

\$5M IN DRUGS SEIZED

LOCAL RESIDENTS AMONG THOSE ARRESTED IN HALTON'S BIGGEST-EVER DRUG BUST

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Row upon row of drugs, firearms, cash and other items were on display at Halton Regional Police Service headquarters.

These were the fruits of Project Icarus, a nearly year-long operation across multiple jurisdictions that culminated last week in a dozen arrests, numerous drug trafficking and firearms charges and the largest drug seizure — more than \$5 million — in HRPS' history.

Two Burlington residents are among those charged in the investigation.

The investigation began last October with a single individual being looked in-

to. The operation's scope grew, with Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario, Peel Regional Police and the Canada Border Services Agency becoming involved.

Also charged are those from Hamilton, Mississauga, London, Toronto and Newmarket.

"We had a core group we focused on as (the investigation) grew," said Halton police's Det. Sgt. Barrett Gabriel.

"As you continue to develop over months, new associates, new people are introduced. So that is how these things can branch out."

The overall seizure included 27 kilograms of cocaine, 15 kg. of MDMA (more commonly known as

ecstasy), over 1,000 kg. of cannabis (both in plant and resin form) and three firearms with accompanying prohibited magazines.

Police are still investigating the origins of the firearms. However, they did say that one of the Glock's was a legally registered gun that was stolen.

HRPS Insp. Dave Costantini highlighted the critical role collaboration between the law-enforcement agencies played in the outcome.

"(An operation of) this magnitude and complexity of Project Icarus would not have resulted in the successful disruption of these criminal organization without the unwavering support and collaboration from our external partners."

None of the charges have been proven in court.



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