



Firefighters put out the last hot spots of a house fire on Arkell Rd., at the northeast edge of Puslinch Township on Oct. 28, 2016. The fire is considered suspicious and is being investigated by the office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.

Photo by Chris Seto/Mercury Tribune

## Crime Stoppers ups reward in search for suspected Guelph-Halton area arsonist

Guelph Mercury

In an effort to gather more tips that help lead police to the person or people responsible for a series of suspicious fires in Guelph and Wellington County, Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington has made the unprecedented move to increase its minimum reward amount from \$50 to \$1,000.

The announcement was made Thursday at the site of one of the fires that is part of a joint investigation -- the former Everton Mill in Guelph-Eramosa Township.

Wellington County OPP is teaming up with the Guelph Police Service, Halton Regional Police Service, the office of the Ontario Fire Marshal and surrounding fire departments to investigate more than a dozen suspicious fires at abandoned structures near Guelph and in the Halton Region.

The Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington (CSGW) Board of Directors recognizes the seriousness of suspicious fires in our community and the impact these incidents of the past few months could have on public safety, said program coordinator Sarah Bowers-Peter. With this in mind, the Board has taken the unprecedented step of increasing the minimum reward amount from \$50 to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the individual or individuals responsible for the following suspicious fires:

- 24 Sept. 2016. 7432 16th Line, Mapleton Township. (house)
- 14 Oct. 2016. 5230 3rd Line, Guelph-

- Eramosa Township. (house)
- 19 Oct. 2016. 5292 3rd Line, Guelph-Eramosa Township. (house)
- 28 Oct. 2016. 747 Arkell Rd., Township of Puslinch. (house)
- 30 Oct. 2016. 481 Townline Rd., Township of Puslinch. (vehicle)
- 31 Oct. 2016. 4538 Side Rd. 10, Township of Puslinch. (vehicle)
- 16 Nov. 2016. 5953 6th Line, Guelph-Eramosa Township. (saw mill)
- 15-17 Nov. 2016. 4916 County Road 29, Guelph-Eramosa Township. (cabin)
- 05 Dec. 2016. 7070 Fife Rd., Guelph. (barn)
- 19 Jan. 2017. County Rd. 49 Guelph-Eramosa Township. (mill)
- 03 Feb. 2017. 6873 Hwy. 7, Guelph-Eramosa Township (shop)
- 03 Feb. 2017. 5413 Township Road 3, Guelph-Eramosa Township (barn/house)
- 15 Feb. 2017. 3rd Li/No 32 Sideroad, Township of Erin (bales)

This amount could be split among numerous tipsters with equal tip information. A tipster could also receive a reward ranging up to \$2,000 if the tip warrants it.

CSGW says it will handle these tips in the same manner as all other tips; by keeping the tipster anonymous and their information confidential. Crime Stoppers says it will not disclose whether or not a CSGW tip has assisted police with these investigations.

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