## Crime Stoppers reaches out to seniors, youth and newcomers

By David Lea METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Crime Stoppers of Halton recently officially unveiled its 2014 theme titled 'Breaking the Code of Silence'. This year Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator and Det. Const. Paul Proteau said the organization would continue its work in spreading the Crime Stoppers message to Halton students and seek to raise awareness among seniors and those who are new to Canada as well as those who are ≥ content to just let crime happen around them.

Proteau said that often when he takes questions on Crime Stoppers many come from new Canadians who haven't heard about it.

"Some places where they come from police are not that well respected or trusted. In those countries they don't have Crime Stoppers and so they come here and they learn not only can they trust the police, but there is this anonymous way of giving information to police where

they don't have to testify in court and they can collect money if they want to," said Proteau.

"With Milton basically exploding with a newcomer population it really makes sense to make them aware of Crime Stoppers."

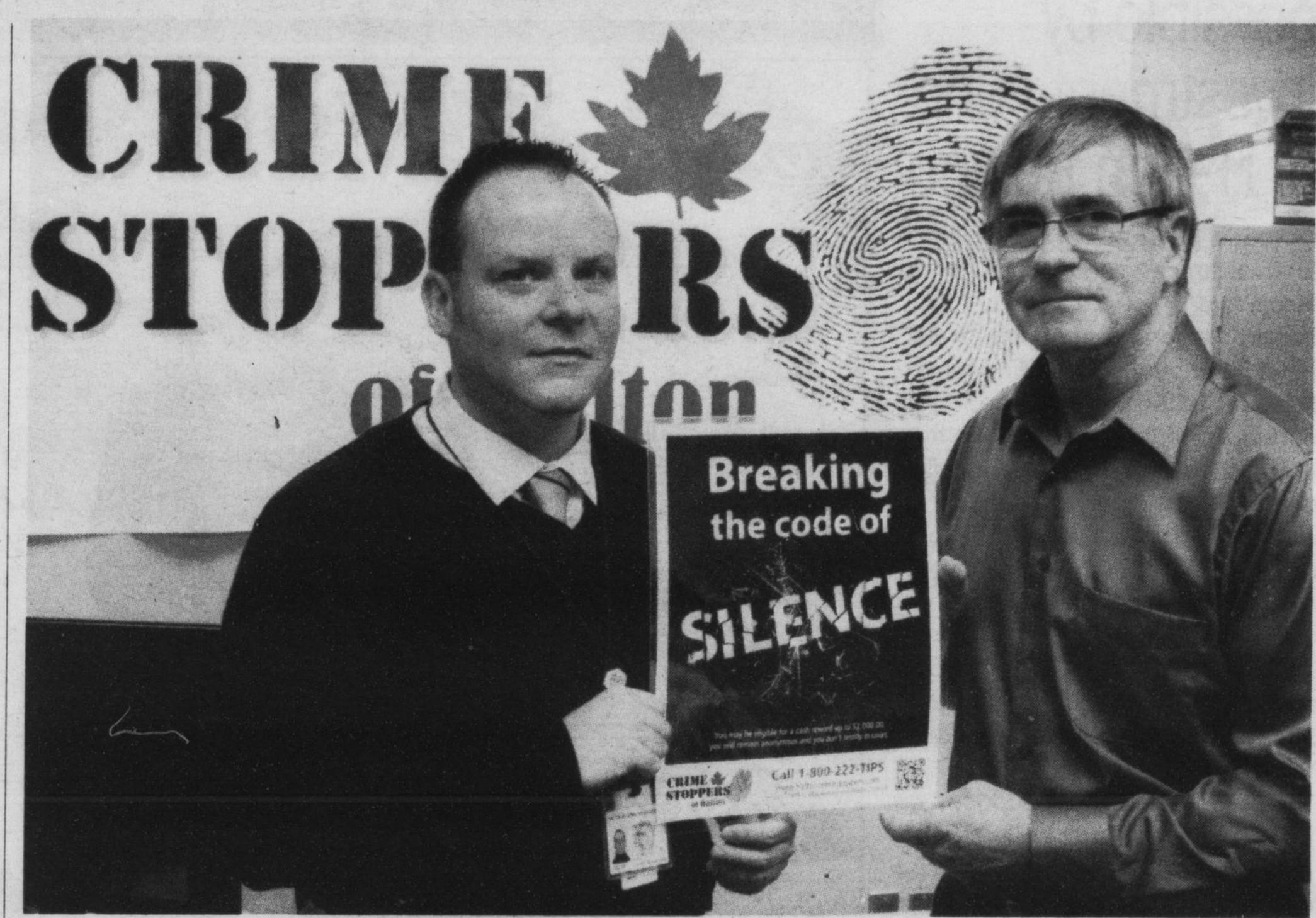
The growing seniors population also makes it essential for that group to be informed about Crime Stoppers, he said

Proteau is raising awareness among these groups through a variety of means.

He said presentations in Halton schools about the program have been very well received by local youths with tips on criminal activity taking place at those schools sometimes coming in almost immediately after the presentation is finished.

To appeal to the students, Proteau said young people in the Halton police Youth in Policing Initiative put together short videos demonstrating how Crime Stoppers can be

In one video a boy witnesses a drug deal at his high school and sim-



Crime Stoppers of Halton Co-ordinator Paul Proteau (left) and Board Chair Norm Bellefontaine display this year's theme of 'Breaking the Code of Silence'. David Lea / Metroland West Media Group



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