



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2007

BOMB THREAT SCARE AT ST. CATHARINE'S COLLEGIATE

Niagara Regional Police received an anonymous phone call yesterday afternoon alerting them of a bomb at St. Catharines Collegiate.

The police went immediately to the Collegiate to alert the school and the school/police protocol for dealing with such incidents kicked into high gear.

With safety of students and staff as the primary concern, police and school staff worked collaboratively and effectively to evacuate the entire school.

"The principal/teachers in charge, Rick Young and Anna Belanger along with all our teaching and support staff did an amazing job keeping everyone calm and ensuring that the process ran as smoothly as possible," said Superintendent of Schools George Thomas, who was on the scene in minutes.

"We are grateful to have the support from of Niagara Regional Police during such times of crisis," said Collegiate Principal Tracy Sacco "Our students were understandably upset but they handled themselves really well. We will continue to work closely with the police who are following some leads to try to establish the identity of the caller."

"The District School Board of Niagara has worked closely with Niagara Regional Police to develop a consistent protocol for dealing with any such crisis," said Director of Education, Warren Hoshizaki. "We will continue to review and revise our process to ensure the safety of everyone concerned. We are proud of the way all our staff – teachers, secretaries, caretakers – worked together to help the students," he said.

All students and staff, including evening caretaking staff and construction staff working on school renovations, were sent home. Police and senior staff conducted a thorough search of the school but found no evidence of anything suspicious.

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