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Canada's National Law Enforcement Magazine

October 2008



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October 2008
Volume 20 Number 8



The Timmins Police Service and Ontario Provincial Police work together to police one of the largest municipalities in Canada. Under a hybrid policing agreement, the two forces share resources and have a “tremendous air of co-operation.” See page 6.

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Time for government to pay the beagle

by Morley Lymburner

Canadian policing is the best bargain the taxpayer has ever had. No one outside of Disneyland works harder to please its customers. Cops are the pet beagles sitting at the side of society's feet with their tongues hanging out and ready for the call to go get 'em.

Policing is a 24/7 social service, with highly motivated and dedicated people at the public's beck and call – easily summoned by simply dialling those three magic numbers. Unfortunately, cops will not let poor laws or management, lack of policy or under funding stand in the way of getting the job done. They will do more with less and, when the boss asks again, do even more with even less.

This month we elect new federal representatives who undoubtedly will be filled with new enthusiasm – and, I fear, the same old attitudes toward policing.

Evidence

Exhibit A – *Blue Line* offered each party space to state their positions on Canadian policing in early September; the silence was deafening.

The statistics have been full of good news for politicians. Crime is down and interest in other issues way up. Going green and the carbon tax proposal captures the headlines. Police and crime concerns are far down the political agenda. With such eager and motivated cops, why should the politicians care?

Andrew Maksymchuk's new book, *From muskog to murder*, chronicles his early days policing remote areas of Northern Ontario, living and working in a harsh environment under poor, even crude, conditions. An insensitive and remote headquarters told officers very plainly that they should be ready to live the same life style as the communities they serve. Whatever happened to showing people a better

example or raising the bar a little? Cops were expected to lead by example, but not live the example in their housing or facilities. Much of this attitude survives even today.

The lesson was, and is, that police do not need more funding because cops will always soldier on, making do with what they are given.

Exhibit B – Despite 9/11, police services have not been given additional resources. Stats Canada reports officer strength increased steadily until the early 1970s, peaking in 1975 at 206 officers per 100,000 people. That rate dropped to 195 officers per 100,000 in 2007, down five per cent from the peak. This is completely contrary to the political rhetoric heard from politicians and explosively risky post 9/11.

Politicians make broad statements about crime and putting more cops on the streets, but do nothing substantial. The only thing that changes is the increased resolve of police to dig deeper, give more and try harder. Police managers have surrendered to the bean counters, spending their days searching for places to cut spending and humbly accepting less and less.

Exhibit C – Unlike fire or ambulance services, police costing competitions have become accepted policy in many municipalities. Even though all police budgets should be reviewed by the provincial solicitor general, agencies are forced to compete for contracts. The lowest bidder wins, sowing discord between services. In times long past, communi-



ties would only lose their police service because of gross incompetency; today 100 year old police services are disbanded because the chief can't balance the cheque book.

Exhibit D – Middle management is streamlining (I call it gutting) in an effort to further reduce police budgets, resulting in the overburdening of senior management, less supervision of field officers and more prisoner deaths in one of- ficer custody situations.

Exhibit E – Local police stations are closed or amalgamated and replaced by new "super stations," resulting in even less supervision and dwindling personnel. This means travelling longer distances to calls, higher

collision risk, slower response times, areas left uncovered at potentially critical times and (the least considered point) higher officer stress.

We will be giving our newly elected politicians a hand basket; they will soon ask where we are going, and no one wants to tell them. If they accept the status quo, they will also have to accept the blame when the inevitable happens.

Cops at all levels should stop being the long suffering fall guys for poor management; perhaps those beagles should consider becoming a little less eager.



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Partnerships key to Timmins Police success

by Des Walsh

Guided by public trust and the principles of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Timmins Police Service (TPS), in partnership with the community, commits to the continuous pursuit of excellence in the delivery of policing services.

Such is the mission of the TPS, a modern, progressive and forward-thinking police agency established in 1912. Located in picturesque Northeastern Ontario and home to 45,000 people, Timmins encompasses the former Town of Timmins, Schumacher, Porcupine, South Porcupine and Connaught. Each community had its own police force until amalgamation in 1973.

TPS Chief Richard Laperriere, a 30-year veteran, heads 84 sworn officers and more than 35 civilians. A full service agency with an annual operating budget of more than \$11.5 million, the TPS patrols all urban areas within the city, where the majority of the population resides. At 2,961.52 square kilometres (1,143 sq mi), Timmins is one of the largest municipalities in Canada.

A hybrid policing agreement and tremendous air of co-operation and resource-sharing with the Ontario Provincial Police establishes protection for all outlying areas within the

city's boundaries. The OPP operates from a detachment in the city.

Timmins was founded by Noah Timmins in 1912 after the discovery of the Hollinger Gold Mine. Within a year, the new town had already grown larger than the original mining camps. Gold was the catalyst for area development; base metals such as silver, zinc, copper and nickel were discovered during the early 1960s, breathing new life into the area economy. Mining remains the dominant industry in the area.

Timmins' economy is now booming thanks to high base-metal and gold prices and thriving secondary industries, including forestry, tourism, recreation, health care, education, commercial and industrial commerce, culture and telecommunications.

The community has undergone a moderate boom in gold mining, with several new underground operations opening. A large scale open pit project is underway, diamonds have been discovered and there are other promising ventures on the horizon. Timmins is evolving into a centre of regional governmental, transportation, industrial, commercial and recreational centre for much of Northeastern Ontario and the James Bay coast line.

The TPS prides itself on sustainability, moving from a cramped facility that placed

many restrictions on service delivery to a new, modern, 38,999 square feet headquarters during the summer of 2007. Centrally located in the city core, it allows personnel to perform their duties in a bright, modern and open environment.

All divisions, including a state of the art forensic identification lab, major case investigation facilities, gym, training classroom and regional emergency dispatch centre, operate out of the new building. Through a unique partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Health, communications staff also dispatch police, fire and ambulance emergency calls for a broad area of Northeastern Ontario. Sixteen full-time dispatchers handle more than 50,000 calls for service on an annual basis.

Laperriere emphasizes the importance of partnerships with community service agencies, citizens and governments to achieve excellence.

"Establishing partnerships is the key to providing emergency services, ensuring a safe community and to meet the needs of victims of crime in today's environment of 'doing more with less,'" he states. "In our community we have forged those partnerships with agencies who work in conjunction with our organization and complement our responsibilities."

The headquarters also houses other agen-



cies, including the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service, DARE, Crime Stoppers, Accident Support Services and the local civilian community policing board; 'one-stop shopping' for those needing emergency and support services.

The TPS is a self-sustaining organization and includes:

- Community patrol
- Traffic division, including collision investigation experts
- Canine unit
- Fully-equipped and trained emergency response team
- Criminal investigation division, including trained major case investigators
- Professional standards branch
- Training and recruitment branch
- Modern forensic identification unit
- Regional emergency communications centre
- Full-time, dedicated community-oriented foot patrol unit serving both business and residential areas
- Off-road vehicle and motorized snow vehicle patrol
- Auxiliary police unit
- Full-time special constables and court security division

The TPS has a 30 vehicle fleet, including marked and unmarked cruisers, a motorcycle, off-road vehicles and motorized snow vehicles – essential for patrolling recreational areas and trails that lie within the patrol jurisdiction. A full-time fleet manager maintains equipment.

Per capita cost for the service in 2006 was \$224.00 – below the provincial average of \$240.00; the clearance rate for criminal code offences was 45 per cent, well above the national rate of 36 per cent.

During recent years, the TPS has embarked upon an aggressive program to enhance its image and promote partnerships to enhance

service and encourage community involvement in preventing crime. Laperriere adopted a new mission statement (which begins this article) when he assumed office in 2004 and he and his administrative team unveiled a new, bold direction for the organization.

“Our police service must take the lead in establishing those partnerships that will permit us to fulfill our mission. I envision our organization as one that does not work for our community, but with our community,” Laperriere says.

“Such is the intent of our mission – we are guided by public trust and the fundamentals of the Charter – but we can only fulfill that mission through the engagement of our citizens, governments, support agencies and the community as a whole.

“Every one of us has a role to play in order to ensure a safe and secure Timmins.”

The service has undergone major reorganization and restructuring under Laperriere’s leadership, striving to fulfill its goals and improve its image.

The Timmins Police Pipes and Drums, formed in 2000 and made up of police officers and community volunteers, are proud musical ambassadors for the service and city. It became the first Northern Ontario police band to perform at a march past ceremony at the Ontario Police College in November, 2007 and has travelled throughout Ontario and the US to participate in parades and ceremonies.

Other image initiatives include establishing a professional standards branch to instill public confidence in officers, creating a new web site, forming a fully equipped and trained auxiliary unit – currently staffed with seven volunteer officers – and beginning a full-time, community-oriented foot patrol unit. The two officers walk the beat year-round – even during the city’s bitterly cold winters.

The most notable achievement is open-

ing the Timmins Police Community Facility. Laperriere and his predecessors worked long and hard to realize this goal, which came to fruition last year. Chiefs and senior officers from across the province attended the official opening. The project was completed on time and on budget at a cost of \$12 million.

A set of supporting values was established along with the new TPS mission statement, including one that empowers all members of the service.

“We value our police service members as our most important resource,” it reads. “We encourage the contributions of all in a climate of openness, trust and mutual respect.” The administration team strives to include all members in decision-making processes, from instituting procedures and policies to designing patrol cars.

Timmins is one of Canada’s most dynamic municipalities, with an enviable reputation, but Laperriere and the service and board members have not grown complacent about the future. The policing environment has been and continues to change at a rapid pace.

Demographic, economic, criminal, urban and technological changes and a wide variety of pressures all combine to create complex challenges for policing.

“To fulfil our mission, we will continue to build upon the partnerships that we have established and forge ahead to create new ones in the pursuit of excellence,” states Laperriere.

“Our mission is a work in progress. At the end of the day, I’m confident that the motto of the Timmins Police Service – ‘Pride and integrity since 1912’ – will endure well into the future.”

Des Walsh is the Deputy Chief of the Timmins Police Service. He may be contacted at Des.Walsh@city.timmins.on.ca. Visit www.police.timmins.ca for more on the Timmins Police Service or www.city.timmins.on.ca to learn more about Timmins.

Protecting Canada's largest port



by Barb Bluschke

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), an amalgamation of the Vancouver, Fraser and North Fraser ports, is now the controlling port authority on Canada's south west coast.

Vancouver is geographically bounded by waterways; Burrard Inlet and English Bay to the north and the Fraser River to the south. There are 25 major marine terminals located in Burrard Inlet, three major railways and two cruise ship terminals. The Fraser's north arm is a major route for transporting raw logs harvested along the BC coast. The Vancouver Police Department and its marine unit are responsible for city property; because the city's north and south boundaries are waterways, the department has had an operational marine unit since 1911.

The unit currently has 16 full-time officers and two boats; a 33 ft custom built craft, the RG McBeath, and a 5.9m zodiac inflatable. In reality, it is the only full-time, water-borne policing agency based on the Mainland. The RCMP Marine Unit is headquartered in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. The RCMP-WJFO (Waterfront Joint Forces Operation), is based in Vancouver but is only an intelligence-driven, non-uniform presence.

The VPD is also the department of jurisdiction for the south shore of the Port of Vancouver, from English Bay to the Second Narrows Bridge. The large size of the area makes having a constant police presence on the water a challenge.

There are also multiple municipalities that occupy the varied geographical areas along the coastline, so the unit is regularly called to adjacent municipalities. For example, in Burrard Inlet alone, the cities of Burnaby, North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, Port Moody and

Coquitlam all have properties bounded by the water and policed by other agencies.

Out of necessity, inter-agency co-operation has become standard operating procedure. The marine unit developed the port protection model to provide a framework for policing the marine environment in and around Canada's largest port.

