

Halton program receives record-number of tips last year

● Continued from page 31

the 30-year run of Crime Stoppers in Halton due to anonymous tips received from the public, and she'd like to talk about them, but she can't.

She said the public will have to be satisfied knowing that their information, submitted to the Crime Stoppers telephone line, website or by text, may have been the difference in solving a case and leading to the arrest of suspects, the seizure of drugs and/or weapons and possibly the return of stolen property to its rightful owners.

Detectives from Halton police follow up on every anonymous tip that comes

in from the public through Crime Stoppers, said Richmond.

However, Crime Stoppers is not the police. Each entity is an independent, non-profit, registered charity that helps solve crimes by taking tips from anonymous sources. No names are taken through Crime Stoppers and caller ID is not used.

Rewards can be paid out anonymously to people whose tips lead to an arrest although Richmond noted that many people eligible for a reward don't pursue it.

The Halton program is one of 87 in Canada with more than 1,700 Crime Stoppers programs around the world.

Crime Stoppers of Halton held a 30th anniversary event at the Halton Region headquarters on Bronte Road in Oakville on Jan. 23.

Richmond and Jan Westcott, vice-chair of Halton Crime Stoppers, addressed a small crowd that included several of the program's many volunteers. Also in attendance were Halton police Chief Stephen Tanner and area politicians Eleanor McMahon, John Oliver and Kevin Flynn.

Oakville Chamber of Commerce president John Sawyer, one of the speakers, said safety is the prime concern of many communities.

"Some colleagues of

mine with chambers in California struggled with what to do for communities in need. I thought it (public's priority) would be economic development but the No. 1 need was the need to feel safe," said Sawyer.

The highlight of the Crime Stoppers anniversary evening was a \$50,000 donation from Economical Insurance to Halton Crime Stoppers. The company has donated about \$500,000 to various Crime Stoppers programs across Canada.

An independent organization, Crime Stoppers is governed by a volunteer board of directors. It unveiled its 2018 theme last month, modified slightly from last year's - to See

Something, Hear Something, Know Something, Contact Crime Stoppers.

Halton Crime Stoppers' cumulative statistics for its 30 years of operation include the receipt of more than 18,000 tips that were directly responsible for 2,172 cases being declared cleared along with the arrest of 1,185 individuals, the recovery of more than \$2.7 million in stolen property and the seizure of \$18.1 million worth of drugs.

There were 1,504 anonymous tips left with the program in Halton in 2017, the most ever. The police's increased presence on social media is being credited in part by police, for that statistical improvement.

In the history of Crime Stoppers worldwide, going back to its origins with an unsolved murder of a gas station attendant in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1976, anonymous tips have led to nearly 1.7 million arrests, nearly 2.6 million cases cleared, \$3.3 billion in property recovered and nearly \$11.8 billion in drugs seized.

There are three ways to submit tips to Crime Stoppers: visit haltoncrimestoppers.ca and go to a secure website link that encrypts your information, call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or text a message to CRIMES (274637) and put TIP201 at the beginning of the body of the message.

Don't be a LitterBug! Please keep our community clean.



**SUMMER
2018
CAMP GUIDE**

Early Registration Date Feb 13

Check out some new and exciting camps like LEGO® Animation, Archery & Fencing, Aspiring Artist and Trailblazers

www.milton.ca/camps

JOIN US FOR

**FAMILY FUN ON FAMILY DAY
FEBRUARY 19**

Visit the following Town facilities for **free** family fun:

- Mattamy National Cycling Centre
- Milton Sports Centre
- Milton Leisure Centre

For schedules and details please visit www.milton.ca/familyday

MILTON Public Skate Sponsor

RBC

COMMS C13-003

insidemilton.com