

**Subject:** Peel Police - School is Out! Help Keep Children Safe (Peel Regional Police Press Release)

## **Peel Police - School is Out! Help Keep Children Safe**

**Peel** – As the summer break approaches, Peel Regional Police would like to remind parents and teens to exercise due caution in planning activities for this summer.

Both teens and children have met our Divisional Neighbourhood Policing Officers and School Liaison Officers, who have been assisting them to prepare for a fun and safe summer break. Please find some helpful tips below:

### **Punk-Off Robberies**

A “punk-off style” robbery occurs when one or more suspects approach victims in secluded area and use violence, the threat of violence or intimidation in order to rob the victims.

Commonly targeted items include jewellery, cellular phones, mp3 players and portable gaming systems.

#### **Tips:**

- Leave your electronic devices at home, if not required
- Always store your devices out of sight and in a secure place
- Never walk around with earphones showing, or in your ears. You are advertising what you have
- Pay attention to your surroundings; even while texting or talking on the phone
- Walk in groups as much as possible, staying in well lit and busy areas
- A common ruse used by suspects is to ask the victim for the time. When the victim produces their cell phone, to provide the time, it is taken from them. If you are not wearing a watch, do not check your phone
- If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, make some noise and draw attention to yourself
- If you become a victim of one of these robberies, first call the police and then let your service provider know (if you lose your cell phone)

#### **Parents, Know What Your Children Have:**

- Mark down all serial numbers for your electronics. This will assist police in identifying and verifying your property
- Increasingly, people are buying electronic items from “friends”. Unfortunately, many of these items are stolen. Knowingly or not, being in possession of stolen property is a criminal offence