



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE
POLICE PROVINCIALE DE L'ONTARIO

NEWS RELEASE/
COMMUNIQUÉ

FROM/DE: Peterborough County OPP

DATE: September 1, 2009

CHECK LIST FOR CLOSING THE COTTAGE FOR THE SEASON

The Fall has arrived and now is the time for all property owners to start considering the closure and winterizing of their cottages.

Cottages and summer homes are most vulnerable to thieves from the week following Thanksgiving to the weeks prior to Victoria Day, especially if the owners are not using them for fall, winter or spring getaways.

Remember, if there is no one living at it or checking it regularly, the cost of owning a cottage or summer property does include the frustration and irritation of repairing damage and replacing stolen property.

The following list contains points to consider

- Pack up and take home all alcohol.
- Don't leave firearms or weapons at the cottage.
- If you are leaving vehicles, make sure they're winterized, secure and disabled – for snow machines remove track and hide keys, ensure boats are covered and locked, outboard motors locked and slightly disassembled, ATVs disabled – leave nothing on trailers unless it is locked or disabled.
- Leave no valuables at cottage – electronics, personal items, tools etc unless you're prepared to lose them.
- Who is your Keyholder for: alarms, thefts, weather damage or animal problems – their contact info numbers – are they paid to check your cottage regularly or are they friends/neighbours? Your insurance company may give you a deduction if you have one.
- Secure your windows and doors - close window curtains or blinds and put up shutters to protect interior from marauders (animals and human)
- Serial numbers of anything of value left behind
- Sporting goods – fishing rods & equipment, water skis, toys etc – if they're not secured (locked up, hidden or both) don't expect them to be there next spring – **Lock them or lose them!**



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- Make a list of where everything is and make copies – store one copy on your home computer and put a copy with property that will go back up to cottage on first or next trip.
- Know which police force patrols your cottage area (which OPP Detachment and their phone number).

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