

# SPECIALIZED SERVICES

*To promote and enhance partnerships within our community to work together in helping prevent and solve crimes.*

## Forensic Identification Services

Forensic Identification services assist in identifying persons responsible for crimes through the collection, analysis and preservation of physical evidence from crime scenes for subsequent court presentations. Trained personnel include two forensic identification officers and seven scenes of crime officers who provide support to all areas and investigations. Two additional scenes of crime officers were trained in 2008 at the Ontario Police College to develop latent fingerprints with powder, to collect trace evidence for further examination, to recover two and three dimensional impressions as well as to photograph crime scenes. In addition to these skills, the

forensic identification officers compare fingerprint and footwear impressions, physical matches and identify this evidence where possible.

New acquisitions to the forensic identification equipment in 2008 include a Total Station Measuring device which increases the proficiency in recording scale diagrams. As well, an additional Forensic Identification officer was selected in 2008 and received extensive training in early 2009 to complement the crime scene services. Constable James Fast commenced duties as the Forensic Identification officer in May 2009, taking over for Constable Terri Hikele who takes her expertise back to the front line platoon.

The DNA databank is coordinated through the forensic identification office. Since its inception in July 2000, the DNA databank continues to be used to assist police in the identification of suspects and to solve serious crimes. Data from the Convicted offender's index is cross-referenced with DNA profiles left at crime scenes and kept in a crime scene index. Along with submitting forty-one new DNA samples to the databank in 2008 from convicted persons, there is a liaison duty with the Centre of Forensic Sciences to investigate hits from DNA submissions.

Forensic identification services have again assisted and supported officers in a wide variety of offences from mischief to arson, sexual assaults and hit and run motor vehicle investigations.

## Crime Stoppers

Constable Katherine McNeil

The success of St. Thomas Crime Stoppers is the direct result of the special partnership between our Community, Police Service and local media. 2008 proved to be an exceptionally positive year, statistically and publicly.

A member of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and Crime Stoppers International, our program is proud to represent this community in the fight against crime. This not-for-profit organization gives each and every citizen the right and opportunity to provide information regarding criminal activity anonymously, without fear of retribution. Crime Stoppers guarantees that a tipster will never have to reveal their identity or testify in court. Crime Stoppers has been recognized by the Ontario, Canadian and International Associations of Chiefs of Police, and Interpol as being one of the most successful community programs in gathering information that assists in solving crime.



Constable McNeil

January is Crime Stoppers Month. An annual Appreciation Dinner was held in mid January to recognize the many community businesses that supported the program in 2007.

The success of Crime Stoppers is three-fold. Without the commitment and diligence of its partners- the Community, the Police and the Media - Crime Stoppers would cease to exist.

The Community is represented by a group of extraordinary citizens who volunteer their time and efforts to serve as Crime Stoppers Directors. The program's success is a reflection of their dedication and commitment this past year. The 2008 Board of Directors included: Karen Whitehead, Theresa Holmes, Georg Bisanz, Marg Goulding, Ryan Comfort, Michelle Elliott, Craig Duncan, Rob Kenny, Janet Brodrip, Dan Dale, Al Hughson, Kelly Payne, Grant Hughson, Helen Hodgson, Wayne Ward, Jim Malik, Carrie Riddell, and Brian Slaght.

Karen Whitehead retired from the Board in September 2008. Karen began as the recording secretary and served as the Chair of the Board on and off for years. We want to recognize Karen's long term dedication to the program and thank her for all her efforts over the past 20 years.

The St. Thomas Police Service continues to be paramount to the success of the program by providing the Police Coordinator and office space within police headquarters to run its' day to day operations. The information provided by Crime Stoppers tipsters is

only as good as the police personnel who receive tips and St. Thomas is fortunate to have dedicated officers who work hard to follow up on the tips.

In 2008, our partners in print, television and radio media played an integral role in promoting the program by covering fundraising events, crime re-enactments and weekly publication of crimes directly affecting our community through "Crime of the Week" post-

ings. Rogers TV produced a weekly television program called "City Watch" which widened our audience with the hope of generating new information from the public to solve cold cases. The program ran daily, but was unfortunately cancelled in June by Rogers TV. Our thanks to the show's producer, Joe Brown, for his dedication to the Crime Stoppers organization.

St. Thomas Crime Stoppers continued to participate in training conferences in 2008. Representatives attended the annual Legal Issues seminar hosted by the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers in Gravenhurst in April. In June, the Ontario Association's training conference was held in Hamilton. Karen Whitehead, Theresa Holmes, Ryan Comfort and Constable McNeil attended and received two awards. The first was a Media Award for best Crime of the Week appeal on Television - the reenactment of a break and enter into Facca Fasteners on St. Catharine Street where the teens involved caused extensive damage to the inside of the business. This reenactment appeared on the Rogers TV program City Watch. The second award was for the Best Crime Stoppers Vehicle - a 2008 Dodge Nitro donated by Elgin Chrysler and decaled by Al Jewell's Perfect Signs.

In August, Karen Whitehead, Theresa Holmes and Constable McNeil attended the Crime Stoppers International Training Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Representatives from around the globe were in attendance to learn how Crime Stoppers is becoming instrumental in assisting agencies such as the United

Nations in the fight against global terrorism. The conferences theme was "Motivate - Educate - Accelerate." Crime Stoppers of St. Thomas received five awards. The first was a Productivity Award for "Greatest Increase in Total Property Recovered" and the remaining 4 were media awards. All three of our Media Partners were winners. Roger TV's program Politically Speaking won an award for best Special Feature/TV, and City Watch won for Best Crime of the Week Appeal on TV. Astral Media won for the Best Crime of the Week Appeal on the radio and The St. Thomas Times Journal won for Best Crime of the Week Appeal in newspaper.

Fundraising events in 2008 included the ever popular "Rock and Bowl" which took place November 15th at Park N Bowl in St. Thomas, raising \$5,300.00. Our annual "Bail or Jail" was held again at The Real Canadian Superstore on May 21st. The community came through once again by jailing family, friends and coworkers to raise over \$8000.00.

The "School Crime Stoppers" program continued to be a major endeavor this year. Constable McNeil attended every senior elementary school and one of the high schools to spread the message of Crime Stoppers and how together, we can work to keep their schools safe. High School student actors were recruited to play the "bad guys" in the television reenactments on City Watch.

Crime Stoppers was also very involved in community events this year. We had displays at Central Elgin Collegiate Health Fair in May, Elgin Mall to launch the "Cash for Guns" campaign in June, Lions Club Cruise Night in June, Seniors Day in the Park in July, the Iron Horse Festival in August, the Fire Muster Labour Day Weekend, Halloween Cruise night in September and the Santa Claus parade in November.

In April 2008 the St. Thomas Crime Stoppers program launched the ability to accept anonymous tips on line via our web site [www.stthomascrimestoppers.ca](http://www.stthomascrimestoppers.ca). This allows tipsters to go to our web site, as well as the St. Thomas Police web site and submit a tip on line. Thirty-four (34) Web Tips were received in 2008.

STATISTICS . . . . . 2008 . . SINCE INCEPTION	
Number of Calls . . . . .	269 . . . . .
Arrests . . . . .	10 . . . . .
Cases Cleared . . . . .	7 . . . . .
Rewards Paid . . . . .	\$1,775 . . . . . \$134,230
Recovered Property . . .	\$205,148 . . . . . \$3,453,585
Recovered Narcotics . . .	\$24,281 . . . . . \$7,039,661