Written by Administrator Wednesday, 08 December 2010 13:41 -

KELOWNA -- An Okanagan woman won thousands of dollars at a casino on the weekend only to have it all stolen before she had a chance to enjoy it.

The woman, who did not want her identity revealed out of fear, says she was knocked to the ground Sunday night outside her Kelowna house. The thief made off with her purse.

There is a shoe print and some hair in the snow outside of

Annabelle's house in the Rutland area; evidence of a brief but aggressive struggle.

"He grabbed so hard and pushed me," says Annabelle. "That is how he got away with my purse."

Annabelle had won \$6,000 at the Lake City Casino in the Delta Grand in Kelowna after spending seven hours at the Black Jack table.

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"I walked by the parking lot," she says. "I was looking around. Nobody was there so I figured no one was following me. So I drove home."

While police are calling the incident unusual, they are using it a reminder for casino goers to always be cautious.

"We are continuing with on the investigation, working with casino security as well to get information," says Const. Steve Holmes with the Kelowna RCMP. "Hopefully this can pan out and we can find out who's responsible."

Annabelle's husband Gordon would like to see the casino offer winnings in a cheque rather than cash so this doesn't happen to someone else.

Annabelle is appealing to the young robber, a man who was driving a red Volkswagen Beetle, to return the cash without question.

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Lake City Casino would not comment on the incident.

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