

March 2010:

The city of College Place experiences the crime of "Vehicle Prowling" on numerous occasions throughout the year. Vehicle prowling is defined as follows: A person is guilty of vehicle prowling if, with the intent to commit a crime against a person or property therein, he enters or remains unlawfully in a vehicle. Vehicle prowling also includes a theft of property of any kind from a vehicle.

To minimize the chance of becoming a victim of this kind of criminal activity you should make a habit of doing the following:

- 1) Always lock your car whenever it is parked, whether on the street or in your driveway.
- 2) Do not leave items of value in your vehicle, particularly where said items are visible from the outside.
- 3) Don't assume the trunk of your vehicle is a safe place to store items. Thieves, especially the more experienced types, are familiar with techniques to quickly compromise some locking mechanisms.
- 4) Don't assume that because you live in a more affluent area, you are immune to this kind of crime. You are not.
- 5) Consider forming a block watch program.