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Editorial

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TV documentary paints inaccurate picture of city

point of view

Posted By

Posted 3 hours ago

If they gave out awards for distorting a community's image with a television documentary, the Outdoor Life Network (OLN) would have a contender with its upcoming 'Courage in Red'.

The documentary zeroes in on the thriving tobacco smuggling trade in the Cornwall area.

But in bringing the constant battle between law enforcement agencies and smugglers to the television screen, it paints a grossly inaccurate picture of Cornwall and area.

The documentary has plastered the 'Dodge City' label on a community that doesn't deserve that kind of notoriety.

According to the documentary, smuggling has made Cornwall a dangerous place to live. Really, eh!

'Courage in Red' tells viewers that "On any given night, you will hear gunfire in Cornwall."

The documentary goes on to inform viewers that the gunfire is "warning shots from brazen smugglers, telling people of the community that they mean business."

The gunfire, it goes on, has Cornwall residents living in fear.

Incredibly, the local RCMP detachment comes to the defence of the gunfire/ living-in-fear image that thousands of viewers across North America will be presented with when the documentary airs on Dec. 13.

In one scene a boater with a gun is captured going past Cornwall Island. Since the documentary was shot in the fall, this could be a hunter. Apparently any boat within eyesight of the island is connected to smuggling.

An RCMP official says the documentary introduction that talks about nightly gunfire heard in the city with the claim that residents are living in fear is not an exaggeration. That's right. Not an exaggeration.

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Too bad that the federal force has given credence to what Mayor Bob Kilger correctly describes as "crap."

For the record, residents are not serenaded by nightly gunfire, nor do they live in fear.

In most cases any gunfire, especially along the river, comes from duck hunters in the fall.

Cornwall is a safe community; as safe as any community its size in Canada.

Shoreline real estate east of the city is in demand. This wouldn't be the case if it was a dangerous place to live.

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City hall should fire off a letter to the OLN protesting the false and damaging image the documentary portrays. It should also complain to the RCMP higher ups about the support for that image the local detachment has provided.

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