



I think I've always wanted to be a locksmith. When I was little, I'd build safes made from cardboard boxes. As I got older and the things in my cardboard safe became more valuable, I remember installing an "alarm"! I think it was a bell. I did that to catch my sisters when they'd attempt to break in and steal my things!

I went to school to become a carpenter. And I worked for about four years in that capacity at CFB Borden before becoming a full-time locksmith and heading out to run my own business.

Kim and I bought Blue Mountain Lock & Key on July 15th, 1993, and then Kim joined me in the office when our son Alex started pre-kindergarten. Our business was always based in Collingwood, and on October 15th, 2013 we became part of Huronia Alarm & Fire Security Inc.

Joining Huronia was a logical next step for our family. We respect the work that they do in our community. If we didn't feel connected to Huronia, we wouldn't have stayed for ten years after the acquisition. And we're still here today!

Roger - What's the best part about working with my wife, Kim? Well, that's a loaded question! Seriously though, she knows how my brain works, and because of that, I've learned to do what she tells me (here at the office AND at home!).

Kim - The best part about working with Roger? We laugh. A lot. And I know the job is being done right, and the Customer will be happy with the quality of his work when I send him out on a call.

The industry has changed a lot in the last thirty years. When we look back at how Roger's locksmith career began ... he was using a pager that would go off in the middle of the night for lock-out calls. I cannot tell you how many times Roger got called out to Wasaga Beach Area 1 to help someone gain access to their car because they'd inadvertently locked their keys inside. Then there were the calls that someone's "*lost their keys in the rhubarb*" while skiing at Blue Mountain, and they needed help accessing their vehicle. The work was different back then.

My focus now is locksmithing product installation, maintenance and service for homeowners, property managers and commercial property owners. I'm installing everything from keyless entry systems and safes to commercial access control systems, like key fobs and swipe cards, to coded lock installations, padlock and master key systems, door closers and hardware to improve accessibility in commercial spaces.

Sure, we still cut keys, and wow, there's a place where technology has helped make us more efficient. Back in the day, there were these thick books of key codes that we used to help us cut keys. Now it's all technology-driven, and we can even cut and program automotive and marine keys, fobs and transponders ... all while the Customer waits in our Collingwood lobby.

When I was building cardboard safes as a kid, I didn't know that it would be my career. When I watch our grandkids building towers with LEGO, or baking muffins in their play

kitchen, Kim and I wonder if I'm watching a builder or bakery owner in the making.

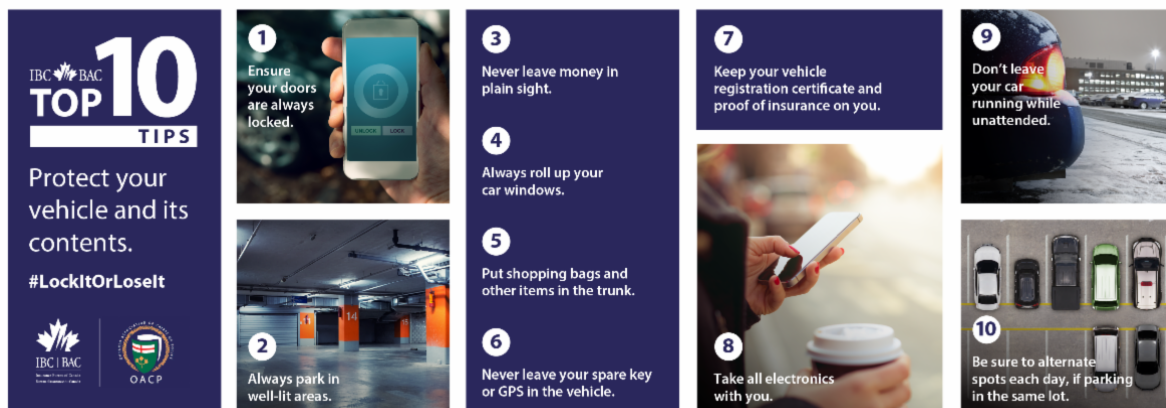
~Kim Gagne, Office Administration & Customer Service

