**SUGGESTIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

**FROM PROPERTY CRIME**

* Report anything suspicious to RCMP (9-1-1) ***at the time it’s happening***
* Be on good terms with your neighbours – they can watch your place just as you can watch theirs
* Lock the doors of your home & garage. Lock your vehicles. Make your property difficult for thieves to enter or access.
* For current and ongoing knowledge of what’s going on in Camrose County, access the Battle River Rural Crime Watch Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/Battle-River-Rural-Crime-Watch-Society-707824772657843/](http://www.facebook.com/Battle-River-Rural-Crime-Watch-Society-707824772657843/)

* Download free App “RCMP Drug Awareness” from Google Play or the Apple Store (if interested in the effects of various drugs)
* Report any threatening or harassing calls to police
* Go to Camrose Courthouse at 5210 49 Ave on Wednesday mornings (9:00am) and see how court operates and who some of these property criminals are – The courthouse is open to the public on Wednesday’s.

**House/Residence**

* Install and use deadbolts
* Have your house front door lights on at night (and other lights illuminating other buildings)
* Don’t leave notes on doors or mailboxes saying you’re away
* Keep drapes closed at night
* Keep lights on in some rooms at night
* Sheds and storage areas should be locked using a good quality padlock
* Consider having a peephole on front door
* Consider a strike plate or reinforced door (6-8” long strike plate installed using long screws for maximum support
* On sliding doors/windows, consider an **anti-lift device** (small L-shaped brackets placed into the track above and below the closed sliding door to prevent the door from being lifted out of the frame) and/or a **patio locking bar** (install at waist level if your patio door opens on the outside of the frame to prevent prying and/or a **wooden stick to prevent prying** (placed in the bottom track to prevent window from being forced open)
* Keep all emergency telephone numbers by the phone and ensure they are current
* Record make, model and serial number of computer, tv and electronics; take pictures and have info/photos kept outside of home
* Take a photo/video inventory of your home and its possessions (it helps with Insurance claims in case of a theft)

**General Property**

* Ensure all property door & windows ***can be*** and ***are*** locked (house, garage, shed, barn, etc.) when not being used
* Keep an inventory of all farming supplies (photos, S/N’s, manuals, etc.)
* Make yards appear occupied at all times with timers and motion sensor lights
* Keep entryways clean and have bright lighting (shovel snow, have obvious signs that someone is currently at the residence, etc.)
* Protect your privacy by using curtains and blinds
* Record the serial numbers of all your valuables, mark them with your Driver’s Licence number or name and keep a list of these items
* When you are away on business or vacation, stop the delivery of your mail or ask a neighbour to pick it up for you
* Change door locks when you move into a new apartment or house
* Keep shrubbery or trees/hedges away from concealing doors and windows and below 3’ in height for shrubs and 5’ for trees
* Secure and lock away tools when finished with them
* Garage doors, fence gates and garden sheds should be locked when not used
* Install timers (both interior and exterior) to activate lights in your absence
* Exterior lights should be protected by an anti-tampering cover and installed at least 8’ from the ground to prevent tampering or breakage
* Lock your fuel tanks or don’t have much fuel in your tanks (easier said than done)
* Be wary about giving fuel to people who ran out of fuel just down the road – has been used in Camrose County to scope out residents and their property
* Lock your pick-up truck up when combining or working in the field
* Store tools and ladders indoors and don’t have them easily accessible to burglars

**Alarm Systems**

* Consider an alarm system
* Consider security cameras on your property and if purchased, place them in areas that will provide the best pictures (test it and see if you can make out people, licence plates, etc.) FYI - a video surveillance system can be routed through phone lines and direct to a cell phone – real-time visuals of people on property
* Place cameras on all sides of your house
* Consider a gate alarm that can be motion-detected (beam across driveway) or a metal-detecting alarm
* Consider using trail cameras
* Post signs saying video surveillance
* Consider a big, loud dog

**Vehicle Precautions**

* Lock your vehicles. Lock your vehicles. Lock your vehicles.
* Do not keep the keys to your unlocked truck…in your unlocked truck
* Don’t leave money, wallets, ID, guns, etc. in vehicles
* Kill switches on vehicle or company vehicles
* Take GPS “home address” off personal GPS so that thieves can’t easily target the house a 2nd time
* Ensure the inside of your vehicle is empty
* Have a car alarm
* Consider a steering wheel lock when not in use

**Firearms**

* Questions about firearms storage? – www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp or call 1-800-731-4000
* Photograph and catalogue your guns and their serial numbers, make, model; keep paperwork/photographs somewhere safe
* Keep your guns locked in well-made, quality safes

**What To Do…**

* **Never** confront a suspected criminal or enter your home if you think you have a break-in. Call and wait for police at a safe place, like a trusted neighbour’s house, or somewhere nearby
* When a stranger asks to use your phone, don’t let them into your house. Offer to call for assistance
* Be cautious about letting anyone into your home
* Salespersons will have cards; check the store to determine valid ID; check the phone book for the company
* Be careful of building inspectors, census takers, telephone repairmen, tax assessors, gas inspectors, etc. Ask for ID
* Don’t be fooled by a well-dressed person
* Don’t volunteer information about yourself or neighbours to strangers (be careful of Facebook posts talking about leaving home, upcoming vacations or watching a neighbour’s residence while they’re away)
* Use gates or fences; if you have a gate at the entrance to your property, consider using it and close it when not in use
* Lock gates with a good padlock when not in use
* Do not broadcast what you own or have at your property (on Facebook, posting pictures, having various items easily seen from the roadway, etc.)
* Talk with your neighbours about everyone locking their property – criminals will sometimes target certain property-rich areas that are known to have accessible and unlocked items; don’t have a bulls-eye on your area!

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