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## New technology helps citizens fight crime

Citizens On Patrol (COP) has found a partner in their pursuit to end crime and raise funds at the same time.

By Svjetlana Mlinarevic news@webcoleduc.com Friday December 08, 2006

Citizens On Patrol (COP) has found a partner in their pursuit to end crime and raise funds at the same time.

The Canadian distributor of Datadot has joined with COP, a

volunteer crime watch organization in the neighbourhoods of Beaumont and Leduc, to raise funds for their patrolling efforts. "For this promotion 100 per cent of the sales are going to COP," said Pat Cowman, Canadian distributor of Datadot. "We'll give them the kits at retail which they will sell at wholesale. All the profits go to them. This is a real benefit to community groups who are involved in crime prevention."

Datadot Canada sells microdots, which are the size and thickness of a snowflake. Each dot has an identifying serial number laser etched on its surface. The serial number is specific to the owner it's registered to. The dots are used as an anti-theft security device for items such as bikes, cars, electronics and any other personal item of value. The dots are applied to the surface with a

Pat Cowman, Canadian distributor of Datadot, holds a sample on his finger. The micro-scopic dots have laser etched serial numbers on them. The dots are a new system of defence against property theft in Leduc and Beaumont.

Photo by Svjetlana Mlinarevic

UV based adhesive that glows under a black light. The dots will make identifying stolen goods easier for police.

"The typical problem with theft is even though there is a conscientious effort (by police) to recover items, it's difficult to match them up with their owner," said Clarence Nelson, special constable for the Town of Beaumont.

"This is one way of identifying stolen property to their owner."

Serial numbers and owner information are registered and stored in a Datadot database that is accessible to all law enforcement. Cowman states that one item, such as a bike, can have between 500 to 10,000 dots placed in several locations.

COP will start selling 10 kits at the Beaumont RCMP detachment starting this week for \$31.75 each. As sales rise more kits will be available for sale. Anyone interested in purchasing kits from the Beaumont detachment can stop by or call 1-780-929-2484.

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