

A central Ontario car theft ring has been broken by OPP. Two men are charged but remain at large.

As a result of investigating the theft of a 1998 GMC Jimmy sport utility vehicle from C.H. Davidson Motors, Campbellford, on June 5, two males now face multiple charges.

The auto theft ring operated in St. Catharines, Barrie, Bancroft, Campbellford, Belleville, Stirling and Napanee. The investigating team consisted of members of the Northumberland OPP Crime Unit, the OPP Central Ontario Street Crime Unit, Campbellford OPP detachment, Napanee OPP, and the OPP Auto Theft Team (based in Toronto).

To date, seven stolen vehicles have been recovered valued at over \$225,000.

Two males face multiple charges of theft over \$5,000, possession of stolen property over \$5,000 and fraud over \$5,000.

The two men would attend auto dealerships and ask to test drive a new vehicle. They would then either not return with the vehicle or would have a key cut and return later to steal the vehicle.

Charged are Edward Leslie Sweet, 57, of Napanee, and John Wayne Savoie, 34, of Niagara Falls, ON.

Arrest warrants are outstanding for the two men. Police are requesting public assistance locating the men.

Anyone with information can call the Campbellford OPP detachment at (705) 653-3300, or their local OPP detachment.

At approximately 3:40 p.m. July 9, a single motor vehicle collision occurred on County Road 25, Percy Township.

Driver Kent Flesch, 29, of Roseneath, one of two people in the car, was treated at Campbellford hospital for injuries and then arrested for

impaired driving of a motor vehicle as well as careless driving.

Mr. Flesch is scheduled to appear in provincial court in August.

Sometime overnight July 15-16, a 1984 Harley Davidson motorcycle was taken from a Jakes Drive driveway on Seymour Township.

Value of the bike is \$12,000. It has a 1200 cc shovelhead motor, is wine in colour with high handle bars, saddle bags, and passenger back rest. Police continue to investigate.

On July 17, OPP were contacted about an erratic driver in the village of Bewdley. A local officer responded, locating the vehicle at the intersection of Cavan Road and County Road 9 in Hamilton Township.

The lone female occupant, Theresa Bunce, 50, Cobourg, admitted to alcohol consumption and was subsequently arrested for operation of a motor vehicle with over 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milligrams of blood in her system. She was scheduled to appear in Cobourg provincial court July 27.

During a July 17 RIDE check program at Bewdley, OPP detected the odour of alcohol on a motorist's breath and observed numerous empty beer bottles within the vehicle.

Colborne Cramahe Fire Board news briefs

The Fire Department has purchased the computer system formerly used by the Village of Colborne for an estimated \$375.

Fire Chief Garry Cammack has been offered, and has accepted, the position of Deputy County Fire Coordinator.

The next meeting of the Fire Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m.

Driver David Harkness, 38, Campbellcroft is scheduled to appear in Cobourg provincial court August 10.

In the early morning hours July 18, OPP stopped a vehicle on Presqu'ile Provincial Park Road, Brighton Township.

The driver, Gregory Chambers, 18, R.R.3 Brighton, was arrested for impaired operation of his motor vehicle as well as over .08 mgs alcohol in his bloodstream. He was scheduled to appear at Brighton provincial court July 29.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. July 20, OPP discovered a motor vehicle in a field along County Road 18 in Hamilton Township. OPP have charged Thomas Hall, 42, Gore's Landing, with drinking and driving related charges. He is scheduled to appear in Cobourg provincial court August 10.

At approximately 3:14 a.m. July 23, Campbellford OPP observed a vehicle parked on the shoulder of County Road 28, Hamilton Township. The lone male occupant was asleep behind the wheel and police detected the odour of alcohol within the car. Police arrested driver Jody Warminger, 27, Peterborough, for having the care and control of a motor vehicle while impaired with alcohol. He will appear at a later date in Cobourg provincial court.

Cobourg-based group wants NHCC supervisor appointed

BY CECILIA NASMITH
STAFF WRITER

Ten Cobourg and area citizens have thrown the gauntlet down and challenged the newly constituted board of the Northumberland Health Care Corporation on its finances.

Citing dissatisfaction with information disseminated at the annual general meeting in Oshawa last week, a letter from these people — Joan Chalovich, David Cook, Diane Lorenz, Bill Johnson, Bob McCoubrey, Laura McCracken, Frank Mastinsek, Sid Trevail, Brenda Quinn and Eddie Williams — has been sent to the hospital board requesting a special meeting to provide a current financial statement and analysis of the cash-flow situation.

"We are concerned that the Corporation may be in such financial distress that the quality of health care may be negatively impacted," the letter states.

A consolidated financial statement for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1998, was presented at the annual meeting in Oshawa on July 15, said hospital acting executive director Joan Ross.

Though they were not presented at the meeting, she added, there are financial statements for April and May 1998 that have been presented to the financial committee and are available to anyone interested.

Ms. Ross admits, however, that unanticipated financial pressures experienced since the fiscal year-end are contributing to a deficit that may reach almost \$1-million by the



Cobourg Mayor
Joan Chalovich

end of the current fiscal year, March 31, 1999.

The information available is unsatisfactory, stated Mr. Johnson, who hosted a meeting of the 10 signatories in his home this week, just prior to the letter being sent.

"Until we get a read on that, we are not going to be satisfied."

Mr. Johnson cited corporation bylaws that require 10 people to ask for clarification or to hold a special meeting, which is then to take place within 21 days of the receipt of the request.

The 10 individuals are not a formal group, he stressed.

"It came about more by

chance than by design," he said.

"Two or three people approached two or three people, and those people got together and said, 'Here's an issue we should look at.'"

"It's simply 10 members of the hospital corporation asking for clarification on a financial matter."

Mrs. Chalovich did not identify herself as the mayor of Cobourg nor use town letterhead. She did, however, use the address of the town hall as a matter of convenience, she said — in order to provide a return address for correspondence.

All these individuals have expressed common concerns, she said — "about the lack of representation and lack of information on the financial status of the hospitals and the long-term plan, as well as the fact that we feel that the best way to solve the current crisis is to have a supervisor appointed."

"There are important pieces (of information) that were missing, and I think we have a right to know."

Mr. Cook said he grew concerned when he heard through the grapevine that the financial situation was bad.

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