

PART I

Saskatchewan Environment received a complaint questioning. from the Weekes area regarding a whitetail buck A subsequent search of the vehicle produced various scene were noted to be of an unusual calibre.

The next morning a report came in of another degecovered. that had been found, under circumstances similar to the Upon questioning, the three denied any involvement in earlier kill. Later that afternoon another deer was embarked on a hunt for a group of poachers.

Officers had been kept exceptionally busy during that Investigators developed the 35mm film the next day. another crew that was operating in the same area-shopting volumes. The group's activities in Alberta and tags and deer tags issued from Manitoba.

mandatory one-year hunting licence suspension.

their efforts to find those responsible for the headless ledering from the container. That evidence was subsequently but as the week passed it appeared as though the crimed by Lloydminster conservation officers. would go unsolved. However, on the afternoon of Nov. 28 Slowly but surely Saskatchewan officers began to piece that was consistent with the headless

deer case. The trio of suspects, also from Quebec, were n Nov. 25, 2003, the Porcupine Plain office of detained and taken to the Porcupine Plain office for furthe

that had been shot and left. The animal had been shotneng articles, including blood-stained clothing, blood posted land, dragged into a hay field where the antleggains in the carpet of the vehicle, various video cameras were removed and the carcass left to rot until it was an Unfitapes, and a shell box filled with exposed 35mm came for human consumption. Bullet casings found near the film. In addition, global positioning (GPS) devices and firearms that matched the empty shell casings were

any illegal hunting activities. All three were still in reported shot and left on private land. Upon investigation of their Saskatchewan white-tailed deer tags. it became apparent that officers were dealing with a ANNIHOONAL evidence was recovered relating to their hunting of poachers who were intent on collecting antlers and accivities in Saskatchewan as well as activities that had concerned about wasting the carcasses. All three kill sitearred in the Province of Alberta. Officers forwarded were within 100 kilometres of each other and, given throtographic evidence and GPS information to Alberta similarity of the evidence recovered by investigators, the thorities and subsequently made contact with the Fish and Wildlife district office in Provost.

particular week as a result of the illegal activities of A picture is worth a thousand words and those photograph deer and caching them in the bush. In that case, an Sask the chewan over the previous two-week period began to morning patrol paid dividends when officers discovered come to light. Photographic evidence showed seven sets of group of three hunters from Quebec picking up deer killedrs, skull split and displayed on a hotel room floor. It earlier in the week and tagging them with Saskatcheweemed likely that the antlers had already been shipped and deer tags issued from Manitoba. away. With assistance from fellow officers in Lloydminster, They were found in possession of eight whitetails investigators determined the location of the hotel room. were later sentenced to pay fines of \$5,210 as well an face again officers caught a break when the seven sets of antlers that had been boxed up for shipment to Quebec ha Officers from the Greenwater field office maintained en returned to the hotel by the courier because blood was

there was a break in the case. Officers stopped a vehicle case together. They spent days on the investigation, with hunters traveling towards Porcupine Plain. Upon collecting and examining evidence. As a result, numerous inspection, they located rifle casings and other evidenceharges were laid against the trio. Remi Poulin was convicted of 11 counts under the Saskatchewan Wildlife Act



Part II The buck stopped herealberta Fish and Wildlife Officer Lee Robley

(SWA) and one count under the federal Wild Animal PART II Plant Protection and Regulation of International and

n Nov. 29, 2003, information was received at the Provost Fish and Wildlife office from Saskatche-Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRITTA). Fines of \$6,835 were handed down, as well as a three wan conservation officers (COs). They had appreyear hunting suspension and the forfeiture of his firealmended and were investigating three Quebec hunters who (valued at \$5,000) to the provincial government. Yvonhad been shooting deer in Saskatchewan and only taking Poulin was convicted of eight counts under SWA and thandedtlers. The suspects were Remi Poulin, Yvon Poulin fines of \$2,915, a hunting suspension of three years and Bernard Metivier. Saskatchewan COs advised that all forfeiture of his firearm (valued at \$3,500). three men had Quebec addresses on their Saskatchewan

