

SUPER SLEUTHS



They took as if they were born to be detectives. Under disguise at the Georgetown Library were super sleuths Bobbi Squire, 5, and her sister Cindy (right), 9. The two were in the children's section of the library taking part in a class on how to be a detective. (Herald photo)

Crime Stoppers may start here

It may be a "crass way" to encourage help from the public when it comes to solving crimes, according to Burlington Councillor Carol Gooding, but the Crime Stoppers program popular on U.S. television may be coming to Halton.

The region's finance and administration committee gave its support for the program last week. Today (Wednesday), regional council will decide whether to add the \$100,000 program to its police budget for 1985.

The program, which is supported by the Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Oakville and Burlington Chambers of Commerce, gives cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information given to police leading to the arrest of criminals or to the recovery of stolen property or narcotics.

"I have problems with the idea that nobody is prepared to do anything unless there's money attached," Coun. Gooding said, expressing disapproval for Crime Stoppers. Begun in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1976, Crime Stoppers re-enact crimes, from police data, on the TV news. Informants are guaran-

teed anonymity for any information as well as cash rewards.

Crime Stoppers tries to get the community involved in solving high profile crimes like rapes, robberies and high scale thefts; Halton regional police Sgt. Dan Okuloski told councillors.

"It's a fact police need help to solve crime," the Sergeant said. Crime Stoppers is a way to overcome public apathy.

As well, the program overcomes fear of retaliation from criminals since people phoning in are assigned a code name and their real name is never used.

"They are never brought to court as witnesses either." "Forty to 50 per cent of people who call are people who aren't fringe criminals. They're everyday good citizens," Sgt. Okuloski said. "The other people who call are the fringe criminals, associates or spouses of criminals. They phone generally for the money."

Incorporated as a charitable company, Crime Stoppers operates through a board of 18 to 21 administrators from the community who solicit tax deductible funds for rewards and

program publicity.

To help publicize the program, Crime Stoppers needs the co-operation of the media in the community. Free promotional space and time are required of the media.

On Hamilton's CHCH TV, 65 Crime of the Week programs have been aired so far, of which 10 have been solved, Sgt. Okuloski said.

Although television is the best media for Crime Stoppers, Sgt. Okuloski noted Halton has many community minded newspapers which can offer an equally high success rate.

Although Halton police have video capabilities, major television networks prefer to be responsible for the Crime Stoppers production as they don't want to air something that's not done professionally, Sgt. Okuloski said.

He said he'd talked with CHCH TV which carries Crime Stoppers for the Hamilton police force weekly, and although nothing was firmly decided, a proposal to let Halton police air a Crime of the Week once a month was discussed.

Sgt. Okuloski said Global TV lost out on the Metro Crime Stoppers program to CITY TV, and noted Global may be interested in carrying the Halton Crime Stoppers program.

Good Neighbors look to schools for Christmas gifts

Herald Staff

Having a good feeling about the Christmas spirit motivates Siena Van Hoekelen to help the needy during the month of December.

Mrs. Van Hoekelen is the co-ordinator of the Good Neighbor's Service, a volunteer organization in Georgetown that provides food baskets to families for Christmas.

"It's a lot of extra work during the holiday season, but it sure makes you feel good. It's very satisfying when you see the number of people who are willing to help," she says.

Last year volunteers helped to sort, package and deliver about 90 food baskets to needy families. That number was up by about 13 per cent. Mrs. Van Hoekelen says this Christmas, requests for baskets could increase from last year's total.

Requests are usually made through social service agencies and friends who know of a needy family, she says. It isn't until the last week before Christmas that definite numbers are known.

Mrs. Van Hoekelen has already phoned the schools in Georgetown and asked if students would again participate by bringing canned food to school. Last year there were contests in some schools to help encourage students to participate, she said.

Support from Georgetown District High School was particularly impressive and teacher David Lowe worked extremely hard for Good Neighbors, she said.

Good Neighbors is a community project that involves a number of different organizations and agencies.

The Halton Police donate their time and a van to pick up the canned goods from the school Dec. 19.

When the food baskets are delivered to the needy families Dec. 22, the Halton Hills firefighters pitch in with drivers for the rural routes.

The Georgetown Kinette Club are active throughout December collecting toys to go along with the food baskets for families with small children.