Interaction (sharing of resources), training and exchange of information is required to optimize the capabilities of all available agencies. The model is simply an attempt to formalize and quantify this inter-agency co-operation.

The model is based on four existing areas of policing and attempts to provide a framework from which to build a more comprehensive and formalized mandate for water-borne policing. It consists of:

1. Community policing initiatives

- "Lock it or Lose It" campaign
- "Marina Operators Association"
- Power squadron lectures
- Marine stakeholder involvement/liaison
- High visibility patrols and vessel safety checks

2. Anti-terrorism

- Multi-agency operability (communication)
- Knowledge of port and facilities
- Identification of risks
- Regular defensive searches (high visibility measures)
- Intelligence gathering

3. Marine duties

Upholding the rule of law

- Criminal Code
- Canada Shipping Act
- Provincial statutes
- Vancouver bylaws

General

- Calls for service
- Search and rescue
- Investigations
- Marine and shore patrols

False Creek anchoring restrictions

- Permit enforcement
- Towing
- Removal

Cruise ship facilities

- Foot patrols of shore facilities and vessel perimeters
- Security breach investigations

4. Training

- Inter-agency training sessions
- Tactical water fighting
- Surface-borne recovery (SBRT)
- Tactical vessel operation
- Water-borne ballistic training (WBBT)
- Armed boarding
- Water-borne search techniques
- Man overboard and body recoveries

VPD members are sworn provincial peace officers so, through necessity, have to rely on their federal counterparts to enforce some laws on the water (DFO for fisheries violations, TC for navigation and commercial vessel enforcement, CBSA for customs/immigration violations, etc).

The VPD can provide reciprocity to other agencies that lack the local marine knowledge and resources but have water-based mandates. CBSA marine, for example, relies on the department to transport its agents to search the hulls of ocean going vessels arriving at the port and to search ships.

The VPD does not have a dive team and so calls on the RCMP and coast guard dive teams for recovery and rescue situations. Complete interagency co-operation is difficult to achieve. Having a workable relationship with every agency – enabling an appropriate, professional response to any incident – is the ultimate goal.

The ultimate goal of the port protection model is to ensure the safety of both recreational and industrial users. The VPD Marine Unit will continue to develop an integrated, well trained and prepared work force on the water, using the model as the framework for the future.

Contact vpdmarine@gmail.com or call 604 717-2791 for more on the VPD Marine Unit. Cst Barb Bluschke is an 18 year VPD member and the marine unit's first female captain. She developed the port protection model and champions open communication and co-operation between all mariners. E-mail her at barb.bluschke@vpd.ca for more information.

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by Mark Giles

Staying on message

Loosely applying investigative and communication rules destroys credibility

After recently ordering the release of a dozen jailed goats charged with being sold illegally by the roadside and due to appear in court, the Democratic Republic of Congo's deputy minister of justice said the police officers involved were being sent for retraining.

Retraining might be a good start, as obviously something was missing in this case, but the problem is likely a larger one. The officers apparently didn't get the concept that the law doesn't apply to animals and, even if it did, these goats would be considered victims, not suspects. But it's also possible these "arrests" were part of a larger, broader objective – one aimed at an individual or group.

This case is as comical as it is extreme, but far from the only example where the law or internal policy appears to have been applied in broad fashion. Some police or military officers – often "old-school" types – still don't seem to realize that they can't make up the rules as they go along, pre-determining a loose objective or message to be sent, and then managing the case to achieve the desired outcome.

Maybe the problem in the DR Congo was training or perhaps the officers had a pre-set agenda – bending the rules to achieve it, and applying the spirit, rather than the letter of the law. A recent internal administrative investigation here in Canada appears to have done something similar, writing a loose application of the rules right into the assigned objective, and tasking the investigator with looking into whether the spirit of the organization's policy was violated.

Void for vagueness

The officer-in-charge may have realized that the rules weren't actually broken, but rather than admitting what could be seen internally as defeat, chose to cast an extremely wide net – even after a prominent defence lawyer and former prosecutor noted that using such broad spirit-of-the-law type language is legally considered "void for vagueness", allowing a case to be unfocused and drawing in irrelevant information.

It reminded me of my early days on the street, when wearing forage caps outside the patrol car was mandatory. Some internal investigations that cleared officers of initial misconduct allegations later resulted in "negative paper" after it was found they were not wearing their forage cap at the time.

What amuses me the most in these situations is how these old-schoolers seem to be the first to use the rule book – and the letter

of the law – when it suits their objectives, but quickly move to other more loosely applied tactics when it doesn't, or when the desired outcome seems to be in jeopardy. These witch hunts – usually looking for 'scapegoats' – often come to an abrupt halt when the evidence points back at management, in an unwanted direction, or nowhere at all.

The result is usually negative overall, including a lowered credibility among internal audiences and later, as stories leak out, with external audiences as well. Most worrisome is that this lowered credibility ultimately means a lower level of support when an organization needs it most – during difficult times.

Broad and loose application of the rules in internal investigations sends a message that an organization is looking for something – anything – to justify its probe. The result is often a perception of an unfocused, undisciplined organization.

Lack of focus

This lack of focus is also evident with organizations that set priorities so broad they can't possibly be achieved. Perhaps manage-



ment is thinking that more priorities mean a greater chance of operational success. Unfortunately, the opposite is usually true – the more the efforts of front-line and investigative officers are diluted, the greater likelihood that each initiative will fail and the more challenges will be faced in communicating them. But rather than admitting they can't be everything to everyone, they continue with the mantra, not willing to acknowledge the inverse relationship between quantity and quality.

This relationship is as real as the law of gravity, but not a reality that many are willing to admit – especially those unwilling to say "no" to higher management or specific community groups. Like the old-schoolers who cast their investigative net far and wide in an effort to

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achieve a pre-determined objective, their broad agendas lead to a lack of focus – with a high likelihood of becoming “void for vagueness”. These broad agendas tend to confuse internal audiences, as well as the media and public. Not wanting to specify key priorities, these organizations fail to communicate clear, succinct messages, and fail to connect with employees and the communities they serve.

Whether it's investigating internal incidents or communicating an organization's priorities, cutting a wide swath is bound to generate poor results. Police officers and other personnel want to know what their employer stands for, what is expected and the vision for the future. They also need to be reassured that the rules and messages are consistent – not continually changing at the whim of a management group out to justify

some broad and loose objective.

While trying to be everything to everyone may work initially, it often results in a lack of focus and finding a few “goats” in jail. By limiting the scope of its activities and narrowing priorities to those linked to understandable and respected objectives, an organization can generate and maintain public and internal support – the very support needed in maintaining the credibility of law enforcement and other organizations.

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author. Mark Giles is *Blue Line's* correspondent for media and public relations, and military and international issues. He is also a senior communications analyst at the Privy Council Office in Ottawa with responsibility for several law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Contact him at: giles@blueline.ca

DISPATCHES



Gananogue Police Service announced the appointment of **Kai Liu** as their new chief of police last August after the sudden passing of the former Chief Bob Parrish. Liu was formerly an Inspector with the Ottawa Police Service before taking up his duties August 1st in Gananogue. Liu spent a total of 22 years with the Ottawa Police and has received numerous awards and recognition for his community outreach efforts.

....



The Peterborough Lakefield Police Service announced the promotion of **Murray Rodd** to the position of Chief of Police. Rodd is a 25 year member of the police service and assumes the position held by retiring Chief

Terry McLaren. Rodd has worked in every aspect of the police service and attained the rank of Inspector before accepting the top job last summer. Rodd has received considerable recognition for his efforts within the police service and the community at large with a strong focus on youth.

....



Doug Kane, formerly a superintendent with the Niagara Regional Police, assumed the role of Chief of the Niagara Parks Police October 1st. He first served as a parks police officer in 1975, when he worked as a seasonal constable. He joined the Niagara Regional Police in 1977 and spent the next 31 years with the service in various capacities. Most recently, he was superintendent in charge of emergency and investigative services. Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Kane replaces retiring chief Tim Berndt.

....



In a surprising statement made to the CBC former RCMP Commissioner **Giuliano Zaccardelli** stated the RCMP should stop using conducted energy devices (CED). In his remarks he advised the national broadcaster he has reconsidered his position toward the devices. “I’ve come more and more to the conclusion that I’m not sure that having Tasers is worth the negative impact that it has on police forces in terms of public perception... I think we should stop using it.” More than 2800 CED devices are currently in use by the RCMP. Zaccardelli has taken up a position with Interpol in Lyon, France.

....



Michael Watson, formerly from the Director of the Ontario Securities Commission, has been appointed a special advisor to the RCMP's Integrated Market Enforcement Team (IMET). He assumed his new position on September 15th. One of Watson's main goals is to provide the IMET enhanced legal tools with which to conduct capital markets investigations. Watson is a lawyer previously working in Alberta, Manitoba, BC and Ontario.

....

Revenue Minister **Gordon O'Connor** announced a new excise duty stamp aimed at discouraging illegal tobacco sales. The new stamp is said to be a key element in government efforts to eliminate contraband. The stamp will contain several security features, much like those found on currency. The agency has also increased audits of tobacco manufacturers and monitoring of tobacco growers.

Bruce Power team wins top award



by Morley Lyburner

Bruce Power's Nuclear Response Team competes internationally against the world's best tactical teams to measure its progress and ensure the validity of its training methods. This year, it took top prize at the 2008 U.S. National SWAT Championships.

The tragedies of September 11, 2001 cast a long shadow across the globe, prompting worldwide changes in response to the threat of terrorism.

In the days following the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, the Canadian nuclear industry quickly adopted strict security measures to counter possible threats or dangers presented to nuclear generating plants.

As reported in the October, 2006 edition of *Blue Line Magazine*, enhanced security became a new way of life at Bruce Power and while many details remain classified for obvious reasons, some of the security measures include:

- Immediate, on-site armed response, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Enhanced security screening of employees and contractors, including background, police and security checks.
- Improved physical identification checks of plant staff, such as card access and palm scanners.



- Barriers to stop vehicles from breaching protected areas of plants.
- The use of explosion detectors, X-ray screening and metal detectors for personnel and vehicle searches.

The company has set the goal of being the best in the world at everything it does.

The Bruce Power team first competed internationally in 2005. Its victory marked the first time a Canadian tactical team had won top honours in international SWAT competition.

Its response teams regularly conduct security exercises and drills under the supervision of federal authorities and work hard to ensure they remain among the world's best. Clearly they have set the standard for Canadian Nuclear power plant security.

A HISTORY OF SUCCESS



APRIL 2005 – Placed fifth overall at World SWAT Challenge in Las Vegas.

June 2005 – Captured seven gold medals at the Canadian Law Enforcement Games

APRIL 2006 – Eighth place at the World SWAT Challenge in Little Rock, Arkansas.

JUNE 2006 – First place in the Police /Military category at the Security Protection Officers Training Challenge in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

MAY 2007 – Fourth overall in the World SWAT Challenge.

JUNE 2007 – First place in the Police /Military category at SPOTC.

SEPTEMBER 2007 – First overall in the inaugural Canadian Nuclear Security Officer's Challenge.

MAY 2008 – First overall at the U.S. National SWAT Championships in Castle Rock, Colorado.

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JUVENILE JUSTICE IN CANADA

It has been 100 years since the first formal regulation directed at young offenders was developed in Canada. The evolution toward a distinct regime for young offenders has been a long one and this six-part series drawn from the Department of Justice will be useful to view the current system within the social and historical contexts of its development.

The Young Offenders Act of 1984 - Bringing the Act in Line

In early 1981, Bill C-61, the Young Offenders Act, was introduced in Parliament. The Bill, unlike the 1908 Juvenile Delinquents Act, which received less than one hour's discussion in the House of Commons, was the subject of extensive study and debate in Parliament. More than 40 interest groups made representations to the parliamentary subcommittee studying the Bill. Although critical of particular aspects of the Bill, these groups generally supported it.