Bernard Metevier was convicted of nine counts underunting licences. Among the items seized from the men in SWA. His fines were \$5,250, including a hunting suspensionatchewan were photos, rifles, a rental vehicle and a of three years and forfeiture of his firearm (valued at GPS unit containing waypoint entries. During the course \$5,000). Saskatchewan investigators did not recover anyofoftheir investigation, Saskatchewan officers had made the antlers from the deer they had killed in Saskatchewans to the waypoint locations in Saskatchewan. This The accused indicated they had simply thrown them away them to two kill sites (out of the five to seven All of the animals that were recovered were deemed unfit prints in Saskatchewan) where evidence against the human consumption and were therefore wasted. In spitchrefe men was obtained.

the evidence that had been gathered, there were still a lowafpoint locations (taken from the seized GPS unit) questions that had no answers. It was up to our countemports to be in Alberta were forwarded to the Provost in Alberta to fill in the gaps. investigator, as well as copies of some of the seized photos



showing the suspects with deer believ to have been taken in Alberta. It was determined that seven waypoint locations forwarded from the Saskatch wan COs were located in the Provost district in Alberta, and an investigati was initiated.

On Nov. 30, armed with aerial photos identifying the GPS locations the waypoints entered onto another GP unit, an investigator began a ground search that would last four days. On Dec. 3, with snow beginning to obscur visibility and having walked ever widening circles around the waypoint locations, hope was fading. As the of was about to turn back to his patro a magpie flew past him and he deci follow along in that direction. After going another 150 yards into the bush was about to turn back again, but the squawk of more birds led him on. T black and white scouts had done the job. The officer discovered a mule de carcass with the antlers removed. Usi a seized photo of two suspects with antlered mule deer, he looked at the match. Does a tree falling in the forest As the officer was an officer in the bush discovering critical bout to turn back evidence make a sound? He collected

evidence at the site. The importance of patrol unit, a number participation in the internal participation in the importance of patrol unit, a public participation in the reporting of magpie flew past himesidence. A statement obtained by offences cannot be overstated. Back on and he decided to Nov. 22, 2003, a complainant had Nov. 22, 2003, a compramant man reported a whitetail buck that had been follow along in that

On Jan. 5, 2004, the investigating direction. officer returned to that location with a new photo, one which had not been sites, they were submitted to the Fishcences during the time period relating shipped to him earlier by the Saskatahel Wildlife forensic lab in Edmontorto this investigation. wan COs. The officer could now compare DNA matching. DNA analysis done Information received from Quebec suspect with a deer, with the kill sisseven sets of antlers seized in SaskaRdepin and Remi Poulin had been The background in the photo appeared wan matched deer remains found atregistering big game animals taken photographic evidence had been collected from this location back in Service confirmed that the photos takstatements taken by Canadian Wildlife November, more were taken. by the Alberta investigator at two of Setwice officers in Quebec confirmed DNA samples and photos had alskill sites in Alberta matched two of the Mario Pepin and Remi Poulin have

another complaint received in Novembehre photos seized by Saskatchewan never living in Alberta. involving a mule deer that had beenofficers, reaffirming the DNA analysis in Between 1996 and 2003, Remi had reported shot and left with its head two instances. Charged in relation to httmeted in Alberta as a resident and had removed. Both of these events had taken place in the general vicinitest in Alberta were Remi Poulin, Metivier, Yvon Poulin and others from

but not immediately near the waypoin Bernard Metivier and Yvon Poulin. Quebec. Mario Pepin, over the same locations that had been searched. DNA Through the course of the investigime period, had also hunted in Alberta samples from the seven sets of antletion the Alberta Control Center, RELMS a resident and had hosted hunts in seized in Macklin Saskatchewan were and ISM databases were queried andthise province for Veronique Levesque, obtained from Saskatchewan COs in name Mario Pepin emerged. Remi

non-resident Canadians from Quebec in November of 1995. Both men had obtained Alberta driver's licences on Nov. 20, 1995. They used the same Alberta address as their place of Ålberta investigators from a person and Mario's driver's licences confirmed that neither had ever lived at that Quebec driver's licences at the same time they held valid Alberta driver's

living at the address identified on Remi address. Both Remi and Mario had valid

this new photo, which showed anothers the lab confirmed that three of the rovincial officers indicated that Mario to match. Although DNA samples and hree kill sites in Alberta. Photo for examiner Quebec resident hunting licences analysis done by the Edmonton Policevery year from 1995 to 2003 in Quebec.

