



# **NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE**

## **2008 Annual Report Near North Crime Stoppers**

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## **A. Mandate of the Unit**

Crime Stoppers is a cooperative effort between the media, the community and the police. The purpose of the program is to:

- Incite citizens to anonymously provide information on criminal activity,
- Combat the fear of reprisal by guaranteeing anonymity and apathy by offering a cash reward if the information provided leads to the successful conclusion of a case.

Information provided to Crime Stoppers is then forwarded to the appropriate investigating agencies.

## **B. Executive Summary**

2008 was a successful year for the Near North Crime Stoppers program. 530 new tips were received which led police to recover \$21,170 in stolen property and \$503,260 in illegal drugs. Of the 530 tips received, 110 were assigned to the various OPP detachments in the area, 118 were assigned to the JFO Drug Unit and 117 to the North Bay Police Service. Rewards totalling \$4,450 were paid to tipsters. There was a small decrease in the numbers of tips received in 2008, however there was an increase in property value recovered and drugs seized.

The Board of Directors continued to be very active with the promotion of the program as well as with fundraising activities. Board members and Police Coordinators also attended several events marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Near North Crime Stoppers.

The NBPS Coordinator, continued to serve on the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers Board (OACS) as a director representing Northern Ontario.

In the upcoming year, both Police Coordinators will concentrate their promotion efforts towards senior abuse and drug related crimes and will attempt to promote the program to a younger sector of the population.

Furthermore, Near North Crime Stoppers will soon be able to receive Tips via a new secure Web site. This program will be in place and running in early 2009.

## **C. Activities**

### Police coordinators:

The OPP North Bay Detachment and the North Bay Police Service provide coordinators to take information from callers and coordinate the program. Both coordinators attended the annual Legal Issue Training seminar held in Gravenhurst while only the North Bay Police Service Coordinator attended the Annual Ontario Crime Stoppers Training conference held in Hamilton.

These annual events proved beneficial as valuable information was exchanged between coordinators and board members from other Crime Stoppers Programs in the province. This enabled the coordinators to keep up to date with legal issues and case law and ensured that the program was operating within the guidelines set by the Ontario Crime Stoppers Association, the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association and Crime Stoppers International.

The coordinators attend monthly board meetings, provided statistical data and information to the board regarding activities of the program and assisted the board with reward considerations. The coordinators also supported the NNCS Board of Directors in its fundraising activities.

Both coordinators maintained regular contact with enforcement agencies to ensure that tip information provided is handled according to policies and that returns were made in a timely fashion. During 2008, coordinators also provided information sessions to several service clubs and organizations in the area in order to explain and promote the program.

Other enforcement agencies (Anishinabek Police, West Nipissing Police and MNR) continued to provide liaison officers to the Near North Crime Stoppers program. Liaison Officers attended regular monthly board meetings, promoted the program within their respective agency and ensured that proper policies and guidelines were followed when dealing with Crime Stoppers tip information.

The NBPS coordinator continued to serve as a Director on the OACS Board. He attended monthly meetings and is currently a member of the OACS Legal Fund committee which is a provincial legal fund created to assist Crime Stoppers programs in the province of Ontario with legal challenges.

### Board of Directors:

At present, the Near North Crime Stoppers Board of Directors consists of 12 members representing all areas of the Near North region. Six director positions are presently vacant. The board is actively looking for volunteers to fill these positions. It is to be noted that three of the vacant positions are designated for Parry Sound, Burk's Falls and West Nipissing.

### Tri-Town Crime Stoppers:

Near North Crime Stoppers continued to be the call center for the Tri-Town Crime Stoppers Program. In 2008, 45 Tips were received for the Tri-Town area. OPP D/Cst. Rob Clouston worked closely with local coordinators to ensure that tips assigned to the Tri-Town area were properly handled by investigators and that returns were made in a timely fashion.

#### **D. Performance Indicators**

Statistics for the year 2008 are attached as Appendix "A"

#### **E. Anticipated Issues for the Future**

##### Legal issues:

During the past several years, a number of Crime Stoppers Programs in the Province of Ontario have been subpoenaed by defense counsel to provide documentation on information received from tipsters. Although protected under the Supreme Court of Canada (REGINA V. LEIPERT 1997) decision as privileged information, these challenges can be costly for the respective programs as they are forced to hire legal representation to act on their behalf. It is expected that more challenges will be attempted in the future. The OACS has created a provincial legal fund to assist programs faced with such challenges.

##### Board vacancy:

Near North Crime Stoppers is actively trying to recruit new Board members to fill in six vacancies. The Board is confident it will be successful in recruiting new board members from the designated areas.

##### Web tips:

A new software program will enable Crime Stoppers to receive anonymous information via the internet. The software will be available early in the New Year. Several programs in the province of Ontario have been using this software and have reported an increase in Tips received, especially among the younger population.

#### **F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year**

Coordinators will continue with their efforts to ensure proper and timely returns from all investigative agencies. They will meet regularly with the liaison officers and investigators to promote the program and ensure that the information provided is handled properly according to policies and guidelines.

Coordinators will also continue to give presentations to community groups and social clubs in hopes of promoting Crime Stoppers as an effective and anonymous means of

providing information on criminal activity. The new “Web Tips” program will enhance this endeavour by enabling tipsters to anonymously provide information using the internet.

Senior/elder abuse:

In 2007 the OPP, in cooperation with the OACS, launched a Seniors’ Crime Stoppers program targeting senior citizens in the province. The goal of the program was to raise awareness of the Crime Stoppers program as an efficient and anonymous tool to report information on crimes involving senior citizens. Locally coordinators plan to do presentations to senior citizens groups to explain the Crime Stoppers program and hopefully generate more calls.

**G. Other**

N/A

**H. Appendices**

Appendix “A”

## APPENDIX "A"

	Total for 2006	Total for 2007	Total for 2008	Since Inception (June 1988)
Tips received	556	560	530	11,433
Cases cleared	61	26	29	2,385
Arrests	33	35	35	1,341
Property recovered	\$128,365	\$5,467	\$ 21,170	\$ 3,245,998
Drugs seized	\$350,255	\$144,200	\$ 503,260	\$43,121,319
Rewards paid	\$7,375	\$7,140	\$ 4,450	\$156,503

### TIPS RECEIVED 2008

Arson	2	Mischief	13
Assault	16	Missing Persons	9
Breach of Conditions	7	Morality	3
Break & Enter	14	Other	7
Child Abuse	4	Robbery	4
Cruelty to Animals	4	Senior abuse	4
Customs and Excise	16	Sexual Assault	2
Driving	62	Stolen Property	10
Drugs	218	Suspicious Circ.	32
Environment	3	Theft	22
Fish & Wildlife	9	Wanted Person	20
Fraud	32	Weapons Offence	7
Homicide	2	Welfare Fraud	3
L.L.A	5		

**TOTAL: 530**

AGENCY	TIPS	OPP	TIPS
Anishinabek PS	5	Almaguin Highlands	44
JFO Drug Unit	118	Noelville	1
		North Bay	42
MNR	9		
NBPS	117	West Parry Sound	22
Other Agency	19	Prof. Services Bureau	1
Other CS Program	47		
RCMP	19		
Tri-town CS	45		
West Nipissing PS	41		