

CANADA CALLING

News from Canadian Crime Stoppers

Fall / Winter 2009 Volume 1, Issue 2

Canadian Crime Stoppers Moves to Fight Human Trafficking

"...given the nature of this alarming crime, victims are understandably reluctant and frightened to come forward."

Human trafficking – it's the modern day form of slavery and it's become a serious and growing crime in Canada, regardless of where people live. People assume that it's only a "big city" crime, but the truth is that it can be happening in your own community, large or small – and it's happening now. The sad part is that, given the nature of this alarming crime, victims are understandably reluctant and frightened to come forward.

However, victims of human trafficking and anyone who knows that it might be happening in their own neighbourhood, have a place to turn to report this terrifying crime. It's the same place people have been able to report crime and criminals, without identifying themselves, for the past 25 years or more – Crime Stoppers.

The Canadian Crime Stoppers Association (CCSA), in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Public Safety Canada have developed a public awareness campaign designed to inform the public of the potential dangers of human trafficking, help the public identify suspected occurrences of human trafficking, and provide

information on how to report suspicious cases.

"The Canadian Crime Stoppers Association, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Public Safety Canada all recognize the importance of combating human trafficking," says Ralph Page, CCSA Chair. "We see our awareness project and the tip taking capabilities of Crime Stoppers in over 4,000 Canadian communities as a key component in eventually reducing and eliminating this crime."

Posters, pamphlets and a community presentation have been developed as a result of this partnership. These educational tools are being provided to over 100 Crime Stoppers programs across the country. "We encourage all Canadians to support their local Crime Stoppers programs by contacting them and requesting awareness materials or by encouraging local presentations in their own communities," Page adds.

In 2007, the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre created a very successful "Blue Blindfold" campaign. The key theme of the campaign is "Don't Close Your Eyes" – the blue blindfold representing the risk of people being unaware of the crime going on around them. CCSA was given permission to adapt and utilize the "Blue Blindfold" campaign here in Canada which has been incorporated in printed materials and in the presentation which has been developed.

Local Crime Stoppers programs are being asked to participate in this project to help increase awareness and hopefully reduce or eliminate human trafficking. It will take a concerted national effort to achieve this goal, but with the participation of local Crime Stoppers programs, it's believed there will be an definite impact on this fear-provoking crime.

Submitted by Doug Fraser, Public Relations Chair of the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association

Inside this issue

CCSA Chair	2
Halifax 2010	3
Provincial News	4
Business Plans	5
Provincial News	6
Gangs	7
CSI Winners	8
Record Retention	9
Tip Takers View	10



Pictured above are delegates at the 2009 Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers Provincial Conference in Barrie, Ontario wearing blue blindfolds in anticipation of the launch of the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association's campaign targeting human trafficking.

Message From the Chair of Canadian Crime Stoppers



We're busier than ever. Looking back over the past 6 months or so since our inaugural issue makes us realize just how much activity has taken place in the Crime Stoppers world. Operation Infra,

designed to locate International fugitives, took place in July under the auspices of CSI and Canada was part of the network. The operation was deemed to be a success overall despite the very short notice we all got. While the arrests and follow-up of tips is still ongoing, there have been approximately forty locations of wanted fugitives identified, which is a great result.

It is hard to believe also that the 30th Annual Crime Stoppers International Training Conference hosted by Queensland Crime Stoppers of Australia has come & gone already. Canada was very well represented at the conference with over 45 delegates registered, the second largest contingent behind the host Australia. Overall, the conference was very well organized and training content was found to be very relevant to those who attended.

As usual the networking was the conference highlight. I know a lot of information & ideas were exchanged during the informal events when those attending had the opportunity to mix and share ideas. I saw one of our Canadian delegates learning about a unique approach to youth crime being offered by UK Crime Stoppers. Contact information was exchanged in order to obtain further details and truly, this is what a conference is really all about.

I would like to congratulate all of the Canadian programs who were award winners at the conference. I was very proud to see that Canadian programs won the majority of the awards.

These continue to be very exciting times for Crime Stoppers around the world and

we were all delighted to learn that during our conference a new program for Crime Stoppers was launched in New Zealand under the guidance and direction of the UK Crime Stoppers program.

CSI President Gary Murphy also provided some very interesting insights into international developments – in particular the attempt currently underway to safely implement a Crime Stoppers program in Juarez, Mexico, a city experiencing major crime related to the drug trade.

Here at home we have just released details to all the Canadian programs about our "Human Trafficking Awareness" project being supported by Public Safety Canada and the RCMP. As our materials point out, human trafficking is occurring everywhere across our country yet largely operates under the radar of most of the population due to a general lack of knowledge. Our project is designed to help change that & with the assistance of all our Canadian programs we hope to increase overall awareness of this tragic crime. Subsequently, we look forward to increased tips about human trafficking which in turn will lead to arrests and eventual conviction of the people who commit the crime. Everyone involved in the government & the RCMP are optimistic that our support will mean a lot in helping to decrease human trafficking activity in Canada. We are sure hoping so. It is also an excellent opportunity for us to increase awareness about Crime Stoppers and to make our communities feel a lot safer as a result.

