grab a purse or other easily available items. Summer and fall are busy times around the yard and it is easy to leave the garage open and house unlocked while working in the backyard or visiting a neighbour. It only takes a thief a moment to take a bicycle and expensive equipment.
- Finally, should you arrive home to a suspected break-in do not enter but go to a neighbour's and phone police from there. And if you are ever in the rare position of finding a stranger in your home never confront him or block his exit. The thief must have an escape route so stay out of his way. Keeping yourself safe is the most important thing in such a situation.

Protect yourself, your family, your home. If you would like a FREE Home Security Inspection performed by volunteers of the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre call 236-1222, ext. 5915.

### Make the Right Call!

Car Break-In/Past Incident 613-236-1222, 7300

Crime in Progress/Life-Threatening Emergency 9-1-1

Non-Life-tTreatening Emergency or Crime 613-2306211 Ottawa
Neighbourhood
Watch

Surveillance
de quartier
d'Ottawa

## By Robert Todd

#### **Graffiti overcome!**

Hats off to the Sutherland family (Ian and Carol), proprietors of our local Dairy Queen, for their continuing dedication to the community over the years!

the dead of winter for example, and of seeking permission from the franchise holder to change the wall colour, better to hide the scrawls. Ian knows the cost and effort involved but equally understands the value of removing graffiti as soon as

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Dairy Queen

Hats off to the Sutherlands for keeping on top of graffiti at the DQ!

Theirs is one of the longest operating businesses in the community. It employs young people and supplies tasty treats to young and old throughout the warmer season.

Over the past two years our Dairy Queen has been the target of vandals who, on six or seven occasions, have sprayed graffiti on the building's walls. To deny vandals a space to boast of their dubious 'artistic merit', Ian Sutherland has repainted his walls to cover over the incomprehensible doodles of these ne'er-do-wells.

Clean-up costs for paint are very expensive, but there is also the bother of repainting walls in possible. He has our support and praise for his steadfast approach to dealing with this property crime. If only stopping break-ins at Rockcliffe Crossing Plaza was this easy.

# New Neighbourhood Watch Tool

Neighbourhood Watch strides firmly into the present using "social media"! Now we can share information about what is happening in our community through a Google Group called "Manor Park Neighbourhood Watch". Here all can see what we have to say, but just 'members' (Manor Park residents)

can post news items, concerns, or questions and others can answer. From any computer with a web browser (Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Opera, Chrome), you can see what is happening.

# http://groups.google.ca/group/manor-park-neighbour-hood-watch

Send me an e-mail to add you to the group, so that you can exchange with other members. To be able to fully participate from within the web site, you will need to create a (free) 'Google Account" or sign in using your gmail.com address. Those who are invited and have Google accounts can post messages to the discussions and comment on or supply text for pages or upload files to share. Whether a 'member' of the group or not, anyone can read the messages of this group.

Among the documents is a link to "Crime Reports.com", used by Ottawa Police Service, which shows the street locations where incidents that have been called in are found, so you can 'see' what has been happening around your home. Also included is a list of reported incidents in Manor Park/ Cardinal Glen and in the triangle formed by Brittany Drive, Montreal Road and St Laurent Boulevard.

This new 'Group' is a focus for Neighbourhood Watch. It should operate in conjunction with other community organizations and other communications tools - like Manor Park's web site: "www.manorpark.ca".

Note the NEW e-mail address for Neighbourhood Watch: manorparknw@gmail.com. You can also phone Robert Todd at 613-741-6812.



