



Abbotsford Police Department

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"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE # 2010 - 6634

RELEASE # 1

DATE OF RELEASE: February 22, 2010

Incident: Huge Marihuana Grow Operation Busted

Abbotsford – February 22, 2010.

The Abbotsford Police Department's Drug Enforcement Unit, Municipal Integrated Emergency Response Team members and members from the Patrol Division executed a search warrant in the 6500 block of Riverside Street on Thursday, February 18. Over 6500 plants were seized from several buildings on the property. In addition, four 100 pound bags of marihuana were located in the main residence. This very sophisticated, multi-million dollar grow operation utilized 3 transformers, which were larger than those used on BC Hydro poles, over 300 high intensity discharge lights and police needed 2 trailers to transport other equipment away from the site (2 photos attached). Charged with a count each of Marihuana Production and Trafficking in Marihuana are 43 year old Michael Owens and 36 year old Katherine Essex.

Police believe this operation is linked to organized crime and will be continuing their investigation in that regard.

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*Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*