
News Release

For Immediate Release

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ORC crackdown on drug distributor

The Ontario Racing Commission - Investigative Unit, working with other police and regulatory services, has taken a supplier of drugs to the horse racing industry out of business.

On Tuesday the 18th of April 2006, authorities converged on a residence in the City of Toronto and on a Steel Company in Mississauga to execute two Search Warrants for illegal drugs, under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and the *Food and Drugs Act*. The combined forces included members of the ORC Investigative Unit, the Ontario Provincial Police Illegal Gambling Unit, the United States Food and Drug Administration, Standardbred Investigations Services and the Toronto Police.

During the execution of the search warrants, authorities seized large quantities of controlled drugs and adulterated, unlabeled and/or violative substances, drug compounding equipment, as well as business records and computers. A prohibited weapon was also seized.

Products used for performance enhancement were seized, including the blood builder Aranesp, strong analgesics, bronchiole dilators and sildenafil citrate (generic Viagra).

Sandy DiFlorio, age 50, was charged with one count of possession for the purpose of trafficking under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and one count of possession of a prohibited weapon contrary to the Criminal Code. He will appear in Provincial Court at 60 Queen Street Toronto on the 23rd of May 2006.



In commenting on the action, ORC Executive Director John Blakney said, "What the Investigative Unit and the other services have uncovered serves to reinforce the ORC's message on Medication Control released earlier this week. These operations are a threat to the welfare of the horse and the future of the horse racing industry. The removal of such drug suppliers from the business of horseracing will help to establish a climate of confidence, fairness and equity within the horse racing community."

The investigation is continuing and further charges are pending.

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