



CRIME PREVENTION
AND
MARINE SAFETY TIPS

Compiled by the
LanarkCounty/Sharbot Lake O.P.P
for the Lakes Associations



Your home or vacation property could be a crime waiting to happen.

Thieves and vandals realise that chalets, cottages and hunting cabins see only seasonal use. A vacant full-time residence also can be seen as an easy target for some opportunists.

Protecting your possessions (often expensive sports equipment, firearms, electronics and items of sentimental value) can present a challenge, especially in remote and heavily treed areas where criminals have little chance of being spotted. However, much can be done to hamper even the most determined crook.

Join or form a neighbourhood association

One of the best ways to foil troublemakers is to enlist the support of neighbours. Your neighbours can notify police whenever they spot suspicious activity around your property and you can return the favour when they are away. Many recreational areas have neighbourhood associations that work with police to help reduce crime.

They can't steal what isn't there

If your residence is seasonal remove your most valued possessions whenever you plan to be away for an extended period of time. Although, this isn't practical for larger items, firearms, small electronics, smaller outboard motors, ski and golf equipment and other costly belongings can be transported to your home without much hassle. Ensure drapes or blinds are drawn to obscure any valuables left behind.



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Lock it up

Make accessing your property as difficult as possible by blocking the access road or driveway with a sturdy, locking gate. Ensure your home has ample, heavy-duty locks on all potential entry points. This includes windows and sliding patio-doors (a wood or steel dowel placed in the track will hinder the sliding motion). Use deadbolt locks on doors for maximum protection. If expensive recreational equipment such as snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles and boats are left behind, be sure to disable the engines and lock the vehicle to something larger and heavier.

Alarming noises

Burglars dislike noise: it attracts attention. Audible alarms are recommended over silent alarms and reliable alarms should include:

- A battery-powered fail-safe back-up
- A rearming capability and siren timer shut-off
- Read-out ability to check that the system works
- A siren sounding device that can be installed on the exterior of the home to alert neighbors of possible intrusion.

Some modern alarms will alert a dispatcher at a central office of a potential threat to your property. The dispatcher can then, in turn, alert police once he has established that it is not a false alarm. This type of alarm is usually offered on a monthly or annually subscription basis.

Decals (included with most alarm systems) that advise would-be burglars of an alarm system on the premises should be placed in highly visible spots on windows and doors.



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Leave your mark

A little forethought goes a long way. Use an engraver to permanently identify your possessions. It is recommended to use your **drivers license number**, as this should contain up-to-date current information in regard to your name and address. Police have access to this information on a 24-hour basis should they come across your property. In addition keep a property-wide inventory complete with serial numbers. If the unthinkable happens and your recreational property is burglarised you will have some proof of ownership should any of the goods be recovered by police.

Appearance

Your cottage or home should always have the appearance of being occupied. Using motion sensors or timers for outdoor lights, as well as timers for interior lights can accomplish this. Having a timer on the television or leaving the radio on will also help deter possible burglars.

Winter Closing Tips

Your cottage or home should be checked and secured at least once a week. Taking a trip out yourself or having a permanent resident check on it for you can do this. Valuables, as well as alcohol, should be removed during the winter months. Leaving this property visible inside your cottage could encourage someone to commit a break and enter. **Check with your insurance company how often they require your property to be physically checked** to ensure you have coverage if something goes wrong (e.g. Your furnace failing to come on and pipes freeze).



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Sliding-Glass Patio Doors

Sliding glass doors are vulnerable to being forced open from the outside because of inherently defective latch mechanisms. This can be easily be prevented by inserting a wooden dowel or stick into the track thus preventing or limiting movement. Other blocking devices available are metal fold-down blocking devices called "charley bars" and various track-blockers that can be screwed down.

- Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors.
- Keep the latch mechanism in good condition and properly adjusted.
- Keep sliding door rollers in good condition and properly adjusted.
- Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws.
- Use highly visible alarm decals.

Windows

Windows are left unlocked and open at a much higher rate than doors. An open window, visible from the street or alley, may be the sole reason for your home to be selected by a burglar. Ground floor windows are more susceptible to break-ins for obvious reasons. Upper floor windows become attractive if they can be accessed from a stairway, tree, fence, or by climbing on balconies. Windows have latches, not locks and therefore should have secondary blocking devices to prevent sliding them open from the outside. Inexpensive wooden dowels and sticks work well for horizontal sliding windows and through-the-frame pins work well for vertical sliding windows. For ventilation, block the window open no more than six inches and make sure you can't reach in from the outside and remove the blocking device or reach through and unlock the door.

