

Crime Stoppers

Bruce Baron, Coordinator

What We Do...

Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers is part of an internationally recognized program that empowers the public to fight back against crime. The coordinator's office is run out of the Kelowna Detachment. Some of the components of the program include Mug\$hots, Unsolved Crimes, Hot Cars, Drug Free Zones and Crime Re-enactments. The coordinator's office liaises with the Society, whose volunteers assist with promotion, fund raising, events and special projects or programs under the supervision of a volunteer Board of Directors. Through Crime Stoppers, citizens are able to safely and anonymously report knowledge of criminal activity by calling our 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) phone line or visiting our secure online web tip submission form at www.crimestoppers.net. Tipsters providing information leading to an arrest and charges are eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

2008 Statistics

- 1159 tips were received on the Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) phone line or from our website that helped the R.C.M.P. clear 123 cases.
- Value of narcotics seized and property recovered was over 5.7 million dollars. In 2007, Crime Stoppers paid out \$15, 425. That works out to one dollar spent per \$1060.00 recovered
- Drug offences accounted for 37% of all tips taken in 2007, with most providing information about trafficking and marijuana growing operations.
- Wanted and Mug\$hots information accounted for 21% of all tips taken in 2007.
- Thefts, Robberies, Fraud and Possession of Stolen Property accounted for 13% of tips taken during the year.

2007 Highlights

- Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers hosted the BC Crime Stoppers Conference in May 2007 in Kelowna. The Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers Society won the award for Media Partner of the Year, celebrating their very successful partnership with castanet.net, who feature Kelowna's Most Wanted on a daily basis. Bruce Baron also received an award for his work with Canada Border Services, and the Central Okanagan Program also won the Crime Stoppers Program of the Year Award.
- In June, the 9th Annual Whillis-Harding - Crime Stoppers Community Fund Raising golf tournament was held at the Kelowna Springs Golf Club. Once again this event was hugely successful, with almost 100 participants.
- In September, the Board of Directors met to identify priorities and strategies. Out of that session, Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers has recognized the need to

become better promoted in schools and with teens, as well as further its relationship with Canadian Border Services.

- MediaScene Inc. conducted a community canvas, raising more than \$20,000 in proceeds for Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers.
- Our Media Partners CHBC-TV, CKOV-63, Power 104, The Capital News, Westside Weekly, and Lake Country Calendar, continued to support Crime Stoppers with significant coverage of Unsolved Crimes, Hot Car, Crime Re-enactments, Mugshots, and other features as required during the year. We have also been featured in Beyond Fifty and Zamoof Magazines.
- British Columbia Crime Stoppers Associations has partnered with BC Hydro to encourage people to report suspected grow operations. A protocol between Crime Stoppers, BC Hydro, and the RCMP has been established.

2008 Initiatives

- The Crime Stoppers newspaper will now be published online and the first edition will come out in January, coinciding with International Crime Stoppers Month.
- Work with School District 23 to further promote Crime Stoppers in schools. Enhance Crime Stopper's relationship with Canada Border Services
- Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers will be assisting Revelstoke Crime Stoppers Society, who will be hosting the BC Training Conference May 1st through 3rd, 2008.
- The 10th Annual Crime Stoppers Community Fund Raising golf tournament will be held Friday, June 20, 2008 at Sunset Ranch, registration at 12 noon.
- Crime Stoppers will host a variety of events, including Kelowna Chamber of Commerce luncheons, Downtown Kelowna Association's After Five, and other events throughout the Central Okanagan.
- Summer 2008 will see the introduction of text messaging availability to tipsters as an alternative to phone in or web-submission of tips.