

Cottage Watch, F.O.C.A. & The OPP

Presentation

By

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Overview

- Cottage break and enters, damage and theft are serious concerns
- Impact police, cottagers, cottagers' associations and insurance companies
- First Watch started in 1993 in South Porcupine



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Cottage Watch History

- The Cottage Watch program incorporates
 - property identification,
 - community patrols,
 - break and enter investigations (OPP)
- These are all brought together through effective partnerships within the cottage community.



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- FOCA and the OPP agreed upon a partnership to develop a provincial Cottage Watch network to support all cottagers' associations.
- The Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services recognized FOCA and the program when announcing the provincial initiative, to reduce the victimization of break and enters.



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Current Status

- In early summer 2009, OPP and F.O.C.A. renewed the commitment to sustain and revitalize the Cottage Watch Program
- Currently reviewing and updating the program (*e.g. decals and materials*)



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Minimum Support Required

- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (F.O.C.A.)
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Local Cottagers' Associations
- Local Cottagers



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Next Steps

- F.O.C.A. & O.P.P. continuing program development and partnership
- Plan to announce the revitalized Cottage Watch Program Spring 2010



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Challenges

- Funding
- Securing engravers (Replacing Operation Identification with Mutual Protect)



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Cottage Watch Overview



- Based on concept of neighbours helping neighbours
- Program targets Break and Enters



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Objectives

The Objectives of Cottage Watch are to:

- Involve cottage associations in self-help crime prevention and fire safety.
- Organize cottage association members into effective cottage watch groups.
- Improve communications between seasonal property owners, the OPP and other policing authorities.



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Objectives continued...

- Reduce the incidence of theft, damage, and break-ins.
- Assist police in crime prevention and detection.
- Promote fire safety for rural properties, and the use of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in cottage properties.
- Promote the use of engravers and property identification measures to help solve crimes.
- Publicize the program and its successes.



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Benefits of CW

- A better and safer environment
- Less crime
- Members more aware of problems and more active in helping to prevent them
- Becoming aware of what is going on in the area in which we live
- A stronger community spirit as cottagers get to know, and look after each other



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Roles and Responsibilities

- Program Coordinator
- Zone Coordinator and Co-Coordinator
- Watch Member



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Cottagers' Responsibilities



- Report Suspicious Activity
- Secure Your Property
- Be concerned about your neighbour's property as well as your own.
- Participate in Cottage Watch



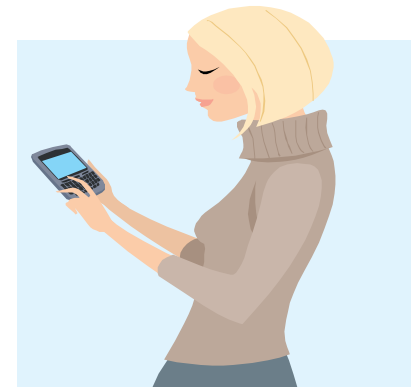
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Report Suspicious Activity

- Call police
- Identify yourself
- Give the exact location of the crime or activity



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When to call 9-1-1

- If someone is hurt and needs medical assistance.
- A **CRIME IN PROGRESS**: for example someone is taking or damaging property that does not belong to them.
- If you see someone hurting someone else.
- If you see a fire or smell smoke.

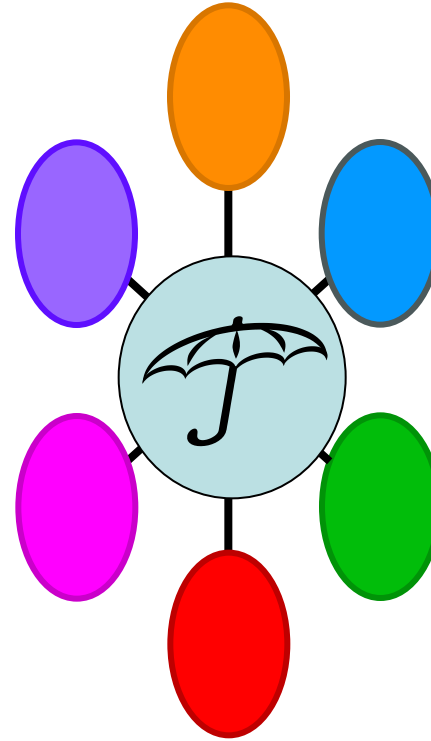


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Community Watch

Business Watch
Citizens On Patrol
Cottage Watch
Neighbourhood Watch
Road Watch
Rural Watch



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Contacting the OPP

Our website: www.opp.ca

Toll Free: 1-888-310-1122



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Any questions?



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