2010 will be an exciting year for a couple of important reasons; firstly Canada will host the Winter Olympics in BC which will be an exciting time. Crime Stoppers will be extending our tip taking network across the World to receiving any tips or intelligence relating to the Olympic games and the Greater Vancouver Crime Stoppers program will be receiving all the tips and forwarding on to be dealt with by the appropriate law enforcement agency. Another way we are helping with community safety issues.

Secondly, in August, Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers will be hosting the 31st Annual CSI Training Conference in Halifax from August 23-25, 2010, inclusive. The world will be coming to Canada for the second time in a year. Let's plan to support Nova Scotia and show the world again just how well Canada can host a conference. Start planning now to attend and as soon as the registration opens in the New Year get registered and start planning for one of the best if not the best conference ever! See you in the Maritimes then.

To all the Crime Stoppers and supporters and their families have a very safe and happy holiday season. Thanks very much for your support again for CCSA over this past year.

Respectfully submitted by Ralph Page, Chair Canadian Crime Stoppers Association.



HELPING TO STOP, SOLVE AND PREVENT CRIME - TOGETHER
AIDONS À ARRÊTER, RÉSOUDRE ET PRÉVENIR LE CRIME - ENSEMBLE

Check it Out

The Canadian Crime Stoppers Association recently launched a new website. To check it out, log on to www.canadiancrimestoppers.org and get all the latest Crime Stoppers information.

Plan to be in Halifax in 2010

Submitted by Wayne Noonan, Conference Chair, Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers.

Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers is very pleased to host the 2010 Annual Training Conference in Canada from August 23 to August 25, 2010!

Halifax has a history you can feel, with a colonial past evident on every street corner and a fascinating culture that has grown out of it. It's little wonder there are so many things to do in Halifax. The culture is yours to savour—with food, music and art shared by people from all over the globe.

Join us for our fun night of a "Taste of Nova Scotia Ceilidh" featuring some of Atlantic Canada's best & unique entertainers berthed on the Halifax Waterfront.

Partners and spouses will enjoy an organized day of touring the south shore of Nova Scotia. One of the stops on this outing is the town of Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Sight and the home of Nova Scotia's most famous racing schooner, The Blue-nose. This is an excellent opportunity to view some of Nova Scotia's most beautiful sites such as the towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay.

We also have another outing planned for Annapolis Valley where some of Canada's finest produce is grown including grapes that make Nova Scotia wines some of the most sought after in this part of the world. Expect stops in Wolfville, with a view of the Bay of Fundy which records the highest tides in the world.

Check back regularly to the conference website at www.2010csitc.com for the latest details on the conference and registration details which will be announced soon.

We're looking forward to welcoming Crime Stoppers from around the world in 2010.

Crime Stoppers and the RCMP – 2009 and the future

Submitted by National and International Crime Stoppers Coordinator, RCMP Sergeant Doug Dersch.

Crime Stoppers and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) continue to forge a strong partnership introducing new initiatives which are firsts for both parties.

Crime Stoppers International (CSI) spearheaded an International Fugitive Roundup and Arrest Initiative (Operation INFRA) in conjunction with law enforcement partners being Interpol, United States Marshal Service as well as law enforcement agencies around the globe where Crime Stoppers operates. Crime Stoppers published the names and photos of international fugitives wanted for serious offences. Canada was one of seven countries that participated in Operation INFRA. The RCMP was directly involved in the selection of fugitives that were identified for Canada and the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association (CCSA) utilized the 107 programs nationally and their media resources to bring public awareness to this high level operation. This was the first time an initiative of this magnitude has taken place.

The CCSA, RCMP and Public Safety Canada have been working over the past two years in partnership on an awareness campaign that will educate the public on human trafficking. The actual campaign will include posters, pamphlets & community presentations that will bring this serious

crime to the forefront in the eyes of Canadians. In November 2009, The RCMP and CCSA will jointly hold a national press conference in Ottawa, Ontario that will roll out the partnership. This partnership was another first for both organizations and their dedication and commitment has brought it to reality.

Crime Stoppers International and CCSA have partnered with the RCMP in efforts to champion a public information campaign on preventing and solving crime during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. On November 5, 2009, a news release was posted on CSI's, CCSA's website outlining the initiative & the partnership. All nation regions involved in Crime Stoppers received the same media release in the global effort to support this initiative.

