



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

## Cop sniffs out \$4 million in marijuana

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

A York Regional Police officer, with an apparently amazing sense of smell, was cruising a Milliken neighbourhood Tuesday evening when he detected the odour of marijuana.

His short investigation resulted in one arrest and the seizure of close to \$4 million worth of pot from 212 Highglan Avenue.

"It was really good work by one officer," said Const. Steve Morrell.

The house wasn't being used

as a grow lab, he explained, rather a kind of midpoint between growing and selling.

"It looks like the drugs were shipped into the residence to be dried, then shipped out again for packaging," he said. "We believe it is part of an organized chain."

More than 2,700 drying plants were seized, worth about \$2.5 million, as well as another 1,000 pounds of already-dried marijuana.

Several people were in the home at the time, just after 5 p.m., but when the officer approached the front door, they fled out the back.

"They obviously had their escape method planned," said Const. Morrell.

The arrest came about four hours later, after a woman reported her car stolen to Toronto Police. Officers found it parked in the garage of the Highglan house.

A 41-year-old Toronto woman is charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

The investigation is on-going. Anyone with information is asked to call 905-881-1221, ext. 7541 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Const. Steve Morrell shows off the truckful of marijuana seized from a Markham home on Tuesday. Police estimate the stash at about \$4 million.

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### Hotter Weather and Your Bill

Your current bill may be unusually high. Consumption and price are directly related to increased temperatures and humidity. We have experienced one of the hottest summers on record, resulting in increased air conditioning loads, especially through the months of July and August. Remember, your current bill represents your consumption for the previous two months. Due to the hot weather, your water consumption is also most likely higher than normal.

In this open market, the price of electricity is based on the spot market price, which fluctuates based on demand. Your bill reflects these fluctuating prices. The increased demand for electricity has driven the commodity price upward during this period. All these factors contribute to higher than normal summer bills.

Although we experienced record-breaking temperatures and load requirements, the average electricity price since market opening on May 1, 2002 is approximately 5.09 cents per kWh. The good news is that as temperatures cool off this fall, so should the price. For updated information on commodity prices, visit the Independent Market Operator (IMO) web site at [www.iemo.com](http://www.iemo.com)

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