

Watch out for men impersonating police officers

Two drivers were pulled over recently in separate incidents by men suspected of impersonating police officers.

Police believe the same pair of suspects were involved in both cases, which occurred November 1.

The first took place in Halton Hills just after 1 a.m. A 19-year-old Brampton motorist was traveling westbound on No. 5 Sideroad near 10th Line when he was pulled over by a silver Dodge Caravan with a dash-mounted revolving light.

The driver of the van said he was a police officer and displayed a handgun in a snakeskin-style holster. Police said they don't know if the gun was real.

The suspect refused to show identification, police said. His passenger remained in the vehicle.

The police impersonator then used a walkie-talkie to call for "back-up", police said, and a second vehicle arrived on the scene occupied by two men.

The man who was pulled over became nervous and drove away. Neither of the vehicles followed him.

The first suspect is described as East Indian, in his late twenties or early thirties, about six feet tall, 150 to 160 pounds, with short dark hair, glasses, a dark parka and blue jeans.

The passenger is described as East Indian, in his twenties or thirties, about five-foot-eight with a slim build, with glasses and short black hair. He was wearing a dark jacket and a dark hoodie.

The two men called in for "back-up" were also described as East Indian.

About an hour later at 2 a.m., a 38-year-old Milton resident was traveling along Britannia Road near Fourth Line when he was approached from behind by a light blue vehicle — similar to a Toyota Matrix — with a flashing light.

The driver pulled over and was approached by two men, one carrying a portable radio. This man told the victim he was an undercover narcotics officer and that he'd been speeding, police said. The other suspect stood behind the victim's car.

The victim was asked if he had any drugs, and his vehicle was searched. The suspects left after coming up empty-handed.

PoliceBlotter

The suspect with the radio was described as East Indian, clean-shaven, well-spoken with no accent, in his thirties and about five-foot-six. He was wearing a bulky jacket.

Police said the pair might be targeting drivers they think have drugs in their vehicles.

Anyone with doubts about a police officer should ask for identification, said Det. Sgt. Peter Hodgson, and contact police immediately at (905) 825-4747.

Drugs seized; two charged

Almost 10,000 ecstasy tablets were seized when a vehicle was stopped by police on Steeles Avenue recently.

A 1997 Honda Accord was pulled over November 3 at about 10 p.m. and the driver was arrested.

Seized were 9,500 ecstasy pills, a small amount of marijuana and a quantity of U.S. currency, police said.

The ecstasy has a street value of \$142,000.

Charged with two counts each of possession for the purpose of trafficking were a 28-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman, both of Leamington.

Home broken into

A vacant Mary Street home being prepared for removal was broken into last Friday morning.

Police said at about 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect gained access to the house by crawling under it — it had been raised off its foundation.

Once inside, the suspect punched holes in the walls, spilled a liquid, broke some items and threw garbage around. The damage to the house is estimated at \$1,000.

Business broken into

An unknown suspect broke into a business and stole several large bottles of water November 9.

The incident occurred at about 2 a.m. at Culligan on Main Street East. Police said a rock was thrown through a glass door, and the suspect was able to unlock it, gaining access to the building.

Nine 18-litre bottles of water were stolen along with a cash register containing an undisclosed amount of money.

The estimated value of the water and cash register is \$600.

A suspect was seen in the area by a witness, who said he was wearing a parka with a hood and driving a beige van similar to a Toyota Sienna.

Luxury vehicle stolen

A luxury SUV worth \$50,000 was stolen November 2 from the parking lot at Mohawk Raceway on Guelph Line.

Police said two unknown suspects were captured on a video surveillance tape approaching the grey 2003 Cadillac Escalade in the west parking lot at about 6:30 p.m. and then driving off.

Inside the vehicle — which was locked — was the victim's purse.

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