The RCMP continues to support Crime Stoppers nationally and recognize the value your organization brings to the front line of law enforcement. Without each of you being dedicated and involved in your local programs, law enforcement agencies would not be as successful in making our communities safer places to live.

I would like to stress that the commitment of time and dedication each of you give to Crime Stoppers reaches beyond your community boundaries and that each of you are involved in the global picture and you are making a difference.



Peter Price, Chair of Crime Stoppers Australia (centre left) is seen at the 2009 Annual CSI Conference in October presenting John O'Reilly, President of Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers Association the CSI conference flag and gavel for use at the 2010 CSI Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Info-Crime Quebec Hosts Conference

Submitted by Norman Savoie, President, Info-Crime Quebec.

It is with great pleasure that the entire Info-Crime Québec team hosted a successful 2009 Eastern Region Crime Stoppers Annual Conference in a warm & charming country side resort of St- Sauveur, Québec.

At the annual conference, Info-Crime Québec provincial board members and regional presidents and delegates had specific goals to achieve. The first part was dedicated to the annual general meeting and the second part, to educational and information sessions where we shared ideas and projects that occurred throughout the province.

While sharing information, it was essential to demonstrate and apply the team work concept and common goal approach to promote a world class organization within our society. The top level guest speakers brought together the entire organization. The evening ended on a positive note, showing that together we can achieve higher accomplishments as a team. At the closing banquet, members, key partners and suppliers enjoyed an excellent meal and outstanding entertainment together.

The 2009 Eastern Region CCSA conference gathered presidents, delegates and law enforcement personnel from Quebec, New-Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI and Newfoundland. Each provincial president and / or delegate had the opportunity to present a summary of their accomplishments and challenges. This activity was an excellent tool to share great ideas and unique projects to successfully promote Crime Stoppers within our respective provinces.

During the conference we were delighted to have Mr. Ralph Page, Chair of the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association and his board members hold their annual general meeting. All the delegates present were invited and quite fortunate to attend.

Such an event would not have the same dynamics and impact without the presence of Mr. Gary Murphy, President of Crime Stoppers International. We were honored to have Mr. Murphy's presence, a Canadian citizen. He was able to share his international views, goals and objectives and how we can all contribute to this great organization.

Some of the topics covered by our panel of experts, hosted by Michel Auger spokesperson

for Info-Crime Québec were: Inspector Richard Bruneau, Sûreté du Québec, on organized crime and the war on bikers; Sergeant Detective Alain Gaudreault, M.U.C Police and Sergeabt Detective Palmerino Troilo, Longueuil Municipal Police on street gangs; Sergeant Detective Doug Dersch, RCMP on human trafficking; while Francois Pagé, a crisis management and criminal activities expert, covered early warning signs from active shooters. All of the attendees were astonished by the information received from our team of experts.

We were particularly grateful that Mr. Richard Deschesnes, Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, accepted to be our president of honor for the 2009 conference.

At the banquet, we were privileged to have with us, Mrs. Line Carbonneau, Assistant Commissioner to the RCMP for Québec, Mr. Yves Morency president of the Quebec Chiefs of Police Association and many VIPs, partners and suppliers that joined us for a great evening of fun and entertainment.

Our sincere thanks to everyone for making this conference a complete success!

See you all next year in Halifax.

CSI Conference 2009



Pictured above are Ralph Page, Chair of the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association (CCSA) (left) and Doug Dersch, Sergeant, RCMP and CCSA and CSI Coordinator (right) at one of the many educational sessions presented at the CSI Annual Conference in Australia in October 2009.

Crime Stoppers Awareness Month

January marks National Crime Stoppers Awareness Month across Canada and the perfect time for programs to reach out to their local communities. Take some time to develop a plan of action which will educate the public, thank sponsors and / or promote Crime Stoppers. Some ideas might include contacting local media outlets to see if they would be willing to feature Crime Stoppers in a story or as guest on an established TV or radio show, writing media releases to highlight the success of your program, hosting an informational display at local malls or schools, planning an appreciation event for local sponsors and partners, asking local politicians to help designate the month, or launching promotional events that will educate and promote the program. Take some time to think about it. How will your program celebrate?

Business Plans are a Must

Is your fundraising compass pointing in a stable direction? Do you have a good idea of what your volunteers and/or staff are doing over the next 12-24 months? Do you feel that your Crime Stoppers program has an advantage in your community when you have fundraising activities or go into the public to educate them about Crime Stoppers? In the public's eye are you a continually recognizable contributor to the public good? Does your board understand and deal with burnout?

If you have answered no or maybe to any of the above, you may want to look at developing a business plan for your activities. Any one of the above can be a precursor to future problems with any volunteer board. Businesses have competition, so do we. They have budget constraints, so do we. They have turnover, so do we. They are affected by the financial climate, so are we. For these reasons companies have some type of business plan to follow, perhaps to survive. Charities are finding it tougher to raise money and maintain their high, positive community profile. Oddly enough, most people have their own mini business plans, used for saving money to buy a house, car, go on vacation or get ready for retirement. So it's not new and it's not difficult.

