



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

FROM/DE: Leeds County

DATE: June 2, 2011

Charges Laid in Historical Sexual Assault

(Gananoque, ON) – On the morning of June 2, 2011, members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Leeds County Crime Unit arrested and charged a Gananoque man for incidents that occurred in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Steven **OFFORD**, 60, has been charged with:

- 1) Indecent assault on a male (2 counts)
- 2) Gross indecency

OFFORD has been released from custody on a promise to appear and officer-in-charge undertaking. He is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Brockville on June 24, 2011.

The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Leeds County OPP Crime Unit at 613-345-1790 or 1-888-310-1122.

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Contact: Sergeant Kristine Rae

Phone: 613-285-5479

www.opp.ca

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Corporation of the Town of Gananoque

FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Charges Laid in Historical Sexual Assault

For immediate release

Date: June 2, 2011

(Gananoque, ON)- On June 2, 2011, The Ontario Provincial Police issued a media release regarding charges laid for historical sexual assaults. The accused Steve OFFORD named in the media release was a former member of the Gananoque Fire Department.

“I assure you as Fire Chief, I take any allegations against our firefighters very seriously,” Said Fire Chief Gerald Bennett. “This is a sad day for all members of this Fire Service; however, we have to remember these are allegations against an individual and not the Fire Organization. I continue to have strong confidence in the excellent work that our firefighters contribute each day.

As this is a continuing police investigation I would ask that any questions pertaining to this case be referred to OPP Sergeant Kristine Rae at 613-285-5478

Gerald Bennett
Fire Chief
Gananoque Fire Department