## Dateline

## • from DATELINE on page 8 Saturday Jan. 25

The Rotary Club of Mitton holds the 50th Anniversary Dinner and Dance at Halton Hills Place at 6 p.n. The cost is \$45 per person. Call Mike Ledwith at 878-

## Saturday Jan. 25-26

The Halton Cross Country Ski Club holds a ski trip to Wasaga Beach and Ganaraska Forest: For information, call 634-2012.

## Sunday Jan. 26

The Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society meets in the lower level of Chinguacousy Branch Library atel p.m. The guest speaker is Susan Bennett. librarian and archivist for the Ontario Agricultural Museum, who discusses the museum's archival collection. Visitors are welcome.

## Monday Jan. 27

The Milton Children and Youth Centre. 917 Nipissing Rd., holds registration for an after-school program for kids aged 6 to 16 years. Call 876-1244.

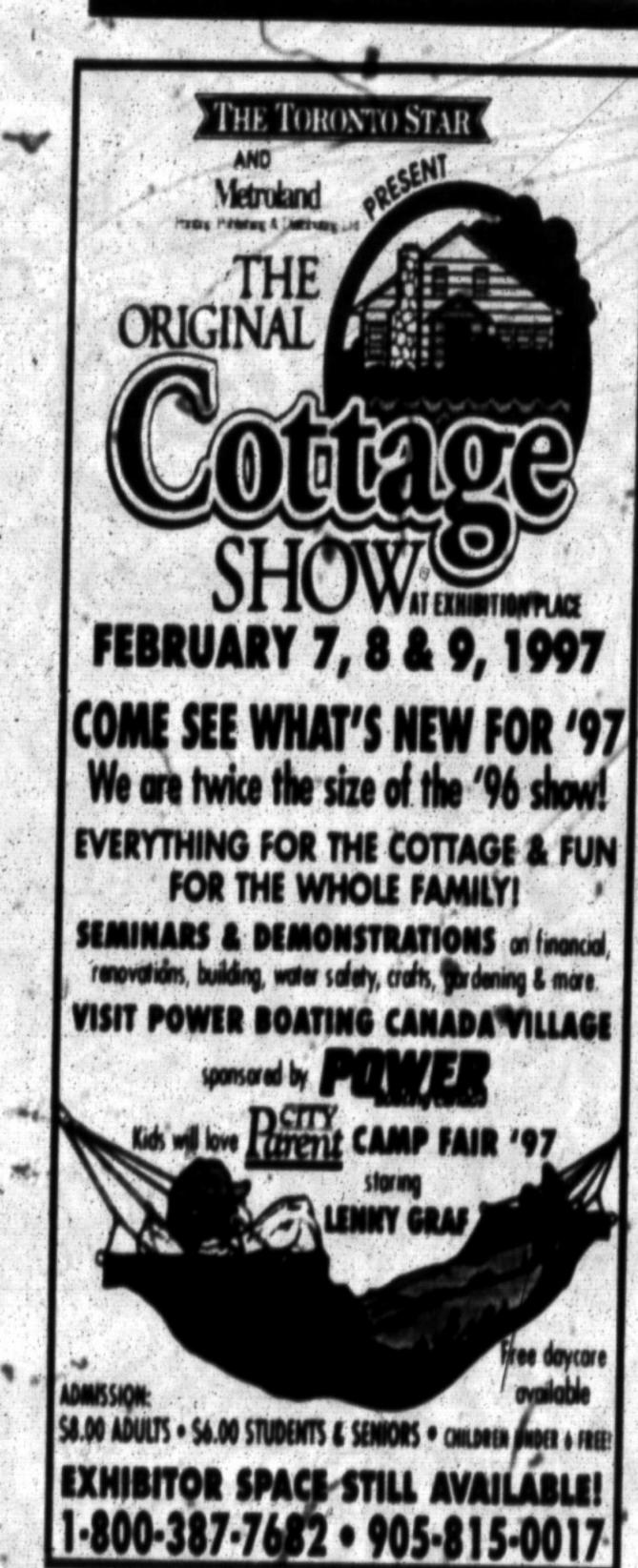
## Organ Donation

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THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION



### Tuesday Jan. 28

The Twins Plus Association, a self-help group for parents and expectant parents of twins and triplets, meets at Grace United Church, 156 Main St., in Brampton at 8 p.m. Paul Griffin discusses how to do financial planning for the present and future. Call (905) 877-7501.

The Halton regional council's healthand social services committee meets at the Halton Regional Centre, 151 Bronte \*Rd., at 1:30 p.m. The committee discusses Halton Region's decision to relocate and privatize 100 long-term-care beds at Allendale.