In sleeping rooms, these window-blocking devices should be capable of being removed easily from the inside to comply with fire codes. Like sliding glass doors, anti-lift devices are necessary for ground level and accessible aluminium windows that slide horizontally. The least expensive and easiest method is to install screws halfway into the upper track of the movable glass panel to prevent it from being lifted out in the closed position. As a deterrent, place highly visible decals on the glass door near the latch mechanism that indicates that an alarm system, a dog, or block watch/operation identification system is in place.

Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices.



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Lighting

Interior lighting is necessary to show signs of life and activity inside a residence at night. A darkened home night-after-night sends the message to burglars that you are away on a trip. Light timers are inexpensive and can be found everywhere. They should be used on a daily basis, not just when you're away. In this way you set up a routine that your neighbors can observe and will allow them to become suspicious when your normally lighted home becomes dark. Typically, you want to use light-timers near the front and back windows with the curtains drawn. The pattern of them clicking on and off should simulate actual occupancy. It's also comforting not to have to enter a dark residence. The same light timers can be used to turn on radios or television sets to further enhance the illusion of occupancy.

Exterior lighting is also very important. It becomes critical if you must park in a common area parking lot or underground garage and need to walk to your front door. The purpose of good lighting is to allow you to see if a threat or suspicious person is lurking in your path. If you can see a potential threat in advance then you at least have the choice and chance to avoid it. Exterior lighting needs to be bright enough for you to see 100 feet and it helps if you can identify colours. Good lighting is definitely a deterrent to criminals because they don't want to be seen or identified.

Another important area to be well lighted is the perimeter of your home or apartment especially at the entryway. Exterior lighting on the front of a property should always be on a timer to establish a routine and appearance of occupancy at all times. Common area lighting on apartment properties should also be on a timer or photocell to turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn. The practice of leaving the garage or porch lights turned on all day on a single family home is a dead give-away that you are out of town. Exterior lighting at the rear of a home or apartment is usually on a switch because of the proximity to the sleeping rooms. The resident can choose to leave these lights on or off. Security lights with infrared motion sensors are relatively inexpensive and can easily replace an exterior porch light or side door light on single family homes. The heat-motion sensor can be adjusted to detect body heat and can be programmed to reset after one minute. These security lights are highly recommended for single family homes.

- Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy
- Exterior lighting should allow 100 foot visibility
- Use good lighting along the pathway and at your door
- Use light timers or photo-cells to turn on/off lights automatically



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Be a Good Neighbour

Good neighbours should look out for each other. Get to know your neighbours on each side of your home and the three directly across the street. Invite them into your home, communicate often, and establish trust. Good neighbours will watch out for your home or apartment when you are away, if you ask them. They can report suspicious activity to the police or to you while you are away. Between them, good neighbours can see to it that normal services continue in your absence by allowing vendors to mow your lawn or remove snow. Good neighbours can pick up your mail, newspapers, handbills, and can inspect the outside or inside of your home periodically to see that all is well. Good neighbours will occasionally park in your driveway to give the appearance of occupancy while you are on vacation.

Allowing a neighbour to have a key solves the problem of hiding a key outside the door. Experienced burglars know to look for hidden keys in planter boxes, under doormats, and above the ledge. Requiring a service vendor to see your neighbour to retrieve and return your house key will send the message that someone is watching. This neighbourhood watch technique sets up what is called 'territoriality' which means that your neighbours will take ownership and responsibility for what occurs in your mini-neighbourhood. This concept works in both single family homes communities and on apartment properties. This practice helps deter burglaries and other crimes in a big way. Of course for this to work, you must reciprocate and offer the same services.

- Get to know all your adjacent neighbours.
- Invite them into your home and establish trust.
- Agree to watch out for each other's home.
- Do small tasks for each other to improve territoriality.
- While on vacation, pick up newspapers, and flyers.
- Offer to park your car in their driveway.
- Return the favour and communicate often.



