

**Program launched locally**

# Crime Stoppers comes to Halton

Crime Stoppers has arrived in Halton.

The program which gives cash rewards for information leading to an arrest officially kicked off with an opening ceremony at Halton Region in Oakville yesterday (Tuesday).

The key features responsible for Crime Stoppers' appeal across the continent is guaranteed anonymity for anyone submitting information, and the cash reward of between \$50 and \$1,000.

Although the Crime Stoppers program works independently of the police department, Sgt. Dave Atkinson of the Halton Regional Police will work closely with the new board of directors of Crime Stoppers to make sure the program flows smoothly.

From now on anyone with information about a crime which has been committed, or even about one about to occur, can call the special Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-668-5151, and give the information to the police. They never have to testify in court and they can still pick up a cash reward.

The new 16-person board of directors is headed up by Burlington's Randy Pickard. It also includes Barry Dunlop of Georgetown, who is the vice-chairman, and Halton Hills Hydro Commissioner Murt Allison as a director.

From now on, local newspapers will include a "crime of the week"

which will describe a crime for which the police need more information. Included in each article will be the Crime Stoppers hotline telephone number for anyone with information about the crime.

The program will not require any government money. The board of directors is responsible for appealing to the public and local businesses for funds to set up the reward ac-

count.

Crime Stoppers will set up a fund, from which rewards will be paid.

The program is registered as a charitable organization so all donations are tax-exempt. The board will determine the value of information, set a cash reward, then pay the informant in a fashion in which his or her identity is not revealed.

Although Halton has one of the

lowest crime rates in Canada (6,400 criminal code offences per 100,000 people in 1987 compared to 17,405 for Vancouver; 12,106 for Ottawa, 10,404 for Niagara Region; 9,872 for Hamilton-Wentworth; 9,470 for Toronto; and 7,732 for Waterloo Region), Sgt. Atkinson expects Crime Stoppers to play an important role in the Region.

"It's been a proven fact that anywhere that has Crime Stoppers, (the program) has played an additional role in helping to solve crimes," said Sgt. Atkinson.

Mr. Dunlop got involved in the program through his position as a director in the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. Sgt. Atkinson appealed to the chambers of commerce in Halton to help get the program underway.

Mr. Dunlop characterized Crime Stoppers as a "reactionary" type program.

"A crime has to be committed for Crime Stoppers to actually work," he said.

Although there will likely be some extra deterrent for criminals to break the law, Crime Stoppers' main objective is to solve outstanding cases, said Mr. Dunlop.

Soon, residents will see Crime Stoppers posters throughout the Region. And the board of directors is hoping to have visual re-enactments of crimes on local community cable television stations, and even a network television station in the near future, said Sgt. Atkinson.

## Crime Stoppers program has proven beneficial

Crime Stoppers is the brainchild of Albuquerque, New Mexico detective Greg MacAleese of the Violent Crimes Division.

In the mid-1970s Albuquerque had the highest crime rate per capita of any city in the United States.

On Sept. 8, 1976, the program went into effect. The first call helped detectives solve an 18-month-old gang rape. Three people were later convicted in that case.

The first crime publicized by the media as a Crime Stoppers case - a shotgun slaying of a gas station attendant - was solved with the assistance of testimony from a witness who said he never would have come forward if Crime Stoppers had not been in place.

Det. MacAleese thought Crime Stoppers might assist in solving 25 major crimes in the first year. It solved that many in five weeks. The program helped to solve 238 cases and recover more than \$250,000 worth of stolen property in its first year in operation.

Once word of Crime Stoppers' success spread, so did the program.

There are now about 500 Crime Stoppers programs operating in the US and Canada. Together these programs have provided police with information to help solve over 179,000 major crimes and recover over \$1 billion worth of stolen property and narcotics.

The program also boasts a 97-per-cent conviction rate in court.

### Looking for faulty vehicles

## Police launch 'Give me a brake'

The Halton Regional Police Force's new program, "Give Me A Brake," is not regular coffee stops for constables, but an organized system of spot checks on commercial vehicles.

Officially entitled The Commercial Vehicle Spot Check Program, Give Me A Brake began Nov. 15, and involves regular varied checks in all of the municipalities in Halton Region at different locations, times and days.

