

# Media Release

## OACP Announces Winners of 2010 Crime Prevention Awards

*Honouring Innovation in Crime Prevention Shows the police community's Commitment to Preventing a Crime Before it Happens*

**For Immediate Release:** June 3, 2010

**(Toronto)** – The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) is pleased to announce the winners two new annual Crime Prevention Awards that honour a police agency and a community organization or group that have partnered an innovative crime prevention initiative or strategy to keep communities safe.

The winners of these inaugural awards are:

- Ontario Crime Prevention Award – Police-led Program  
“*Lock It or Lose It*” – Ontario Provincial Police
- Ontario Crime Prevention Award – Community-led Program  
“*Just Us*” – Waterloo Regional Police Service in partnership with the Regional Concurrent Disorder Committee Waterloo Wellington

These awards are sponsored by Accident Support Services International and will be presented to these police agencies for their work in developing innovative crime prevention initiatives or strategies. Presentations of the awards will take place at the OACP's 2010 Annual Conference and Global Showcase taking place in Kingston from June 13-16.

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*Members of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police serve their communities as the senior police leaders in municipal, regional, provincial, national, and First Nations police services across Ontario*



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**Vision:**  
***Excellence in police leadership - working together for safer communities.***

## “Lock It or Lose It”

Theft from, and theft of vehicles, is an ongoing crime which directly impacts victims and places a strain on valuable police resources. This type of crime is not new, but it is very often preventable through community engagement.

“Lock It or Lose It” is a crime prevention initiative developed with the support of Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), aimed at encouraging drivers to take simple precautions to help prevent crime and victimization.



Lock it or Lose it has been around in different forms for many years. In September 2007, the program was professionally re-packaged and launched by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) across Ontario. Through an effective communication strategy, the program incorporates effective prevention through public awareness and education, in support of enforcement activities provided by the Provincial Auto Theft Team (PATT).

The Lock it or Lose it program consists of the following components:

- Lock it or Lose it Vehicle Security Audit initiatives in partnership with OPP Auxiliary & Community Policing Committee volunteers;
- Lock it or Lose it Community Auto Theft Prevention Seminar Kit in partnership with IBC, PATT and OPP Community Services Officers; and
- Lock it or Lose it Business Community Engagement initiative in partnership with IBC, Macs Convenience Stores Inc & Pin Point Media Group

In addition to its public awareness, education and community mobilization benefits, Lock it or Lose it has, over the past two years contributed to a significant decrease in reported auto related thefts.

The OACP is now promoting this program Province-wide.

## “Just Us”



Individuals with concurrent disorders (mental health and addictions) are often over represented in the criminal justice system. Waterloo Regional Police Service has been involved in identifying high repetitive call areas involving individuals with concurrent disorders and has developed crime prevention solutions to address these issues. The “Just Us” project involved an area of high repetitive calls to a collection of rooming houses located beside each other in the uptown area of the city of Waterloo which housed approximately 66 concurrent disordered individuals. This rooming house complex was referred to by some as a “crack house.”

The “Just Us” project involved meeting with residents who identified their needs and resulted in a series of initiatives including: installation of public phones, increased security, changes in management of the buildings, opening an on-site clinic, providing on-site drug support users group similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, providing training in overdose prevention and first aid to residents, and providing increased access to food to name a few changes.