The philosophical direction of the proposed legislation, in sharp contrast to the failed 1970 Young Offenders Act, was hardly debated at all. The legal rights orientation of the Bill went virtually unchallenged; what was really at issue in this regard was not the rights in themselves but nuances of their implications. The two dominant political parties of the time (the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party) seemed to agree on the fundamental direction of juvenile justice reform, while a third party (the New Democratic Party) criticized certain aspects of the Bill but remained relatively quiet in its criticism of the legislation's philosophical direction.

In 1982, the federal government enacted the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which has become a fundamental part of the country's Constitution. The Charter protects, among other things, legal rights such as the right to life, liberty and security of the person. The integration in the Constitution of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms provided a strong impetus to federal reform efforts. Many of the provisions of the Juvenile Delinquents Act appeared to ignore the legal rights guaranteed in the Charter. Further, the provincial disparities invited challenge under section 15 of the Charter, which guarantees equality rights. Thus, in 1982, with the support of all political parties, the Young Offenders Act received parliamentary approval. The Young Offenders Act came into force on 2 April 1984, replacing the 1908 Juvenile Delinquents Act.

The Young Offenders Act of 1984 was designed to remedy many of the shortcomings in the treatment of juvenile delinquents; in particular, it addressed the issue of offenders' rights. The Act continued to make a distinction between youth and adult crime, and to provide for a substantially different and much more benign approach to dealing with youth. At the same



time, it attempted to make young people more accountable for their actions. The legislation ended the paternalistic handling of delinquents by providing young people the same basic rights and freedoms before the law as those enjoyed by adults, such as the right to legal counsel and the right to appeal a conviction. It also set out a new range of penalties that included the options of financial restitution or compensatory work for the victim. One of the more significant changes, in keeping with the Act's benevolent approach, was the provision raising the minimum age for prosecution to 12 years and setting a new, Canada-wide maximum age of 17. The uniform maximum age provision of the Act came into force on 1 April 1985.

The Act initially stipulated that detention could not exceed two years, except where the crime would ordinarily incur a life sentence, in which case the maximum period of commitment could not exceed three years. Although the Act permits transfer to adult court in certain situations, its intent was that most cases be tried in youth court. There have been a number of amendments to the Act since it came into force. For example, there were amendments to the transfer process, amendments increasing the penalty for first-degree murder to 10 years, and amendments increasing the penalty for second-degree murder to 7 years.

Despite the considerable amount of criticism it has received, the Young Offenders Act was clearly an improvement over the Juvenile Delinquents Act since it represented a balance of the due process rights of young people, the protection of society and the special needs of young offenders. While many Canadians thought the Act was too lenient on young offenders, children's advocates were concerned

about the overuse of incarceration as a method for dealing with troubled youths. A further criticism was that the principles enumerated in the Young Offenders Act lacked any indication of priority or order of importance.

In July 1995, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs initiated a broad review of the Young Offenders Act. In order to properly assess the situation, a wide range of groups were consulted, including criminal justice professionals, children's services organizations, victims, parents, young offenders, educators, advocacy groups and social-policy analysts. In its report entitled *Renewing Youth Justice*, the federal committee formulated in April 1997 14 suggestions for change, such as providing youth courts the jurisdiction to deal with 10 and 11 year-olds in certain circumstances, to allow judges the discretion to permit publication of young offenders' names, and replacing the Act's declaration of principles with a statement of purpose and an enunciation of guiding principles for its implementation.

On 12 May 1998, the federal government released its response to the 1997 *Renewing Youth Justice* report in a document entitled *A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice*. This document addressed each of the recommendations made by the 1997 report and outlined how the government intended to reform juvenile justice. The strategy focused on three areas: youth crime prevention, providing young people with meaningful consequences for their actions, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act 2003

On 11 March 1999, the government introduced Bill C-68, the first version of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The bill was reintroduced in October 1999 as Bill C-3. An election call in late 2000 prevented Parliament from passing the Bill. Consequently, the federal government reintroduced before Parliament on 5 February 2001 Bill C-7, the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Bill C-7 contained over 160 amendments in response to suggestions and concerns raised in relation to Bill C-3. The Bill was adopted and received Royal Assent on 19 February 2002. Following the time allotted to the provinces to prepare for its implementation, the Youth Criminal Justice Act came into

force on 1 April 2003, replacing the Young Offenders Act.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act strives to remedy the perceived problems of the Young Offenders Act by, among other things, using the formal justice system more selectively, reducing the over reliance on incarceration and increasing reintegration of young people into the community following custody. The Youth Criminal Justice Act contains a Declaration of Principle applicable to the entire Act, which reflects Canada's new policy respecting young persons. The Act further aims to achieve its objectives by stating principles that are specific to certain provisions of the Act. For example, there is a substantial difference between the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the Young Offenders Act on the issue of youth sentencing. The Young Offenders Act principally relied upon its general Declaration of Principle to guide all provisions of that Act, including sentencing. The Youth Criminal Justice Act explicitly states the purpose, principles and factors to be considered when youth courts sentence young persons. In addition to creating a number of new sentencing options, the Youth Criminal Justice Act replaced transfers to adult court with a system of adult sentencing. Though all trials will take place in a youth court under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, for certain offences and in certain circumstances a youth may receive an adult sentence. The Youth Criminal Justice Act also outlines in separate sections the purposes, principles and factors

to be used in sentencing, custody and supervision, and extra judicial measures.

As a part of Canada's A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice, the Youth Criminal Justice Act seeks to provide the legislative direction needed to achieve a more effective and fairer youth justice regime. Along with its non-legislative elements such as federal funding for programs, crime prevention and education, the Youth Criminal Justice Act should contribute to the improvement of the youth justice system.

1. The historical overview that follows is based on a paper prepared for the International Co-operation Group by historian Owen Carrigan.
2. Ivy Pinchbeck and Margaret Hewitt, Children in English Society, volume 2, page 352. More generally, this two-volume history provides a particularly well researched account of the evolution of the attitude to children in England.
3. André Lachance, "Women and crime in Canada in the early eighteenth century, 1712-1759", in R. C. Macleod (editor), Lawful Authority, pages 9-21, at page 15.
4. An Act respecting Industrial Schools, Statutes of the Province of Ontario, 1874, chapter 29.
5. An Act respecting Arrest, Trial and Imprisonment of Youthful Offenders, Statutes of Canada, 1894, volume 1, chapter 58.
6. An Act to amend the Act respecting Procedure in Criminal Cases and other matters relating to Criminal Law, Statutes of Canada, 1875, volume 1, chapter 43.
7. An Act for establishing a Juvenile Reformatory, Statutes of British Columbia, 1889-1890, chapter 21.
8. The Criminal Code, 1892, Statutes of Canada, 1892, volumes 1 and 2, chapter 29.
9. The Juvenile Delinquents Act, Statutes of Canada, 1908, chapter 40.

LETTERS

Taser Madness

I just read your recent article in *Blue Line* re: "Taser Madness". It was as dead-on as anyone could have written on this issue. Your common sense combined with to-the-point expertise, in my opinion, answers all of the pertinent questions on tasers, use of force and police decision making as well as quelling the rhetoric that is out there. I have been harping these points locally, albeit not as articulately as you and John, including suppression of discussion around a code of conduct that was more based on public outcry than the type of wisdom you include in the article.

P.R. (Randy) Wilson
Vancouver, BC

...

I could not help wanting to drop you a line to express my appreciation for your recent article, "Taser Madness" printed in the August/September issue of *Blue Line Magazine*. This article is frankly the best articulated and most succinct summary of the misunderstandings/issues around taser use that I have read. If one of the problems that we face in the whole taser debate is educating the public then in an ideal world this article would be prominently printed in every major media publication in the country.

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The absence of crime & disorder

by Art Hanger

I find it curious that certain criminal lawyers search out judicial comments which imply police are reckless, uncontrolled lawbreakers who would march the country into a China-like totalitarian state if left to their own devices.

In a February Sun Media column headlined *Police efficiency isn't everything*, prominent lawyer Edward Greenspan wrote about an Ontario drug arrest. A patrol officer noticed a car with no front license plate – an offence in a province which issues two plates – and pulled it over. This even though he noted before stopping it that the car was from Alberta, which only issues rear plates, and knew it was legal to drive an Alberta-registered car in Ontario.

The officer had obviously honed his investigative instincts over the years and noticed some little thing about the driver and vehicle that warranted the stop, in his judgment – and he was dead right!

Greenspan goes on to recount how the officer questioned the driver, Bradley Harrison, despite having no legal right to do so, learned that his license had been suspended, arrested him and found 77 pounds of cocaine when he searched the car.

The trial judge found the officer's actions a flagrant, brazen violation of Harrison's rights under the Charter, but still admitted the cocaine into evidence. He was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison. One more drug-pusher off the streets.

I understand as much as the next guy that we can't have a legal system which allows police or other government agents to stop and search people willy-nilly – our fundamental democratic freedoms demand otherwise – but let's not be silly. It's one thing to establish a system that prevents the government from unnecessarily handcuffing criminal suspects; it's something entirely

different when it handcuffs police before they can act on a hunch and carry out an investigation. If Harrison was innocent, he would quickly have forgotten that he was pulled over.

I'm not intimately familiar with the case (nor, I suspect, is Greenspan), but I expect that Harrison – apart from having a suspended license – was behaving suspiciously. I have been in many circumstances where a suspect's behaviour made it plainly obvious that they were guilty of something more than what I originally thought. Perhaps it was their speech, the way they avoided direct eye contact or something as simple as the way they were standing.

We've all experienced this, so why prevent police from investigating suspicious behaviour? We should not prevent them from doing their job!

The downside of searching an innocent person's vehicle in a case like this is the potential loss of a few minutes of driving time. I recognize that the government's right to search must be stringently limited in many circumstances. We can't search homes on a hunch and common-law principles prevent such action, but really – after spotting something apparently suspicious on a roadside, then confirming that a driver is unlicensed, is it really unreasonable for an officer to want to search a car? Clearly not in Harrison's case.

Ottawa-bound lobbyists such as criminal-rights advocacy groups and some criminal-bar representatives frequently seek to curtail police authority and encumber investigations with a burdensome process which often overshadows the truth. The result of this testimony, over time, has spawned legislation which muddied the waters of enforcement.

"The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it," is the last of Sir Robert Peel's nine basic policing principles.

Thanks to sound police investigation and a judge who looked to the greater good of the community, convicted drug trafficker Harrison would now be absent from the community. Just imagine the damage his 77 pounds of cocaine would have caused in our communities – wasted and damaged lives because of addiction and a vicious cycle of violence, drugs and crime.

I served the residents of Calgary as a police officer for some 22 years. Like tens of thousands before me and since, I swore an oath to uphold the law of the land, then went about our time honoured profession with integrity. Our 1971 code of ethics included this:

- *As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice (first paragraph).*
- *I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions, with no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favour, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities (third paragraph).*

Sure, there was the occasional bad apple or over zealous hot-head who failed to live up to the high standards expected of a police officer, but these characters were dealt with – not protected.

This code says it all. It reflects police accountability to the public and police responsibility to enforce the law without favour.

Art Hanger is the Member of Parliament for Calgary North-east and chairs the House of Commons Justice Committee.

Medals and Awards

by Edo van Belkom

ONTARIO MEDAL FOR POLICE BRAVERY



ORIGINS: The Ontario Medal for Police Bravery was established in 1975 to recognize police officers in Ontario whose actions exemplify bravery and courage above and beyond the call of duty.

CRITERIA: Nominations can be made by members of Ontario police services or by Ontario residents, but must be endorsed by the nominee's police chief or by the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police. While incidents must have occurred within 24 months of the date of submission, nominations can be reviewed beyond 24 months under special circumstances. Medal recipients are selected by an independent advisory council whose members are appointed by the Premier of Ontario and represent the general public, police services and the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services. A similar process is in place to select recipients of the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery.

