

## Prevent theft from vehicles

Police remind residents that leaving vehicles unlocked or valuables in plain sight is an invitation for thieves to steal your valuables. The OPP want people to take the time to keep their property safe. Thieves are also looking for anything in a vehicle that allows them to engage in identity theft. Don't give them the opportunity. Keep anything with your personal information with you.?

Officers regularly participate in random Lock it OR Lose it Campaigns throughout the area.

This campaign involves

- ? Police officers examine parked vehicles
- ? Confirming the vehicles are locked
- ? Checking to ensure no valuables have been left in plain view.
- ? Officers then place a small notice on vehicles checked indicating what safety precautions were neglected
- ? The notice offers simple prevention tips for drivers to protect their vehicles from theft.
- ? The notices also congratulate drivers who have secured their vehicle.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada remains a strong supporter of the Lock It OR Lose It Campaign. Cases of identity theft and fraud have increased across Canada.

Motorists are urged to take following precautions:

- ? Do not keep personal documents such as vehicle ownership, liability pink slips, credit card invoices, or other documents containing personal information in their vehicles.
- ? Identity thieves are looking for such documents so they can assume identities, secure credit card accounts, lease vehicles for export, and even take out a mortgage against victims' properties without their knowledge. Victims may not realize they have been victimized until it is too late, costing them time and money to rectify the damage.
- ? Do not leave cellphones, MP3 players, and laptops, tablets GPS or cash including coins in the vehicle. These are easy targets for would be thieves

More details about preventing auto theft may be found on-line at [www.ibc.ca/en/Insurance\\_Crime/Auto\\_Theft/](http://www.ibc.ca/en/Insurance_Crime/Auto_Theft/)