



EAST FERRIS POLICE SERVICES BOARD COMMUNIQUE

January is Crime Stoppers Month! East Ferris joins other communities in Ontario focused on **“Helping Our Communities Stay Safe.”**

First and foremost, if someone in your family suffers from mental illness, addiction or economic problems, and you are concerned for their welfare or you are concerned that it can lead to criminal activity, please reach out. With the challenging environment brought on by the COVID pandemic and the related lockdown, if you need help, call the round the clock hotline at 211 or call our local Public Health Unit.

Secondly, Crime Stoppers Month provides a good time to assess how safe and secure are your assets. A good place to start is with your vehicle, as opportunistic criminals commonly target unlocked vehicles. That means not leaving anything valuable in your vehicle and always locking the doors. It means parking your car near a well lit area. You may consider adding lights to your yard. Consider an anti-theft system that not only protects your vehicle from break-ins but can also help reduce insurance rates.

For your home, again ensure all your doors and windows are secure. Consider installing additional external lights that are environmentally friendly in prominent locations on your property. You could consider installing motion sensor lights, or motion detectors with sound, or an alarm system or even investing in a dog!

If you do have a dog and you hear it barking at night, put on your external lights. If you see anything suspicious, immediately call the OPP at 911. If you are concerned about revealing your identity, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. This is an anonymous hotline where you can confidentially report criminal activity.

As a result of COVID, many communities have seen an increase in thefts and break-ins, and that includes East Ferris. **The East Ferris Police Service Board is thankful to the citizens who have been actively watching out for their home and that of their neighbours and reporting suspicious activity.** It is called “real time” neighborhood watch. But remember to always reach out to the OPP or Crime Stoppers if you see anything suspicious. They are our partners in ensuring a safe East Ferris.