

\$5 million in marijuana taken off the streets ? 4 charged

Following a lengthy investigation into large indoor marijuana grow operations in Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey Counties, members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) and the Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) recently executed three search warrants in Adjala-Tosorontio Township, Amaranth Township and Grey Highlands.

As a result, police have arrested and charged two adult males and two adult females with several marijuana production and possession offences under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act.

During the execution of the warrants, police located two indoor grow operations, one in Adjala-Tosorontio and one in Grey Highlands. Over 5,000 plants were seized with a value of approximately \$5 million. At a third location, where a warrant was executed, police seized packaged marijuana valued at \$4000 dollars. Also at this location, police seized marijuana growing equipment, a sports utility vehicle and enclosed trailer as property related to the offences.

In June 2013 as part of this ongoing investigation, police executed a warrant in Amaranth Township which resulted in the seizure of 80 marijuana plants with a street value of \$80,000 dollars.

Charged in this investigation are 48 year old Joao Saraiva of Amaranth Township, 29 year old Nick Watman of Keswick, 59 year old Susan Douglas of Flesherton (Grey County) and 43 year old Ji Hie of Amaranth Township.

The accused persons have court dates in Owen Sound, Orangeville and Bradford.