

Reports of bicycle thefts drop in west end after arrest

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Reports of bicycle thefts have declined sharply in the west-end district where Igor Kenk, a used-bike dealer accused of theft, ran his second-hand shop.

In the seven days leading up to Mr. Kenk's July 16 arrest, Toronto police took 36 reports of stolen bikes throughout their 14 Division patrol area.

In the seven days after that, 21 bicycles were reported stolen, said Superintendent Ruth White, commander of the division.

The theft rate fell even further after that, with just six reported between July 23 and 28, Supt. White said.

The boundaries of 14 Division are Lake Ontario to the south, the Canadian Pacific rail line just north of Dupont Street to the north, Spadina Avenue to the east and Jameson Avenue, Lansdowne Avenue and the Canadian National rail line to the west. The 10 rented garages searched and cleared of stashed bicycles since Mr. Kenk's arrest have fallen within or just outside those boundaries.

During the most recent three raids on Monday, 350 bicycles were recovered, half the number initially reported in a police news release yesterday, Supt. White said.

That brings to 2,789 the number of bikes seized since Mr. Kenk's arrest.

They remain on public display today and tomorrow at 35 Strachan Ave. and 30 Ordnance St., where those with proper identification and proof of ownership can reclaim them.