



ILLUMINATING CLIMATE CHANGE: The Whistle Stop on Main St. in Rockwood turned off most of its lights last Saturday for Earth Hour. Shown here is Jin Chai. Two doors down, The Purple Pig restaurant turned all of its lights off, using only romantic candlelight. - *Rebecca Ring Photo*

Alleged terrorists in Rockwood...

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camp, the men and youths wore camouflage clothing and video-recorded their military drills.

'Heard nothing'

Ralph Beaumont, Communications Manager for the Grand River Conservation Authority, which includes Rockwood Conservation Area, says he "never heard anything about it. I couldn't begin to speculate." He went on to say that there are millions of campers in their campgrounds every summer and "we can't know what is going on at each site." The Rockwood Conservation Area has about 110 campsites and over 65,000 visitors each year, from April to October.

The Rockwood camp was allegedly the second and more advanced training camp. The first was allegedly near the town of Washago, where the group practiced military-style drills wearing camouflage gear and trained with a 9-mm firearm. Mubin Shaikh, a well known member of the Toronto Muslim community, was acting as police agent when he agreed to be an instructor at the camp on the invitation of one of the adults. He was invited due to his military experience.

The adult outlined to Shaikh their plans to attack several targets, including the Parliament Buildings. Video from this first camp shows the man, seated in the dark in what appears to be a tent, excitedly addressing the group saying: "Our mission's greater, whether we get arrested, whether we

get killed. ... Rome has to be defeated. And we have to be the ones that do it." He goes on to say, "We already started striking cause you know what, this training is striking."

Two adults of the group first came under suspicion when they were stopped at the Canada-US border, attempting to smuggle firearms and ammunitions in a rented vehicle into this country. Based on the rental agreement, intercepted phone calls while in jail, and the men's weapons history, police expanded their investigation and brought Shaikh on board.

In addition to the camps, expected evidence includes more videos of terrorist indoctrination, in which the accused are rallied to wage battle in the new empire of "Rome" in North America, "whether we get arrested, whether we get killed." Wiretap surveillance reveals their intention to "establish the religion of Allah and to get rid of the oppressors," and their need for funds to finance their goals of building an attack team.

In February, according to the Crown's factum, Shaikh and three others allegedly drove to Opatatika near Timmins to investigate a possible location for a safe house to store weapons and practise drills, but they opted out. On the way back to Toronto, police allege the group discussed "Operation Badr", a plot to attack Parliament Hill, take politicians hostage, and demand the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan and the release of Muslim prisoners in Canada. If these demands were not met, they

would "kill everybody."

The police covertly recorded the following alleged conversation; Person 3: "What happens, what happens at the Parliament?" Person 1: "We go and kill everybody." Person 3: "And then what?" Informant: "And then read about it..." Person 1: "We get victory." Informant: "And take, uh, Paul, um, what's his name... Paul loser." Person 1: "Paul Martin." Person 3: "Yeah." Person 1: "Nah, I wish he had won guy." Informant: "What you... what you talkin' about?" Person 1: "Now it's the other guy, Harper."

According to the Crown's factum, after returning to Toronto, one adult claimed he had built the "first radio frequency remote control detonator," but said it only had a 30-ft. range. Another man responded, "So you would have to get blown up? Might as well sit in the car." He went on to say if it could work from 300 metres, they would do it and when the bomb went off on Front St., innocent people would be killed, "too bad for them."

On March 5, two of the adults met with a man named Talih, to recruit him to help raise funds to purchase weapons, including military assault rifles, for which one adult had already made a down payment. One man said they wanted to establish the religion of Allah, saying, "We're not just a bunch of young guys." The other spoke about the "global fight."

The investigation came to a head on June 2, when about 400 police officers arrested 17 men and youths. The 18th suspect was arrested two months later.



HERALDING SPRING: This little red-breasted robin is a welcome sight, as its arrival is a sure sign that spring is here. He still has a lot of snow to contend with however, as is shown by the dirty, winter weary pile on which he perches. - *Rebecca Ring Photo*

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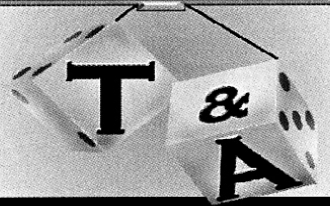
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The Township of Guelph/Eramosa introduced its Rain Barrel Program at the beginning of January 2008, with a goal of promoting water conservation and increase public awareness of water consumption. The program has been successful. To date, 94 rain barrels have been pre-sold. The program is restricted to residents of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.

Residents can place their order by visiting the township office at: 8348 Wellington Rd. (Brucedale) or visit the website www.get.on.ca to download an order form. Orders will be taken until Monday, April 21 and must be paid in advance. The cost is \$52 + GST.

A distribution date of May 3 has been confirmed.

For more information, please contact the office at 519-856-9596, toll-free 1-800-267-1465 Ext. 113.