The medal may be awarded posthumously.

INSIGNIA: The design is that of a cross – a traditional symbol of valour – and incorporates a crown, a circle of maple leaves and a trillium. The medal is gold-plated sterling silver with blue and white enamel detailing.

SUSPENDER: A straight bar suspender attached to the medal by a ring.

RIBBON: A blue ribbon with two yellow stripes similar in appearance to the ribbon of the RCMP long-service medal.

OTHER: The Ontario Medal for Police Bravery is unique in that it makes no distinction between the actions taken by an on-duty officer, or an off-duty officer who performs an heroic act. Both the police medal and its companion, the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery are both presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in a special ceremony held annually at Queen's Park.

NOMINATIONS: For more information, contact local Chiefs of Police, the OPP or the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration website at www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/honours/police.

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*This year's winner of the Blue Line Magazine Essay Contest for community college students in police foundations/law/justice/security programs is **Matt Richardson**. Matt is in the Police Foundations Program at Niagara College in Ontario.*

Youth Culture & Police

by *Matt Richardson*

Policing in Canada is a complex and often controversial aspect of our society. The relationship between police and the youth of our society has become an alarming issue in recent years. The often negative attitude towards police among adolescents in Canada is perpetuated by the negative media police have received in music, cinema, and television. This negative attitude towards police and the criminal justice system often translates to an increase in youth related criminal activity.

The amount of young offenders in our justice system and the recidivism rates of those individuals is a testament to the issue. A major effort must be made to curb this trend and alleviate this added stress to society or else we shall see a large proportion of youths maturing into career criminals.

This negative view towards law enforcement from Canadian youth, perpetuated by popular media, is contributing to criminal activity across the country and is turning into an epidemic in our major centres.

Popular media of today has radically changed from what the adult population of Canada experienced decades ago. All forms of media ranging from print, television, radio, and the internet is readily available to most people in our society and information can be spread at astonishing rates.

This information age is extremely beneficial to our society from the healthcare system to our education system. However, with this boom in information comes the transmission of negative views and ideas to the impressionable youths of our society.

The most obvious form of media that projects these negative views would be the music industry. Rap music is probably the most notable of genres that project and promote questionable views in their lyrics.

I cannot recall a rap song that has not focussed on objectifying women, fighting, drug use, and shooting people in recent years. This has

a huge affect on youth, as they often idolize and emulate people they see in the media.

Youths see these artists as role models. Obviously, not all rap music promotes these views, but the majority of songs promote these ideas. I appreciate and admire the artist's ability to articulate their thoughts into music, but the messages they are promoting is having an adverse affect on Canadian youths.

This negative view often transcends to a hatred or disregard of police officers. Countless songs recall numerous injustices at the hands of police ranging from brutality, corruption, and miscarriages of justice. In many cases, musicians have suggested fighting the police to retaliate.

Music is not the only form of media that conveys this negative message. Many videogames promote violence and negative views towards policing. The most notable videogame franchise would be the Grand Theft Auto game series. Any video game that allows the user to get "points" for shooting and killing police and prostitutes is probably not the greatest influence an adolescent should have.

Finally, television and cinema often perpetuate a negative view towards police. The majority of movies and television shows highlight police in a negative way from corruption within the force, racial profiling, and police brutality. With all of this negative press towards policing it is to no surprise that the crime rate among youths is so high.

The youth crime rate in Canada is relatively high. More and more youths are turning to illegal activity (especially in our urban centres) based on their upbringing, current social situation, and the negative views they absorb from the media.

Statistics Canada reports that, "In 2004-2005, there were about 31,700 young persons (aged 12 to 17 years of age) admitted to correctional services. Of those, 15,900 (50%) were admitted to custody..."¹ This large proportion of youths not only is alarming but is a financial strain on the justice system to detain these individuals and provide rehabilitation.

With this large body of offenders comes a recidivism rate in Canada of 10%, having one in

ten offenders reoffend after their initial release.² The more youths we have in our justice system weakens society. That statement probably seems obvious, but once youths are admitted to the corrections system they are introduced to the criminal stigma and their likelihood of reoffending multiplies.

The aforementioned negative views the youths of today absorb through popular media only perpetuates this unfortunate reality facing Canadian society.

Despite the alarming negative publicity policing receives in youth culture, there is some hope for change. As the baby-boomer generation of officers retire, a wave of young recruits (hopefully myself) is beginning to enter policing. Perhaps some of the tension between police and youths stems from the age gap between the officer and the youngster.

The age gap between these young recruits and the youths of society is decreasing dramatically, and it is with great expectation that these new recruits shall understand the issues facing the youths of Canadian society. At the same time, the youths shall feel a closer connection to the much younger officers and perhaps gain a greater respect for law enforcement in the process.

A more concentrated effort in the education system on crime prevention would be beneficial as well, so that children from a younger age are aware of the dangers associated with criminal activity.

Finally, a greater responsibility on the parents should be addressed, as parents should be monitoring the media their children are viewing.

As a college student I see firsthand some of the youths who have been conditioned to despise the police. It is with great hope that change shall occur, however with the constant evolution of media the chance for change is uncertain.

¹ Donna Calverly, "Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2004/2005." Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, vol 27, no. 2, 2005.

² Chris Champion, "The Violent Remain Violent." Alberta Report, Newsmagazine. Vol. 23, issue 35, 1996.



On the rails

Andrew Maksymchuk was a member of the Ontario Provincial Police since 1964 and was posted to northwestern Ontario - a location he grew to love and enjoy. Although this book "From Muskeg to Murder" is a personal digest of his experiences most cops will identify with Maks sense of enthusiasm and adventure. I found this book to be enlightening and the author's entertaining writing style will keep you engaged throughout the entire book. With Mak's permission we will be inserting excerpts over the next three issues of *Blue Line Magazine*.

-- Morley Lyburner

by Andrew
Maksymchuk

The challenges of finding transportation sometimes resulted in unforeseen modes of travel and dangerous prisoner escorts. Early in June, we received a phone call from the proprietor of the Malachi General Store, some twenty miles west along the railroad track, reporting a serious altercation between the Smith brothers. The store owner wanted an officer to intervene.

According to the storekeeper, the dirt road into Malachi was still impassable. My choices were to await the next train, or find a railway section gang member willing to take me there on a "speeder," a small motorized conveyance used to transport railway workers along the tracks.

I hurried over and explained my predicament to the rail workers. The gang boss agreed to take me the sixteen mile distance. The gang promptly hoisted their motorized velocipede onto the main rails. Not familiar with the workings of these railway carts, I hopped aboard. How embarrassing! While I sat in the open scooter like a 'prima donna,' my accommodating benefactor began to push the speeder, running alongside in the rocks and debris, gaining enough speed to create a compression jumpstart. When the motor sputtered into action, he expertly swung aboard and thrust the throttle forward to gain his cruising speed. What may have been a normal pace to him for our little yellow square box on wheels was to me a breakneck pace.

As we sped westward, he frequently glanced from a clipboard to his wristwatch, then leaned far over the side of the cart when curves and rock cuts impaired his view ahead. When a left-hand curve came into view, he asked me to do the same.

"What am I looking for?" I asked.

"Oncoming train," he said matter-of-factly.

I thought he was kidding, but his face told me differently.

"Don't you know the train schedules?" I asked incredulously.

"Yeah, but they get changed throughout the day and we aren't always close enough to a station to get the latest reports. According to my schedule, one should be coming along soon, so we'll have to pull off at the next side slip."

A cut of speed announced he had spotted the slip. It was merely a widening in the shoulder with two logs for rails. We glided up to our exit and manhandled the speeder off the tracks. In less than a minute, an eastbound freight thundered by. Tugging and twisting our little iron carriage, we were soon back on the main line, clacking along toward our goal. This time I helped to get it started and I leaned out over the side at every left-handed turn without being told.

About half way to our destination, I got my

first glimpse of the "community" of Wade - by not blinking as we passed by! Our ride ended at a tiny railway building on the shore of a lake. A sign boldly displayed "Malachi" on the front of a small railroad building.

When my driver started to give me advice and instructions, I realized he intended to abandon me and return to Minaki.

"The only train that actually stops here is a way freight once a week. So, whenever you're done here and you want to get picked up by any of the ones that don't stop, just stand by the tracks, face the oncoming engine, stretch your arms in front of you, palms up, and make a motion up and down with both arms. The train won't stop, but it'll slow down enough for you to grab the side handrail and swing onto the step," he said, demonstrating the pick-up motion for me.

I protested that I wasn't about to wait around for a week for a train to stop. We discussed my predicament and he finally agreed to wait for a short time before returning to his section gang.

I hurried over to the nearby General Store to meet with the owner, collect as many details as possible regarding the occurrence, and get directions to the Smith residence. Mrs. Simpson was very helpful, but imagine my anxiety when she told me that the Smiths lived on the other side of the lake! With her help I managed to secure a boat and operator and I skimmed across the water to the opposite shore.

Joseph Smith and his common-law wife had brewed up a mixture of beans, yeast and sugar.

Along with Joseph's brother, Peter, they had imbibed in the outcome of that potent mixture. Gaiety, discussions, bragging, arguments and physical violence followed, ending with a severe beating for Peter Smith.

I located and checked the victim. After confirming he did not require hospitalization, I obtained statements from all available witnesses. Joseph was still drunk when I arrested him for assault and helped him into the waiting motorboat. As we neared the railway station, I was very relieved to see the section worker standing patiently by his yellow steed. I gave the boat operator four dollars for his services, and guided my unstable prisoner toward the mini boxcar. With Joseph aboard, we pushed off for a very crowded ride back.


Still having to keep a sharp lookout for oncoming or overtaking trains, we strained to peer around corners and glance behind. As we passed a steep gully I noticed my uncuffed charge staring at me. I surmised what his liquored-up brain was thinking. Policy didn't permit handcuffing a prisoner to a moving vehicle, so I did the next best thing. Removing my handcuffs, I secured his right hand to my left.

"If I go, you go," was all that was needed to be said.

If you would like to obtain a copy of Andrew Maksymchuk's *From Muskeg to Murder* go to www.blueline.ca and check out the *Blue Line Library*.


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Politics, lobbying, advocacy & policing

by Jim Chu

Sir Robert Peel's policing principles and Metropolitan Police Service's founding commissioners Rowan and Mayne did not contemplate a police role in shaping crime legislation and associated public policy.

Rowan and Mayne seemed to discourage the police from speaking out, writing that they should "seek and preserve public favour, not by pandering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolutely impartial service to law, in complete independence of policy and without regard to the justice or injustice of the substance of individual laws."

Rather than emphasize simple enforcement, like Peel and his colleagues, police administrators today challenge frontline officers to problem-solve. They are taught that arrest and charges are not the only recourse to deal with problems. The SARA model (scan, analyze, respond and assess) is used to systematically approach and remedy community problems or concerns. Therein lies the modern policing dilemma. To problem-solve certain macro issues, the best "response" can necessitate a change in laws, regulations, policies, spending priorities or even judicial practices.

Some feel police should not be political, must operate within existing laws and accept

the status quo – no matter how unproductive and flawed. While I agree and champion that the "rule of law" must be the paramount basis of our actions – it is the responsibility of elected officials to enact the laws – I do not accept the thinking that we must accept these laws with silent acquiescence.

Our independence puts municipal police in a unique position, unlike other government agencies subject to ministerial responsibility. In essence, the police bring a neutral and independent voice to the table. Though accountable through legislation and civilian oversight, they can and should, do and advocate for the "right thing," as long as it is moral, ethical and legal. However, we can not be blind to the political ramifications of engaging in advocacy.

