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Officials take down drug ring

DARCY FARGO
The Telegram

"The entire organization, from top to bottom, has been dismantled," said Franklin County District Attorney Derek Champagne, describing a federal indictment charging 13 defendants with taking part in an organized drug trafficking ring officials say moved hundreds of millions of dollars worth of high grade marijuana from Canada to locations throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and elsewhere.

At a Tuesday press conference, Champagne described the drug operation, referred to as the Steven Sarti Drug Trafficking Organization, as a "300 pound a day marijuana operation - an operation which likely moved in excess of \$250 million dollars a year of marijuana for the past four years."

DEA Special Agent James Burns said, in total, (See Drugs, Page 8)



Darcy Fargo, The Telegram

Major Rick Smith, commander of New York State Police Troop B, Special Agent James Burns with the Drug Enforcement Administration office in Plattsburgh and Franklin County District Attorney Derek Champagne took part in a Tuesday press conference announcing the unsealing of a federal indictment that officials say dismantles a major drug trafficking ring.

Thirteen charged

DARCY FARGO
The Telegram

An indictment unsealed Wednesday outlines charges filed in U.S. District Court charging 13 defendants with crimes allegedly related to their roles in a multi-million dollar drug smuggling ring.

Charged with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana and conspiracy to import more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana are Steven "Goofy" Sarti, 23, of Brossard, Quebec; Edward Kener, 31, of Weston, Fla.; Richard Todd Adams, 35, of Summerton, Ontario; Zachary Gouchie, 24, of Montreal, Quebec; Anthony Plata, 28, of Montreal; Fabrizio Papasodoro, 22, of Brossard; Christopher Birkbeck, Charles Keyes, 23, of East

(See Charges, Page 8)

Restored Salmon River opens door for revival