~Roger Gagne, Senior Locksmith

HURONIA VICTORIA DAY HOURS OF OPERATION

Please take note that Huronia will be CLOSED on Monday, May 22nd. **We will re-open on Tuesday, May 23rd.** Our [24/7 ULC listed monitoring station](#) WILL remain open without interruption in monitoring service. 24/7 emergency support is also available if required.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT



The message isn't new. But unfortunately, members of our communities continue to be the victims of property theft because they've forgotten to lock their vehicles. There has been increased media coverage and incidents being discussed on neighbourhood social media groups of home security systems capturing thieves and would-be thieves attempting to access unlocked vehicles.

Thieves are looking for quick and easy access to items left in vehicles. Things like shopping bags, garage door openers, money and purses. In other instances, they are looking for an easy way to enter the vehicle to steal it.

Don't give them a helping hand.

In a recent media release from our colleagues from the Southern Georgian Bay detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, they'd like to remind motorists to "*LOCK their vehicles when they park them and secure your home or apartment when you either leave for the day or retire for the evening. Vehicle owners and drivers are urged to secure their vehicle prior to leaving it and also to remove or put out of sight any valuables that may be in the vehicle. It seems to be a regular occurrence for officers to receive a report of a vehicle entry or a series of entries only to learn the vehicles were left unlocked or locked with valuables left out in plain sight causing a forced entry and theft. These types of thefts can lead to the loss of credit cards and other pieces of personal identification which can be used in fraud related occurrences.*"

Locking your vehicle doors is one step toward protecting your possessions, here are some others:

- Taking your valuables (money, cell phones, purse, parcels and keys) with you – leave nothing inside the vehicle that would be attractive to thieves.
- If you're out shopping, do your best to conceal any valuables that you need to leave in your vehicle while you finish running your errands.
- Make sure your windows and sunroof are closed.

- Park in well-lit, high traffic areas.
- Never give a parking attendant anything more than your ignition key – keep all your other keys with you.
- Remove ownership and insurance documents from your vehicle.

Thieves today are tech-savvy. The [Insurance Bureau of Canada](#) has provided a list of additional precautions to keep your vehicle safe.

- *Don't leave a keyless entry fob in a vehicle or unprotected at the front entrance of your home. Thieves can use wireless transmitters to intercept the signal, giving them access to the vehicle. Consider storing fobs in a protective box or bag that blocks the signal.*
- *Install an immobilizing device which prevents thieves from bypassing the ignition and hot-wiring a vehicle. This can include devices that require wireless ignition authentication or starter, ignition and fuel pump disablers.*
- *Install a tracking device that emits a signal to the police or a monitoring station if a vehicle is stolen.*
- *Use a visible or audible device that shows thieves a vehicle is protected.*
- *Consider using a deterrent like a steering wheel or brake pedal lock.*

For more information from the [Insurance Bureau of Canada](#), about protecting your vehicle from theft, [click here](#).



Video link from the Ontario Provincial Police YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@OntarioProvincialPolice>

WE ARE HIRING! HELP US FIND THE NEXT GREAT ADDITION TO OUR TEAM!

To support our commitment to exceptional customer service, we are always looking to have talented people join our team. Some of our best leads have come from our customers, and so we are reaching out to you again! We are actively recruiting for the following positions:

- Security Alarm Technician (Collingwood, Midland & Utterson/Muskoka)
- Senior Locksmith (Collingwood)
- Part-time Security Guard (Muskoka)

[Click here to submit your resume or to receive additional information about these career opportunities.](#)

If you know of someone who is looking for an employment opportunity with a family-owned and operated business that is dedicated to customer satisfaction, [please contact us.](#)

We offer an incentive for leads that create viable employment opportunities for our company: three months free monitoring for the lead; 12 months of free monitoring if we employ the lead through their probationary period; an additional 24 months of free monitoring should the lead remain employed after one year of continuous service.



Huronian

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