The Source

Keeping you informed on what's happening in the world of Crime Stoppers

You Wanted to Know

Protect Yourself from Fraud

Believe it or not, your risk of becoming a fraud victim is not linked to your age, ethnicity, income or geographic location. Scammers don't care about any of that. They're professional criminals and they just want your money. Thousands of Canadians are defrauded every year and with March being proclaimed national "fraud prevention month," Crime Stoppers wants to re-enforce the importance of knowing how to protect yourself.

What you can do

Be cautious. You have the right to check out any caller or solicitor by requesting written information, a call back number, references and time to think over the offer. Legitimate business people will be happy to provide you with that information. When checking out the legitimacy of any caller or business, be sure to check with and rely on people that you trust – a relative, close friend or even your banker or lawyer.

Never give out confidential personal information, especially banking or credit card details and always be leery of false promises.

Remember, if you have doubts, your best defence is to simply hang up the phone, delete the email or close the door. It's not rude - it's smart.

There are many reputable resources for learning more about how to recognize and stop fraud. Organizations such as the Ontario Provincial Police (www.opp.ca) or the Competition Bureau of Canada (www.competitionbureau.gc.ca) to learn more.

Since Our Last Bulletin

Record Number of Tips in 2009!

A record 648 anonymous tips were received by Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg making 2009 another great year for the crime fighting program. Some of these anonymous tips helped investigators seize over $2.7 million worth of illegal narcotics, recover almost $750,000 worth of stolen property and lay 194 charges throughout the Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg area. The next highest year on record for the program was 2006 when the program received 617 anonymous tips.

CSI Awards

Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg received five more Crime Stoppers International Awards in the fall of 2009 bringing the total number of awards won by the program to 135 since the program's inception in 1988.

The program won three media awards in conjunction with The Dunnville Chronicle (Print PSA), The Sachem (Print Crime of the Week) and Rogers (TV Special Feature) for its appropriate population category (100,000 – 250,000). The program also won a productivity award celebrating the "greatest increase in total property recovered."

Of special note was the fact that the program also won the "Website of the Year" award which is presented annually to only one program internationally. Designed by Jeff Cunningham of SlypigPro (Caledonia), the website was recognized for its overall look, innovativeness, creativeness and for being up to date. Log on to www.helpsolvecrime.com and check it out!

January 2010

Crime Stoppers' Minute

Crime Stoppers recently partnered with Caledonia's "Moose 92.9 FM" radio station to create a new segment called "Crime Stoppers' Minute." Produced to focus on crime prevention tips, the topic of the public service announcement changes each week and is aired three times a day (11:45 am, 2:45 pm and 7:45 pm), seven days a week. The segment is sponsored by local transportation company Laidlaw Transport and focuses on current trends and community issues. Tune in to check it out.

Grocery and Gas Winners

Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg is pleased to announce that over $4000 was raised as a result of its newest fundraiser – the great Grocery and Gas Giveaway.

The grand prize $1000 grocery gift card winner was Bryan Maude of Paris, ON. Three other prizes totaling $850 were also given away. Winners included Bev Gallagher ($500 Pioneer gift card); Stephen Corey ($250 grocery gift card); and Christine Langella ($100 Pioneer gift card).

Thanks goes out to Pioneer Petroleum, Second Avenue Printing and to everyone who supported this fundraiser and the Crime Stoppers program.

Around the Corner….

Spring Fever

Mark May 6, 2010, on your calendar and plan to attend the Fisherville Lion's Hall to help celebrate Crime Stoppers' first fundraiser of the year – the 9th annual Crime Stoppers Spring Gala. Sponsored by Erie Mutual Fire Insurance Company, this evening of fun and fundraising and will see guests enjoy an outstanding gourmet dinner catered by Devlin's Country Bistro and both a live and silent auction. Tickets for this event are limited and can be purchased by contacting the Crime Stoppers' office at 519-426-3434 ext 7452.

Golf Anyone?

The date has been set for Crime Stoppers' annual golf tournament, and we want you to be there. So plan to join us on August 19, 2010, at Sundrim Golf Course for a day of fun, fellowship and fundraising. Foursomes can be reserved by emailing coordinators@helpsolvecrime.com. Stay tuned for more information.

Think Green

To be taken off our postage mailing list and be added to the Crime Stoppers' email list and get your newsletter electronically, please beep us at coordinators@helpsolvecrime.com.

Student News

Breakfast Is Served

Students at Hagersville Secondary and McKinnon Park Secondary will be busy serving up vittles at their upcoming Student Crime Stoppers' breakfasts. The breakfasts will tentatively be held on April 23 (Hagersville) and May 6 (McKinnon Park) *(please confirm dates with respective schools*).

Student Appreciation Luncheon

Students and teachers involved in their local Student Crime Stoppers programs will be gathering for a day of networking, information sharing and appreciation on May 11, 2010, at the Greens At Renton. Held annually each year, this event gives the Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg program an opportunity to thank students and teachers involved in helping to make their schools safer.

The Academy Award Goes To….

After months of writing, filming and editing, students at McKinnon Park Secondary have recently launched a new Student Crime Stoppers' video. Designed to be an information tool for the Student Crime Stoppers program, the club plans to share the video with programs locally, provincially and internationally.

Looking Forward to Seeing You…

Coordinators for Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg have been able to meet with reps from Glendale, Valley Heights, Port Dover, Simcoe Composite, McKinnon Park and Dunnville so far this year to hear all the latest and greatest for their programs. We'd like to visit your school next. Beep the coordinators at ***coordinators@helpsolvecrime.com*** to set up a meeting at your school.

Final Thought

Help Spread the Word

If your community group would like to book a speaker, post some Crime Stoppers' signs, have a vehicle in a parade or host a Crime Stoppers' display, give our office a call at 519-426-3434 ext 7452. We'd love to hear from you!