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Tips for Home Security Summed Up

1. Install deadbolt locks on all doors
2. Secure patio doors and windows. Use locking bars and place screws in the overhead tracks to prevent removal of the glass.
3. Do not hide your keys near an entrance. Instead leave a key with a family member or friend.
4. Consider installing an alarm system
5. Inform neighbours when your cottage is being rented and for how long.
6. Put peephole viewers in doors and be sure to use them.
7. Mark your property through operation identification.
8. Make the effort to become acquainted with your neighbours.
9. Install a gate at your driveway. Make it difficult to steal your belongings.
10. Trim trees that allow access to doors and windows. Trim shrubbery that could conceal intruders.
11. Choose doors of solid wood or steel with reinforced jambs and frames.
12. Cover all windows with shutters, blinds or drapes. Don't encourage a theft with a display of your belongings.
13. Leave extra keys for home and gate with trusted neighbours. Don't hide spare keys near your home.
14. Keep all boats, recreation vehicles and other items securely locked and disabled, even when locked in an outbuilding or garage.
15. Never leave firearms in your hunting cabin. They are easily sold and difficult to trace.
16. Engrave belongings with your driver license number. Record the make, model and serial number of your possessions. Keep the list in a separate location.

911



Call 9-1-1 to:

- Report a Crime
- Report a fire
- Save a life
- In any EMERGENCY situation
- Whenever police, fire or ambulance assistance is required immediately

If you are unsure, call 9-1-1 and the communicator will make the final determination.



Do NOT Call 9-1-1 to:

- Report a hydro outage
- Check weather or highway conditions
- Obtain government information or for directory assistance
- For information about school closings, road conditions, directions, etc.



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Alternate numbers to use instead of 911:

- 1-888-310-1122 - O.P.P. 24 hr toll-free
- 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) - Crimestoppers
- 1-800-268-4686 - MTO Road Info.
- 4-1-1 - Directory Assistance
- 1-866-514-2327 (MNR bear reporting center- trouble with nuisance bears)

1-888-310-1133 - O.P.P., TDD/TTY telephone for the deaf



Boating can be a fun and enjoyable experience. However there are certain precautions we need to take to ensure that we stay safe and abide by the regulations that govern boaters.

Items Recommended To Bring Onboard:

- Spare clothing in a watertight bag (weather can change dramatically in just a few hours and not having the proper clothing for the conditions can lead to conditions that can be serious threats to your health, such as heatstroke and hypothermia;
- Drinking water and high-energy snacks (water is the most important element here as lack of it can lead to fatigue and dehydration in a fairly short time).
- You may need to make repairs while out on the water. Take along a tool kit, spare parts (for example, fuses, bulbs, a spare propeller, nuts and bolts, penetrating oil to free-up stuck fasteners, duct tape, spark plugs), and tools and materials to temporarily stop hull leaks.
- Now that you have the tools available, do you know what to do with them? Take along the owner's manual and any other guidebook you might need.
- When boating, you are likely to be some distance from medical assistance and such assistance may be difficult to find when you are in unfamiliar surroundings. Take a first aid kit along with you. Store it in a dry place and replace used and outdated contents regularly.

When Refueling:

Care should always be taken when refueling. The following precautions should be taken prior to refueling:

- Engine must be turned off
- Turn off all electrical circuits
- Douse open flames, including pilot lights
- Close ports and deck hatches
- Ensure that everyone is ashore before fuelling commences
- Make sure the boat is securely tied to the dock
- No smoking anywhere near the refueling area
- Hold fuelling nozzle against filler fitting to prevent any sparks
- Don't overfill (i.e. stop before fuel jets from the breather)

After refueling, those with inboards should turn on their bilge blower for at least five minutes before starting up. Gas fumes are heavier than air and can easily build up. Starting the engine can cause an explosion and fire. Finally, just to make sure, sniff the bilge to make sure it is free of gas fumes before you start up your engine.

Boating Safety Regulations Summary

Since 1999 there have been requirements for persons operating powered pleasure boats to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator's Card. Since September 2002 these requirements apply to all persons born after 01 April 1983 and to ALL persons (irrespective of age) operating a powered vessel less than 4 meters (13.25 feet) in length. This card is obtained through [course providers](#) accredited by the [Canadian Coast Guard](#)

Age-horsepower Restrictions*

| How this applies of pleasure craft motor and used for purposes | Power restrictions 1999 |
|---|---|
| Under 12 years of age, directly supervised | Can operate a vessel with more than 10 hp |
| Between 12 years of age, and directly supervised | Can operate a vessel with more than 40 hp |
| Under 16 years of age | Cannot operate watercraft |
| 16 years of age or older | No power restrictions |

* These requirements apply in areas outside the Northwest and Nunavut Territories at this time.