The spot check program will focus on all aspects of commercial vehicle safety: plates, registration, brakes, attachments (load hookups), electrical systems, leaf hookups, exhaust systems, windshields, and lights.

Give Me A Brake is also designed to check for operators of commercial vehicles that are not properly licensed.

Halton police have found that this has been an ongoing problem. This is due to the driver of the vehicle not having the proper class of license to

operate the vehicle, or not being in possession of a license at all.

The program can also vary in the length which police may spend in a certain community or city. "They may spend a whole week in Halton Hills if they can justify it," said Sgt. Dave Pruitt of the Public Relations Bureau.

Sgt. Pruitt cited one problem spot in particular for commercial vehicles in Halton. "Wherever there's a quarry," he said.

Main trucking routes are targeted the most.

The general feeling of the police force is the program has an important function.

"They want to satisfy themselves that commercial vehicles are mechanically fit," said Sgt. Pruitt

"It specifically addresses the needs and complaints of communities."

When a commercial vehicle is pulled over by the Give Me A Brake program, if a driver is charged for a fault with his vehicle, a notice will be issued to him allowing 48 hours for a minor defect to be corrected. Major problems with a vehicle will result in charges being laid under the Highway Traffic Act. Fines will range from \$53.75 to \$503.75.

Serious cases may involve having the plates of a vehicle removed and seized.

According to Sgt. Pruitt, the Give Me A Brake program is fairly innovative, something that has not been regularly done by other police forces. "If it has, we don't know about it," he said.

Give Me A Brake will involve five officers from the Traffic Bureau, and will be "drawing on district manpower as the need arises," Sgt. Pruitt says.

Const. Rick Ferguson of the Regional Traffic Bureau heads the program. Give Me A Brake will focus specifically on commercial vehicles, including those that are privately run, such as rental trucks and cube vans.

### CRIME STOPPERS

## Police seek help in murder investigation



Investigators at the Halton Regional Police Force and Crime Stoppers are requesting the public's assistance in solving the murder of Delia Adriano.

On Sunday, Sept. 26, 1982 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Delia Adriano, age 25, was driven by her boyfriend to her home at Wildwood Drive, Oakville, Ontario. She left the vehicle and was last seen walking towards a side entrance of her home.

At approximately 10:20 p.m. the same evening, 6 kilometres east of the Adriano residence, screams could be heard. Witnesses observed two people on the street, the female being forced by a male into a small blue 1979 Chevrolet with lighter blue stripe. A struggle ensued in the vehicle before it left the area with the lights out.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, 1982 the nude body of Delia Adriano was located in a wooded lot at Second Line and Sideroad 3, Milton. This is approximately 35 kilometres from her residence. Delia's boots and sweater was found west of this area. Her jeans, underclothes and jewellery are still missing.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case or any other case. Callers are not required to reveal their identities or testify in court. The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-668-5151.

### Icy roads cause mishaps

A series of icy road accidents in Halton Hills Wednesday night caused extensive damage to several cars but only a few injuries.

According to police reports, two accidents occurred around 9:30 p.m. at Main Street North and Dufferin Street. A 1988 Mercury Cougar driven by a Georgetown woman, 28, went out of control while proceeding over a railway overpass. The vehicle mounted the sidewalk and then hit a bridge rail. The car was moderately damaged. There were no injuries, and police are not pressing charges.

A second accident occurred shortly after the single-car collision, say police. A 1985 Ford pickup driven by an Erin man, 39, struck a 1987 Toyota. Police say the Toyota swerved to avoid the previous accident involving the Cougar. The driver of the Toyota, a Georgetown man, 38, was taken to hospital with

minor injuries. Two passengers, both females, 13, from Georgetown were treated and released from Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. No charges were laid.

Less than an hour later on Winston Churchill Boulevard, two accidents occurred due to weather conditions, say police.

A 1975 Mustang, northbound on Winston Churchill Boulevard near Sideroad 5 went out of control, struck a hydro pole and was severely damaged, say police. The driver, a Georgetown woman, 19, was uninjured. No charges were laid. Police say the accident was the result of "a very icy road."

Also on Winston Churchill Boulevard around 10:20 p.m., there was a single-car collision involving a Georgetown woman, 23. Police say a northbound 1976 Ford went out of control, struck two hydro poles and was demolished.

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