There will always exist a tension between the need for police independence and the appropriate and democratic need for civilian oversight of police activities. In other words, our independence and public standing provide us with a power that we must use wisely and cautiously if we choose to become advocates for changes in law and policies. That's especially true when "shining a light" on situations that could potentially cause political embarrassment.

Over the past few years, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has demonstrated the benefits of "advocating" as well as "serving."

The impact on major problems is increased with public advocacy efforts, as articulated in a recently published book, *Forces for good: The six practices of high-impact non-profits*.

Yes, "advocacy" can be viewed as another word for political activism and lobbying – terms which are pejorative to some, but that does not mean that these efforts by police are inappropriate in a democracy.

All agree that the general public is entitled to have a voice. Consistent with Peel's principle that "the police are the public and the public are the police," we have an obligation to speak up. Police are "members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence." As such, police should speak as members of the community on behalf of those who cannot.

Two examples of how police can help make the community safer by advocating for change:

- The large number of grossly intoxicated alcoholics passing out on Vancouver streets after drinking rice alcohol – an ingredient legitimately used in oriental cooking – was a serious problem in the late 1990s. The coroner estimated rice alcohol caused 100 deaths a year. Our reports – video coverage released directly to the media – combined with advocacy along with other community partners lead to new provincial regulations. Rice alcohol is now only sold in certain areas of Vancouver, in government liquor stores.
- We conducted a project in 2005 which "shone the light" on predatory landlords bilking marginalized tenants of their rent money. Undercover police officers pretended to be mentally challenged and/or addicted and thus were ripe for victimization. The documented evidence of these abuses, including powerful video footage, led to improvements in monitoring living standards and new cheque distribution methods verifying that rent money was used properly. In many respects, the VPD investigation embarrassed

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authorities into improving their processes, resulting in a decrease in exploitation of the poor for housing.

In the past year, with the support of our police board, the VPD has also “shone the light” on the following issues:

Offenders fleeing prosecution

For decades, criminals have avoided prosecution for serious crimes by simply fleeing the jurisdiction where they were charged. In a typical day, the VPD encounters an average of 48 non-returnable warrants and the criminals openly flout the fact that their warrants cannot be enforced. We have returned 17 to jurisdictions this year alone from Alberta to Nova Scotia using new legal research into s.503 of the Criminal Code. To date, not one offender has returned.

We have written the justice and public safety ministers and will continue to spread the message that criminals cannot evade arrest warrants on serious charges by fleeing to Vancouver. The CACP is on record with a resolution passed in 2006 calling upon the federal justice and public safety ministers to “lead their provincial counterparts in developing and funding an operational, practical and cost effective national transportation system that will ensure those individuals who were arrested on inter-provincial warrants are brought before the justice system.

Mental illness

The deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill has created an appalling situation, turning

police officers into de facto mental health care workers. Many mentally ill are drawn to our downtown core (skid row) because of cheap accommodation and access to services. They are often the victims of predatory drug dealers, abusive pimps and landlords who take advantage of their vulnerabilities.

We released a report on this situation – *Lost in transition: How a lack of capacity in the mental health system is failing Vancouver’s mentally ill and draining police resources.* The VPD was recently presented with the Richard Dolman award by the B.C. Schizophrenic Society for excellence in police service.

Chronic offenders

Our report *Assessing sentencing across criminal careers: An examination of VPD’s chronic offenders*, has shown that some chronic offenders have accumulated an extremely high level of criminal convictions. This level surpasses that of anywhere else in the world. A cohort of 379 offenders was studied. One hundred have more than 54 criminal convictions, 40 have more than 77 and six have more than 100. The report highlighted that at around the 30th criminal conviction, the length of sentences start to show a noticeable decline.

We proposed a “30 strikes and you are out” policy. That is, sentences must focus on the totality of harm these individuals have inflicted and public protection must take precedence in sentencing decisions.

Informing our advocacy work are the frontline observations of more than 2,000

sworn and civilian Vancouver Police members and volunteers. Their experiences, insights and opinions provide us with an important perspective that needs to be heard so that good legislation, funding allocations and policy decisions are made.

I would further argue that police and community leaders are remiss if we allow our unique frontline observations to go unheard. If we don’t contribute our knowledge to the discussions, the resulting law and policy decisions may be less effective. The VPD is not the only agency taking on some level of community advocacy.

Calgary chief Rick Hanson has been vocal about the lenient attitudes towards bail being granted – especially for violent offenders. Ottawa chief Vern White has championed funding for addiction treatment for youth. The CACP Law Amendments Committee has called upon the federal government to improve many areas, including the laws around luring minors and cyber crime.

In essence, I disagree with Rowan and Mayne and their principle that the police must serve “in complete independence of policy and without regard to the justice or injustice of the substance of individual laws.” If we don’t speak up, the likelihood of injustices increase, and that simply is not in the public interest.

Jim Chu is the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department. For further information, contact public affairs director Paul Patterson at 604 717-2897.

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SURVEILLANCE

Choosing your clothing... and props

by Hal Cunningham
Part 2

If you are continually critiquing your performance, your clothing selections should be of primary concern. As with our previous articles regarding acting and studying people, you should look around and observe what the average man or woman is wearing during their daily routine.

Your vehicle will allow you to carry enough changes to allow you to alter your appearance a dozen times in a day. The most common mistakes I've observed with the clothing worn by surveillance operatives are; too identifiable and improper night clothing. Most Major Crime Squads have an impressive collection of work, school and other clothing that has a distinct identity. University of Toronto, Toronto Blue Jays, Transit Commission, or sports team designer apparel has a specific identity that makes it unique. The probability of being seen TWICE and therefore recognized by the target is increased along with your probability of detection. This type of clothing is more for "stake out" situations where it blends into one location and it is accepted for a one time use for a shorter period of time.

I prefer plain clothing of neutral colours that will fit in almost anywhere and at any time of the day or night. Unfortunately that "bland" look is what you are trying to achieve. Select and wear your own wardrobe for your personal use but for this specific surveillance mission select clothing that might normally not be your first choice for your closet. Reversible jackets always assisted me with my extended footwork. I'd wear one side, reverse it later, and then carry it over my arm. I felt like I had a fresh shower and split into three different persons within a half hour. I could also exchange jackets with another operative to continue on further. Jackets with an inside pocket allow concealment of your portable radio to permit you to cross your arms and transmit from this location.

There is an over use of blue jeans and I feel the faded type are noticeable. Jeans do not blend in at all locations where a dark brown, green, or black jeans might look more acceptable. One member of the team should be wearing dress slacks and shirt and have a tie and jacket ready for those upscale locations you may attend.

Shorts certainly are acceptable as long as track pants or a change is readily available. One does not have to attain the stealth "Ninja" look to go undetected during the evening hours.

Light colours and those that pick up all



light sources should be avoided. Leave yourself the opportunity to stand between two buildings, sit on someone's porch or lay in long grass without any part of your apparel picking up the light. I recall during one late Saturday night laying in tall grass with another agent watching our targets breaking into a mall during the weekend. They were casing it for a major safe job. The other agent and I were in dark clothing from head to foot until we realized he had on white running shoes. If he could bury his feet he would have since the targets walked right over to our location and only by luck were we not detected. I would have been extremely upset if we were detected and had to go to Con #34 (two guys laying in the bushes together) to get out of that tight spot.

Regarding clothing, ensure you wear your jacket while driving in the winter time to avoid your car looking like your office. Select the proper hats, glasses (not mirrored type), props, and night clothing for the trunk of your vehicle.

Proper selection of the surveillance wardrobe will give you confidence and peace of mind to assist you to blend in. Confidence from frequent clothing changes will permit longer foot surveillance with the target. Continue to critique yourself and look into the mirror for your wardrobe approval.

In my previous articles I discussed the importance of the surveillance operative to be possessed with special attributes to pick a part and act it out. For success in this mission

the use of items to help you act out the part you're playing is essential. As in any stressful situation, the large mass on the ends of our wrists seem to get in the way. I'm a believer that you should always be carrying some sort of prop each and every time you are engaged in foot surveillance.

My preferred prop to use is the larger size manila envelope with the short blue diagonal stripes around the edges. That device has allowed me entrance into homes, offices, restaurants, elevators and escorted me down many a street. It was that small piece of equipment that gave me the confidence to distract attention from myself and allow the target to assume that I was carrying my mail home or making a delivery or pickup. A prop will allow me to go from point A to B, with the accompanying body language, to ensure my act is thorough and complete.

Other items that serve as useful props are; a briefcase, gym bag, book, construction hat, work boots, motorcycle helmet, walking cane, shopping bags, etc. The list is open to your imagination and ingenuity.

The use of a folding lawn chair and Frisbee are excellent for that difficult eye from the park. A collapsible bicycle in your trunk allows you the opportunity to bicycle down the targets home street in a discreet manner. If used sparingly, a human prop will assist you on your mission. When I have worked alone and required that up close and personal contact near the target, I would solicit the services of a

female citizen as an escort. A careful screening and approach of the right type can produce a temporary date to allow the opportunity to hear conversation in the bank or following in the mall. Set down the guidelines that the discussion will not be about police work or following someone. Do not advise her who the target is, if possible. Casual conversations are encouraged and have her hold your arm so you can lead her in your desired direction. Human props are also used with the citizens you decide to walk beside and sit near on a bench. You're within their personal space for a short period but achieves the look that you are one group.

The use of stock from a store gives that shopping appearance and a full shopping cart sends a message that you have been inside the store for a long period of time, even though you just entered behind the target.

Carrying all of your luggage (camera case, brief case, gym bag...) into the airport will help you fit in as just another traveler.

Be creative and props will assist with the act that you have chosen and improve your appearance and confidence. Good luck and enjoy the experience.

Hal Cunningham is a surveillance consultant and trainer who teaches techniques to police officers and private investigators. After 30 years with the Toronto Police Service he retired as a staff sergeant and was a member of the elite surveillance unit within the intelligence bureau. He has been declared an expert in surveillance and countersurveillance by the courts. Hal will be presenting the classroom portion of his three-day course at the Blue Line training sessions in 2009. For further inquiries phone 613 398-1113 or email: surv.consultants@sympatico.ca

LETTERS

Attitude shift

Back around the early 80's, I was a young police officer, working in Toronto. One morning I received a call to attend a school regarding an assault between two students. The school staff had attempted to handle this problem on their own, without police intervention. However, one of the student's parents (both mother and father) were at the school demanding that police attend.

I arrived at the school and was met in the hallway by a very angry vice principal (male) who blocked my way and actually had clenched fists as if he was going to attack me. Apparently he was very upset that a uniformed officer was sent to deal with this.

I will never forget or forgive his next words to me; he said "We do not want uniformed Nazis, patrolling the hallways of this school, upsetting the students". He also demanded that I leave and that they did not need my help. He demanded, my name and number and planned to lay an official complaint against me.

So I left as directed to avoid further escalation of the situation and informed my dispatcher that they may require a plain clothes officer. I went back to my prior duties of radar patrol (which is a lot easier than dealing with an assault).

When that happened to me, I thought to myself, this is the beginning of an escalation of violence in our school systems. Hopefully this new attitude shift to have uniformed officers patrol schools can bring back a safe environment for our children.

*Thomas Mals
Toronto, ON*

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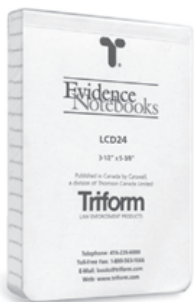


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Police robot a community effort

by Elvin Klassen

The new Brandon Police Service (BPS) robot is a real local, truly born and bred in Manitoba's second largest city. It was designed and built by Brandon high school students and paid for by the community.

The idea began three years ago when the BPS began looking for a new robot that could get into areas deemed too dangerous for officers to enter. The old unit, which no longer performed effectively, was donated to the electronics department at Crocus Plains School.

