



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2010 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 invite citizens to anonymously provide information on criminal activity while combating fear of reprisal by guaranteeing anonymity and by offering cash reward if the information provided leads to the successful conclusion of an investigation.

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 (NNCS) had a successful year in 2010, receiving 678 new tips, which assisted police in the recovery of \$193,023 in property and \$ 4,308,700 in illegal drugs. Of the 678 tips received, 196 were assigned to the various OPP detachments in our catchment area, 241 assigned to the JFO Drug Unit and 290 to the North Bay Police Service. Rewards totalling \$9,135 were paid to tipsters. A significant increase in the numbers of Tips received in 2010 was noted.

A new version of the tip management computer software (Tipsoft 5) allowed NNCS to anonymously receive tips submitted via the web, text message, as well as permitting secure two-way dialogue with the tipster. This new program has been in place since March 2009. A total of 160 tips were received in 2010 via the web & texting.

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

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

During the upcoming year, police coordinators will concentrate their promotion efforts on focusing on crimes against seniors, drug related crimes and promoting the program with the youth population. Efforts will be made to promote the use of "Web-Tips" (submit tips online at www.nearnorthcrimestoppers.com and "Tip-Texting" using the popular texting communication method (text 'Nipper' & tip information to Crimes (274637)).

C. Activities

Police Coordinators

The North Bay OPP Detachment and the NBPS provided coordinators to take information from callers and administer the NNCS program. The NBPS Coordinator

attended the Legal Issues/Provincial Training Conference held in Windsor. Since 2009, the Provincial Board has agreed to combine the annual Legal Issue Training Seminar and the Annual Provincial Conference, resulting in a cost saving for all programs. This annual event proved beneficial to the coordinators 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 new legal issues and case law, ensuring that the program was operating within the guidelines set by the Ontario Crime Stoppers Association, the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association and Crime Stoppers International.

Locally, the coordinators attended monthly board meetings, providing statistical data and information regarding the activities of the program and assisted the board with rewards consideration. 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 policy and that returns were made in a timely fashion. During 2010 coordinators also provided information sessions to several service clubs, high schools and other organizations in the area, to explain and promote the program.

Other enforcement agencies, namely the West Nipissing Police Service, Ministry of Natural Resources 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 agencies and ensured 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. The NBPS coordinator attended monthly meetings and was 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 14 members representing all areas of the Near North region. Four positions are presently vacant. One of the vacant positions will be filled in early 2011. The board is actively looking for volunteers to fill the remaining positions. In September 2010, Mr. Peter Rooney was elected as the Chairperson for a one-year term. The Board of Directors has 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, software, vehicle rental, payments of reward etc). NNCS Board members were active with fund raising activities such as bingos, the annual Gala Evening, Ride Against Crime, annual golf tournament,

Nevada ticket sales and the bi-annual "Jail-A-Thon". A telemarketing campaign by Community First Funding Group proved very successful in the West Nipissing area during the month of December. A similar campaign will begin in the North Bay and Parry Sound areas in early 2011.

Tri-Town Crime Stoppers

Near North Crime Stoppers continued to be the call center for the Tri-Town Crime Stoppers Program. In 2010, 86 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 2010 are included under Appendices.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Legal issues

As previously reported, a number of Crime Stoppers Programs in the Province have been subpoenaed by defense counsel to provide documentation on information received from tipsters with regards to major cases. Although protected under the Supreme Court of Canada (REGINA V. LEIPERT 1997) as privileged information, the challenges can be costly for the programs to hire legal representation to act on their behalf. It is expected that more challenges will be attempted in the future. In 2009, the OACS created a provincial legal fund to assist Ontario programs faced with such challenges. Mr. Harry McMurtry has been retained as legal advisor for all programs in Ontario. Should the need arise, Mr. McMurtry will provide legal advice and represent Crime Stoppers in court proceedings.

After hours call taking center cost

Alternative Answers, based in Bolton ON, has been providing all programs in Ontario with after-hours call answering service for the past several years. In order to provide 24 hour/day coverage, it is mandatory for all programs to be able to rely on a professional service that can provide trained call takers. For the past 10 years, the OACS has secured funding for this service from the provincial government. However, in recent years, the funding received did not cover the entire cost of the service, a shortfall of approximately \$25,000 per year. The cost associated to this service is expected to rise in the coming years. The OACS is working diligently in trying to secure, from the provincial government, the extra funding needed. Should it fail, each individual program will have to absorb the added cost, adding an extra financial burden on local programs.

Web/Text tips

A software program developed in 2009 has enabled Crime Stoppers programs to receive anonymous information via the Internet and texting methods. The software has proven to be an effective way to submit tips using the Internet. In 2010, 160 Web/Text tips were received locally. It is anticipated that Web/Text tips will continue to increase in popularity, especially with the younger generation. It has been noted that the quality of tips received via Web/Text was less than that of phoned-in tips, probably due to the fact that there was no personal interaction with the tipster. Although two-way communication is available, tipsters don't always reply to requests for clarification made by a coordinator.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

The coordinators will continue with their efforts to ensure proper and timely returns from all investigative agencies, by meeting 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 continue giving presentations to community groups, social clubs and high schools, explaining the program and promoting the Crime Stoppers Program as an effective and anonymous means of providing information on criminal activity. Coordinators will also continue to promote the "WebTip and Tip Texting" programs, enabling tipsters to anonymously provide information using internet/wireless communication devices.

G. Other

N/A

H. Appendices

See Appendix A

APPENDIX A

	Total for 2008	Total for 2009	Total for 2010	Since Inception (June 1988)
Tips received	530	580	678	12,690
Cases cleared	29	22	51	2,430
Arrests	35	24	64	1,407
Property recovered	\$ 21,170	\$ 18,363	\$ 193,023	\$ 3,457,384
Drugs seized	\$ 503,260	\$873,508	\$4,308,700	\$48,303,527
Rewards paid	\$ 4,450	\$ 6,325	\$ 9,135	\$ 171,963

Tips Received – 2010

Arson	11	Mischief	10
Assault	6	Missing Persons	4
Breach of Conditions	12	Morality	9
Break & Enter	13	Other	91
Child Abuse	2	Robbery	7
Cruelty to Animals	4	Senior abuse	1
Customs and Excise	6	Sexual Assault	4
Driving	66	Stolen Property	11
Drugs	262	Suspicious Circ.	40
Environment	1	Theft	20
Fish & Wildlife	10	Wanted Person	30
Fraud	27	Weapons Offence	9
Homicide	14	Welfare Fraud	4
L.L.A	4		
		Total	678

<u>Agency</u>	<u>TIPS</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>TIPS</u>
Anishinabek PS	9	Almaguin Highlands	50
JFO Drug Unit	241	OPP R.A.C.T	20
MNR	16	North Bay	72
NBPS	290	West Parry Sound	46
Other Agency	25	Provincial Weapons Unit	8
Other CS Program	64		
RCMP	11		
Tri-town CS	86		
West Nipissing PS	31		

Please note that some Tips were assigned to multiple agencies.