



Cheque it out!

R.J. Farnworth of the Precept Group (left) presents a cheque to Crime Stoppers of Halton chair Karen Sunter (right) and Halton Police co-ordinator Sgt. Lee-Ann Ansell for \$5,500 donated by Pilot Insurance and the Precept Group. This was the third year the Precept Group has generously supported Crime Stoppers of Halton by holding an annual golf tournament in September at Georgetown Golf Club. The grand prize, a hot air balloon ride, was donated by Pilot Insurance. Crime Stoppers averages approximately \$80 worth of recovered stolen property or seized illegal drugs for each reward dollar paid.

Photo by Riziero Vertolli

Crime Stoppers wants you—to be a volunteer

Crime Stoppers of Halton is looking for volunteers to flesh out its already dedicated core of supporters.

According to Board of Directors chair Karen Sunter, the program is already a success, but with even more people on board, a number of important new initiatives can maximize the program's potential.

Particularly important, says Halton Regional Police Det. Lee-Ann Ansell—the only law enforcement member of Crime Stoppers of Halton—is the marketing of the program throughout the community.

"My personal goal is to get Crime Stoppers' phone number (1-800-222-TIPS or locally at 825-TIPS) in every household and business," she said.

Crime Stoppers of Halton was created in 1989, not as a police initiative, but by residents wanting to become involved to improve their community.

Today, Crime Stoppers is anchored by an active 15-member board which is spread a little too thin to run new endeavors

designed to spread the word about the program. Individuals are needed, therefore, for a host of subcommittees, such as fund-raising (bingos etc.) and promotion (mall displays, poster drops).

Ideally, says Ansell, would be the creation of an "ambassador program" similar to that run by the Lions Foundation of Canada to actively promote Crime Stoppers. In short, a bank of volunteers from which the board can draw.

Youths are encouraged to join

"We need many more volunteers in a host of areas," said Ansell, who can be contacted regarding volunteerism at (905) 825-4747 ext. 5139.

Just recently Ansell was called by a bilingual volunteer eager to help out in whatever way he could. (Stickers containing Crime Stoppers information and phone number, for example, are needed for French language schools.) In

fact, high schools are one vital target with which both Ansell and Sunter hope to forge relationships.

"To involve the students is really time consuming so we need more people," said Sunter. "Students know exactly what's going on in school."

Ansell and Sunter want to make inroads toward youth in general, not only because they have their ear to the ground but because Crime Stoppers is an ideal way to expose young people to the volunteer experience. Halton's multicultural communities need to be tapped as well, they say.

Ansell said that with a provincial "super jail" being built in Milton, Crime Stoppers is also looking for a volunteer to liaise with prisoners who can often provide valuable information.

The training session for new volunteers will encompass an understanding of the roles of police, the board and the media. Preparation also depends on what individuals are interested in contributing to Crime Stoppers.

—By Howard Mozel, special

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