

Many of the break and enters and thefts that occur in the community are in fact as a result of crimes of opportunity. Potential criminals often cruise around neighbourhoods and look for the easiest targets that they can take advantage of.

Open garages during the night or even during the day provide an easy opportunity for a criminal to steal property. If you're working at the back of your home or are inside your home, I highly recommend keeping your garage closed. It only takes a few seconds for a potential thief to see an item of value in an open garage and only a few more seconds for them to steal it. By keeping your garage closed, a thief won't be able to see what items of value you have in your garage and hopefully, will simply continue on their way.

Equally important, is making certain that your garage door is closed when you retire for the evening. Have you considered keeping your garage door openers inside your home with your car keys? That way you assure that thieves will not be able to use the opener to gain entry into your garage should they break into your car?

If your backyard is secured with a fence and gate, consider buying a padlock that will keep your gate locked. The same goes for a shed, keep a lock on the door, which will help prevent an easy opportunity for a theft.

Unfortunately in the past, some people have not only forgotten to close their garage doors, but have also forgotten to lock the door inside the garage that leads into their homes. Residents have awoken to find that a criminal entered their home during the night and stole items in plain view, such as laptops, purses and wallets.

Please don't let such a thing happen to you. The good news is that if you take a few preventative steps to assure your home is secure, the odds are in your favour that your home won't become the grounds for a crime of opportunity.

Constable Tim Murray