** Directly supervised means: accompanied and directly supervised by a person 16 years of age or older.

Boating Safety Regulations Summary

Operator Competency Requirements*

| How this applies to operators** of pleasure craft fitted with a motor for recreational use | Date at which competency requirements will be in force |
|---|---|
| All operators born on or after September 1, 1983 | September 1, 2015 |
| All operators of pleasure craft 10 metres or less in length, including watercraft | September 1, 2015 |
| All operators of pleasure craft 10 metres or less in length, including watercraft | September 1, 2015 |

* These requirements apply in areas outside the Northwest and Nunavut Territories at this time.

** Applies to non-residents operating their pleasure craft in Canadian waters after 45 consecutive days. Operator card or equivalent issued to a non-resident by their state or country will be considered as proof of competency.

How To Stay Safe When Boating:

The number one way to stay safe while boating is to wear a PFD at all times. Keep reading to learn more about other requirements and recommendations for staying safe.

- Know the water conditions before launching your watercraft and always check local radio weather forecasts.
- Don't overload your watercraft. Check your owner's manual for load capacity.
- Ensure you have the proper safety equipment in your boat.
- Ensure someone knows where and when you plan to travel and what to do if you fail to return.
- Become an accredited pleasure craft operator. Power boaters in Canada are now required by law to carry a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC).
- Each person in your watercraft must have a PFD (Personal Flotation Device) that:
 - Is the appropriate size (fit)
 - Is worn at all times
 - Is in good condition
- A brightly colored PFD is a smart choice. Consider the need for visibility in the water.
- Look for the Transport Canada or the Canadian Coast Guard approval label or hand tag.
- Wear a whistle on your PFD. In case of emergency, you can call for help.

More than 4 out of 5 people who drown each year were not wearing a PFD. Don't be one of them!

Booze and Boating ... What You Need to Know

Why is it that people who wouldn't dream of driving their car after drinking often don't show that same good sense when it comes to boating and alcohol? When the effects of alcohol are combined with the effects of sun, fatigue, wind and motion, boaters can experience reduced reaction time, decreased fine motor skills and impaired judgement. In fact, more than 40% of recreational boating fatalities in Canada are alcohol-related.

Alcohol and Boating: The Law

It is illegal to drink alcohol on a pleasure boat when it is underway.



- You may only have open alcohol aboard a boat that is equipped as a residence (i.e. sleeping area, permanent cooking facilities and a fixed toilet with pump out).
- Drinking and driving rules apply whether you are on the road or water.
- Consuming liquor in other than a licensed premise, residence or private place carries a substantial fine.
- Operating or having care and control over a boat underway with an open container of liquor carries a substantial fine.

Alcohol and Boating: The Facts

- Alcohol has greater **negative effects** when people:
 - Have a low body weight
 - Are in poor health
 - Are tired
 - Have not eaten any food
 - Are on medication
 - Experience stress
 - Are exposed to warmer air temperatures
- Alcohol impairs your judgment, your balance and your coordination.

Booze and Boating ... What You Need to Know Continued

- Mildly dehydrated people will absorb alcohol more quickly into their system and will have a higher blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level than non-dehydrated people.
- **Boater Fatigue** is a combination of sun, wind, noise, vibration and boat motion that can TRIPLE the effects of alcohol on boater.
- **Hypothermia...** Water as warm as 27°C (80°F) can have adverse effects on you if you are submerged for a long time.

2003 OPP Statistics - Marine Vessel Fatalities

- 8 out of 10 people who died did not wear a PFD
- Almost 1 in 3 people who died consumed alcohol
- 9 out of 10 fatalities were male
- 3 in 4 people were over the age of 36 years
- Operators and passengers were almost equally represented
- Most fatalities occur:
 - In May, June and September
 - On weekends
 - Between 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.
- Type of vessels operated: outboard motor (59%) and canoe (23%); vessel material: aluminum (55%) and fiberglass (32%)

OPP PROVINCIAL MARINE VESSEL FATALITIES
PERIOD: 2004 SEASON (YTD DECEMBER 10, 2004)

| PROFILE OF PERSON KILLED | % | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| OPERATOR | 25 | 69.4 |
| PASSENGER | 10 | 27.8 |
| SCUBA DIVER | 1 | 2.8 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 100.0 |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| MALE | 35 | 97.2 |
| FEMALE | 1 | 2.8 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 100.0 |

