

Haldimand, Norfolk  
and Tillsonburg

**CRIME**   
**STOPPERS**

**1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**

Indoor marihuana grow operations pose a serious threat to communities across Ontario resulting in dangerous conditions, theft of hydro and increased crime in neighboring areas.

If you suspect a marihuana grow operation or theft of hydro in your area, contact your local police department or, to remain anonymous, contact

**Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.**

**❖ ANONYMOUS ❖ CASH REWARDS ❖**  
**❖ CONFIDENTIAL ❖**

Crime Stoppers is a community-owned organization which gives you an **anonymous, confidential** way to relay information to investigators without ever having to reveal your identity or get involved as a witness. The program's **toll free 1-800-222-TIPS** line is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week and **cash rewards up to \$2000** are offered for information that helps solve a case.

If you suspect an illegal indoor marihuana grow operation in your neighbourhood, DO NOT put yourself in a compromising position. Call your local police department or, to remain anonymous, call **Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.**

## Spotting a marihuana grow house

- The house does not appear “lived in.” People occasionally attend and stay for short periods of time.
- Activity around the home takes place at odd hours.
- The exterior appearance of the property is not cared for (snow removal, grass cutting, etc).
- Visitors often back into the garage and enter the home this way.
- Garbage is minimal (may contain soil and plant material).
- Windows are covered.
- Bright lights can be seen escaping from windows or windows are often covered with condensation.
- Sounds of interior construction may be heard.
- Timers may be used inside the residence.
- A strong skunk-like odor may be present.
- Items being brought into the house may include soil, planters, fans, large lights.

**Help stop illegal marihuana grow operations.**  
**Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.**

## What is a marihuana grow house?

A marihuana grow house is a house which has been physically altered in order to produce marihuana. These alterations may include tapping into the hydro lines to steal electricity, attaching filtering devices to hide the plant's skunky-scent or installing high-wattage lights which can be a fire hazard. Grow houses can be located in any rural, urban or industrial area.

## How does it affect you?

- ✗ In 2002, marihuana grow houses cost Ontario nearly \$100 million. Up to 85% of these losses stemmed from large amounts of electricity stolen by grow house operators from Ontario's electrical utilities.
- ✗ Large scale sophisticated marihuana grow houses may be linked to organized crime.
- ✗ A typical grow house steals \$1500 - \$2000 worth of hydro monthly.\* You pay more to cover these costs.
- ✗ You also pay increased insurance premiums due to fire related costs and repairs to structural damages.
- ✗ Grow operations represent a serious threat to public and officer safety.

\* Green Tide, pg 2