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BAIT BIKES ARE EVERYWHERE: STEAL ONE, GO TO JAIL

by Nelson Daily staff on 24 Aug 2011

Bike thieves beware, Operation Hands Off is deploying bait bikes throughout the Kootenays in a joint effort with Nelson Police and the RCMP to crack down on bike theft.

Bait bikes will be deployed in many popular locations. The bikes are equipped with tracking devices and hidden cameras to record the theft.



Wikipedia, public domain photo.

"Thieves can be sure of a one way ticket to jail," said Pat Cowman, director of the Operation Hands Off program.

The Operation Hands Off Bait Bike project is modeled after the Province-wide bait car program which has proven effective at reducing vehicle theft in BC, said Wayne Holland, Nelson chief of police and former head of IMPACT (Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team).

"Bait bikes have been shown to reduce bike thefts in other parts of the country and we support this initiative to deter bike theft in our community," he said.

A Global Bike Registry in partnership with Canadian Crime Stoppers Association and Norco Bicycles is part of the growing movement to curb bike theft and assist with the return of found bikes across the country.

Typically stolen bikes are moved from the local area or sold online through sites such as EBay or Craigslist, said Holland. In some cases the bikes are used for a ride to other areas and are recovered by police or found by citizens.

"Cycling is a major tourist attraction throughout the Kootenays and we want to ensure everyone enjoys their summer vacation," said Cpl. Darryl Orr of the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment Crime Reduction Unit. "The bait bikes and registry help to deter theft and assist in the identification of bikes that are recovered."

People can take a stand against crime by registering their bikes, using a high quality lock and always checking the serial number of used bikes on the Operation Hands Off web site before buying a used bike, said NPD Sgt. Howie Grant. These simple steps make registered bikes too hot to handle and reduce the risk of theft, he said.

Found bikes can also be returned through the Operation Hands Off program.

Bike registry

A community bike registry will be held in Nelson on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at the Nelson Farmers' Market on Baker Street and Ward between 9:30 am and 3 pm.

Local Crime Stoppers volunteers will be on hand to assist bike owners with the registry of their bikes. The registry is provide as a community service and sponsored by MicroDotDNA Technology and Norco Bicycles.



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- Image Galleries
- About Trail
- Polls
- Comics
- Crossword
- Sudoku
- Gas Prices
- Weather
- Create content
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