



Ontario Provincial Police  
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

## News Release/ Communiqué

**FROM: Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau**

**DATE: October 26, 2011**

### **CRIMINALS TARGETTING MARIHUANA GROWING AND PROCESSING SITES**

**(ORILLIA, ON)** – As illegal marihuana crops are now being prepared for distribution, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reminds all Ontario residents to be aware of their safety near marihuana growing and processing locations.

The OPP is pro-actively warning everyone there are many safety risks associated with the annual marihuana harvest and distribution process. During this time of year, many outdoor marihuana crops have been harvested. Other criminals who target specific homes and locations for robberies and home invasions are a concern for the OPP.

The OPP is warning people who own or occupy premises used for the growing and processing of marihuana, that they are not only jeopardizing their own safety but also the safety of their families and other occupants.

If you have any information regarding illegal marihuana grow ops, contact the OPP, your local police service or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

### **LEARN MORE**

- Marihuana plants are bright green in colour and grow to between three and five feet in height. Marihuana leaves have seven jagged fingers and the plants give off a strong, pungent, musty odour.
- Ontario-grown marihuana is typically distributed throughout the province and exported to the United States. Drugs, such as cocaine, as well as weapons and cash often return to Ontario to fuel other criminal enterprises.
- In 2010, OPP Drug Enforcement Unit and its partners investigated 586 indoor and outdoor marihuana grows, destroying 218,168 marihuana plants. Another 2,190 kilograms of dried marihuana was confiscated, bringing the total value of seized marihuana to \$258-million.
- To view/download photos of marihuana grow-ops and OPP eradication, click [here](#).

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Contact: Provincial Constable Peter Leon  
705-329-7414

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