

Community Information Bulletin

The University of Toronto Scarborough Campus is presently dealing with issues relating to both minor thefts, and theft of laptop computers. The majority of these thefts share the commonality of being left unattended in public places. In the instances where computers were stolen, none were secured with a lock, none had S.T.O.P. plates installed on them, and they were often left in common areas while the owners left for various reasons. Often the owners were only momentarily away from their property.

Please remember that the theft of a laptop computer represents more than a financial loss, as the victim often also loses valuable information, thesis, and term papers that represent countless hours of research.

Do not believe that your property is safe in a locked office or lab that is used by numerous people. This usually means that numerous keys have been issued for these spaces. Simply because you remember to lock the door does not mean the next person using that space will also remember to do so.

Our community members are reminded that the best deterrence against theft is the elimination of opportunities to steal. Property should never be left unattended for any period of time, regardless of how brief that time may be. Here are a few simple steps to avert lost or stolen property that can save you a lot more than money.

- Use registration programs like the STOP Program (available at the Book Store) or bike registration to make an official traceable record of your property.
- Keep a detailed description of your computer, including the serial number, and information relating to programs you have installed.
- Do not store disks containing back up files with your computer.
- If you conduct online (internet) banking, do not store passwords on your computer. Notify the bank immediately if your computer is lost or stolen.
- Keep desks, cabinets, lockers, rooms, and office spaces where books are stored locked to prevent theft.
- NEVER leave your bags, books or purses unattended on a table, desk, floor or in a classroom, even for a second! It doesn't take long to become a victim of a theft.
- Keep a list of your valuables complete with photographs for identification and insurance purposes in the event they are lost or stolen.

Remember, crime prevention is a shared responsibility and by taking a few simple precautionary steps, you might prevent the theft of your property. For more information on this or any other crime prevention topic, contact the UTSC Police at 416-287-7398 or visit our web site at www.utsc.utoronto.ca/police