

CRIME: Potent smell a tip off

Drug lab found in apartment

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
STAFF WRITER

A Markham couple is charged with several drug-related offences after their neighbours called police about an unusual smell coming from their Dudley Avenue apartment.

York Regional Police executed a search warrant Wednesday evening and seized more than \$140,000 worth of marijuana growing and drying in a well-equipped hydroponics lab inside the sixth-floor unit.

Investigators followed their noses and were able to narrow down the smell to one apartment in the building, which is in the area of Yonge Street and John Street, Det. John Burness said.

He said officers were taken aback at the size of the lab, which took up the bulk of the unit's floor space. Plants were hanging to dry from piping running across the ceiling and more than 700 ounces of the drug were seized.

"We were surprised at how much was actually in there," Burness said.

Hydroponic equipment and close to \$500 cash was also seized, he added.

Charged are a 54-year-old man and his common-law wife, 42. They face one count each of possession for the purpose of trafficking a controlled substance and production of a controlled substance.

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We sincerely apologize to our valued customers and regret any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

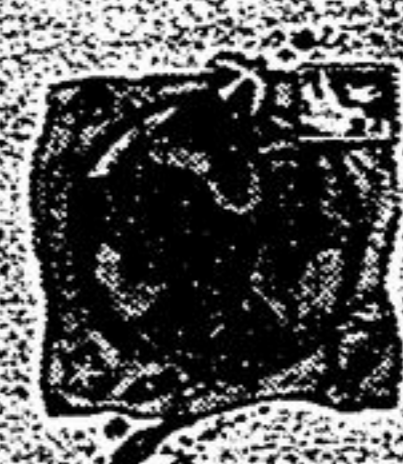
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