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OPP gets state-of-the art forensic ID unit

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Forensic Identification Unit in Orillia will be modernized as part of the McGuinty government's \$50-million investment in new facilities for front-line police officers, Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter announced Monday.

"Our government is on the side of Ontario families concerned about crime and safety," said Kwinter. "The new forensic identification unit will significantly increase the OPP's ability to meet the demands of modern forensic investigations and keep our communities safe."

The new facility will bring together the existing forensic units in Orillia, Barrie and Bolton under one roof and provide for enhanced capacity to handle many of the new forensic technologies now available to

apprehend and convict offenders. OPP forensic identification units are responsible for crime scene management, for evidence processing in support of the investigation and prosecution of crime, and for the integrity and continuity of evidence from the time it is collected to the time it is presented in court.

"This project is one of many projects in the McGuinty government's five-year \$30-billion plus infrastructure renewal plan to modernize facilities in the justice and law enforcement sector," said Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan.

"The Ontario Realty Corporation will work with the OPP to deliver a facility that meets all their requirements."

"This new facility will allow forensic unit officers to utilize up-to-

date tools in forensic sciences," said OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino. "This will play an important role in our fight against crime throughout central Ontario."

Project development is underway with the Ontario Realty Corporation releasing a Request for Proposals for Architectural, Engineering and Laboratory Consulting Services this month. Plans are to have the new facility up and running by spring 2008.

The McGuinty government is contributing to the safety, health and prosperity of the province by helping our policing partners put 1,000 new police officers on the streets and giving them the tools they need to keep Ontarians safe, by expanding access to health care, by strengthening public education and by encouraging strong job creation.

Crime of the Week - Barrie bank robbed

Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka and the Barrie Police Service are requesting the assistance of the public in helping to solve a bank robbery that occurred at the Bank of Nova Scotia on Molson Park Drive in Barrie.

On Dec. 11th, an unknown male entered the Bank, approached a teller and demanded money, stating that he had a gun. This male left the bank a short time later with an undisclosed amount of cash. This male is suspected of committing several similar robberies in the southern Ontario region from Brampton to Windsor. He is most recently suspected of committing a robbery in St Catherine's. This male has become known as the "Under Armour" bandit due to the style of clothing he has been seen wearing during each of the robberies.

The suspect is a white male, in his late 20's to early 30's, approximately 5'9" tall with short blond hair, wearing a dark blue baseball cap with an "Under Armour" logo on the front and a dark blue zip up jacket with white stripes on the sleeves.

Consider that you may hold the key to solving this crime. You can be part of the solution to keep your community safe.

If you have any information regarding the possible identity of the person(s) responsible for this or any other crime and wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display. Being anonymous, you will not testify in court. Your information may lead to a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Weekend incidents - from the Barrie OPP

Barrie OPP officers investigated 48 incidents over the past weekend including 1 motor vehicle collision and 2 impaired drivers charged.

Barrie OPP officers received a report of a vehicle travelling the wrong way on Highway 400 from the Hwy 11/400 split shortly after 4pm on Sunday. The vehicle was southbound in the northbound lanes. Officers were able to stop the vehicle south of Mapleview Drive without incident. The female driver, Jami Van Grootel, 19, of Belle Ewart is

charged with Impaired Driving, Exceed 80 Mgs and Dangerous Driving with a February 7, 2007 court date.

The Barrie OPP Festive RIDE program stopped 889 vehicles over the past weekend and no violations were observed. The RIDE program is ongoing and is set up randomly throughout the area.

The Barrie OPP would like to remind motorists to leave their vehicles at home or take a taxi or have a designated driver if they on consuming any alcoholic beverages.

South Simcoe Police

Criminal Harassment /Breach of Recognizance

Police have arrested and charged a 59 year old Innisfil male with Criminal Harassment and Breach of Recognizance after receiving a complaint from a female that she was being watched by a male. Investigation revealed the accused, who was not known to the complainant, had been driving by her house 4 or 5 times per day for the past several weeks. On December 12th he drove by 13 times and, on one occasion, stopped and waved. The actions of the accused caused her to fear for the safety of herself and her family. When police arrested the accused they discovered he was on bail conditions to remain within his residence. He was held for a bail hearing on December 14 in Barrie.

Over 80 mgs

On Thursday December 14, at 12:20 a.m. police stopped a vehicle on St. Paul's Crescent in the Town of Innisfil for erratic driving. While in conversation with the driver, the officer detected an odour of alcohol on his breath. A roadside test was administered resulting in a fail. The driver was arrested and taken to the station where he failed two intoxilyzer tests. A 50 year old Innisfil male was charged with Over 80 mgs and released from custody with a court date in February 2007. In addition, he received a 90 day licence suspension.

Dangerous Driving

On Friday, December 15th, at midnight the South Simcoe Police service and the York Regional Police Service were doing a joint RIDE program. During the program on Bridge St. in

the Town of Bradford an officer advised the driver of the Chrysler Sebring to pull over to the side of the road to be spoken to. As the officer approached the vehicle the vehicle in question the driver sped off. Members of the South Simcoe Police Service followed the vehicle in behind a business where the driver fled on foot. Officers pursued the driver through a field that backed onto a school.

The quick thinking of and on duty officer who new the accused advised that he knew where the male in question would be headed and advised officers to attend to the rear of the school. Officers located the male at this location and arrested a 42 year old Bradford male for Dangerous driving.

The accused was held for a bail hearing the next day.

Theft of ATV

Sometime between Thursday December 14, at 7:00p.m. and Saturday December 16, at 8:00a.m. person(s) unknown removed a 1991 Yamaha Kodiak ATV (dark green) from the backyard of a residence on Simcoe Blvd in the Town of Innisfil. It is believed that the ATV was pushed from the backyard towards St. John's Rd.

Anyone with information is asked to called police.

Mischief Under \$5000 (Domestic)

On Saturday December 16, at approximately 10:22p.m. police received a 911 call from a residence on Kimberly St in the Town of Innisfil. The husband and wife were having an argument and the husband went into another room and closed the door to get away from his wife. The wife found a screwdriver and

Fraud Alert - Phoney Lottery

The South Simcoe Police would like to remind the public to be on the look out for a possible scam surrounding a suspected phoney lottery. Police received a report from a 75 year old Innisfil resident after she received a letter that was addressed to her husband advising him that he had won a lottery in the amount of \$30,790,500.00. It further indicated there were five winners, and in order to claim a share of the money the recipient had to forward copies of his

Driver's Licence, Passport, and banking information by fax to a Lotto Commission in Spain. The complainant indicated they had not entered any lottery of type and was very suspicious that this was a scam targeting seniors.

If you receive a letter such as this never give out your personal information as it may be used to gain access to your bank accounts, assume your identity, or other illegitimate purposes.

began stabbing at the door to the room where the husband was located. After making a hole in the door, the wife took the screwdriver and pried off the door knob.

A 57 year old Innisfil female has been arrested and charged with Mischief Under \$5000, and the female is being held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Impaired Care & Control

On Saturday December 16, at approximately 3:10

a.m. South Simcoe Police investigated a vehicle that was parked in a Mary St parking lot in the Town of Bradford. The driver of the vehicle was showing obvious signs of impairment and he was arrested. Police have charged a 19 year old Bradford male with Impaired Care & Control and Excess Alcohol. The male was also charged with one count of Breach of Probation.

The male has a court date in Bradford on January 11, 2007.