



Smiths Falls Police Service Launches Crime Prevention Week

“Planning Together for Safer Communities”

The Smiths Falls Police Service will be kicking off Ontario’s annual Crime Prevention Week, which runs from November 6 to 12, 2016. The week-long promotion of crime prevention is supported by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and all police services across Ontario.

“Crime prevention and Community Policing is what we do,” said Deputy Chief Richard Labelle. “We believe that Ontario communities are among the safest in the world. That’s because police partner with community leaders, young people, businesses, and government to prevent crime from occurring.”

Smiths Falls Police Service will be working with government, community groups, and social services providers to promote crime prevention as a shared responsibility in our community.

Protecting Yourself:

When in public, always be aware of your surroundings. Be mindful of people loitering or acting suspiciously.

Always make sure that if you have a purse to protect it from being stolen.

If you live alone, use only first initials with surname on mailboxes, directories, etc.

Protecting Your Children:

Remind your children: To tell you where they are at all times. Tell your children, their schools, their daycare provider, etc., where to reach you should there be an emergency;

Remind your children: To go directly to a cashier or information booth or a security guard or police if they become separated from you in a public area;

Remind your children: If they are home alone, not to answer the door, or if on the phone, not to say they are alone.

Protecting your Home and Vehicle:

Getting to know and become familiar with your neighbors and neighborhood and watching each other's homes and businesses.

Ensure you have adequate door locks not only on your home, but on sheds and garages.

Install lighting around our homes and businesses.

Ensure the mail or newspaper does not pile up while you are away for an extended period of time.

Keep up appearances- a clean, well-tended neighborhood is less attractive to criminals and vandals.

Clear large bushes and shrubs from your yard that block your view and that enable people to hide in.

Make sure valuables are locked up inside your residence in a fire proof lock box.

Do not leave keys hidden in obvious places outside.

Arrange a system so that someone has a key to your home and is aware of your whereabouts at all times, especially if you live alone.

Record serial numbers of property or engrave your name on it if possible.

Install an alarm system.

Always ensure your vehicle is locked when unattended anywhere.

Never leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle.

If we look after ourselves and our Community we work or live in we will make them safer places to be in. We all need to do our part.

For further information please check our website www.sfps.ca or [Ontario's Mobilization & Engagement Model of Community Policing](#)

Submitted by Constable David Murphy the Community Service Officer of the Smiths Falls Police Service.