

May day for elderly woman

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Series: Stolen Lives: An in-depth look at the dangerous world of auto crime

As you're reading these stories, another car is being stolen somewhere in B.C. Over the course of the next week, we'll tell you about Province readers who are being ripped off right now.

The Reader: May Chemenko

The Vehicle: 1991 Chrysler Dynasty

The Plate Number: MKC 894

When May Chemenko was born, Ford's Model-T had just been released and auto theft was not a problem.

Sadly, times have changed and, last Saturday night, Chemenko, 92, of Abbotsford, was drawn into the new age.

Her prized 1991 Chrysler Dynasty was stolen from the carport beside her mobile home. Chemenko's neighbour, Rolly, keeps an eye on his elderly friend and contacted The Province on her behalf.

"That car was her baby, she's had it since new," says Rolly. "She only had 40,000 miles on it and people were always asking her if they could buy it.

"She would always say no because she can still drive and it made her feel independent. She feels so bad. She just got out of hospital."

Rolly said he also owned a Chrysler Dynasty that was stolen nine years ago.

"They are easy to steal, I know that," he says. "May had a steering wheel lock but she isn't sure if she put it on."

Good news! Just before last night's Province deadline, Chemenko's car was recovered with a broken ignition, but otherwise undamaged.