

Crime Stoppers gets superhero in new Captain Canuck comic book

By Julie Slack
Metroland Media Group

Crime Stoppers is turning to the superheroes for a little help.

A new comic book hero— Crime Stopper— has joined Captain Canuck to combat crime in Halton and across Canada.

The story of this crime-fighting duo is depicted in a special Captain Canuck comic book produced by Chapter House Comics to help promote Halton Crime Stoppers and other programs in Canada through a partnership agreement with Crime Stoppers and Mac's Convenience Stores.

The comic book was officially introduced at a news conference Jan. 27, hosted by Halton Crime Stoppers at the Mac's Convenience Store on Steeles Ave. E., east of Ontario St., in Milton.

Copies of the comic book are available free at Mac's outlets from Ontario to British Columbia and Crime Stoppers programs will also make them available at various promotional events while supplies last.

"This is a unique opportunity to promote Crime Stoppers to middle and high school students," said Halton Regional Police (HRP) Det. Paul Proteau, co-ordinator of Halton Crime Stoppers. "Young people have a fascination for comic books and Captain Canuck has been a favourite in Canada for 40 years."

Proteau said the comic book story starts in Alberta with Captain Canuck capturing two Eastern European mobsters engaged in a major retail theft operation and later teams up with Crime Stopper— a police officer who transforms himself into a super action hero— to track down other gang members and their Russian crime boss who were staging robberies in the Greater Toronto Area.

"The comic details how it was tips to Crime Stoppers and a Mac's CrimeBusters' tweet that put an end to the gang's crime spree," he said. "In an entertaining and colorful way the Captain Canuck comic tells how Crime Stoppers works and reinforces that people calling tips to the pro-

gram are completely anonymous."

Proteau added that even the artist's depiction of Crime Stopper as a shadowy, gray figure conveys an impression of anonymity.

"Crime Stopper is not only a comic book hero, but a welcome addition to Crime Stoppers and another weapon that we have to promote the program and help keep our region safe and secure," he said. "It's great having Crime Stopper and Captain Canuck on our team."

The comic book was launched in January as part of Canada's Crime Stoppers Month celebration— a 40th anniversary edition and predicted by some comic book enthusiasts to become a highly-prized and sought-after collector's item in a few years.

Sean Sportun, a director with the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and Mac's manager of security for all of Central Canada, said it's a great collaboration.

"We thought about how we can make it a Canadian initiative," he said, noting it's good for Mac's because they're always looking for ways



Crime Stoppers and Mac's Convenience Stores have teamed up to produce a special crime-fighting comic book. Looking over the free comic book at the official unveiling were (from left): Sean Sportun, director with Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and manager of security for Mac's, David Forster, president of Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and Det. Paul Proteau, Halton Regional Police Crime Stoppers Coordinator.

Photo by Julie Slack

to combat theft in stores across the country. "This is good because kids can relate to superheroes."

The first edition saw 200,000 copies printed and distributed to some 107 Mac's locations across the country.

Police said they would try to have a presence at upcoming comicons as well where they'll have the comic

books available.

And for the die-hard collector, there's a special First Edition Collector Set available for \$12.95; it includes a sketch cover (only 500 in print), along with two variant covers and a summer special cover. Go to www.chapterhouse.ca/crimestopper for details.

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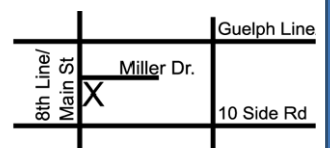


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