

## **Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Vehicle Stop leads to seizure of 200,000 Contraband Cigarettes by the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment**

### [News Release](#)

**Akwesasne, Ontario** - On January 9th, 2008, at 11:05 a.m., an officer from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service observed a 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix travelling northbound on International Road on Cornwall Island in Akwesasne, Ontario. Once the vehicle traveled over the Seaway Bridge, the officer activated his emergency equipment to stop the vehicle on Brookdale Avenue in Cornwall, Ontario. The driver accelerated passing two vehicles heading southbound on Brookdale Avenue. The driver swerved in front of another southbound vehicle and drove towards the bridge. Reaching speeds of 90 kilometres and hour, the driver drove past a bridge authority flag person causing him to quickly move out of the way. The driver then made an unsafe pass on the north bound lane passing four vehicles past a blind left hand turn on the bridge. Another Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service officer arrived and activated his emergency equipment at which time the driver stopped. The officer approached the driver noticing a strong odour of tobacco coming from the driver's side window. The driver was arrested for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and flight from police under authority of the *Criminal Code*. Officers from the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP detachment were contacted to attend the scene. The RCMP officers seized 1,000 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes that were manufactured in the United States. This represents 200,000 contraband cigarettes worth \$22,000 that were not properly packaged or stamped and were destined to be sold illegally.

The driver, a 19 year old male resident of Rae Road in Cornwall, Ontario was arrested and will be charged by the RCMP under Section 32(1) of the *Excise Act 2001* for possession of a tobacco product not properly stamped according to the *Excise Act 2001*. He was released to appear in Cornwall court on February 7th, 2008. He also faces charges from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and flight from police under authority of the *Criminal Code*. The vehicle, registered to a female resident of St. Michel Avenue in Cornwall, Ontario and valued at \$3,075, was also seized by the RCMP.

Public safety and security is the fundamental priority of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and the RCMP. There was a total disregard by the driver for the safety of the public who he put at risk while trying to evade the police. That concerns us and we will continue to ensure that our communities remain safe from the effects of criminal activity.

Sgt. Michael Harvey

Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment

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