

Mounties seize 2.8M contraband cigarettes

by UPI

CORNWALL, Ontario -- More than 2.8 million contraband cigarettes and 600 pounds of U.S. tobacco were seized in southeastern Ontario by Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a report said. Working with border control agents, the Mounties announced Tuesday they had conducted 11 sweeps near the border city of Cornwall, Ontario, between Feb. 27 and Feb. 29, the Canwest News Service said Wednesday. Part of the seizures included 12 vehicles and a 20-foot trailer, police said. The RCMP said a total of 10 people face charges for possession of a tobacco product not properly stamped according to the Excise Act 2001. Indian reservations are allowed to sell excise-free cigarettes, but the cigarettes are not allowed to be sold off-site. However, UPI found they are widely available in the Toronto area for as little as \$17 per carton, compared with \$75 for fully taxed brands.

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