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Dufferin OPP investigting theft of ATV from Melancthon barn

Members of the Dufferin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a theft of an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) in the Township of Melancthon.

On August 26, 2023, at approximately 11:45 a.m., Dufferin OPP received a call for service at a residence on 4th Line in Melancthon for the theft of an ATV. The complainant advised that their 2004 yellow, Suzuki four-wheeler, was stolen from their barn. The theft occurred during the overnight hours of August 26. The suspect(s) broke into the barn and stole the ATV.

The vehicle is valued at $4,500.

The investigation is continuing. If you have any information or video surveillance footage in relation to this theft, please call the Dufferin OPP Detachment at (519) 942-1711 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit your information online at https://ontariocrimestoppers.ca/.

Residents can help protect their vehicles by taking any of the following crime prevention measures:

? Ensure your vehicle keys are kept well away from doors and windows

? Use a signal blocking pouch/box - they can block your key fob from transmitting its code to the vehicle as the pouch is lined with layers or metallic material

? Turn off the keyless fob wireless signal at night (refer to your car manual for instructions)

? Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm - this could add a significantly delay or be a deterrent for thieves

? Consider a secondary audible car alarm - which works by using sensors placed in different points of your vehicle

? Park in the garage (if possible)

? Insert a car tracker - unusual activity is monitored, and car can be tracked using GPS if stolen

Police and its insurance industry partners also want to raise public awareness about the opportunities for criminals who intend to steal personal identification from unsecured vehicles. Licenses, insurance, vehicle ownerships, passports, as well as mobile devices or laptops, offer criminals the opportunity to further victimize individuals who do not lock their vehicles, or who leave their valuables in plain view.

Vehicle owners/passengers can do simple things to decrease the risk of being victimized, such as:

? Never leave a running vehicle unattended

? Lock your doors

? Roll up your windows

? Keep valuables out of sight

? Keep your registration and proof of insurance in your wallet or purse, not in the glove box

? Pocket your keys

? At night or during extended parking periods, always park in a well-lit area.