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**POLICE:** Eight men in custody following Colborne break-in



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OPP Quinte West officer Albert Deluca and his canine partner Axel along with members of the Emergency Response Unit escort the last two suspects captured at approximately 10:30 a.m. west of Vernonville Road, north of Highway 401 in Alnwick/Haldimand Township.

## Suspected copper thieves nabbed

PETE FISHER  
Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — Eight men suspected of being copper wire thieves were nabbed following a break and enter in Colborne early Monday morning.

At approximately 3:40 a.m. Ontario Provincial Police officers were advised by a private security company based in Orlando, Florida they were observing via remote closed circuit video a break and enter in progress at HD Supply in

the Industrial Park on Purdy Road. HD Supply has been the target previously of other copper thefts.

Officers responded to the area, but were spotted by the suspects who immediately fled.

One suspect was caught almost immediately while the others fled into the woods in a northwest direction.

Police quickly set up a perimeter around the area and OPP Quinte West officer Albert Deluca and his canine partner Axel were called to the scene.

For hours Axel tracked the suspects with members of the Emergency Response Team from the scene of the Cramahe Township break-in to west of Vernonville Road north of Highway 401 in Alnwick/Haldimand Township.

"(The suspects) were separating and going different ways, but we were able to catch up to the different groups," Deluca said.

Deluca credit fellow officers with helping to set up a perimeter so quickly.

The canine unit was directly responsible for the arrest of five of the eight suspects — which is something the team has never done before.

"(The suspects) went through everything. It was very, very thick, swampy and very hard going," Deluca said as his partner had a well-deserved drink of water.

One suspect was arrested at the Grafton Variety store, where he had attempted to phone a cab, but was picked up by police instead.

A Forensic Identification

Officer was called to the HD Supply property to photograph the scene where police say the suspects had cut a large hole in the fence and brought the wire out.

Police say the suspects cut pieces from a large spool of cable inside the fence and were filling up the cargo van. A number of smaller spools were also located outside the fence near the cargo.

Just metres from the hole in the fence were numerous