

“Lock It or Lose It!” Cst. Addie MacCallum

By Linda Harrington

A crowd of forty people came out to the Londonderry Community Centre on Nov. 14th to listen and learn, as Constable Addie MacCallum gave a presentation on “Protection Against Property Crime”. The evening was sponsored by The Shoreline Journal and hosted by the Londonderry Recreation Association in response to concerns over damage and theft at local properties, including the Community Centre.

Constable MacCallum opened his presentation by saying crime is everywhere and none of us are immune but we can all take steps to make our homes and neighbourhoods more secure. He explained how some very basic security measures can help protect a property, especially the obvious locking windows and doors.

He said most thefts from vehicles take place when the doors are left unlocked and vehicles are often stolen with the keys in the ignition or somewhere in the car. The common sense approach “Lock It or Lose It!” is simple, but it works.

Other tips like clearing away trees and shrubs from points of entry and keeping yards well lit were easy security measures to carry out.

It was also suggested you should make your house always looked occupied, even when you are away, whether through the day or a lengthy vacation. Timers can be used to program lights, radios or tv's and it is important to have mail/papers removed on a daily basis.

“Criminals look at the amount of effort & risk versus the reward,” says Cst. MacCallum. “They will go into a place with an easy in & out and the least chance of getting caught. Doing things to keep you home from being picked as a target in the first place, or ‘Target Hardening’, is your best protection.”

Posting signs warning of a dog or surveillance cameras might be enough to have a potential break-in averted.

Those in attendance were very interested with several questions and some interaction of thoughts coming from the floor. During a question and answer session, emotions ran high as people wanted to know what means they could use to defend their property from an intruder. Cst. MacCallum reminded everyone home invasions are actually very rare, and even more so when the home is occupied. He cautioned the use of violence, suggesting people should always call 911 and let the RCMP deal with criminals. “I have seen too many situations when things can get out of hand and the victim ends up on charges,” he said. “It is not worth it.”

It was noted the importance of having a visible civic number, as this aids in a faster response time for the police or any emergency responder. In most areas the civic numbers are available from local fire departments.

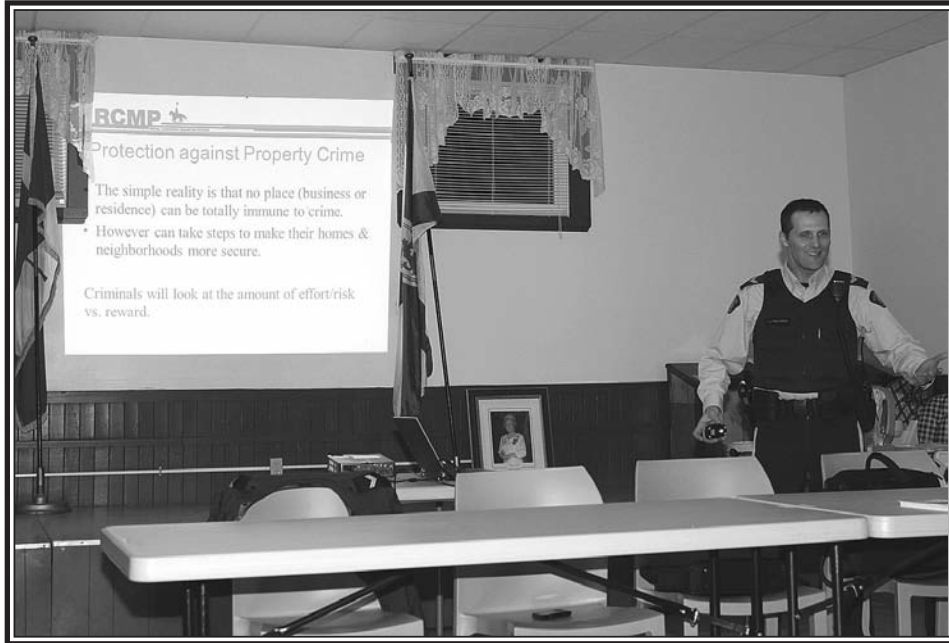
Within the past year the centre has been victimized with three acts of vandalism or break and enter. A year ago someone fired three rifle shots in the building breaking windows and exterior lighting. On Labour Day weekend there was a break-and-enter, in which kitchen equipment valued at over \$1,000 was stolen. The most recent attack occurred on October 2nd, when 19 windows and vinyl siding was destroyed by rocks and a pellet gun.

