Essential Home Security Strategies

During the Cooper's Crossing Annual General Meeting, several residents voiced concerns about rising security issues in the area. To address these concerns, we have compiled a list of tips and steps designed to deter opportunistic thieves and vandals:

1. **Lock Your Vehicles and Secure Valuables:**
    - Always lock your vehicles and avoid leaving valuables inside.
    - For added protection, park your car in your garage.
2. **Secure Your Home:**
    - Keep doors and windows locked, even when you're at home.
    - Avoid hiding keys under mats or rocks; consider using a key lockbox or smart lock instead.
    - Use blinds or curtains to keep valuables out of sight.
3. **Maintain Your Property:**
    - A well-maintained property shows pride and awareness:
        - Keep bushes trimmed to under 2 feet and clear tree branches up to 6 feet to maintain clear sight lines and eliminate hiding spots.
        - Regularly check and maintain door and window locks.
4. **Lighting and Surveillance:**
    - Install motion-sensor lights to illuminate potential hiding spots and expose criminal activities.
    - Consider a home security system with cameras and a video doorbell to monitor and record activities around your home.
    - Replace regular light bulbs in your porch and garage lights with automatic dusk-to-dawn bulbs (available on Amazon.ca).
5. **Neighbourhood Cooperation:**
    - Build strong relationships with your neighbours and look out for each other.
    - Encourage the formation of a neighbourhood watch program on social media.
6. **Create an Occupied Appearance:**
    - Make it appear that someone is always home by using timers on lights and electronics.
    - Be cautious about answering the door to strangers; use a peephole or security camera to verify identities.
    - Promptly pick up flyers from your front porch, and if your neighbors are away, consider collecting theirs as well.
7. **Protect Valuables:**
    - Use a safe to store important documents and valuables.
    - Secure your home network with a strong Wi-Fi password to protect personal information.
8. **Emergency Preparedness:**
    - Have an emergency plan and a 72-hour kit ready for unforeseen situations.

By following these strategies, you can enhance the security of your home and contribute to a safer neighbourhood.