

Alleged Bike Thieves Busted

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CityNews.ca Staff

Row after row of bicycles cram a downtown warehouse.

Some are missing seats; others, wheels; and some are mere frames - albeit carbon fibre ones.

But it's no end-of-season blow-out sale - it's the result of a police sting operation that started with a notorious Queen Street shop.

Ask any cyclist, and they know the place.

A small, messy store front [near Strachan](#), the Bicycle Clinic has been open since 1995. Bikes were for sale, cheap, and repairs and tools abounded.

But the Toronto fixture is under the spotlight, and some allegedly shady dealings are now out in the open.

It's alleged that as a result of an undercover operation, Toronto Police watched the Clinic's owner direct another man to steal a bike.

On Wednesday, officers arrested the pair. By Thursday, they had search warrants for the shop.

"As a result of the search warrants that we did execute, we were able to recover 150 bikes that we believe are stolen, that we're alleging are stolen," confirmed Det. Sgt. Egidio Roseto of 14 Division.

Wes Ryan hopes his ride is among them.

He raced down to the police press conference when he saw it on television, a photo of his bike in hand.

"This is my bike. It was stolen about two months ago," he reported.

"I'm hoping that I get it back through this, through the action by the police."

There's a staggering amount on display.

"We've got everything from Canadian Tire specials up to the high-end carbon fibre bikes. The carbon fibre bikes are worth up in the area of \$7,000," outlined Insp. Paul Vorvis.

Police returned to the Bicycle Clinic to try and retrieve more bikes, but the ceiling was deemed unsafe. Our **CityNews** camera found dozens of bikes hanging inside and many more piled up at the back.

The store's closure was happy news for local residents.

"I think people are actually pretty happy about it. hopefully it's the start of the cops really rack cracking down on some of the bike theft," praised Kevin Smith.

Owner Igor Kenk, 49, and alleged accomplice Jean Laveau, 47, are each charged with:

- 1) Theft,
- 2) Attempt Theft,
- 3) Possession of Stolen Property,
- 4) Possession of Burglar Tools.

Officers claim they also found cocaine and marijuana inside the shop at [927 Queen Street West](#).

Think your bike might be among the missing? Police are having an open house Saturday and Sunday. The recovered bicycles will be available for public viewing at Central Garage, [9 Hanna Street](#), on from 10am to 6pm both days.

To register your bike with Toronto Police, [click here](#).