been collected by the officer in relationscations depicted in the background one and remain residents of Quebec, three deer proven to have been shot hanted hunts in Alberta for Bernard

Bernard Metivier and other Quebec Lloydminster, and along with the DNP oulin and Mario Pepin had been residents. Both Mario and one of the samples collected from the Alberta killogether on a guided hunt in Albertaurassamed Quebec hunters he had hosted

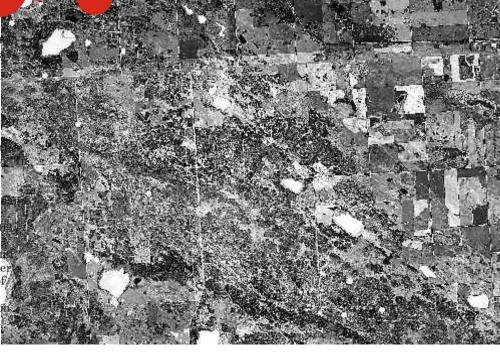
INTERNATIONAL GAME WARDEN

registered elk taken in Alberta in 19

Licence vendor queries showed the Remi Poulin, Bernard Metivier and Mario Pepin acquired Alberta hunting licences at the same location on Nov 15,1999, in Calgary and on Nov. 16, Calgary in 2000. In 2001, Poulin, Pe Metivier and Veronique Levesque acquired Alberta hunting licences at same location on Nov. 15, in Calgary 2003, Remi Poulin, Bernard Metivier and Yvon Poulin acquired Alberta hunting licences on Nov. 16, at the location in Calgary. Mario Pepin and Veronique Levesque acquired their 20 Alberta hunting licences at the same location on Nov. 5, in Edmonton. Ren Poulin and Mario Pepin acquired Albert resident hunting licences during all of the above transactions, while Bernard Metivier, Veronique Levesque and Yvon Poulin acquired non-resident Canadian licences.

Though not found to be involved with the three shot and left deer in Alberta in 2003, the above information, as obtained through the various data Mario Pepin and Veronique Levesque obtaining a licence when ineligible (WA).

base queries and statements, resulted also being charged with offences. On Pepin was ordered to pay \$7,000 in fines.

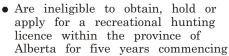


Feb. 2, 2006, in Wainwright Provincia Veronique Levesque of St. Benjamin, Court, Crown prosecutor G. Marchant Quebec, pled guilty to one count of and Quebec defence lawyer Mr. Millenbtaining a licence when ineligible (WA). represented by Mr. Van Winssen in Levesque was ordered to pay \$750 in session, entered a joint submission onfines. The court order signed by Judge guilty pleas, fine amounts and the stipulations as set out in a court ordeff. Johnson stipulated that all five The presiding judge, P.T. Johnson, individuals: accepted the submission as presented. Remi Poulin of St Joseph, Quebec, pled guilty to two counts of illegal possession under the Wildlife Act (WA), two counts of wastage (WA), one count of obtaining a licence when ineligible (WA) and one • count of transporting illegally obtained wildlife across a provincial boundary, under WAPPRITTA.

Poulin was ordered to pay \$8,250 in fines. Bernard Metivier of Victorin, Quebec, pled guilty to two counts of illegal possession (WA), two counts of wastage (WA) and one count of transporting illegally obtained wildlife across a provincial boundary (WAPPRITTA). Metivier was ordered to pay \$5,000 in fines.

Yvon Poulin of St. Benjamin, Quebec, pled guilty to two counts of illegal possession (WA), two counts of wastage (WA) and one count of transporting illegally obtained wildlife acrossile that may never be answered. But

a provincial boundary (WAPPRITTA). you have ever wondered to what lengths Poulin was ordered to pay \$5,750prinvincial or federal wildlife agencies fines. Mario Pepin of St. Benjamin, and police services will go to see justice Quebec, pled guilty to one count of served, herein lies the answer.



from the date of conviction; That all fines levied against them be paid to the Alberta Conservation Association and assigned to the University of Alberta for their use in obtaining material identified by the University of Alberta as essential to their research involving deer movement along the Alberta/ Saskatchewan border pertaining to chronic wasting disease;

Must report to a Fish and Wildlife Division office in Alberta prior to obtaining a hunting licence or hunting in Alberta (for life).

There are questions relating to this