Holy Cross Church donate space in their downstairs auditorium for a storage centre.

If people want to make private donations, Good Neighbors are happy to receive canned goods and they can be dropped off at Mrs. Van Hoekelen's address at 41 Mill Street.

If you want to suggest the name of a needy family or would like to volunteer, call Mrs. Van Hoekelen at 877-3235.

Volunteers are needed mainly during the week before Christmas for sorting, packing and delivering the parcels.

Good Neighbors don't investigate the eligibility of the recipients. "We always hope that people are being honest - you have to trust people," she says.

Mrs. Van Hoekelen has been helping out with Good Neighbors for about six years. She took over duties last year from Roma Timpson, who has helped for the past 11 years.

The Christmas spirit fostered by 2 groups

If you're in need during the Christmas season in Acton, several groups have made sure you're not forgotten.

The Salvation Army, with help from the Rotary Club and the IOOE provide Christmas hampers for needy families for the Christmas season.

Also aiding people during the festive season is the St. Vincent de Paul Society which is connected to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

Captain Wilson Perrin says applications can be obtained at the thrift store on 14 Mill St. W. in Acton or at the thrift store in Georgetown.

Those wanting to donate to the Christmas fund can send it along addressed to P.O. Box 359, Acton, L7J 2M4.

Letters sent out to the public will be soliciting funds for Christmas but also for the other 11 months of the year when people need help, says Captain Wilson Perrin of the Acton Salvation Army. For more information call 853-1140.

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Chamber likes idea to attract industry

A Halton Hills Business Development Committee was set up Monday night by town councillors who want to increase the town's industrial and commercial assessment base.

It has the support of both the Georgetown and Acton Chambers of Commerce.

In a letter Monday from Acton Chamber of Commerce President Steve Dawkins, enthusiasm was expressed for the proposal.

"We feel certain this will be an important and effective step towards improving communications between business and local government and ultimately, an improved local economy," Mr. Dawkins wrote.

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce "heartily"

endorsed the move two weeks earlier, through a letter by President David Kentner.

Coun. Mike Armstrong suggested that for the first year of the business development committee, membership be made up of the two Chambers of Commerce members rather than from representatives appointed from each urban area, as Mayor Russ Miller's proposal stated.

The suggestion wasn't

supported by other councillors who favored having appointments open to the community at large.

"There are lots of people who live here and work elsewhere who have excellent ideas," Coun. Ross Knechtel said. "I question whether it's right to ignore those people that have know-how and contacts (local) business people don't have."

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FAIR VETERAN

Leanne Wilson, 15, of Norwood gets some tips on cattle exhibiting from her grandfather, Spencer, who won prize ribbons at the first Royal Winter Fair in 1922. For many of the exhibitors, Canada's top agricultural fair, has become a family tradition. (Photo by Rosemary Cino)

Project delayed

Herald Staff

Replacing an old shallow watermain on Maple Avenue from River Drive to south of the CNR tracks in Georgetown was put off by the region this year, although it was budgeted for.

other projects, especially since the Ministry of the Environment's reduction of the 15 per cent grant subsidies which created a \$1 million shortfall.

The Maple Avenue project budget has been decreased to \$16,000 and covers only design work. Further funds will be required for construction.

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A less expensive solution to the problem is currently being reviewed by public works staff - one which wouldn't depend on the final alignment of Maple Avenue. Most of the excess funds for this project have been reallocated to

ACTON PHOTO AND CAMERA

Students lose some holidays

By KELLY WILSON Herald Special

Students and faculty at Sheridan College returned to school Nov. 12 and will complete their school year in May, 1985 as planned, with some modifications.

All college services including buses, student support services and day-care centres are back to regular hours and schedules.

Don Shields, president of the college has announced plans for rescheduling the school year to make up for time lost as a result of the three week long strike by Ontario community college teachers.

Students will lose part of their Christmas break, part of their March break and will go to school one week longer in May. Semester one will end Jan. 25, 1985. The Christmas break will be from Dec. 22, 1984 to Jan. 1, 1985 inclusive.

The second semester will begin on Jan. 23, with the school year ending May 24. Students will have Mar. 14, 15 off for an extended weekend.

Continuing education classes cancelled during the strike, started again this week. Options to make up the classes missed will vary from course to course. Second semester continuing education classes will start on Jan. 7, 1985 as planned.

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