A local resident is spearheading a fundraising raffle with approximately \$5,000.00 in prizes to assist the Community Center. Tickets are \$5.00 each and available from community members. From November 1st to 20th, The Shoreline Journal conducted a subscription fundraising campaign. In other instances community centre volunteers have received a substantial amount of cash donations from concerned area residents.

Community members were looking for ideas to ensure this doesn't happen again. Cst. MacCallum suggested an alarm system would be his first suggestion along with increased community watch, where people look for anyone/anything out of the ordinary and report it immediately to RCMP.

There were comments from the audience suggesting teenagers may have been causing some of the problems because of too much idle time on their hands.

Councillor Tom Taggart asked for caution when pointing fingers at youth who



Constable Addie MacCallum brought an informative presentation to the Londonderry Community Center on Nov. 14th titled “Protection Against Property Crime”. (Harrington Photo)



About 40 people attended and information session at the Londonderry Community Center sponsored by The Shoreline Journal. Pictured (L-R): Constable MacCallum, Sally Richard, and Maurice Rees. (Harrington Photo)

may have been involved in previous incidents. “I expect some kids are not that way by choice and we owe it to the kids to be supportive,” he said. “If there are problems perhaps a visit from the RCMP might help. Good communication makes good kids.”

Taggart went on to say in his position as Councillor he frequently gets out into this community. He pointed out Londonderry is a great place, and many people are working hard to make it even better, with work on the ball field, efforts at the Thirsty Church and providing the Hunter's Breakfast.

Major Bob Taylor asked for the community's support in helping the RCMP do their job, applauding the work of Constable Addie MacCallum and the local RCMP.

Constable Addie MacCallum wrapped up the evening by thanking everyone for attending and the Shoreline Journal for inviting him to the Community meeting. In his closing remarks, he once again encouraged everyone to report anything unusual, either by calling 911 if it is an emergency or contacting Colchester County RCMP at 893-6820. “The Police are here to serve.”



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Colchester County for their support for me over the past four years and the confidence that you have given me to serve as your Mayor for the next term of Council. It was a pleasure to work with a great Council and staff for the past few years and I look forward to working with our new Council for the next term.

I will continue to work in the best interests of you, our residents, and the area businesses.

Bob Taylor
Mayor
Municipality of Colchester



DO YOU NEED TRAINING?

If you need training or refresher courses, I can provide training that meets workplace standards

TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR:

- CPR - all levels •
- First Aid •
- WHMIS •
- Defensive Driving •
- Advanced Medical First Responder •
- Babysitters Course •
- We can Help •

(First Aid for youth age 7-11)

Courses can be set up for any size groups. Contact me today:

Kathy Simpson-Giles
902-668-2385
safety_net@bellaliant.net

Merry Christmas Marigold!



Nov 28, 29, 30, Dec 1, 7:30 pm
Hubtown Theatre
Steel Magnolias
\$17.50

December 2, 7:30 pm

A Christmas Homecoming!

Matt Brouwer
and Jeff Somers

Adults \$20, Students/Seniors \$18
Children \$10



Dec 8 and 9, 2:00 pm and 7:30
A Christmas Spectacular
Truro Dance Academy

Tickets at MacQuarries

Dec 12, 7:30 pm
For your staff
party?

Group rate available!



Alfie Zappacosta \$20

Dec 13 and 14
Family Entertainment
The Maritime Marionettes

The Berman Town
Musicians \$8



Dec 15, 7:30 pm
Dave Gunning's Christmas Show
\$25

Dec 20, 7:30 pm
Dickens -
A Christmas
Carol!

with Jeremy Webb
\$25



Dec 22, 7:30
Will Fisher and the
Woodhouse Quintet
\$16

In the Marigold Art Gallery
Lorinda Reagan

Christmas gift certificates now available!



Visit www.marigoldcentre.ca
or call 897-4004

605 Prince St., Truro
\$2 Theatre Betterment charge applies on all ticket sales. Additional fees apply to online purchases.