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# New Crime Stoppers number aimed at catching more crooks

Crime Stoppers of Halton is hoping the new national 800 number announced recently will enhance its already improved performance.

The civilian volunteer-managed organization reports an increase of 36 per cent in the number of anonymous crime-solving tips received for the first six months of 1996, compared to the same period last year.

Ted Acheson, chair of the Crime Stoppers board of directors, credits their decision to contract with Crime Stoppers International for after-hours call answering as the main reason for the surge in calls.

"We knew people were trying to reach the office after hours, but we are pleasantly surprised by the volume," he said. The calls have helped police solve 23 cases so far this year, according to Mr. Acheson.

While the number of cases closed and charges laid has remained relatively constant, the value of recovered stolen property and seized narcotics has jumped from \$6,860 in 1995 to \$160,400 so far in 1996, he

said. Rewards for successful tips have also increased to more than double the amount approved last year.

"The board is very pleased with the program's improved statistics. We provide a means for people to communicate crime-solving information anonymously, and it's apparent from the numbers the program works, Mr. Acheson said.

Crime Stoppers is hopeful the new common number for Crime Stoppers, announced June 3 in Niagara, will further assist with solving crime, said Sgt. Rod Cliffe of Halton Regional Police.

"It's anticipated the introduction of a single, easy to remember number that automatically channels the callers to their local programs will help with promotion and ultimately solve more crimes," he said.

Callers do not have to give their names and any tip that leads to an arrest automatically qualifies the them for a cash reward of between \$50 and \$1,000.

Crime Stoppers can be reached at 1-800-222-TIPS 24 hours a day.

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