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Crime Prevention Leaders Celebrated From Banff-Ledbury to the ByWard Market

(Ottawa)—As part of Crime Prevention Week 2011, Crime Prevention Ottawa is celebrating the inspiring work of the people and programs that are committed to making Ottawa a safer place to live, work and play. Among them are Community Safety Leader Sylvie Manser and the ByWard Market Safety and Security Committee.

Community Safety Leader Award winner Sylvie Manser has drawn her inspiration to help others from the friends, neighbours and strangers who made Banff-Ledbury a better place by getting involved when she was young. Thanks to Manser's tireless efforts as a volunteer and now Director of the Banff Avenue Community House, the social housing neighbourhood has changed for the better. Manser's approach of partnering with police and community agencies, while giving local residents a voice, helps them all focus on doing something about the community's problems, not just talking about them.

Together with her partners, Manser has implemented homework clubs, youth groups, recreational programs, community dinners, cooking lessons, and information sessions. The Banff Avenue Community House also offers a preschool program, clothing cupboard and post-secondary scholarships to promising students. Today, Banff-Ledbury is a vibrant, safe place. Residents are engaged. They're proud. And they're helping to drive positive change.

Winner of the Business Safety Award, the ByWard Market Safety and Security Committee's 60 members are as unique and diverse as the people who live, work and play there. The group includes business owners, residents, social agencies, police, OC Transpo security, City By-Law and community associations. Every single member stands united in their vision of ensuring that everyone who visits or lives there deserves to feel safe—day or night.

The group takes a proactive approach to dealing with potential safety and security issues. Over the past decade, they've introduced important crime prevention and community safety measures, including the Late-Night Bus Service, the Street Ambassador Program, the Nightclub By-Law and Zero-Tolerance Blitzes. More recently, the Committee embraced Crime Prevention Ottawa's Don't be THAT Guy sexual assault campaign, distributing hundreds of educational posters to bars and restaurants.

For more information about Crime Prevention Ottawa, please visit www.CrimePreventionOttawa.ca.

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