

DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

“LEADERS IN COMMUNITY SAFETY”

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Released By: Ashling Murphy **Ext.:** 4346
(12-186199 et al)

SUBJECT: Investigators Seize Over \$5.4 Million in Marihuana

Following an eight-week proactive campaign aimed at identifying those responsible for marihuana grow operations, investigators shut down 61 operations across Durham Region.

For the third year in a row, Drug Enforcement Officers conducted Project Mosquito, which began in August 2012. With the support of uniformed officers, Air1 and citizen generated tips; officers were able to seize over \$5.4 million worth of marihuana plants along with cash and cocaine. The marihuana came from 50 outdoor and 11 indoor grow operations from every municipality in Durham Region.

The highlights of **Project Mosquito 3** are as follows:

- 61 marihuana grow operations discovered across Durham Region
- 45 people charged with 80 drug related offences
- 4,501 marihuana plants seized with a street value of \$5.4 million
- 11 lbs of dried marihuana seized worth \$50,560
- 15 grams of cocaine seized worth \$1,500
- \$84,000 in cash seized

A list of those charged is attached.

A Whitby residence that housed a grow operation with 1,677 marihuana plants, along with a vehicle, are being held for investigation under proceeds of crime legislation.

Anyone with information regarding marihuana grow operations is asked to contact the Drug Enforcement Unit at ext. 5802. Anonymous information can be sent to Crime Stoppers at [1-800-222-8477](tel:1-800-222-8477) (TIPS) or www.durhamregionalcrimestoppers.ca and tipsters may be eligible for a \$2,000 cash reward.