“Any board that just muddles along may soon find itself mired in controversy...”

Asking for money is harder today, even for recognized national charities like the United Way. So when we are faced with decreasing dollars, increasing costs, valuable, but sometimes shrinking volunteer time and competition from everything from other charities to the tax man it's time to take a hard look at where we stand in our community and with our programs. Each one is unique in its own way. A business plan for Vancouver would probably not be suitable for Halifax. No more than programs only miles apart that have a different demographic and community to deal with.

Any board that just muddles along may soon find itself mired in controversy, a lack of resources, a decreasing bank balance and perhaps suffering apathy. So, where

to start? The board must make that call. If you are content with raising funds to only cover rewards then perhaps you don't need a business plan. If you want to reach out further into the community doing different things such as education, program recognition, building relationships, partnering with other events, then set aside some time to work together to ensure the stability of your Crime Stoppers program. Find someone to help you, act as a facilitator, so all board members can participate fully.

First steps are critical - finding out about your community, what makes it tick? What's going on that affects its people? Your fellow board members, what do they bring to the table? What resources are available? How are your media and police partners doing? Then make some hard decisions on what's best for your program, what's best for the community and that's best for maintaining your positive profile in your neighbourhood.

Although our prime purpose is to still receive tips and pay rewards, Crime Stoppers has evolved into a larger force. Education, partnering, outreach, among others are avenues many programs are doing. They see the benefit of this expanded role in the community. So for them, to help achieve success, they develop a road map or plan to help them. To measure success you need some benchmarks, goals and to see how you have done. And a business plan is a great document to give prospective sponsors, donors and partners when you are looking for assistance. It shows that your program is focused, knows where it is headed and uses their time and resources wisely

So, in the end, some time spent developing a game plan can reap great benefits in the future. Why not give it a try?

Submitted by Al Gibson, London Elgin Middlesex Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers Gets in Your Blood

Submitted by Sergeant Monica Harris, Provincial Crime Stoppers Coordinator, Ontario Provincial Police.

When I commenced my new position as the Provincial Crime Stoppers Coordinator for the province of Ontario in July of 2009, I was awed by the number of volunteers and board members I met that have been with the thirty-eight programs throughout Ontario for ten years or more. This is an outstanding contribution to volunteerism in our country, and speaks highly of the people that continue to step forward from all walks of life to volunteer their time and energy to the prevention and solving of crime in their communities.

However, Crime Stoppers volunteers are different from other volunteers I have been proud to serve alongside. They are extremely passionate about their programs, and defend the Crime Stoppers procedures that are tried and tested in case law so that the ultimate integrity of the program as a whole is maintained. Officers that were involved in Crime Stoppers as coordinators or bureau commanders have turned their energies in retirement to volunteering with Crime Stoppers - people such as Bill Sulston and Alex Williamson. This program is clearly “in their blood.”

I have spoken with many of the program coordinators across the country, & look forward to working with everyone in a productive and forward-looking way. The next twenty-five years of Crime Stoppers in Canada will surely be built on a solid foundation that is the envy of the world. Congratulations to the many award winners at the 2009 CSI Conference that Canada produced – your achievements let us know that we're on the right track.

But nobody rests on their laurels...your Crime Stoppers programs were not built sitting back and watching, and we in the Ontario Provincial Police will continue to support your good work with our media counterparts as long as crime continues to happen.

New Brunswick - Another Productive Year

Submitted by Paul Gallinger, Secretary, New Brunswick Crime Stoppers

In February 1985, a motion was passed at a meeting of the NB Association of Chiefs of Police, which called for the implementation of a Crime Stoppers program in Central New Brunswick. Following that motion a study of the Crime Stoppers program was conducted and on August 19, 1985, a charter was granted to NB Crime Stoppers Inc / Échec au Crime NB Inc. The original program consisted of four independent local / regional boards (chapters) under the guidance of the parent organization NB Crime Stoppers. Over the years the program has grown and currently consists of 20 chapters with approximately 300 volunteers in total.

This year - 2009 - as a result of the severely reduced services & support of NB

Crime Stoppers by Global Maritimes, a new partnership was signed between Rogers TV and NB Crime Stoppers Inc. As a result of the new agreement, Rogers TV will produce and broadcast the program's "Crimes of the Week" in both official languages for the current broadcast year. Also, a partnership with NB Liquor & a three-way partnership with NB Crime Stoppers, the RCMP, and the Insurance Bureau of Canada gives us the ability to inform the public and promote safety throughout the province. A partnership with Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is also in the works.

