

## Carjacking at Gunpoint in Ajax

Four suspects carjacked a male at gunpoint in Ajax. On Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at approximately 10:00 p.m., members of West Division responded to a stolen vehicle in-progress call in the area of Williamson Drive East and Gillett Drive. Multiple suspects approached the victim while he was seated in his vehicle on his driveway. One suspect brandished a firearm and pointed it at the victim, demanding he exit the vehicle. The suspects fled the area in the stolen vehicle. The victim did not sustain any physical injuries.

Police located the stolen vehicle driving on Highway 401 and strategically followed it until it exited in Pickering. The stolen vehicle was pursued for a short distance before the suspects pulled into a plaza, exited the vehicle, and fled on foot. The stolen vehicle was recovered and seized for examination. All four suspects can be described as: male, wearing dark clothing.

## Suspect Stabbed in Whitby Robbery

Two males are facing charges following a robbery in Whitby where the suspect was stabbed. On Thursday, April 11, 2024, at approximately 3:25 a.m., members of Central West Division responded to a robbery call in the area of Robert Attersley Drive and McKinney Drive. Three males attended the residence to meet a friend. A disagreement occurred between one of the males and the homeowner resulting in the male assaulting the homeowner and attempting to steal his electronics. Two tenants in the home heard the assault and attempted to intervene. During the physical struggle, a knife was produced and the suspect was stabbed.

Police arrived on scene and located the suspect suffering from life-threatening injuries. He was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre where his condition has since been upgraded to serious but non-life-threatening. He was placed into custody at the hospital.

The tenant involved in the stabbing was taken into custody without incident. The victim sustained minor injuries. A 40-year-old male from Ajax is charged with: Robbery. A 39-year-old male from Whitby is charged with: Aggravated Assault, and Assault with a Weapon. The 40-year-old male was released on an Undertaking. The 39-year-old male was held for a bail hearing.

## Male Arrested for Numerous Commercial Break-and-Enters

A male is in custody following the conclusion of a break-and-enter investigation related to numerous incidents across Durham Region.

Between December of 2023 and April of 2024, the suspect was involved in numerous commercial break-and-enters, that targeted restaurants, salons, and other small businesses.

On Thursday, April 11, 2024, at approximately 4:50 a.m., members of Central East Division, with investigators from the West, Central West, and Central East Division Criminal Investigations Branches, responded to a break-and-enter at the Stag Shop located at 22 Stevenson Road, in Oshawa. The suspect was unable to access the register to take cash, and fled the area on foot. Police tracked the suspect to the rear of a plaza near King Street West and Thornton Road North. The suspect attempted to flee from police on foot but was taken into custody a short distance away.

A search warrant was executed at the suspect's residence which revealed drugs, cash, and numerous items from various break-and-enters throughout Durham Region.

**Shane FISCHER**, age 41 from Oshawa is charged with: Break-and-Enter x24, Disguise with Intent x24, Possession of a Schedule I Substance (cocaine), and Failure to Comply with Probation Order x24.

## NDP MPPS JOIN NEARLY 200

### ADVOCATES TO DECLARE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AN EPIDEMIC

QUEEN'S PARK – The Ontario NDP Official Opposition joined countless families and advocates at Queen's Park to declare Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic.

"We need every tool available to put an end to intimate partner violence and gender-based violence – and this is one right at our fingertips," said Kristyn Wong-Tam (Toronto Centre). "Nearly 100 cities in this province, including Toronto have declared Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic and today we can ensure Ontario does too."

On April 10, the Ontario NDP will debate Bill 173, which would declare intimate partner violence an epidemic in Ontario. This was the number one recommendation of the 86 from the Renfrew Inquest – a recommendation directed at the Province of Ontario that's been repeatedly rebuked by Ford and the Conservatives.

"This is an epidemic and we need to act on this issue with the urgency it deserves," said Jill Andrew, NDP critic for Women's Social and Economic Opportunity. "Without meaningful action, we're putting women and gender-diverse people across our province at risk."

Recent instances of Intimate Partner Violence have been all too common across the province, from Sault Ste. Marie to Huron County to Windsor. Many impacted families join the MPPs today.

"I am deeply grateful to the advocates and family members who have joined us with their relentless advocacy", said Lisa Gretzky (Windsor West). "Intimate partner violence has impacted so many people and touched so many communities, including my hometown of Windsor. Stories like Sahra Bulle are heart-breaking – but all too common. We're here to say that enough is enough."

"We're calling on Ford to do the right thing today," said

MPP Peggy Sattler (London West). "There's too much at stake and no time to waste." Fartumo Kusow, Mother of Sahra Bulle

"Intimate Partner Violence is pervasive, predictable and preventable and that is the definition of epidemic. My daughter Sahra was murdered by her partner last year, and it has been an ongoing nightmare. We need the provincial government to step-up and do the right thing: declare Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic in Ontario."

Erin Lee, Executive Director, Lanark County Interval House and Community Support

"Nearly 100 Ontario municipalities have declared IPV an epidemic, and I strongly urge all members to vote in support of Bill 173. It is critical for victims, families, survivors, and those living isolated to hear a message, loud and clear that they are believed, that they are heard and that they are being responded to by the government of Ontario."

Kirsten Mercer, Lawyer,

Goldblatt Partners LLP (Counsel at the CKW Inquest) "Using the language of an epidemic frames gender-based violence as the public health emergency that it is- a social challenge not an individual problem. We are telling all those who live with gender-based violence that what is happening to them is not their fault. This violence is our collective concern."

Sami Pritchard, Interim Director of Advocacy & Communications, YWCA Toronto

"While we know that this declaration will be merely a first step to addressing and eradicating this epidemic, we also know that we cannot change what we refuse to name. By naming this crisis for what it is - an epidemic - we are sending a clear message to the survivors and children fleeing violence, the frontline workers, advocates and organizations supporting survivors, and the loved ones of those lost to femicide – we see you, we believe you, we respect you, and your life matters."



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## INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION FLOURISH AT THE THIRD-ANNUAL REGIONAL SKILLS ONTARIO COMPETITION

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) continues to set the stage for innovation and inspiration as it proudly hosted the third-annual Regional Skills Ontario Competition on April 4, 2024, at the Tribute Communities Centre.

The arena radiated with energy as more than 550 students from Grades 4 to 8 took centre stage, demonstrating their remarkable talent and dedication. These young innovators emerged triumphant from a rigorous qualification round that drew the participation of over 15,000 eager minds.

Representing 61 DDSB elementary schools, 147 qualifying teams competed in 13 exhilarating contests span-

ning diverse fields including construction, green energy, tech design, animation, and VEX robotics. These prodigies not only showcased their technical prowess but also exhibited vital life skills such as critical and creative thinking, collaboration, technology and digital literacy, problem solving, and perseverance. Behind every successful student stood the unwavering support of over 100 DDSB educators who served as mentors and judges. Their guidance and mentorship illuminated the path for these budding innovators, underscoring the DDSB's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders, problem solvers, and innovators.

More than just a competition, the Regional Skills Ontario event served as a celebration of the future. It provided a platform to witness history in the making as the DDSB identified students who will represent the District at the prestigious Provincial Skills ON event in Toronto on May 6.

The event attracted a diverse audience comprising community members, teachers, facilitators, and parents/guardians who gathered to witness greatness in action. It was a day filled with excitement, learning, and endless possibilities, highlighting the pivotal role of hands-on learning experiences in shaping the future workforce and driving innovation.

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