

No criminal offence at Anne Street home, police say

Mike Balsom
The Local

While investigating a call of a disturbance Sunday afternoon at a Niagara-on-the-Lake home that indicated a weapon might be involved, Niagara Regional Police arrested one person who was later released from custody unconditionally.

Detectives searched

the home and found nothing that would lead to a charge for a criminal offence, they said Monday morning. After being told a firearm might have been involved in an incident on Anne Street near Mississauga Street, officers from Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, with help from St. Catharines, the traffic enforcement unit, and “out of an abundance

of caution” the emergency task unit as well as crisis negotiators, were all called to Anne Street.

Officers with what appeared to be automatic weapons were seen walking along the street. A pickup truck was spotted on Anne Street between the cordons, with officers speaking to someone near the truck.

Pedestrians were being

redirected around the area, one of whom informed The Local they were told the police were detaining someone.

An NRP tactical truck was parked at the Anderson Lane community centre, where by about 5:20 p.m. some of the police congregated. They continued to have a block of Anne Street between Mississauga and Simcoe Streets cor-

doned off, with the investigation continuing.

The house was cleared for safety, the police report said, and no one was injured. Police said no further information about the person who had been arrested and released would be made public, adding that there was “no ongoing public safety threat stemming from this incident.”

Anyone with informa-

tion is asked to contact 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1009219.

Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously can contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards to persons who contact the program with information which leads to an arrest.



Armed police were seen walking along the sidewalk on Anne Street, with several police cars parked in the neighbourhood and at the community centre while an investigation was underway Sunday afternoon. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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NOTL man charged with possession of crystal meth

Local Staff

A Niagara-on-the-Lake man stopped for driving with his licence suspended has been charged with possession of nearly 17 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine.

A traffic enforcement officer of the Niagara Regional Police was driving a police car equipped to recognize licence plates of suspended drivers, a police report said, and pulled over the driver of a Mazda3 sedan Monday evening on Hartzel Road near Walnut Street in

St. Catharines.

During the traffic stop, the officer confirmed the driver had a suspended licence, and found 16.9 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine.

Kevin Lee Bentum, 50, of Niagara-on-the-Lake was arrested and charged with possession of crystal meth and driving while under suspension.

Bentum was released and is scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 23 in St. Catharines.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to call 905-688-4111, option 3,

extension 1009558.

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The polic program that identifies suspended drivers by their licence plates has been designed to comply with the guidance of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, the police report says.