Budget restrictions made it cost prohibitive for the service to buy a new, commercially produced model so vocational departments at the 1,200 student school looked into building one. It soon became a co-operative effort with involvement by many departments.

The first step was making a presentation to the local Rotary Club to obtain funding. After careful consideration, the club donated \$1,500, which the BPS matched.

"We sat down in the electronics lab together with six or eight students and several officers and talked about what a robot would look like that would be useful in the field," recalls electronics teacher and project co-ordinator Lionel Ogg.

"Then drafting put together a basic plan and, early in the planning, the welding department brought forward issues to the students. In the discussions we asked power mechanics how we could make a tank drive. The plan then went back to drafting with their mechanical opinions and then back to welding for more design features.

"The business department... provided a business plan and made a video to assist in making presentations for public relations and fundraising. During the final stages the auto-body department became involved to provide the colour and attach the BPS logos."

Many local businesses also pitched in, showing interest and providing supplies. The local Toro dealer promised to find tracks and searched for six months before finding a supplier in Washington state which hand built custom tracks.

There were many contacts with combat robot teams to learn how to build something robust enough to withstand the intended applications. BPS officers met frequently with the construction team and field tested during the development stages, identifying modifications which would improve performance.

The electronics field is very broad, says Ogg, so students involved with the project's various applications can receive A-plus certi-



fication in electronics and are ready to go into related work areas.

"Students that enter the work field are six months ahead of other new employees," he notes. "An important premise behind vocational skills is partnerships where students learn relationships, understand commitment and know the employment pressures. We have amazing kids in our programs."

Ogg is also director of World Skills, where high schools and colleges send their best vocational students to compete against other vocational institutions. Crocus Plains electronics students earned best in Canada honours for the past two years.

"Robotics is what makes the world go for me in relationship to teaching students and on which I can hang things," says Ogg, who is also robotics chair for Manitoba Skills and workshop supervisor for World Skills mobile robotics.

"By the time students have been in the electronics program for the third and fourth years they are serious and they need something to show their efforts. This is a great little hook. World Skills rotates annually throughout the world with the next one being held in London and then in 2009 in Calgary."

Endless streams of curious people have dropped by the classroom to see the police robot project develop. A couple in their 80s walked in during a school open house, recalls Ogg, and said, "we have seen your project in the news. We do not want to stay in your class but we are here to see the robot."

Interest in the project has been so great that one third of all ninth grade school applicants applied for electronics. Unfortunately staffing and space limitations only allow a few students to enter the program.

"I have been working on the robot project from the beginning and we have done a lot of trouble shooting," says grade 12 student and project manager Anthony Davis. "It is amazing how it has come along. It has been very helpful for me in making career choices."

Davis took the control module during a demonstration and moved the robot around the classroom with ease, making sharp turns around furniture. Built-in lights clearly illuminate the path when the robot is in dark areas. A video camera records the route it takes and the path is displayed on the LCD control module screen and recorded for later scrutiny.

"I have taken it apart a couple of times and helped move the parts around," says James Mills, who has also done extensive work on the robot. "It was a good experience. I do have career interests in robotics after graduation."

This year's students will also have opportunities to work on the project, notes Ogg. They want to make some modifications and explore the possibility of adding a mobile arm. This would help the device self right itself when it falls on its back and would allow it to move items in unsafe areas.

"The project was a great partnership with community involvement through the Rotary Club and local businesses," says Atkinson. "A lot of people got excited about what was going on. The robot has been put together and taken apart throughout its life and now it is a functional platform that we can actually use. It has also been a great experience for the students."

Principal Barry Gooden is proud of the academic and vocational learning opportunities his school offers students – academic and vocational courses ranging from infant care, culinary arts and family and community to environmental studies, building construction and commercial art and drafting. Most of the courses allow students to graduate with their first year field accreditation as first year certified apprentices.

Contact Sgt. Doug Thompson at (204)729-2345 or d.thompson@brandon.ca for more information.



by Brian Ward

Crime scene clean up

“The wonderful thing about a mess is that it can be cleaned up”

Death and taxes are the only certainties in life and police officers handle death scenes many times during their careers. Once the investigation is done, we move on to other duties, leaving the survivors with the aftermath. Compounding their lingering grief are the problems associated with clean up, especially in cases where the death was violent or went undiscovered.

Survivors may assume police or other emergency services clean up the scene, but this is not the case. Crime scene cleanup has become a growth industry across North America over the past decade, and was even profiled in the 2007 movie *Cleaner* starring Samuel L. Jackson.

Three Canadian companies, Toronto-based Crime and Trauma Scene Cleaners, Trauma Tech of Brantford, ON and Delta's Trauma Scene Clean Up Ltd. are among the companies who assist survivors in coping with their loss. They operate in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Christian Cadieux is president of Crime and Trauma Scene Cleaners, which has operated since 2001. After graduating from the MBA program at Montreal's Concordia University, he began looking for a unique business and decided to focus on handling the clean up of contaminated and biohazardous premises.

His clean up teams include former paramedics, police officers and funeral services workers. "I recognize that our services are usually needed during unpleasant and often tragic circumstances," he said. "This relieves family members or employees of the emotional and traumatic task of cleaning up."

Tim Danby, president of Trauma Tech, also seized on the idea of crime scene clean up as a business opportunity and has operated in the central Ontario region for the past two years. He was trained at the Centre for Disaster Recovery, which is based in Barrie.

Surrey firefighter Brian Woronuk operates Trauma Scene Clean Up Ltd. full time as well. He began exploring the business possibilities in 1998, working with several US-based crime scene clean up companies. His teams are also made up of firefighters and police officers.

Proper waste procedures

All these companies follow strict government guidelines in handling contaminated waste. Danby, a certified medical waste technician, specializes in death scenes. Facing unknown biohazards at some homes, he and his team treats them all as worst case scenarios.

Cadieux and his teams clean and remove waste from suicides, homicides, decomposi-

tion, disease and animal feces. Surprisingly, animal feces can lead to human illnesses such as Hantavirus from rodent feces and Histoplasmosis, which is an infectious disease of the lungs caught from contact with bird feces.

Contracted by family members or insurance companies, all three companies use a variety of chemicals and physical labour to clean areas. Badly contaminated items that cannot be cleaned are packaged in biohazard containers and taken away to medical waste disposal companies.

Woronuk's company has been contracted to clean up cruise ships where passengers became ill with the Norwalk virus. "I may take 20 to 40 people onto a cruise ship when it docks to end a cruise. It takes us just a day and people don't even know we're there," he said. "We clean the rooms where passengers became ill, the infirmary and the common areas shared by those who got sick."

Cadieux and Woronuk regularly clean contaminated police vehicles, facilities and jails. Prisoners may be suffering from contagious diseases or smear their own body waste, requiring special cleaning to restore the areas.

Cleaning a residence or business that housed a clandestine drug laboratory is another of the challenges facing cleanup companies. Hidden areas such as heating ducts, cold air returns and plumbing systems have to be sanitized, Woronuk said.

Tips for police

Cadieux and Danby offer several tips to officers responding to sudden death scenes where decomposition may be a problem, including:

- Make sure the area is photographed. Cleaners will also photograph the scene. Badly stained items may be destroyed and Danby points out the photos are often used by insurance adjusters.
- Don't open any windows since this will introduce insects. Fly infestation usually leads to an earlier onset of maggots that could potentially alter or destroy evidence.
- Introducing fresh air will not flush out the odour of decomposition. All operators point out this smell will only be erased through proper cleaning procedures using appropriate chemicals.
- Although the chain of custody at a crime scene will have been lost once police relinquish custody of the area, cleaners are trained to inform police should they discover evidence of a crime missed during the initial investigation.

The companies will also work with property owners to remove what Cadieux terms "gross filth." This could be years of accumulated garbage from tenants, for example, cooking odours or pet feces and urine.

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MacPhail Award Winner Announced



This year's winner of the Sgt. Bruce MacPhail Award for Academic Excellence in Dalhousie University's Police Leadership Program is South Simcoe Police Service S/Sgt John Van Dyke. Established in 2001 by Phyllis MacPhail in memory of her son, it commemorates his dedication to life-long learning in law

enforcement. MacPhail completed the Certificate in Police Leadership, Supervisory Skills in 2000 and was the program's first certified police coach.

Van Dyke began his policing career with the Bradford Police Force, a South Simcoe predecessor, in October 1989, and has worked in many areas, including courts, uniform patrol and the criminal investigation branch. Promoted to sergeant in 2001 and staff sergeant in 2006, he is currently a uniform branch platoon commander.

Van Dyke is married to Janis and they have two children, Connor and Paige. He is actively involved in the greater community, serving on school and church boards, and with HANDS (Helping Another Nation Develop Schools) team in the Dominican Republic.

His Dalhousie certificates include service delivery, supervisory skills and administration and he also completed the Ontario Management Development Program at Georgian College in Barrie. Committed to life-long learning, Van Dyke believes his Dalhousie courses have been a major part of his professional development and is planning to complete his Advanced Police Leadership Certificate.



Celebrate ordinary heroes and follow their examples

by Dorothy Cotton

The reply to my innocent inquiry left me speechless. I had ran into a former student who I hadn't seen since the spring and casually asked "and how was your summer?"

"I spent most of the summer in the hospital," she replied. "I gave away my liver."

Huh? She what?

One of her friends needed a liver and she happened to be a match, so for no earthly good reason, she volunteered to have major abdominal surgery – with all the misery that that entails – and donated a significant portion of her liver. She now has an award winning hockey stick shaped scar on her torso.

We talked about the surgery, the weeks in hospital, the endless blood tests, injections, side effects – it didn't sound like a day at the beach to me. I told her I was really impressed and that she is a very exceptional person; she rolled her eyes and replied "As if! It's not really such a big deal. Anyone else would have done the same thing."

I should not have been surprised by her response. Oddly enough, whenever you talk to anyone who has engaged in behaviour that appears heroic to others, the 'heroes' tend to look a little sheepish, shake their heads and say "It wasn't such a big deal. Anyone would have done it."

Heroism is a funny thing – and we really don't know much about it. Contrary to the image portrayed in myths and Saturday morning cartoons, most heroes tend to be pretty ordinary people. This particular student is bright, funny and quite creative – but not a crusader out to save the world or a person with any other particularly unusual attributes.

Remember Arland Williams Jr? He was a middle aged bank inspector who made sure everyone else was rescued after a 1982 plane crash. He died in the process – and family and friends were hard pressed to paint him as a heroic person. He was really just a bald guy nicknamed Chub.

What about the man who jumped down on the tracks in the New York City subway to rescue a guy who had fallen after a seizure? The soldier at the Abu Ghraib jail who spilled the beans about the abuses there? The architects who went back into the Twin Towers on 9/11 and died after getting about 70 people out? The ex-con who commandeered a bus in New Orleans and drove a load of poor people to Texas before the government relief efforts got organized after Hurricane Katrina?

Some people make a habit of being heroic on an ongoing basis – people like Mother Theresa or Nelson Mandella. Some are driven by religious beliefs, while others work in fields where heroism is pretty much expected – like police officers – but the majority are just regular people.

There is very little formal research into heroic behaviour. The logistics are difficult. Many heroes die, and even if they don't, most don't have a lot to say about their behaviour. They cannot give a compelling reason for doing what they did, tending to say things like "Well, in the circumstances, there really was no choice."

Philip Zimbardo, a psychologist best known for his series of prison studies demonstrating how easy it is to get good people to do bad things, has suggested that it is the very ordinariness of heroism that makes it special. In many cases when it occurs, there are a number of people around who actually could have performed the heroic deed, but they hold back for some reason. In an ideal world, everyone would have what it takes to be a hero – but how does a society cultivate that tendency?