The month of May provided an opportunity for the NB Crime Stoppers executive members to get together for a two-day retreat to discuss and plan for the upcoming year, this session was assessed as being so worthwhile that it may become an annual or bi-annual event.

In June, NB Crime Stoppers Inc was officially recognized and three of its members introduced on the floor of the NB Legislative Assembly by the Honourable John Foran MLA, Minister of Public Safety, Solicitor General (pictured below left).

To be recognized in this way for the programs contribution in helping law enforcement agencies in solving crime was indeed a high point of the year. Also, Paul Gallinger was appointed as the NB Crime Stoppers Director to the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association, Paul assumed the duties from long time Director Ron Godin following the June 14, 2009, CCSA board meeting in St. Sauveur QC.

In October 2009, NB Crime Stoppers celebrated its 24th Annual Training Conference held in Dieppe, NB with almost 200 members and guests attending the Saturday night banquet and dance. Sergeant Noël Cyr, the Provincial Police Coordinator, stated in his annual report that, "To date, NB Crime Stoppers has helped solve over 7100 cases and not only in our province, but throughout Canada and even some cases in the United States." Through the hard work and dedication of NB Crime Stoppers, its volunteers & partners these statistics continue to increase significantly each month.

All members anticipate that 2010 will be another great year that will culminate in Fredericton, NB in October as they celebrate their 25th Annual Training Conference and their program's first quarter century as a community service program, which helps to solve and prevent crimes throughout New Brunswick, Canada and beyond.



Nova Scotia's AGM Update

Submitted by John O'Reilly, President, Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers

Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers recently held its 22nd Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet from September 18 to 20, 2009, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Approximately 100 volunteers and their spouses / guests attended from throughout Nova Scotia. The weekend started with a meet and greet and live auction on Friday evening. Saturday morning was business as usual along with an election of officers. John O'Reilly was elected again as President; Ernestine Gouthro 1st Vice President; Wayne Ward 2nd Vice President and Anna Mason as

Secretary / Treasurer, and Sergeant Gary Frail is our Police Coordinator.

Part of our afternoon session included a presentation from our 2010 CSITC committee where our volunteers were updated as to the progress so far in the planning of our 2010 conference. The remainder of the afternoon was a presentation from RCMP Corporal Mac Maciver on human trafficking.

An awards banquet was held on Saturday evening. Guest speaker for the evening was Nova Scotia's Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Honourable Ross Landry. Other special guests included

Halifax Police Chief Frank Beazley; RCMP Inspector Greg Bursey; Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly as well as other special invited guests.

Awards were presented to volunteers from each of our eleven districts and our Provincial Volunteer of the year Award was presented to Ernestine Gouthro from the Halifax metro board.

Crime Stoppers and Police Work to Curb B.C.'s Gang Problems

Following an unprecedented number of gang-related assaults and murders in Metro Vancouver and the admission from Federal Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan that BC had become "the epicenter of gun violence in Canada," the resulting outcry from the public to halt the carnage made it clear to everyone that something had to be done.

After lengthy discussions with police and government officials, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers was able to persuade the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor-General to approve a plan for an "Anti-Gang Initiative." This government support provided Crime Stoppers with the opportunity needed to mount an aggressive communication and marketing campaign, inviting British Columbians to anonymously provide information about gun crimes committed anywhere in the province, using Crime Stoppers' existing on-line, SMS text tip and toll-free telephone reporting infrastructure. And respond they did.

"The gang related activities in Metro Vancouver haven't stopped, but they have slowed considerably."

The results have been astonishing, reaching all-time records. In the six months since its inception, gang-related tips are up an average of 20 to 30 percent, with at least half the tips relating directly to "gang-type" information.

"We now have a first-class infrastructure with the opportunity to provide a solid communication program that makes British Columbians aware of how they can provide information without being identified," says Len McGeouch, President, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. He credits the strength of the Crime Stoppers campaign for the increase in tips.

Many of the gang leaders have been arrested and now face charges while others are behind bars awaiting trial. The gang-related activities in Metro Vancouver haven't stopped, but they have slowed considerably. When police investigations succeed in breaking the power of one gang, another is always ready to fill the vacuum.

Sergeant Shinder Kirk of Vancouver's Integrated Gang Task Force says the gangsters' business model allows them to expand anywhere there's a drug market, regardless of the community's size. As a result, police are now seeing more activity in secondary communities like Prince George & Kelowna. "What we've found in the past few years is that these groups are cellular-based co-operatives," says Kirk. "This means your head office is in one community, yet there are franchise or peripheral players who may or may not be members of the group, conducting business on behalf of that established group in a different community."

"Guns follow drugs," adds Kirk. "Once you have drugs, you will have weapons in order to protect your market share or to protect your interests. You may not see it manifested but the threat is always there. Police could readily double the size of their gang units and still be playing catch-up."

