

Three school buses stolen

At approximately 4 a.m. on Aug. 14 officers with the Bancroft Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police were contacted by the owners of a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup truck, reporting that the vehicle had just been stolen from their driveway, on South Baptiste Lake Road near Marina Road in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands.

While attending to that scene, police observed an abandoned school bus, which had been driven into the ditch on South Baptiste Lake Road, near the residence where the truck had been taken.

It was determined that the bus had been stolen, and further investigation revealed that sometime after midnight on the Aug. 14, three cutaway van style school buses (also known as 'short buses') had been removed from the R&L Bus Line yard on Monck Street in the Town of Bancroft, and driven on the roadways and trails in the area.

In addition to the bus located on South Baptiste Lake Road, the other two buses and the pickup truck were all recovered later that morning, in the vicinity of the town of Bancroft.

The OPP Forensic Identification Unit was called in to assist, and the investigation is ongoing.

Police are seeking assistance from the public to help to identify the individuals responsible. If you have any information in regards to this incident, police are encouraging you to contact the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police at 613-332-2112, or to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Crime Stoppers do not require you to provide your name or testify in court, and Crime Stoppers does not have call display.

Submitted by the OPP