Zimbardo would argue that part of the answer is in the development of what he calls "the heroic imagination." Rather than portraying heroes as unusual people with special gifts – unique and different from the norm – we would do well to pay attention to their very ordinariness; the "the banality of heroism," as Zimbardo puts it.

When I look at a 6'8" Olympic swimmer with shoulders as wide as my office, I think, "man, I could never be a swimmer;" but when I see an ordinary person like my student do something like donate a body part, I think, "I could do that."

When I see a young colleague with no seniority stand up to management about something that is fundamentally wrong, I think, "I could do that." Alas, most of us instead think, "That will get you nowhere" or "Geez, that must hurt." No

one ever said heroism does not come with a cost, but heroes are the people who do what needs to be done regardless of the potential personal cost involved.

We could use more ordinary heroes. Where were the heroes when Enron was going bad, racist or sexist comments are made in the workplace, people with disabilities or mental illnesses are heckled or a family is suspected of being abusive? It is the ordinary heroes who can save the day in these instances.

How can we inculcate the ability to be heroic in our children and those we work with in schools, sports, after school programs and, especially, programs for at-risk youth? Make sure they hear the tales of heroes – not only the larger-than-life variety who perform deeds far beyond our daily experience and comprehension, but the every day heroes who do things like helping a person in need – or giving away a liver.

We need a national "heroic imagination" movement. Let's talk about and advertise the every day, run of the mill heroes; the people who make us think, "I could do that" – because if you think you can, you just might actually DO 'that' when the moment arrives.

Dr. Dorothy Cotton is Blue Line's psychology columnist. She can be reached at deepblue@blueline.ca

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Ensuring emergency services get dial tones

by Tom Rataj

When disaster strikes, especially on a large scale such as the great North East blackout in August, 2003, emergency services are stretched to the limit and often beyond.

During and after these events, the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and wireless telephone systems often become overloaded under the demand of civilians calling for assistance or to make sure friends and family are safe. I experienced this first-hand while working the evening-shift during the great blackout. I was unable to reach my family for several hours with my cell phone, likely because of all the other callers who were probably trying to do the same thing; we collectively overloaded the local cellular network.

While most emergency services have private radio and data communications systems, usually supported by emergency power supplies, the PSTN and wireless phone systems are still a very important part of over-

all emergency services operations.

Public wired and wireless systems generally have emergency power supplies to ensure they keep working, at least during short-term power outages. Many were upgraded after the blackout, so they should perform better during similar outages in the future.

Assuming that the PSTN and cell networks are still operating, a system known as Priority Access for Dialling (PAD) will improve the ability of emergency services to make calls. It ensures they, and particularly their key personnel, more or less always have a dial tone, regardless of how busy their local PSTN becomes.

PAD

PAD is an Industry Canada emergency telecommunications managed program that ensures previously enrolled telephone num-



bers receive priority access to dial outgoing calls through their local exchanges. It does not guarantee that the phone call will be successful, although Industry Canada is working on developing a technology-based solution, known as High Probability of Completion (HPC), that will do this.

The system has its roots in the 1960s, when a manual process known as Line Load Control (LLC) was first developed on an informal basis. It was designed to ensure access to the telephone system and protect it from overloads. Some local telephone companies alternately called it Essential Line Treatment (ELT) and/or Essential Services Protection (ESP).

The Canadian Telecommunications Carriers Association and Industry Canada's forebear, the Federal Department of Communications, agreed in 1978 to improve and develop a number of telecommunications measures that included LLC and its features. By the mid-1980s the LLC process began to undergo automation and eventually developed into the current PAD system.


Industry Canada manages the PAD program in conjunction with provincial and territorial governments and regional or local telephone companies such as Bell Canada, SaskTel, Telus, etc. Industry Canada coordinates the collection of telephone number data and records keeping for the entire system through its Emergency Telecommunications Data System (ETDS).

The PAD system is administratively divided into six areas: Ottawa, Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic Canada, Prairie and Northern Canada and the Pacific.

Local administrators manage the collection and input of information for all emergency services identified as needing priority access. Key personnel responsible for various roles defined by local emergency or disaster plans are identified and their business, home and cellular telephone numbers are obtained and entered into the system.

The data system

The ETDS is the computer database system that controls and manages the collection of PAD data from individual administrators. Each has access only to the personnel within their area of responsibility. The secure internet-



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based website at <https://urgent.ic.gc.ca> is the portal for administrators around the country.

A username and password combination controls access to the system. All the information sent to and from it is confidential so it is encrypted to ensure security.

Administrators can add, delete and update PAD information – which consists of the telephone company, name, number and address of the individual and the organization associated to the numbers – online.

The system will accept numbers from a variety of telephone systems including Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) and some Private Branch Exchanges (PBX). Voice, fax, cellular and satellite telephone numbers requiring priority access or restoration priority can also be input into the database. While PAD does not yet work with all these types of systems, the telephone numbers can still be added and identified as requiring priority access. As technologies and systems advance, it is anticipated that these other systems will also work with PAD.

The ETDS supplies only the telephone number information from the PAD program to the local phone company, thereby adding another layer of security. Local companies receive telephone numbers electronically and automatically input them into the computerized central office switch system to complete the process.

Wireless priority

Recognizing the increasing reliance on cellular telephones, the new Wireless Priority Service (WPS) was also recently established, but so far only Rogers Wireless has implemented it.

It is an enhancement to basic cell service for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (PSEP) leadership personnel such as Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal government officials that have high-level governmental continuity roles and responsibilities.

Some critical industry personnel are also identified under the PSEP rules, but it is not intended for all emergency services personnel.

WPS functions in much the same way as PAD, except that when a WPS identified phone attempts an outgoing call, it is prioritized and given the next available service channel. It does not guarantee a connection or interrupt calls already in progress and, as with PADS, does not guarantee the successful completion of a call.

To access WPS on an enrolled cellular phone, the user must input *272 before entering the number they are calling.

Private agreements

To avoid the costs associated with building and maintaining their own voice and data infrastructure or to enhance their own systems, some emergency services use voice and data communications systems operated by cellular phone companies.

There are generally separate communications priority agreements in place with these business arrangements so emergency services systems have priority and continue to function even during periods of extreme demand.

Tom Rataj is *Blue Line's* Technology columnist and can be reached at technews@blueline.ca

NEWS CLIPS

Firearms regulations to take effect

by Lynn Doran

The Public Agents Firearms Regulations will require police forces as well as all federal, provincial and municipal government agencies to report firearms in their possession. These Regulations will come into effect on October 31, 2008. Agencies will report their own firearms as well as "protected" firearms, such as those that have been found or seized, to the Registrar of Firearms.

All services for firearms reporting will be available on the Internet. To help agencies meet their reporting obligations, the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program has published detailed information on their website, www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca.

This site also provides web access to agencies so they can obtain a Public Agency Identification Number (PAIN) which is necessary for firearms reporting. Although reporting does not begin until October 31, 2008, it is recommended that agencies obtain their PAIN in advance.

Those responsible for reporting need to be able to describe firearms accurately. The best tool to support this is the Firearms Reference Table (FRT). Free computer-based training for the FRT is available at www.cpkn.ca/course_detail/firearms_identification_e.html.

If you have reviewed the website information and still have questions, please email publ-agency@cf-cfc.gc.ca or call 1-800-731-4000, extension 2064, for assistance.

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Honoured chief of police passes

On August 27, 2008, the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service Police **Chief Paul Russell Trivett** passed away at the Newmarket Hospital in Newmarket Ontario after a courageous battle with cancer.

Chief Paul Trivett joined the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service in 2005 as the deputy chief of police and later became the chief of police for the organization.

He served as a constable with Georgina Island Police from 1981 to 1986. He joined the OPP in 1986 to 2005 working in various capacities and locations.

Highly respected in police circles Chief Trivett received national recognition for his commitment to teach others about First Nations issues and cultures. He was the recipient of the Ontario Bicentennial Medal for "Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community," and the Ontario Amethyst Award for "Excellence in Public Service." His passion for the development of strategies for youth



empowerment and healthy lifestyles made him a dynamic role model for Native youth.

Chief Trivett has previously received two OPP Commissioner's Citations for Lifesaving and an Award of Excellence from the Canadian Police Association for ice and water rescue.

Chief of Police Paul Russell Trivett was awarded the Order of Merit of the Police Forces at an investiture at Rideau Hall by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle

Jean on Thursday, May 22, 2008.

The Order of Merit honours a career of exceptional service or distinctive merit displayed by the men and women of the Canadian Police Services, and recognizes their commitment to this country. The primary focus is on exceptional merit, contributions to policing and community development.

Chief Paul Trivett is survived by his wife, Mavis and children Alicia, Kelsey and Brent. He was 53 years old.



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Investigative detention doesn't require specific crime

by Mike Novakowski

Police need not pinpoint a crime with absolute precision when detaining a person for investigation purposes.

In *R. v. Nesbeth, 2008 ONCA 579*, six anti-violence intervention strategy police officers, dedicated to reducing violence and increasing safety, went to an apartment complex plagued by drug use and sales, robberies, guns and gang violence. The landlord had consented to them visiting to enforce Ontario's *Trespass to Property Act*.

They arrived around 11 pm and split into three teams; each walked up one of three stairwells. One team immediately smelled freshly smoked marijuana and noticed the landing door open on the ninth floor. Nesbeth entered, seemed surprised when he saw the officers and immediately began tightly clenching a knapsack.

When one of the officers asked, "hey buddy, what are you doing?" he replied, "oh shit," turned around, opened the door and began to run away. The team chased him while repeatedly yelling "stop, police."

Nesbeth grabbed a shopping cart and tried to knock it over in front of one of the pursuing officers, then ran down another stairwell, throwing down his knapsack as he fled. Officers retrieved it and tackled him on the seventh floor. They found 680 grams of cocaine, two digital scales and three cell phones in the knapsack and arrested Nesbeth for possessing cocaine for the purpose of trafficking. They searched him and found \$1,720 in cash; he was charged with possessing cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, possessing proceeds of crime and failing to comply with the terms of a recognizance.

An Ontario Court of Justice judge concluded Nesbeth's Charter rights were breached. He found police were unable to provide an articulable cause for their "attempt to detain the accused" when they uttered the words "stop, police," expecting Nesbeth to comply. The marijuana odour and Nesbeth appearing startled, swearing and running in a high crime area, while suspicious, did not constitute articulable cause to believe a crime had occurred or was occurring.

Nesbeth was arbitrarily detained, contrary to s.9 of the Charter, when police attempted to detain him based only on suspicion and hunch – there was no justification for the chase and tackling him. Further, the trial judge also held there were no grounds to arrest Nesbeth. Nor there were "extrinsic circumstances to warrant the opening of the knapsack" and the officers "knew they were not dealing with lost property or abandoned property in the classic sense that someone puts something out curbside for the garbage."

The search was held to be an unreasonable search and seizure under s.8. All of the evidence

police found – the cocaine and cash – was excluded and Nesbeth was acquitted.

The Crown successfully appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal. Justice Rosenberg, writing the unanimous judgment, found police did not breach Nesbeth's Charter rights.

Detention

Rosenberg first recognized that police have a limited power of investigative detention to assist them in carrying out their duties, and must be able to respond quickly and effectively when faced with a rapidly evolving situation.

"A police officer may briefly detain an individual for investigative purposes 'if there are reasonable grounds to suspect in all the circumstances that the individual is connected to a particular crime and that such a detention is necessary,'" said Rosenberg. "Such a detention will not violate s.9."

In this case, the trial judge was correct in concluding police did not have grounds to detain Nesbeth when they initially encountered him, but erred in finding they detained him by beginning a chase and telling him to stop. Police can detain a person physically or psychologically. Psychological detention occurs when police direct or demand and a person voluntarily complies, resulting in the deprivation of their liberty. Here, Nesbeth was neither physically nor psychologically detained when the chase began and never submitted to authorities, Rosenberg said.

