



VERNON CRIME PREVENTION

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PROACTIVE STEPS

As the lazy days of summer wind down and the familiar morning rush of the back-to-school season takes over, our neighbourhoods undergo a massive shift in routine. Empty homes during the day, busier crosswalks in the morning, and earlier sunsets in the evening all bring a new set of challenges to our community. From dusting off our school-zone driving habits to auditing our property security for the autumn months ahead, a few small adjustments to our daily routines can make a world of difference.

Back-to-School Safety Guide

DRIVERS	STUDENTS
- Slow to 30 km/h in school zones - Put phones away - Stop for buses with flashing lights - Watch crosswalks and driveways - Leave extra time	- Stop, look, listen before crossing - Use crosswalks and sidewalks - Make eye contact with drivers - Wear a helmet when biking - Stay alert—heads up, earbuds low

Bike Lock Basics: cable locks are easily cut with hand tools. Use a heavy-duty U-lock through the frame and rear wheel and register the bicycle with 529 Garage.

Child Home Alone Code: if kids are coming home to an empty house before parents get off work, establish a strict rule to never announce to anyone outside the home that they are alone. Set up a quick check-in system (like a text or a smart-lock notification) so you know they arrived safely.

Vegetation Overgrowth Clean-Up: overgrown landscaping creates a perfect “blind spot” for burglars to force entry into windows or doors unseen from the street.

Looks Like Someone’s Home Strategy: with homes sitting empty for 6 to 8 hours a day, simple habits matter. Do not leave garage doors open and use smart plugs to randomize indoor lighting.



Report Suspicious Activity: If you notice any suspicious behaviour around you or your neighbour’s property, report to the police immediately (Vernon RCMP non-emergency: 250-545-7171).