



MOVING ON
OKANAGAN SUN
 overcame an uninspired start to beat Victoria Rebels 30-20 and earn a berth in the BCFC final against Vancouver Island Raiders. **A15**

BUSINESS

A JOB DESCRIPTION
 is simple but oddly often overlooked way for employers to manage their business and enable their vision to be realized, says Capital News workplace columnist Laurie Mills. **B4**

ENTERTAINMENT

STUART MCLEAN'S Vinyl Cafe tour comes to Kelowna Community Theatre as the CBC One radio series host and author brings the stories of his fictional urban family to the stage. **B8**

OPINION

ALISTAIR WATERS say of a budget deficit.



A20



WEDNESDAY
 October 13, 2010
 The Central Okanagan's Best-Read Newspaper
www.kelownacapnews.com

C A P I T A L
news



▼ **DRUG SEIZURE**

Cocaine found hidden in fruit grinding machine

CHERYL WIERDA
 STAFF REPORTER

Two West Kelowna men are among four people facing drug charges after nearly \$4 million in cocaine hidden inside a fruit grinding machine from Argentina was intercepted by Canadian officials.

It's the second large-scale cocaine seizure by B.C. border officials and RCMP to be announced in as many weeks, although officials say there is no evidence to the two drug cases are linked.

This latest investigation began on Sept. 22, when border officials inspecting a 2,300 kilogram fruit grinding machine noticed the machine was too heavy and its origin and destination—Kelowna—were suspicious.

Using a fibrescope, which has a camera on the end, border officials were able to see something "unusual" inside the machine's steel drums and later seized 97.5 kilograms of cocaine.

RCMP say that translates into more than 97,000 doses of cocaine, valued at between \$3.5 and \$3.9 million, based on kilogram sales.

"This was a highly sophisticated concealment, requiring various tools and examination techniques," said Nicole Goodman, chief of operations air cargo for CBSA, during a press conference Tuesday.

The RCMP joined



the investigation following the discovery by border officials and say the machine and drugs went on to their destination in Kelowna through a "controlled delivery."

The drugs were brought to an outdoor storage facility in Kelowna—which police said had no knowledge of the drug trafficking—where police say there is evidence that

the fruit grinding machine was breached.

Police did not disclose if the drugs were then taken to another location or if they remained with the machine.

"This should be alarming to everyone that people are going to this kind of magnitude and depth to import illegal substances into Canada," said Supt. Brian Cantera, the officer

in charge of the federal drug enforcement branch of B.C.

As a result of the investigation, two West Kelowna men were arrested. Barry Michael Ready,

CANADA BORDER

Services superintendent Robert Carmichael displays a fibrescope, used to detect 97.5 kilograms of cocaine bound for Kelowna inside of a 2,300 kg. machine used to hide the drugs.

SEAN CONNOR/CAPITAL NEWS



50, was arrested at a ranch outside Merritt, which police say he does not own, and Clifford Roger Montgomery, 33, was arrested at his home.

Immediately following the Oct. 4 arrests, officers searched a rural property outside Merritt and a home in West Kelowna. The exact locations have not been disclosed by police.

Also wanted in the investigation are 32-year-old Tariq Mohammed Aslam of Surrey and 43-year-old Victor Perez Rodriguez, a Mexican citizen.

SEE COCAINE A6

Best Deal in BC

2009 DODGE CALIBER SXT
\$12,888 **Loaded**

from

KELOWNA
 CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP

The Okanagan's #1 Choice for new vehicle purchase, voted by the Readers of Okanagan Life Magazine

ON BOTH SIDES OF ENTERPRISE AT LECKIE BEHIND GREYHOUND • 250-870-5443

NEWS

▼ DRUG SEIZURE

Sophisticated smuggling operation raises many questions

COCAINE FROM A1

Police aren't disclosing the alleged roles each of the four people charged

played in the drug smuggling.

All three Canadians are known to police, and RCMP say they have rec-

ommended drug trafficking charges against Ready that stem from another investigation.

Cantera said police are in the "initial" stages of this probe, but confirmed the fruit grinding machine was transported by air from Argentina to Miami, and then trucked from Florida to Vancouver.



SEAN CONNOR/CAPITAL NEWS

POLICE OFFICIALS displayed the fruit grinder machinery for the media at Kelowna airport on Tuesday. The machinery was used as a cover in an attempt to smuggle \$4 million worth of cocaine into Canada.