The experts say there is only one solution that promises to reduce the violence - an end to drug prohibition, which will sap the strength of the gangs by removing the enormous profits they reap from drug trafficking. But no modern nation has been able to move in that direction. Regardless, Canada needs to consider this fundamental change in public policy, together with improvements in existing enforcement procedures such as an updating of our wiretap laws, bail restrictions and improvements in the conditions of our already-crowded provincial remand centres, removing benefits such as two-for-one credits for time served while awaiting trial.

"We also need to continue to hold politicians' feet to the fire," says CCSA BC Director Shirley Stocker. "And we have an ongoing obligation to appeal to parents, sisters, brothers, teachers, friends and relatives to report criminal activity - anonymously if need be. Perhaps we could begin by asking our children whether they want to see their gang buddy dead or in jail."

Submitted by Shirley Stocker, BC Director to the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association.

Reflections of Australia 2009

Submitted by Pat Gillie, Past President, Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers.

The CSI Conference held recently in Queensland, Australia provided many opportunities for learning, re-learning & connecting. As I listened to plenary speakers and workshop presenters there seemed to be a consensus of experience about how Crime Stoppers can continue to weave itself into the fabric of crime prevention. The success of Crime Stoppers is based on partnerships and alliances. The common idea that struck me throughout was that the bond of a successful partnership or sponsorship is the mutual benefit that each party realizes. This point was made in different ways by a panel about global partnerships, and in workshops on marketing, best practice sponsorships, communication and planning.

The message of mutual benefit is key to moving from a "begging" approach and into a more strategic approach. Fundamental is to be relevant by having something new to say. We were urged to become an authority and to align with like interests. Our ability to adapt will keep us relevant.

Queensland Crime Stoppers conducted a plenary session about the program in their state. One of the most interesting points made by the Queensland speakers was about the leverage value of nation wide recognition. All programs in Australia use the same branding. Wherever you go, the same visual recognition about Crime Stoppers Australia is obvious. A visit to the website www.crimestoppers.com.au illustrates this.

The marketing presenters pointed out that in today's media milieu, brand recognition is not enough. Awareness and exposure only prove that we exist. For success, we need our target market to change its perceptions and behaviours with respect to Crime Stoppers. The unique power of strategic partnerships comes from integration and emotion. So when approaching a potential partner or sponsor, customer needs take priority over brand. Make ground by demonstrating relevance and alignment with their beliefs, needs, and concerns; and demonstrate how the relationship will add value - mutual benefit. For more information check out workshop presenter Kim Skildum-Reid's website www.power-sponsorship.com. Sponsorship and partnership provide the opportunity, leverage provides the results.

Canadian Programs Win Big at CSI 2009

Student of the Year Award

Jason Tojeiro, Toronto Crime Stoppers

President's Awards

Val Smith, Brian Taylor, Kevin Anderson & Anderson Software

Website Award

Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk & Tillsonburg – designed by SlypigPro

Specialized Training Award

Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers – Renegade Digital Media, Inc

Productivity Awards

Greatest Increase in Arrests

- * Windsor & Essex Crime Stoppers (250,001 to 400,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Hamilton (400,001 to 750,000)
- * Calgary Crime Stoppers (750,001 to 2 million)

Greatest increase in Total Property Recovered

- * Crime Stoppers of St. Thomas, St. Thomas (under 75,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Haldimand-Norfolk & Tillsonburg (75,001 to 250,000)
- * Windsor & Essex Crime Stoppers, Windsor (250,001 to 400,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Hamilton (400,001 to 750,000)
- * Calgary Crime Stoppers Association (750,001 to 2 million)
- * Toronto Crime Stoppers (2 million to 5 million)

Media Awards - Television

Best Television Crime of the Week

- * Crime Stoppers of St. Thomas – Rogers Cable 13 (under 75,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Hamilton – CHCH Television (400,001 to 750,000)
- * Toronto Crime Stoppers - Rogers Television (2 million to 5 million)

Best Television Special Reports/Features

- * Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk & Tillsonburg – Rogers (75,001 to 250,000)

Best Television Public Service Announcement

- * Crime Stoppers of Northwestern Ontario & Northern Minnesota – Kizuk Productions (75,001 to 250,000)
- * Windsor & Essex Crime Stoppers – TV COGECO (250,001 – 400,000)
- * Calgary Crime Stoppers – Shaw TV (750,001 to 2 million)

Media Awards - Radio

Best Radio Crime of the Week

- * Crime Stoppers of St. Thomas - Astral Media Radio London (under 75,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Northwestern Ontario and Northern Minnesota – 89.5 Mix FM (75,001 to 250,000)
- * Windsor & Essex Crime Stoppers – CKWL / AM800 (250,001 – 400,000)

