



Neighborhood crime prevention tactics

(NC) — Workers in crime prevention programs across Canada have come up with some interesting possibilities to help communities decide what is most needed in their own neighborhood.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada suggests that each idea will need to be adapted to a community's own analyzed needs, but offers these as prevention tactics which various groups have found to be effective in achieving their own goals.

Police-Community Boards: Police and community leaders jointly plan crime prevention, leaders by presenting their concerns and police by sharing information on departmental resources and services.

Street Observations: While walking or driving through a neighborhood, police or residents systematically note opportunities for crime to occur (open garage doors, keys left in cars), then inform residents of these potential problems.

Environmental Design: Lighting levels, traffic flow problems, and the design of public spaces can all influence crime occurrence and, in some communities, are obvious steps to take in preventing crime. Working with municipal politicians, police, planners, and architects, community leaders ensure that new community facilities are designed to reduce opportunity for crime to occur.

Crime Hotlines: Community-minded radio stations and newspapers offer anonymity and/or cash awards to telephone callers for reporting crimes or sus-

picious behavior. This information is immediately forwarded to the police.

Block Clubs: Neighbors on a block are organized, usually by an elected captain, to receive crime prevention education, help improve relations with the police, and participate in crime prevention activities, such as escort services and home security surveys.

Tenant Organizations: Tenants initiate and support many of the same crime prevention activities as Block Club members, but issues will often focus on safety of common areas, building maintenance, and other problems of interest.

Neighbourhood Watch: Block captains and participating residents work with

police, acting as the "alternative eyes and ears" whenever they spot trouble.

Apartment Watch: This is similar to Neighbour Watch, but emphasizes the special problems associated with an apartment building's structure and management.

Other Opportunities for Watch Programs: Any area can be defined and protected by concerned citizens: porches, subways, alleys, parks, or marinas are just a few of the possibilities.

Vehicle Radio Patrols: Using two-way radios, neighborhood patrol members and cab drivers contact police as a need arises.

Escort Services: In an effort to reduce fear of and

vulnerability to crime, trained volunteers may drive or accompany senior citizens on errands or provide moral support to victims of or witnesses to crime.

Block Parent Homes: These provide a safe refuge to children or elderly people who feel threatened on the streets.

Residence or Small Business Security Surveys: Police or trained volunteers conduct in-depth, on-site inspections to determine safety levels, suggest improvements, and reduce opportunities for break-ins.

Operation Identification: A window sticker advertises that valuable property has been engraved with a traceable number which will help police in recovering stolen goods.

Police Directional Aids: These are highly visible numbers, legible at night, which are painted on houses and vehicles to help police in their search activities.

Postal Alert: Letter carriers, trained by police, report suspicious activities along their routes.

Automatic Timers: These will turn lamps and radios on and off to give unoccupied residences the appearance of being occupied.

Buddy Buzzers: These alarm systems sound off in a neighboring store or apartment when one partner is in trouble.

Neighborhood Directories: These directories or maps, used by many block watches, give names, addresses, and phone numbers for every house on a block in order to speed news of a neighborhood problem.

