

BICYCLE THEFT IN PEEL

Solutions to reduce theft.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

2019 statistics put the number of bikes stolen at more than 2 million in North America. One bike stolen every 15 seconds.

It costs society \$1 billion a year.

A McGill University paper on bike theft revealed that 20% of respondents had bikes stolen 3 times and that only 1.6% were recovered.

In 2020 over 4000 bicycles were reported stolen in Toronto. That is roughly 3 times more than in 2014.

BCAC'S ROLE IN REDUCING BIKE THEFT.

The way bike theft is treated trivializes it as a low level property crime resulting in under reporting and lack of concentration of police resources on this problem. Frustration with multiple thefts has resulted in some riders giving up cycling.

Under our mandate of encouraging cycling in the city we should be promoting proven methods to reduce bicycle theft.

Having a strategy to address bike theft is part of being a bicycle friendly community.

EXPLORING A SOLUTION.



This is Detective Rob Brunt of the Vancouver Police Service and J Allard, an ex Microsoft executive who led the team that designed the Xbox. Together they collaborated to develop a plan to reduce bike theft in cities in North America. Their plan involves a universally accessible bicycle registration website along with co-operation from bike shop owners, cycling advocates and, most importantly, police.

HOW IT WORKS.

One of the cornerstones of this plan is the use of the 529 Garage website bicycle registry. It far out performs any municipal police localized registry. Then the assistance of bike shop owners and cycling advocates is needed to encourage the use of the bicycle registration website, and to encourage the community to make changes to reduce opportunities for theft. The most important aspect is the police adoption of the website as well as allocating resources to facilitate a plan to reduce theft.

RESULTS.

With the application of Brunt and Allard's plan in Vancouver, previously a bicycle theft hotspot, was an eventual reduction of reported bicycle theft of 40%.

Although uptake of this plan has been slow, it has already been adopted by police departments in Canadian cities like Ottawa, Regina, Brandon and many municipalities in British Columbia.

REFERENCES.

Video of 27 minutes which covers almost everything.

<https://youtu.be/48V9Xtpgq9I>

These are various article links pertaining to this program.

<https://project529.com/garage/press>

Link to a video on how the bicycle registration works.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqVkaK71a0g>