



News Release

RCMP Execute Search Warrant on Woodstock Residence

(London, Ontario - Friday, May 27th, 2011) - As the result of an investigation involving the London Customs & Excise Section of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with the assistance of Woodstock Police Service Drug Enforcement Unit and Woodstock Municipal By-law Enforcement, a Search Warrant was executed at a residence in Woodstock, Ontario. Officers seized approximately 8,600 contraband cigarettes. The brand names included Canadian Menthol, DK's and loose unmarked cigarettes packaged in Ziploc bags. Also seized was approximately 27.6 grams of marihuana.

A 68 year old male of Woodstock, Ontario was arrested and faces charges for possession of a tobacco product not properly stamped under the Excise Act, 2001 and possession of cannabis marihuana, contrary to Section 4(1) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

It is an offence in Canada to possess tobacco products not properly stamped under the Excise Act, 2001. Offenders convicted of possessing, buying or selling contraband tobacco products could be subject to fines or penalties ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years. This excludes Provincial fines, which can be many times higher.

Although the effects of illegal tobacco activities may not be obvious, all Canadians, feel the repercussions of these activities in the form of;

- The loss of millions in federal and provincial government revenues.
- Undermining of public health efforts to decrease tobacco use.
- Preventing legitimate business from carrying out their activities in a climate of fair competition.

“Many Canadians believe that the illicit tobacco trade does not directly impact them but that is simply not the case,” stated Inspector Dwight Blok, Officer in Charge of London Detachment. “The RCMP together with the support and involvement of our partners are commitment to targeting this crime.”

Anyone with information regarding the sale and manufacturing of contraband tobacco is asked to contact the RCMP at 1-800-387-0020 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-265-4444.

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