

Metroland Media Group earns awards from Halton Crime Stoppers

Halton Crime Stoppers has been honored by Crime Stoppers International with three media awards for coverage provided by community newspapers in the Metroland Media chain and CHCH-TV.

The awards in a competition between Crime Stoppers organizations worldwide in communities of between 300,000 to one million were announced at the Crime Stoppers International annual conference held late September in Trinidad.

Reporter Kathy Yanchus of the *Burlington Post* was recognized for best special report or feature in the newspaper category for a Jan. 6, 2015 article featuring Crime Stoppers Month and the adoption of drug enforcement as a key theme for the year.

Photographer Riziero Vertolli was also acknowledged for the photographs accompanying the article, including an image of Dr. Sangrit Sharma, a provincial coroner beside a poster showing drugs being exchanged for money.

There has been an upsurge in illegal drug use across the region ranging from marijuana, heroin and cocaine, but most recently Halton Region Police have encountered young people using

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid pain medication almost 100 times more powerful than morphine.

Paul Proteau, coordinator of Halton Crime Stoppers, said the media has always been recognized as a partner of Crime Stoppers and plays a vital role to alert the public about unsolved crime and efforts of the local crime solving organization to keep our region safe.

The media does so much to help our program and it is great to see them honored at the international level, he said. It is a marvelous achievement considering there were entries from Crime Stoppers program in some 30 countries.

The awards will be officially presented at an upcoming meeting of the Police Services Board, which will be attended by Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner and representatives of the Halton Crime Stoppers program, including chair Doug Maybee.

Crime Stoppers is a charitable organization run by a volunteer board of directors and anyone providing tips on unsolved crime to the program has a guarantee of anonymity.



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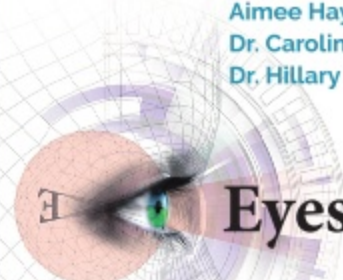
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