| REGION | % | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| CENTRAL | 11 | 32.4 |
| NORTHWEST | 8 | 23.5 |
| EAST | 7 | 20.6 |
| NORTHEAST | 4 | 11.8 |
| GTR | 0 | 0.0 |
| WEST | 4 | 11.8 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| VESSEL TYPE | % | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| OUTBOARD | 21 | 61.8 |
| INBRD/OUTBRD | 1 | 2.9 |
| SAILBOAT | 1 | 2.9 |
| CANOE | 9 | 26.5 |
| KAYAK | 2 | 5.9 |
| PWC | 0 | 0.0 |
| DINGY | 0 | 0.0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| TIME OF THE DAY | % | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 0100 - 0600 | 4 | 11.8 |
| 0601 - 1200 | 6 | 17.6 |
| 1201 - 1800 | 16 | 47.1 |
| 1801 - 2400 | 8 | 23.5 |
| NOT SPECIFIED | 0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| CONDITION OF OPERATOR | % | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| NORMAL | 18 | 52.9 |
| ALCOHOL INVOLVED | 9 | 26.5 |
| FATIGUE | 0 | 0.0 |
| MEDICAL | 1 | 2.9 |
| UNKNOWN | 6 | 17.6 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| VESSEL MATERIAL | % | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| ALUMINUM | 19 | 55.9 |
| FIBREGLAS | 9 | 26.5 |
| WOODEN | 0 | 0.0 |
| VINYL/RUBBER | 0 | 0.0 |
| OTHER | 5 | 14.7 |
| NOT SPECIFIED/UNK | 1 | 2.9 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| DAY OF THE WEEK | % | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| SUNDAY | 4 | 11.8 |
| MONDAY | 2 | 5.9 |
| TUESDAY | 3 | 8.8 |
| WEDNESDAY | 6 | 17.6 |
| THURSDAY | 3 | 8.8 |
| FRIDAY | 7 | 20.6 |
| SATURDAY | 9 | 26.5 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| P.F.D. USED | % | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| YES | 2 | 5.6 |
| NO | 31 | 86.1 |
| NOT APPLICABLE/UNK | 3 | 8.3 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 100.0 |

| VESSEL LENGTH | % | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| < 5.5 M (18 ft) | 22 | 64.7 |
| > 5.5 M (18 ft) | 8 | 23.5 |
| NOT SPECIFIED/UNK | 4 | 11.8 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| MONTH OF YEAR | % | |
|---------------|---|------|
| JANUARY | 0 | 0.0 |
| FEBRUARY | 0 | 0.0 |
| MARCH | 0 | 0.0 |
| APRIL | 0 | 0.0 |
| MAY | 1 | 2.9 |
| JUNE | 9 | 26.5 |
| JULY | 5 | 14.7 |
| AUGUST | 7 | 20.6 |

| CONTRIBUTING FACTORS | % | |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| FELL OVERBOARD | 14 | 41.2 |
| VESSEL CAPSIZED | 13 | 38.2 |
| VESSEL SWAMPED | 0 | 0.0 |
| HIGH SPEED | 0 | 0.0 |
| WEATHER | 0 | 0.0 |
| OTHER | 5 | 14.7 |
| NOT SPECIFIED/UNK | 2 | 5.9 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| ALCOHOL INVOLVED | % | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| YES | 9 | 26.5 |
| NO | 23 | 67.6 |
| NOT SPECIFIED/UNK | 2 | 5.9 |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 |

| AGE | MALE | % | FEMALE | % |
|---------|------|-----|--------|---------|
| < 18 | 1 | 2.8 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| 18 - 25 | 3 | 8.3 | 0 | #DIV/0! |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-------|---------------|----|-------|---|---------|
| SEPTEMBER | 6 | 17.6 | 26 - 35 | 6 | 16.7 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| OCTOBER | 3 | 8.8 | 36 - 45 | 11 | 30.6 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| NOVEMBER | 2 | 5.9 | 46 - 55 | 7 | 19.4 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| DECEMBER | 1 | 2.9 | > 55 | 8 | 22.2 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| TOTAL | 34 | 100.0 | NOT SPECIFIED | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| | | | TOTAL | 36 | 100.0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |

Be sure to review this information with all family members, especially children. There is a multitude of reliable sources that will forward more materials, should you require. Some of the sources that we consulted in compiling this information package are:

- <http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/menu.htm>
- http://www.gov.on.ca/opp/crimeprev/english/cottage_watch.htm
- <http://www.foca.on.ca/Emergency.htm>
- <http://www.lifesaving.ca/main.php?lang=english&cat=watersafety&sub=cottage>
- http://www.ospca.on.ca/libr_factsheet_safe_3.html
- <http://www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety/menu.htm>
- http://www.safecanada.ca/link_e.asp?category=7&topic=54