

POLICE BRIEFS

Marijuana found in Hamilton rental unit

COBOURG — Two Northumberland residents are facing drug charges after several bags of marijuana were found at a commercial rental unit in Hamilton Township.

A call tipped police to several garbage bags full of marijuana at a commercial rental unit on County Road 45 in Hamilton Township on April 26, said Northumberland OPP Constable Phil Clarke in a press release.

Two men were also found at the rental unit.

Police charged 33-year-old Kenneth Couch of Alnwick/Haldimand Township, and 20-year-old Zachary Taylor of Hamilton Township with possession of a schedule two substance — over 30 grams.

The two men are scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Cobourg on June 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Boat stolen in Alnwick/Haldimand Township

NORTHUMBERLAND — One Alnwick/Haldimand Township resident has paddles, but no boat after it was stolen last week.

Northumberland OPP say sometime between April 18 and April 22, a 22-foot blue and green aluminum Starcraft boat and a blue boat trailer were stolen from a Telephone Road address.

The side of the boat is labelled with a hull identification number of 24E8873.

Police say the boat and its contents were stolen from beside the victim's garage and are valued at approximately \$7,000.

Anyone with information on this crime or any other crime can contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Peterborough Northumberland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or you can submit your information online at www.stopcrimehere.ca.

Stolen copper wire recovered in county

ALNWICK/HALDIMAND — After a van ran into a ditch, police recovered stolen property and arrested three Toronto men.

While responding to a report of a cargo van in the ditch on Brook Lane in Alnwick/Haldimand Township on April 25 at 12:17 p.m., Northumberland OPP

found a large amount of heavy copper wire and several car batteries in the van which were believed to be stolen.

Peter Barna, 24, Gusztav Toth, 20, both from Toronto, and a 16-year-old boy, also from Toronto were arrested and charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

FREE THE CHILDREN

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

MAY 2/12

Colborne students work for Kenyan drought relief

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — The beautiful beaded Rafiki Friend of East Africa chains the Colborne Public School kids will be selling come in the blue and green tones of the earth's abundance.

At \$10 each, the fundraiser for Craig Kielburger's Free The Children organization will ensure the abundance of water in a Kenyan village.

The students learned the importance of the chains they will be selling to friends and family members at an assembly this week organized by the school's EarlyAct Club — a Rotary-affiliated service club for elementary-age children that is the only one of its kind in Northumberland County.

Wearing a T-shirt that said Be The Change, Free The Children, representative Bria Wilbur told how she got involved.

Wilbur was a reluctant student in Massachusetts, more interested in cheerleading than homework, until she took a Social Inequality course at Bridgewater State University.

She learned that more than 100-million people are homeless in the world, and more than 215-million children work instead of attending school. Every two seconds, a child somewhere dies of a hunger-related disease.

"Suddenly, I cared about school," she told the students.

Wilbur got involved on a trip to work in Belize, where something made her care even more. On a boat trip to visit ancient ruins on their day off, they saw a father and his two sons canoeing and gathering firewood. On their way back, they saw one of the boys by himself on the bank, waving at them, with tears in his eyes.

They stopped to talk to him, and learned their canoe had capsized and his brother had died.

Wilbur also told the children about Craig Kielburger's life-changing moment, which came at the age of 12.



CECILIA NASMITH Northumberland Today

Colborne Public School EarlyAct Club president Brianna Bureau, left, and treasurer Tiffany Best display the beautiful beaded Rafiki Friend of East Africa chains the Colborne Public School students will be selling until May 22 to raise money that will help provide safe water to a Kenyan village through Craig Kielburger's Free The Children organization.

He was eating breakfast, leaving through the *Toronto Star* to find the comics, and was stopped cold by the headline, "Battled child labour, boy, 12, murdered."

This Pakistani child had worked in a carpet factory from the ages of four to 10 to pay off his parents' debt, until he was freed and spoke out against the system that had enslaved him. His words angered the wrong people.

Kielburger formed Free the Children with two goals in mind: to free children around the world from poverty and exploitation, and to free young people in North America from the idea that they can't make a difference.

"Small actions taken together can create huge change," Wilbur said.

Today, Free The Children has 3,500 youth-in-action groups to train tomorrow's leaders to work

toward change at home — and overseas through programs that have built more than 650 schools (that have educated more than 55,000 children) and given more than one-million people access to safe water and programming to improve their health and economy.

Their Adopt A Village programs help on four fronts:

- Education — building decent schools with real walls, floors and ceilings.

- Water — ensuring clean water is readily available.

- Health care — enabling preventive measures like inoculations and providing health education.

- Income programs — so families don't have to rely on having their children work and can send them to school.

The Rafiki chains the children are selling come under two of the

headings. They are created by Masai mothers in Kenya and will help provide drought relief to their village.

EarlyAct president Brianna Bureau said they invited Wilbur because Colborne Public School is a Me To We school, "trying to make better choices for a better world."

The students will take orders for the Rafiki chains through May 22, and the goal is to sell 200 of them, Brianna and EarlyAct treasurer Tiffany Best told their fellow students.

"I am making it my goal to sell 10. Tiffany is going to try for 13," Brianna said.

"We challenge you all to sell more than us — good luck!"

cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca
twitter.com/NT_cnasmith