The Source

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

You Wanted to Know

Operation Pot Spot – Eyes in the Skies

With the warm weather upon us, Crime Stoppers is looking to promote its "Operation Pot Spot" (OPS) program to help combat illegal outdoor marijuana crops. Launched provincially in the mid 1990's, OPS appeals to aviation enthusiasts and encourages them to be observant while they are flying over rural areas.

Marijuana plants are bright green, with an odd number of leaves in clusters, can range in height from six inches to ten feet tall (at maturity), emit a distinct pungent odor (like a skunk) and are tacky to the touch. They can be found near creeks or swamps, on the south side of fields, along fence lines and in woodlots.

From the sky, marijuana plants are bright green, sometimes appear in clusters, very often have the immediate surrounding area trampled and can even be grown among legitimate crops such as corn. Signs may also include things like vehicles parked on the side of roads or trails; people frequenting remote areas for no apparent reason; and signs of gardening (fertilizer bags, planting trays, etc) in remote areas.

If pilots see something that they feel is suspicious, they are encouraged to jot down the location through a "global positioning system" and then contact Crime Stoppers anonymously. Crime Stoppers cautions individuals to never approach a suspected marijuana crop in person. Doing so may be dangerous. Instead, individuals should contact Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 or call their local police service.

Since Our Last Bulletin

Crime Stoppers Wins Record Eight Awards

Crime Stoppers came home from the annual Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers' Training Conference bearing a record eight provincial awards celebrating the success of the program in 2009.

Topping the list of awards was the **"Marla Moon Memorial Award of Excellence"** which celebrates the overall achievements of a program. This is the seventh time the program has been honored with the prestigious award.

The program also received six **media awards** for outstanding coverage by media partners. Recognized were:

- **The Moose FM** for "Best Radio Special Feature"
- **CD 98.9 FM** for "Best Radio Crime of the Week"
- **The Simcoe Reformer** for "Best Print Feature Coverage"
- **The Tillsonburg News** for "Best Print Crime of the Week"
- **Rogers TV** for "Best Television Special Feature"
- **CH News** for "Best TV Crime of the Week"

A **special project award** was also presented to **The Moose** for the "Crime Stoppers Minute." Created in the fall of 2009, the segment is aired three times a day and features timely crime prevention messages for listeners in an attempt to help prevent crime from occurring.

A big thanks and congratulations to all of Crime Stoppers' media partners on a job well done! These awards are a strong reflection of the excellent work done by our partners and community supporters!

Spring Gala a Great Success

Thanks to the continued support of Erie Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the over 140 supporters who attended Crime Stoppers' Spring Gala in May, more than $11,000 was raised for the crime fighting program. A huge thank you goes out to Erie Mutual and everyone who supported the event! It is because of you that Crime Stoppers continues to achieve great success in making our communities safer!!

Blue Star Drives Crime out of our Community

Blue Star Ford in Simcoe recently helped "drive" crime out of our community as they included Crime Stoppers in their 2nd annual "Charity Test Drive" event in May. During the event, people were encouraged to test drive any vehicle at Blue Star and for every test drive taken, Blue Star Ford then donated $10 to the charity of the driver's choice. Several local charities were involved in the event including Crime Stoppers. A big thanks to Blue Star Ford for their support!

Around the Corner….

Golfing Foooore Safer Communities

Mark August 19, 2010, on your calendar and plan to be at Sundrim Golf Course for a day of fun, fellowship and fundraising as Crime Stoppers hosts its 19th annual golf tournament in conjunction with the Central Erie and Haldimand Insurance Brokers Associations. Reserve your foursomes today as the tournament sells out each year. Hole sponsors and prize donors are also needed, so if you can contribute, please let us know by emailing coordinators@helpsolvecrime.com .

Grocery & Gas Giveaway

Crime Stoppers will once again be holding its "Great Grocery and Gas Giveaway" and tickets are now available for your chance to win. A total of $1850 worth of grocery and gas prizes will be given away (4 draws) and tickets are only $2 each (or 3 for $5). If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact the Crime Stoppers office at 519-426-3434 ext 7451.

Calling all Jailbirds!!

Crime Stoppers is once again looking to host its annual Jail or Bail fundraiser this year on October 14, 2010, at the Simcoe Town Centre mall. Titled ***"The Great Halloween Heist,"*** this year's event hopes to see everyone in their favorite "spooktacular" costume. Call 519-426-3434 ext 7452 for more details.

Student News

Bursary Winners Announced

Two McKinnon Park Secondary School students were announced the winners of this year's William Robert Courtnage Crime Stoppers' Community Service Bursary. Christine Raby and Martin Bellamy will both receive $1000 for post secondary educative studies. The bursary recognizes the work that local students do in their Student Crime Stoppers' program & community.

Student Appreciation Luncheon

Approximately 30 students and teacher coordinators from across Haldimand, Norfolk and Tillsonburg came together at the Greens at Renton in April for a day of information sharing, networking and thanks. Guests were also treated to a presentation by the Ontario Provincial Police's Tactic Response Unit before enjoying a complimentary lunch. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of Student Crime Stoppers.

Valley Heights

Students and staff at Valley Heights have been busy over the past few months trying to spread the word about Crime Stoppers. The Student Crime Stoppers' group recently held an ATV safety display and a "lock it or lose it" campaign to help make their school safer.

Port Dover

Port Dover Composite Student Crime Stoppers hit the streets recently and conducted a "lock it or lose it" campaign downtown with the assistance of the OPP. The group also held a mock collision on the school's front lawn in an attempt to bring attention to the issue of safe driving.

Hagersville & McKinnon Breakfasts

Long time programs – McKinnon Park Secondary School and Hagersville Secondary School - both recently held community fundraising breakfasts. Both breakfasts were very successful and a special thanks goes out to all supporters.

Final Thought

Email Anyone?

To begin receiving your Crime Stoppers' newsletter electronically, please give us an email at coordinators@helpsolvecrime.com to provide your name and email address. The newsletter in pdf format will then be sent to you three or four times a year to keep you up to date.