

We are asking all York Region Mayors and Councils to support us in any way( vote in Council +++ ) they can to communicate to residents this dire situation. We will be sending a proclamation to your council and hopefully all municipalities will sign it. The Proclamation of Support will be read at our symposium on March 31 in Newmarket . Many politicians( municipal, provincial and federal) will be in attendance, so please let me know if you will be able to attend. Your support is much appreciated. If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you .

Jack Hurst  
Chair  
Crimestoppers York Region

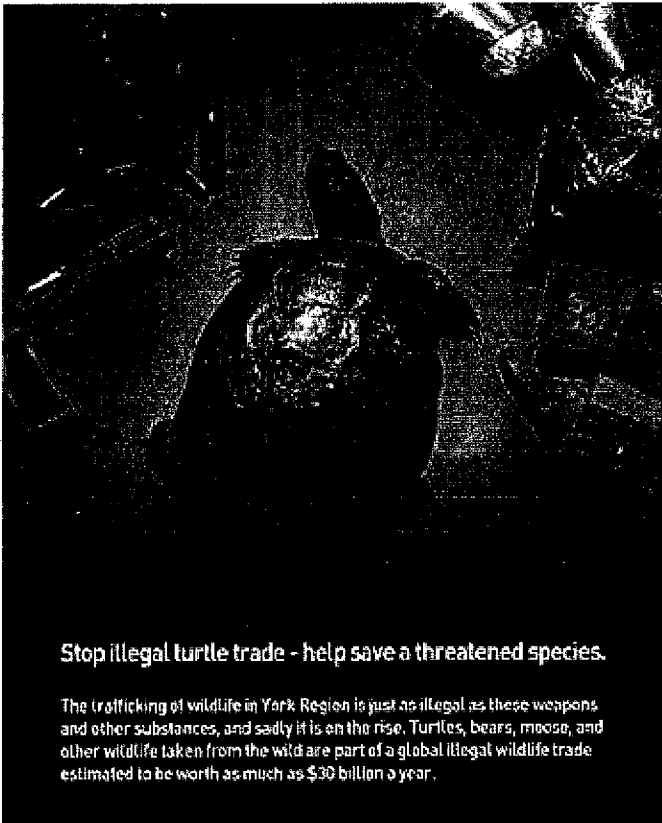
## **Crime Stoppers Encourages Local Residents to Help Curb Illegal and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking in York Region**

Monday, February 8, 2016 – Newmarket, ON — Crime Stoppers of York Region today announced that it will host a public symposium next month to raise awareness about the growing illegal and illicit trafficking of wildlife in York Region.

The Wildlife Symposium will take place at Newmarket Theatre on Pickering Crescent on Thursday, March 31, 2016 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Joining Crime Stoppers of York Region at the Symposium will be a number of other federal and provincial organizations concerned about the

rise in wildlife trafficking, including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, York Regional Police, The Toronto Zoo, the Ontario SPCA and Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement.

The wildlife being taken from York Region's lakes, rivers, forests and wetlands include everything from bear and moose to rare and endangered turtles. Some of the turtles most frequently targeted by traffickers include wood turtles and spotted turtles. The global illegal wildlife trade, which includes elephant and rhino ivory tusks, is estimated to be worth approximately \$30 billion a year. Animals targeted by illegal traffickers include rare species prized by collectors and endangered animals killed for food.



“Poaching is a serious issue which can have detrimental impacts on the sustainability of turtle populations,” says Dr. Andrew Lentini, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, Toronto Zoo. “The Toronto Zoo is proud to be a long-standing partner of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers. The partnership between Toronto Zoo and Crime Stoppers to address the serious issue of illegal turtle and other wildlife harvest and trade provides the ideal communications network for these issues.”

“The illegal trade of wildlife is the fourth most lucrative criminal activity worldwide, only exceeded by the trade of narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking,” says David Forster, President of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and the elected Canadian Representative to Crime Stoppers International. “Crime Stopper programs throughout Ontario, Canada and the world are assisting law enforcement by engaging the community to anonymously report these illegal activities to Crime Stoppers.”

Jack Hurst, Chair of Crime Stoppers of York Region and the organizer of the Symposium, adds that “people should watch for suspicious activity in natural areas, including off-trail activities,

overnight parking, or anglers carrying unusual equipment such as snares or a large number of buckets. We encourage people to get involved and help prevent the trafficking of our wildlife.”

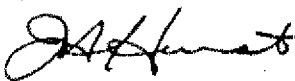
Residents who suspect poaching near their homes or farms can anonymously call Crime Stoppers toll-free at any time of the day at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or they can call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry tip line at 1-877-847-7667.

To learn more about Crime Stoppers of York Region, please visit:  
<http://www.1800222tips.com/>.

For more information, please contact Crime Stoppers of York Region at (905) 830-0303, ext. 6767.

Thank you .

Best Regards,



**Jack A. Hurst**

President

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Town of \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ recognizes that our wildlife has always been and will continue to be a valued and vibrant part of our community; and

WHEREAS, **Crimestoppers of York Region** recognizes there is a threat to this vital resource because of the illegal and illicit trade of turtles, bear parts, snakes and other wildlife by criminals; and

WHEREAS, many of these species are rare and their very survival is threatened and

WHEREAS, the illegal trade of wildlife is the 4<sup>th</sup> most lucrative criminal activity worldwide valued of \$30 billion a year only exceeded by the trade of narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, there are joint efforts by **Crimestoppers of York Region**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Toronto Zoo, Environment Canada and other organizations to communicate this problem; and

WHEREAS, **Crimestoppers of York Region** is holding a symposium with many concerned local, provincial and national organizations to communicate this problem to York Region residents on March 31, 2016 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in Newmarket at the Newmarket theatre.

### Now therefore

I \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim the weeks of April 4 to April 17, 2016, **Stop the illegal and Illicit Trade of Wildlife in York Region Weeks** and encourage all citizens to attend the Symposium on March 31, 2016 and help prevent the trafficking of our wildlife in York Region.