

School marijuana incident was 'isolated' case

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

A 13-year-old male Rockwood Centennial student is expected to be charged with possession of a narcotic in the coming weeks, following a recent incident at Rockwood Centennial.

Guelph OPP officer Rick Cadilha seized two marijuana joints (totalling 1.4 grams) from the youth, who allegedly was displaying the substance to other students.

What bothers Cadilha the most

is the young age of the suspect and where he got it from. He said he's heard rumours that a friend of the suspect, who can't be named under the Young Offenders Act, was stealing drugs from his father and giving them to the suspect.

"Why he got caught was peer pressure," Cadilha revealed. "When you get a weak link like this kid, he'll do anything to get noticed ... I think the incident will be a learning example for the entire school."

Centennial principal Jack Ward

said on Monday that the school has followed Board policy concerning this "very isolated incident," including informing the superintendent and police.

"We're very fortunate we nailed (the incident) quickly at the school. The marijuana was not being used, just being flashed," said Ward, who said the student received the minimum three-day suspension. "This is a community problem, as it is in most communities."

Ward went on to say parents should be aware of what their chil-

dren are up to and added he has addressed staff.

"I spoke with the staff to ensure they be vigilant as to what is going on within the school. These substances are in the community, but we don't want them in our school," he stated.

In his discussions with staff, Ward suggested that topics pertinent to drug abuse be dealt with now, in light of the recent occurrence. He's also hoping, through the school's parent-teacher group, to co-ordinate the OPP — who

have background knowledge of how students can fall under the influence of their peers — to meet with parents at an information evening to make them aware.

"We're trying to be as proactive in a situation like this as possible," Ward mentioned. "This was a very isolated incident, but it's an indication of what happens in society today. Drugs are out there."

"It's a very unfortunate incident, but we'll use it to heighten the awareness to the community as much as possible."

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Crash kills Rockwood man

A single-vehicle accident took the life of a 19-year-old Eramosa Township resident on Halloween night at approximately 8:15 pm.

James Gray, 19, of R.R. 1 Rockwood, was killed when his northbound 1976 GMC pickup truck left the roadway, struck three

trees and a wire fence, coming to rest in a farmer's pasture.

The young man, alone in the vehicle, was driving home after returning a rented movie when the vehicle left the Concession Rd. 5 about one kilometre north of Hwy. 24, Eramosa Township.

Speed was not a factor in the accident, however, the driver was not wearing his seatbelt and was thrown from the cab of the vehicle when it landed in the field.

Gray was pronounced dead at the scene and the accident is being investigated by Guelph OPP.

Bike-car crash Sunday

A Sunday night highway accident just west of the village has left two teens in hospital.

According to police, 17-year-old Daryl Huestis and passenger Samantha Bould, 14, were travelling eastbound on Hwy. 7 toward Rockwood when their dirt bike struck a 1985 Plymouth automobile. The car was driven by Jeffrey Dickieson, 27, of Guelph.

Both dirt bike riders were taken to Guelph General Hospital with serious injuries; Huestis later was transferred to Hamilton General Hospital.

Area OPP report that the 1991 Suzuki bike had no lights and Huestis and Bould were not wearing helmets.

The automobile travelled north on County Rd. 44 and turned left onto Hwy. 7 after pausing at the stop sign. "The motor bike came right in front of him," reported Const. Charlie Hunter.

Police chase stolen car

Two young car thieves escaped police after a brief chase last week.

While on patrol in Rockwood early morning last Tuesday, OPP officers passed by a suspiciously slow-moving vehicle making its way along the highway. As the officers turned around to investigate, the car driver then sped off and subsequently lost control of the vehicle.

According to police, two young occupants fled the car after it struck a road sign and a stop sign.

The OPP brought in the canine unit from Mount Forest, but police were unable to track down the culprits.

The vehicle had been reported stolen from a Grand Valley home earlier that evening.

Police continue to investigate the incident.



BIG MOUTH TO FEED!

Rockwood Centennial Kindergarten student Logan Dudd, 5, took a big bite out of a self-made Halloween cookie during his class Halloween activity day. The youngsters also made ghosts, sang songs, made bats and paraded through the school's hallways. (Doug Harrison photo)

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