Tariq Mohammed Aslam

Border officials say it entered B.C. through the Pacific Highway crossing.

Police could not say if the drugs were placed in the machine in South America, or if they were concealed in the machine at another point on its journey to Kelowna.

Officers also aren't certain where the cocaine was to go after it was intercepted.

"Clearly these are distributable and that's the alarming factor here,

folks," said Cantera.

"This makes its way to the communities, ultimately. It could also make its way internationally. The depth of how its distributed, I'm not certain."

Police aren't certain how many more people may be involved with the scheme, but Cantera said,

based on the "quite sophisticated" nature of the concealment, that "it's fair to say that this is tied to organized crime."

However, police did not link the four men facing charges to known organized crime groups.

More than 50 RCMP investigators, including members of the Combined Forces Special Enforce-

ment Unit-Gang Task Force, Integrated Border Enforcement Team, the Emergency Response Team, and many units throughout the Southeast District, helped with the investigation. The RCMP Federal Drug Enforcement Branch is also working with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and our partners in Mexi-

co and Argentina.

Montgomery and Ready remain in custody and are scheduled to make their next court appearances Monday on two charges of conspiracy to import cocaine and one count of possession for the purpose of trafficking.

cwierda@kelownacapnews.com

Rutland Park Society
 Rutland Centennial Park
 180 Rutland Rd N
Annual General Meeting
 October 25, 2010
 7:00 PM Registration
 7:30 PM Meeting Comes to Order
 Special Resolution re bylaw updates
 Reports
 Election of Executive and Directors
 We are the organization that is responsible for the care and upkeep of
Rutland Centennial Hall and Park Since 1939
 We are responsible for the Rutland May Days and parade, the Flea Market and most recently the September Splash. Come out and join us as we prepare for the Future.

Home of your FRIENDLY BUTCHER

Johnny's friendly butchers want to make your meal planning easier, so they came up with 7 DAYS OF HOT SPECIALS!
We only sell farm fresh chicken. It's the natural choice.

Wednesday, Oct. 13th
 Boneless, skinless **Chicken Breasts** **\$5.99 lb.**
Farm Fed The Natural Choice

Thursday, Oct. 14th
 Lean **Ground Beef** **\$2.49 lb.**
Ground fresh instore

Friday, Oct. 15th
 Pork **Back Ribs** **\$4.49 lb.**
Finger Lickin' Good

Saturday, Oct. 16th
 Grass Fed **Rib Eye Steaks** **\$19.99 per pack**
4 steaks per pack

Sunday, Oct. 17th
 Inside **Round Roast** **\$3.49 lb.**

Monday, Oct. 18th
 Lean **Beef Stew** **\$3.49 lb.**

Tuesday, Oct. 19th
 Lean **Ground Turkey** **\$3.49 lb.**

Everyday Special
Black Forest, Honey or Pepper Ham **.99¢ 100g**

#10-190 Hollywood Rd. 250.860.5646
 1790 KLO Rd. 250.860.6077
 New store location: 1777 Ross Road 250.769.7178
 HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9 am-6 pm | Sun. 10 am-5 pm
Often copied...never equalled.

CREEKSIDE THEATRE
 PRESENTS

Vegas Meets Vaudeville
 Fri, Oct. 22 @ 7:30 pm
 Tickets: \$25 adult; \$88 group of 4

Musical Masquerade
 Sat., Oct. 23 @ 1:30 pm
 Tickets: \$15 adult; \$10 seniors/students; \$40 group of 5

Lorne Elliott
 Sat., Oct. 23 @ 7:30 pm
 Tickets: \$25 adult; \$22 seniors/students; \$80 group of 4

A Day Late & A Dollar Short
 Sun., Oct. 24 @ 2 pm
 Tickets: \$21 general; \$19 seniors/students;

for more information & tix call
250-766-9309
 www.creeksidetheatre.com

Depression left untreated can interrupt your daily life.

Don't let the negative symptoms of depression get you down.

Okanagan Clinical Trials is participating in a research study for an investigational medication to possibly treat depression. If you are between 18 and 64 and have been suffering from depression, you may be eligible to participate.

Okanagan Clinical Trials
250-862-8141
 Kelowna BC
 www.OkanaganClinicalTrials.com

Your best source of community news—the *Capital News*