

200,000 Contraband Cigarettes Seized by the Central St. Lawrence Valley Regional Task Force

Cornwall, Ontario - On January 7th, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., intelligence officers from the Canada Border Services Agency working with officers from the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Cornwall Office and officers from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service followed a 1999 Chevrolet Suburban from Cornwall Island in Akwesasne, Ontario to a residence located on Sixth Street West in Cornwall, Ontario. Officers observed the driver back up to a garage located at the residence and then a short time later they observed the driver acting suspiciously.

Officers stopped the driver and registered owner of the truck, a 31 year old male resident of Sixth Street West, and questioned him. As a result, officers seized 1,000 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes from the garage located on the Sixth Street West property that were manufactured in the United States and smuggled into Canada. This represents 200,000 contraband cigarettes worth \$22,000 that were not properly packaged or stamped and were destined to be sold illegally. No charges have been laid by the RCMP and the investigation continues.

The illicit tobacco market involves a broad range of criminal organizations. The RCMP will continue to monitor the illegal movement of tobacco, whether domestically or cross-border, and will take the appropriate enforcement actions and measures.

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