

Subject: FW: Theft of Vehicles on the Rise

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THIS IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly WEEKS [<mailto:kelly.weeks@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>]

Sent: August 12, 2004 3:05 PM

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Subject: Theft of Vehicles on the Rise

North Vancouver want to advise the public that a rash of vehicle theft has occurred over the past several weeks here in North Vancouver, specifically to mini vans. In the past couple of years we have seen a rise in auto thefts and this year is no different. Since January there has been a significant increase in theft of and theft to vehicles and North Vancouver RCMP in conjunction with ICBC want to encourage North Vancouver residents to find community solutions to Auto Crime.

Attached are some facts provided by ICBC as well as a list of the top 25 stolen vehicles. All vehicles, whether they appear on the list or not, are at risk for theft, but here are a few suggestions to help minimize the risk to your vehicle.

1. Keep your spare keys in your wallet, not in your car
2. Invest in a good anti-theft device. Anti theft devices take varying amounts of time to defeat and they deter thieves physically, visually and audibly. Thieves do not want to waste time and energy on an anti theft device, therefore; if they spot one in your vehicle there is a good chance they'll move on. An audible alarm will draw attention to a thief which is what they are trying to avoid.
3. Close your windows and lock your doors. Never leave your possessions in the vehicle. Even items such as empty cans and loose change can spark a thieves interest.
4. Avoid parking in a concealed area such as fences or hedges. This allows for too much shelter for the thief to shield themselves.
5. At home, keep a light on in your driveway at night. Elsewhere, park in a well-lit area near pedestrian traffic.
6. After opening an automatic gate to underground parking, wait for the gate to close behind you and watch out for any suspicious people that don't belong there.
7. If you see any suspicious people or activity near a vehicle, call the police immediately

To find out more about auto crime prevention including product ratings for anti-theft devices, please visit www.icbc.com.

According to ICBC, last year in BC, a total of 25, 883 vehicles were reported stolen and 40, 057 vehicles were reported broken into. The ICBC claims cost was \$134 million dollars. In the Greater Vancouver region alone, which includes communities from Maple Ridge to Pemberton, 10, 882 vehicles were reported stolen and 20, 587 vehicles were reported broken into during 2003.

North Vancouver and ICBC want to advise the residents of North Vancouver that auto theft in North Vancouver is on the rise. Last year, 424 vehicles were reported stolen in North Vancouver, an increase of approximately 10% over 2002.


Capilano Claims Centre Manager, Frank Fekete states, " Auto crime is a serious and costly problem that affects everyone in our community. ICBC is committed to working with community partners to combat this problem, but it's very important for individuals to take responsibility and protect themselves by using anti-theft devices and additional forms of protection wherever possible."

Thieves are looking for an easy target. The harder you make it for them to steal your car the better. A vehicle equipped with more than one anti-theft device, such as a

steering wheel lock with either a passive or active immobilizer, creates a harder target for thieves that takes more time to defeat. If given a choice, thieves will bypass such a vehicle to target the vehicle that is not equipped with any sort of anti-theft device.

Police and ICBC want to raise awareness in this crime so that you know the necessary steps and precautions in minimizing your chances of Auto crime. Don't become a victim, use an anti-theft device

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 winmail.dat	Name: winmail.dat Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64
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