Best Radio Public Service Announcement

- * Crime stoppers of Hamilton – AM900 / CHML (400,001 – 750,000)

Best Radio Special Reports/Features

- * Crime Stoppers of Northwestern Ontario and Northern Minnesota – 89.5 Mix FM (75,001 to 250,000)

Media Awards - Print

Best Newspaper Crime of the Week

- * St. Thomas Crime Stoppers - St. Thomas Times Journal (under 75,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk & Tillsonburg – The Sachem & Gazette (75,001 to 250,000)

Best Newspaper Special Feature/Report

- * Crime Stoppers of Perth County – The Mitchell Advocate (under 75,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of NW Ontario & Northern Minnesota – Kenora Daily Miner & News (75,001 to 250,000)
- * Crime Stoppers of Halton - Metroland Media Group (400,001 to 750,000)

Best Newspaper Public Service Announcement

- * Crime Stoppers of Haldimand, Norfolk & Tillsonburg – The Dunnville Chronicle (75,001 to 250,000)
- * New Brunswick Crime Stoppers (400,001 to 750,000)

LEGAL ISSUES – Knowing when to retain Crime Stoppers files

Crime Stoppers programs often ask me for guidance on how long they should be retaining their files. Once a reward has been paid, or an investigation has ended with no results, is there any reason to retain the file?

Before answering this, let's review some of the basic principles:

- As part of the promise of anonymity, Crime Stoppers will always employ every means available under the law to resist disclosing the contents of a tip record to anyone other than the police agency designated to investigate the offence. The same restriction is placed on the investigative agency itself when it receives the information.

- Crime Stoppers files, including tip records, are the property of the Crime Stoppers organization. They are not the property of the police. Crime Stoppers requires police agencies to refrain from placing the tip sheet in the regular file.

- Once an investigation has been completed, and the ensuing prosecution has been terminated (whether by an acquittal or by a guilty plea or a verdict of guilty), portions of the police file may be subject to disclosure under FOI. But Crime Stoppers in Canadian provinces are not subject to Freedom of Information legislation, so there is no means by which an applicant for disclosure can get access to tip records through this route.

- The criminal justice system recognizes that Crime Stoppers tips come from police informers who enjoy a privilege against having their identities revealed. The courts will not usually require disclosure of any information in a tip record that may tend to identify a tipster. There is no way of knowing what apparently insignificant bit of information in a tip may be known only to the tipster and the accused person, so the general rule is that nothing in the tip may be disclosed.

- The Charter of Rights and Freedoms establishes guarantees for accused persons, to ensure that they receive a fair trial, and have every opportunity to make full answer and defence. This includes the right to disclosure of any information that may assist an accused person to defend him or herself.

There may be times when the last two points above come into conflict. During a trial, evidence may come to light to suggest that there may be information in the tip record that could help the accused to demonstrate his innocence. This could happen where there is a suggestion that the tipster is a material witness to the crime itself, or an agent provocateur. For example, there could be reason to believe that evidence has been planted.

In such situations, the court is required to balance the tipster's right to anonymity against the accused's right to full disclosure of exculpatory information. The Supreme Court of Canada has laid out a procedure whereby a trial judge may review a tip record, in private, to determine if in fact information in it may be of assistance to the defence. If there is no such information, the trial proceeds. If there is, the recommended procedure is to edit out any information that does not assist the defence, and to offer disclosure of the edited tip record. In such cases, the Crown is given an opportunity to stay the charges before the disclosure is made, as a final line of defence against revealing the identity of the tipster.

Crime Stoppers never wants to see matters progress to the stage where the tip record, edited or not, is released to the accused. Crown counsel usually supports that principle, and will direct a stay before seeing the tip record released.

At the same time, Crime Stoppers has to recognize that cases will arise where it will be necessary for a trial judge to embark on the inquiry as to whether there is information in the tip that should be disclosed. That inquiry cannot take place unless the tip is in existence at the time of the trial. Therefore, Crime Stoppers should never place itself in the position of having to tell a trial judge that the inquiry cannot be undertaken because the original tip no longer exists. To do so would leave the judge with little option other than to direct a stay of proceedings on the charge.

I therefore invariably advise Crime Stoppers programs to retain every tip until well after the time when there is any chance that a trial judge will ask to see it.

As a general rule, this translates to keeping every tip record for a minimum period of two years after:

- a decision is made not to pursue an investigation (because there is nothing in the tip worth pursuing);
- an investigation, once commenced, has been abandoned with no charges laid and no likelihood of re-opening the investigation or laying charges in the future; or
- a charge is laid, and the trial is finished & all possible appeals have been pursued or the time to file a further appeal has elapsed. (Remember that courts of appeal often direct re-trials on charges). This does not necessarily mean that paper records must be retained for that time. If all of the information is contained in electronic form, such as in a TipSoft record, there would be no harm in disposing of the paper record and simply keeping the electronic one. However, if the paper record has relevant notations on it, the notations should be added to the electronic file, or else the paper copy should be retained for the period suggested above.