The Calling New Parents Group meets

at Cherish Parent-Child Centre, 540 Childs Dr., from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 825-6060, ext. 7365.

The Milton Children and Youth Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd., holds the Leisure Time drop off program for infants to kids aged 5 years from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$5.50, Call 876-1244 for more information.

The Halton Vaginal Birth After Cessarean/Cesaarean Awareness (VBAC/CA) Group meets to provide information, support and discussion to those interested. The topic of the 7:30 p.m. meeting is 'Selecting Your Feam and Place of Birth,' For more information and directions, call Susan at 842-3385 or Michele at 634-2191.\* \*

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# CRIME STOPPERS OF

A unique method of fighting crime through a pa the community, the media and the

#### HISTORY

The senseless murder of a gas station clerk in Albuguerque, New Mexico, in 1976 was the event that sparked the development of a community-based organization that helps to solve crimes in a unique way - a partnership between the community, the media and the police. Approximately 110,000 people have since found out how effective this type of program can be. They have all been arrested based on tips called into a local Crime Stoppers pro-

During a summer evening almost 20 years ago, a university student was working an extra shift at a gas station in Albuquerque as a favor to a friend. Two men entered the premises and demanded cash at gunpoint. After the clerk complied, he was fatally wounded by one of the thugs who fired a shotgun for no apparent reason. The victim, who had been planning his wedding just weeks away, died four hours later.

After six weeks of investigation; the local authorities were no closer to solving the murder. A young detective working on the case approached a local television outlet and asked for their help to broadcast a re-enactment of the crime. The station jumped at the opportunity to help and a reenactment was inserted into a news program. A special "hot line" number, was publicized during the reenactment and a promise was made that callers would not have to identify themselves. cash reward was offered for any information that led to the arrest of those responsible for the killing.

The following morning, a call was received on the "hot line". It was from a man who had heard a loud bang near the gas station at the time of the robbery. The caller told investigators the bang was followed by a car speeding away from the scene. The anonymous caller advised the car was similar to one belonging to someone who lived in a nearby apartment complex. Detectives followed up on the information and made two arrests just 72 hours after the broadcast of the

The detective who initiated the reenactment saw an opportunity to utilize a similar method to solve serious crimes of all types. He realized that promising callers complete anonymity could address any concern about being identified as someone who speaks to the police. He also realized that offering a little money for successful tips could help motivate people to call with crime-solving information.

Civilian volunteers were enlisted to administer the pro-

gram, and race the needed funds to pay the rewards. Television, radio and print media outlets agreed to broadcast and publish reenactments of unsolved crimes in an effort to encourage callers. The local police provided an officer to coordinate these efforts and the information called in.

This humble beginning has grown to over 1,000 similar programs around the globe and has helped clear over a mil-lion police cases, with \$3.5 billion dollars worth of stolen property and illegal drugs seized, thanks to anonymous

On December 6, 1988, 18 civilian volunteers came. together, from all areas of Halton to manage an incorporated company called Crime Stoppers of Halton Inc. Homemakers, lawyers, educators, business owners and other neighbors of yours saw the opportunity to help maintain a safe environment in which to live and work through a partnership between the police, the media and the community.

The Board of Directors has been busy publicizing the organization, managing the company, raising money to pay cash rewards for crime-solving tips, determining the amounts of rewards and actually paying them ever since.

The funds required to pay the rewards are generated through fundraising efforts by the Board of Directors and donations from business, industry, service clubs and individuals. Registered as a charity. Crime Stoppers will issue receipts for tax purposes.

The media in Halton, including this newspaper have been extremely helpful by publishing and broadcasting atticles detailing unsolved crimes. Helping to educate the public about crime in this community, and providing a means to publicize incidents where the police need your help, are key components to the success of any Crime Stoppers initiative.

The community itself is the most important partner in the fight against crime. In addition to providing the volunteers needed to administer the program, 2.060 people have decided to try to take some control over their environment by call ing Crime Stoppers with information that could help to solve a crime. A police service is only as effective as the quality of information it receives and Crime Stoppers has been utilized by those with information to offer, but who do not wish to appear in court.

DOES IT WORK?

Halton is known to be a safe community, especially when compared to other centres of a similar size. In spite of this, there are crimes being committed where the police find it difficult to

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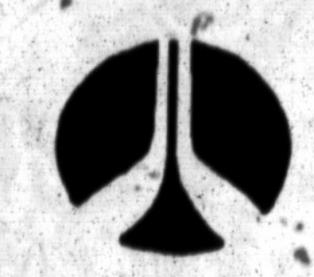
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