



# **NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE**

## **2009 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 while combating fear of reprisal by guaranteeing anonymity and by offering a cash reward if the information provided leads to the successful conclusion of a case. The information provided to Crime Stoppers is forwarded to the appropriate investigating agencies. Near North Crime Stoppers Inc. began in North Bay in June 1988. The program serves the Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts. Near North Crime Stoppers is a member of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers (OACS), Canadian Crime Stoppers Association and Crime Stoppers International (CSI). A volunteer board of directors manages the program locally.

## **B. Executive Summary**

Near North Crime Stoppers had a successful year in 2009, receiving 580 new tips, which assisted Police in the recovery of \$18,363 worth of stolen property and \$873,508 in illegal drugs. Of the 580 tips received, 159 were assigned to the various OPP detachments in our catchment area, 244 assigned to the JFO Drug Unit and 152 to the North Bay Police Service. Rewards totalling \$6,325 were paid to tipsters. An increase in the numbers of Tips received in 2009 was noted.

A new version of our tip management computer software (Tipsoft 5) allowed us to anonymously receive tips submitted via the web, as well as permitting secure two way dialogue with the tipster. This new program has been in place since March 2009 and has already proven to be popular. Since the inception of the "Web Tip" program, we have received 94 tips through the internet.

The Board of Directors continued to be very active with the promotion of the program as well as with several fundraising activities.

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

During the upcoming year, Police Coordinators will concentrate their promotional efforts toward targeting seniors, drug related crimes and promoting the program with the younger generation. Efforts will be made to promote the use of "Web-Tips" (submit tips online at [www.nearnorthcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nearnorthcrimestoppers.com) ) and "Tip-Texting" using the popular texting communication method (text 'Nipper' & tip information to Crimes (274637)).

## **C. Activities**

### Police Coordinators

Policing agencies (OPP North Bay Det. and NBPS) provide coordinators to take information from the callers and coordinate the program. In 2009, the North Bay Police Service provided a part time civilian coordinator, Mr. Jean Lemieux, and the OPP also provided a part time coordinator, PC Mike Szarka.

Both coordinators attended the Legal Issues / Provincial Training Conference held in Barrie. In 2009, the Provincial Board agreed to combine the annual Legal Issue Training Seminar with the annual Provincial Conference, resulting in a savings for all programs. This annual event 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, ensuring that the program was operating within the guidelines set up by the Ontario Crime Stoppers Association, the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association and Crime Stoppers International.

The Coordinators attended monthly board meetings and provided statistical data and information regarding the activities of the program and assisted the board with the reward considerations. The Coordinators also supported the NNCS Board of Directors in its fundraising and promotional activities.

Both Coordinators maintained regular contact with enforcement agencies to ensure that tip information provided was handled according to policies and that returns were made in a timely fashion. During 2009, 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, MNR and Military Police) 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.

Mr. Lemieux, the NBPS Coordinator, continued to serve as a Director on the OACS Board. Mr. Lemieux attended monthly meetings and was also a member of the OACS Legal Fund Committee, 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 13 members representing all areas of the Near North Region. Five Director's positions are presently vacant. The Board is actively looking for volunteers to fill these positions. It is to be noted that the designated positions for Parry Sound,

Burk's Falls and West Nipissing were filled during the year. In September 2009, Ms. Judie Pigeau was re-elected as the chairperson for a one-year term. The Board of Directors renewed Ms. Balen's contract as the Executive Director. Ms. Balen works a minimum of three days per week at the Crime Stoppers office and oversees the administration, promotion and funding of the program. The hiring of Ms. Balen in April 2006 has proven to be of great value to Near North Crime Stoppers, making the organization run more effectively.

Being a non-profit, non-governmentally funded organization, Near North Crime Stoppers relies on fundraising activities to offset the costs associated with the day to day operation of the program (i.e. telephone tip lines, computers and software, vehicle rental, payments of reward etc). NNCS Board members were also active with fundraising activities such as bingos, the annual Gala Evening, Ride Against Crime, a golf tournament, Nevada ticket sales and the bi-annual "Jail-a-thon".

#### Tri-Town Crime Stoppers

Near North Crime Stoppers continued to be the call center for the Tri-Town Crime Stoppers Program. In 2009, 57 Tips were received for the Tri-Town area. OPP D/Cst. Rob Clouston worked closely with the 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 2009 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 defence counsel to provide documentation on information received from tipsters. Although protected under the Supreme Court of Canada decision (REGINA V. LEIPERT 1997) as privileged information, the challenges can be costly for programs having to hire legal representation to act on their behalf. It is expected that more challenges will be attempted in the future as demonstrated this past year, where several unsuccessful attempts to obtain Crime Stoppers information were made by defence attorneys across Canada. The OACS has created a provincial legal fund to assist Ontario programs faced with such challenges.

### Board vacancy

Near North Crime Stoppers is actively trying to recruit new Board members to fill in the five vacancies. The Board is confident it will be successful in recruiting suitable Board members.

### Web/Text tips

A new software program enables Crime Stoppers to receive anonymous information via the internet and texting methods. The software has been operational since March 2009 and has already proven to be an effective way for the submission of tips using the internet. It is anticipated that "Tip Texting" will increase in popularity especially with the younger generation.

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

The Coordinators will continue their efforts to ensure proper and timely returns from all investigative agencies, by meeting regularly with Liaison Officers and investigators to promote the program and ensure that the information provided is handled properly according to policies and guidelines. Coordinators will continue to give presentations to community groups and social clubs, explaining and promoting the Crime Stoppers Program as an effective and anonymous means of providing information on criminal activity. Coordinators will also promote the new "WebTip" and "Tip Texting" programs, enabling tipsters to anonymously provide information using the internet / wireless communication devices.

## **G Other**

N/A

## **H. Appendices**

See Appendix A

## Appendix A

	Total for 2007	Total for 2008	Total for 2009	Since Inception (June 1988)
Tips received	560	530	580	12,014
Cases cleared	26	29	22	2,379
Arrests	35	35	24	1,343
Property recovered	\$ 5,467	\$ 21,170	\$ 18,363	\$ 3,264,361
Drugs seized	\$144,200	\$503,260	\$ 873,508	\$ 43,994,827
Rewards paid	\$ 7,140	\$ 4,450	\$ 6,325	\$ 162,828

### TIPS RECEIVED 2009

Arson	6	Mischief	6
Assault	7	Missing Persons	3
Breach of Conditions	5	Morality	7
Break & Enter	14	Other	73
Child Abuse	2	Robbery	9
Cruelty to Animals	3	Senior abuse	2
Customs and Excise	2	Sexual Assault	2
Driving	50	Stolen Property	12
Drugs	244	Suspicious Circ.	33
Environment	1	Theft	26
Fish & Wildlife	2	Wanted Person	23
Fraud	25	Weapons Offence	10
Homicide	8	Welfare Fraud	3
L.L.A	2		

**Total : 580**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>TIPS</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>TIPS</u>
Anishinabek PS	2	Almaguin Highlands	45
JFO Drug Unit	244	OPP R.A.C.T	25
MNR	5	North Bay	75
NBPS	152	West Parry Sound	39
Other Agency	21	Provincial Weapons Unit	10
Other CS Program	70		
RCMP	6		
Tri-town CS	57		
West Nipissing PS	28		