The above guidelines have been incorporated into the model privacy policy that is available in the "CCSA – Legal Issues" area of the CSI webboard. Adopting these guidelines will ensure that Crime Stoppers programs follow their mandate of protecting informer anonymity, but will never be criticized for destroying evidence that is asked to be seen by a trial judge.

Submitted by Bob Gill, CCSA Legal Advisor. Member programs of CCSA may contact Mr. Gill for general advice regarding legal issues affecting Crime Stoppers. He may be reached at 1-877-688-9634; 250-386-2261; fax 250-389-1336; email rgill@clay.bc.ca; regular mail Main Floor, 837 Burdett Avenue, Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2S4

Amtrak Adds...A Tip Takers Perspective

Submitted by Patty Huculak, Vice-President, Amtrak Answering Service Ltd.

The phone rings, it is a Crime Stoppers call.

The voice on the other end is hesitant. They want to turn their life around & they have information on the drug dealer that they used to buy from. The tipster is clearly frightened and desperate, but they want to do the right thing. What can be done? Can we work with the tipster to get the right piece of the puzzle and catch another drug dealer? The tipster continues to be concerned that their information remains anonymous, we reassure them it is as we gather as much information as possible.

The next caller sounds angry, the tipster just broke up with their partner and has a secret that needs to be exposed. The partner was involved in a crime and the tipster wants to do what is right, the tip taker takes all the information and thanks the tipster. What a lesson in love versus hate.

Another call, this one from an elderly person. They are calling because across the street there seems to be something happening. Looks like a fight, there is lots of yelling. The tipster continues to watch and explains what can be seen through the

front window. The tip taker quickly contacts the proper authorities for a 'crime in progress' and reassures the tipster that help is on the way.

It is nearing the end of the shift and the tip taker takes one last call. It is a rough voice asking about reward money. The tip taker explains how Crime Stoppers works and asks for more information regarding the tip. At this point the caller hangs up, it is unfortunate, but sometimes money is the main interest. Thankfully these calls are limited. The majority of the tipsters see the reward as a bonus for helping keep their community a safer place to be.

Amtrak Answering Service tip takers for Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers are very proud of their commitment to the Crime Stoppers program. Every call we take is different, and we are constantly learning and growing. In the next few weeks our staff will be trained on human trafficking. We have an ongoing relationship with the Crime Stoppers coordinators and their offices. This relationship is a great asset to our continued learning process. We deal with a variety of health and professional businesses. This has enabled us to learn how to deal with emergency situations. We

work together as a team and support each other especially when there has been a tough call.

At the end of the day we see that by doing our job we are helping others. It is particularly rewarding when we hear of a case that has been solved because our tip was the missing 'piece of the puzzle.' Amtrak continues to make not only Saskatchewan, but Canada a safer place to live 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our system is designed by a Montreal based company, Szeto Technologies. We run on a Linux based system which gives us added safety and security to our entire database. Our relationship with Szeto Technologies is outstanding; they work with us daily to ensure that everything runs 110%.

Here at the Amtrak Answering Service we say that we are here to start trends rather than follow them. We will continue to do our utmost for the Crime Stoppers program as well as helping build a safer community for all.

CCSA Board Members

Executive

Chair - Ralph Page

1st Vice Chair - Paul Stetson

2nd vice chair - Richard Edwards

Past Chair - Bill Sulston

Treasurer - Glen Bailey

Secretary - Al Hathaway

British Columbia - Shirley Stocker

Alberta - Jim Gray

Saskatchewan - Glen Bailey

Manitoba - Richard Edwards

Ontario - Fred Hicks

Quebec - Jacques Boucher

Nova Scotia - John O'Reilly

New Brunswick - Ron Godin

Prince Edward Island - Paul Stetson

Newfoundland & Labrador - Bev Vey

Yukon Territory - Michael Kearney

Northwest Territory & Nunavut - Al Hathaway

CSI At Large - Gary Murphy

Honorary Director - Hugh Nerlien

Legal Advisor - Bob Gill

Publicity Chair - Doug Fraser

Police Advisors

Ontario Provincial Police

- Inspector Mark Allen

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

- Sergeant Doug Dersch

"Canada Calling" ***News From Canadian*** ***Crime Stoppers***

For more information or to submit articles contact:

Canadian Crime Stoppers Association

Public Relations Chair

Doug Fraser

Editor, "Canada Calling"

T: 403-261-0242

E: idfraser@telus.net

"Canada Calling" Layout

Lisa Wies, Crime Stoppers of

Haldimand, Norfolk & Tillsonburg