(W)hile there was a demand: "Stop, police," the element of compliance with the demand was missing. Far from complying, the (accused) made it abundantly clear that he had no intention of being detained. While the police obviously intended to detain the (accused) after he began to flee... intention alone does not attract a finding of unconstitutionality, thus there was no detention at the start of the pursuit.

In my view, the (accused) wasn't detained until he was tackled at the end of the chase. The validity of that detention had to be measured by the facts known to the police at that time. Those facts included the following:

- *The (accused) had immediately bolted when he saw the uniformed officers;*
- *He used some force in an attempt to impede the officers' progress by throwing a shopping cart in their way;*
- *He threw away a knapsack that he had been tightly holding up until then;*
- *It was late at night and the respondent was in the stairwell of a building known to be a high-crime area.*

This constellation of factors was sufficient to give the police officers reasonable grounds to suspect that the (accused) was involved in criminal conduct. These were not the actions of a mere trespasser. While the court in Mann speaks of reasonable grounds to suspect that the individual is connected to "a particular crime," in my view, it is not necessary that the officers be able to pinpoint the

crime with absolute precision.

"Given the (accused's) behaviour in relation to the knapsack and the desperation with which he fled the police, the police could reasonably suspect that he was in possession of contraband: either drugs or weapons or both. They were therefore entitled to detain him for investigation in accordance with Mann (paras. 16-18).

Thus, although police did not have grounds to detain when they initially encountered Nesbeth and began chasing him, his subsequent actions provided the necessary grounds to do so – and even though none of the officers actually articulated their grounds for detaining Nesbeth, a court "is entitled to draw reasonable inferences from the circumstances."

Rosenberg found that the officers not only objectively had reasonable grounds to detain Nesbeth, but that subjectively, it was apparent that they believed that they had grounds to detain by the time the chase ended, even though they never expressly articulated their subjective belief as to the grounds.

Since Nesbeth wasn't detained during the chase, his s.9 rights were not triggered. He was detained once he was tackled, but police had by then acquired the requisite grounds to do so.

Search

Rosenberg also ruled the trial judge erred in holding the seizure and opening of the knapsack without a warrant was unreasonable under s.8. Nesbeth did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the knapsack at the time police seized and opened it. By throwing it away, he abandoned any reasonable expectation of privacy in it and its contents.

Far from having possession or control of the knapsack, the (accused) attempted to divest himself of possession and control. He gave up the ability to regulate access to the property when he threw it away. Finally, he offered no evidence of any subjective expectation of privacy; to the contrary, the trial judge accepted that the (accused) intentionally threw the knapsack away, which suggests that he was no longer interested in exercising any privacy interest in the knapsack...

By his conduct in intentionally throwing away the knapsack, the (accused) had precluded himself from relying on the s.8 protection (paras. 22-23).

Since Nesbeth did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy, his s.8 rights were not engaged so police did not violate them by opening the bag and discovering the contraband inside. Once the bag was opened and drugs found, police had reasonable grounds to arrest Nesbeth and search him as an incident to the arrest. Discovering the cash resulted in the possession of proceeds of crime charge.

The Crown's appeal was allowed, Nesbeth's acquittals set aside and a new trial ordered.

Only detentions trigger s.10(b)

by Mike Novakowski

There is no need to read a person their Charter rights unless they are detained.

In *R. v. Azzam, 2008 ONCA 467*, the accused's step-mother was stabbed to death. Her body was found beside her vehicle in a community centre parking lot. A woman who lived nearby saw a man run out of the lot and ride away on a bicycle. Her description was generally consistent with Azzam's age and racial background.

Police watched the victim's residence. Azzam and his girlfriend were seen there, and he matched the witness' general physical description. The investigating detective directed other officers to watch him but not approach unless he appeared to be leaving the area, in which case he would advise Azzam that the body was believed to be his step-mother.

Detectives found Azzam and his girlfriend sitting on the front porch, told him the step-mother's body had been discovered and asked for a video taped interview at the police station. Such an interview was standard practice and designed to obtain background information about the victim and her whereabouts in the days before she died.

Azzam's girlfriend was interviewed first

and said he had been home all night. Before interviewing Azzam, detectives believed they did not have reasonable and probable grounds to arrest him. They classified him as a person of interest and would stop the interview, arrest him and give him his right to counsel if anything was said to provide reasonable grounds.

Azzam initially denied having seen his step-mother at the relevant time so a detective lied, telling him a witness had "picked him out" of a photo line-up to see if he would change his story. The witness had been shown a photo line-up with Azzam's photo but did not choose it. The detective also asked Azzam to provide a DNA sample, another standard request in these types of cases. He agreed and also consented to a search of the house.

After about 45 minutes Azzam admitted he had been at the community centre and talked to his step-mother, but left her alive. The interview was terminated, he was arrested, given his rights to counsel and arrangements were made for him to speak to counsel by telephone. He subsequently admitted to killing the victim.

An Ontario Superior Court judge denied Azzam's pre-trial application to exclude his first statement to police because they breached his rights under s.10(b) of the Char-

ter. Azzam had not been detained at the time, the judge ruled, and therefore s.10(b) wasn't triggered. He did not testify on his application but the police did. Detectives said Azzam was free to leave at any time and they did not give demands or directions that would inhibit his freedom. There was no evidence Azzam was "psychologically" detained in that he acquiesced to a demand or direction.

Azzam appealed the s.10(b), among other holdings, to the Ontario Court of Appeal. Justice Glithero, writing the court's opinion, agreed with the trial judge:

The fact that the physical description given by (the witness) only generally matched the (accused), the fact that she had subsequently failed to pick his photograph out of a lineup and the alibi evidence given by (his girlfriend) on behalf of the (accused) strongly support the trial judge's finding that the police did not have reasonable and probable grounds to charge or arrest the (accused) prior to the interview.

There was ample evidence upon which the trial judge could conclude that the questioning was part of a general investigation, as opposed to police questioning for the purpose of obtaining incriminating statements from a person the police had decided to be responsible for the crime (reference omitted, para. 28).

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Vehicle passengers not necessarily detained

by Mike Novakowski

Just because a person is a passenger in a stopped vehicle does not mean they are automatically detained for constitutional purposes, Nova Scotia's highest court has ruled.

In *R. v. Bradley*, 2008 NSCA 57, a police officer followed a vehicle with a very low rear end, ran the plate and learned the registered owner's license was suspended. The officer decided to stop the vehicle for two reasons: (1) the low rear end suggested a possible mechanical problem and (2) to check if the suspended owner was driving. He pulled it over, found four occupants and called another officer for back up to watch the passengers while he dealt with the driver.

The driver, who wasn't the registered owner, gave the officer his license, insurance and registration; the owner, who was sitting beside him, also co-operated. The officer explained that he stopped the vehicle to determine if it had a valid safety inspection and did not further examine its mechanical state.

Bradley, who was in the rear seat, asked the officer why they were being stopped and what the problem was. The officer felt his tone indicated some belligerence and hostility, noting his eyes were somewhat glassy and his speech appeared slurred, consistent with alcohol consumption. The officer could also smell alcohol coming from the car, but the driver was sober.

He asked Bradley and the fourth occupant for their names. Bradley said he had done nothing and asked why he should have to give his name. If he hadn't done anything wrong, the officer replied, why wouldn't he give it? Bradley then reluctantly identified himself. A CPIC check revealed that he was breaching a recognizance prohibiting him from possessing, consuming or using alcohol. He was arrested, read his rights and charged accordingly.

At trial in Nova Scotia Provincial Court, the judge found the driver was initially the

only target of the stop, which was to investigate possible motor vehicle infractions. The officer had little interest, if any, in the passengers. They had nothing to do with the reason for the stop and he had no reason to suspect they had committed an offence.

The judge concluded police were not taking advantage of a traffic stop to question occupants in relation to other criminal activity. Rather, Bradley initiated contact with the officer, who never told him he must provide his name, could not leave the car or otherwise control his movements. Bradley was convicted of breaching a recognizance.

His appeal to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court was unsuccessful. The appeal judge ruled the stop was made to investigate traffic offences and the officer did not concern himself with Bradley until he initiated the conversation in a hostile tone. That led to the officer asking his name, primarily to run a CPIC status check and to assess officer safety (which, under the circumstances, was accepted as a reasonable basis for asking Bradley his name).

Bradley also indicated some awareness that he did not need to give his name through his response to the officer. The appeal judge found Bradley wasn't in detention just because he was a passenger in a vehicle lawfully stopped by police. This wasn't a case where a traffic stop was made to investigate criminal activity, but rather to investigate two possible motor vehicle infractions. The appeal judge stated:

I do not accept the blanket proposition that once the driver of a motor vehicle is detained under a lawful traffic stop, all of its passengers are likewise detained automatically within the meaning of the Charter. In the case of the driver, the detention is made in the context of the police officer carrying out his statutory duties and powers under the motor vehicle act. It is the driver who is being investigated. The presence of a passenger, on the other hand, is simply incidental or happenstance in situations where a traffic stop

is made solely for purposes of investigating possible motor vehicle act infractions.

Since there was no detention, Bradley's s.9 or 10 rights were not engaged.

Bradley appealed to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, again arguing his s.9 and 10 rights were violated. He was detained when asked for his name, he submitted, and the detention was arbitrary (contrary to s.9). Police also failed to advise him of his right to counsel (contrary to s.10(b)), so the evidence of his name and the CPIC information should be excluded under s.24(2).

Justice Roscoe, authoring the unanimous judgment, concluded the trial judge had not erred in his analysis in holding there was no detention. He agreed that "it is not an absolute rule that every passenger in a motor vehicle is automatically detained as soon as the vehicle is pulled over by police." Bradley wasn't under any physical or psychological restraint as a form of detention and the officer gave him no direction or demand.

Although police reasons for stopping a vehicle are generally more relevant to the issue of whether a detention is arbitrary than to whether one occurred, Roscoe wasn't persuaded, as Bradley submitted, "that it is necessarily an error of law in the case of the passenger, to consider the reasons for and the manner in which the stop is handled, as part of the overall circumstances that must be weighed when deciding whether there is a psychological or physical restraint."

Determining whether a detention occurs involves a fact-specific and context-sensitive inquiry and the reasons for stopping a citizen for questioning is one of the relevant factors. Roscoe concluded:

In this case the trial judge heard the testimony of the police officer and the (accused) and concluded that, on the facts of this case, there had been no direction or demand given by the police officer and that the (accused) wasn't under any significant physical or psychological restraint and therefore not detained when he was asked to state his name. The summary conviction appeal court judge wasn't persuaded that the trial judge committed palpable or overriding error in reaching that conclusion. My review of the record satisfies me that (the appeal judge's) decision discloses no error of law.

Since there was no detention, it is unnecessary to address the question of whether there was an arbitrary detention, or a violation of the (accused's) rights pursuant to s.9 and 10 of the Charter. Therefore there is no need to discuss the s.24(2) issue (paras. 20-21).

Bradley's appeal was dismissed.

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5.11 Tactical

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5.11 Tactical

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Ruggedized handheld



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12-10-2007	PT-120	Completed	Passed	12/10/07	12/10/07	Advanced Police
01-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	01/20/08	01/20/08	Advanced Police
02-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	02/20/08	02/20/08	Advanced Police
03-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	03/20/08	03/20/08	Advanced Police
04-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	04/20/08	04/20/08	Advanced Police
05-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	05/20/08	05/20/08	Advanced Police
06-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	06/20/08	06/20/08	Advanced Police
07-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	07/20/08	07/20/08	Advanced Police
08-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	08/20/08	08/20/08	Advanced Police
09-20-2008	PT-120	Completed	Passed	09/20/08	09/20/08	Advanced Police
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Software tracks careers
Crown Point Technologies introduces SKILLS MANAGER Version 7x, a records management system for administering and documenting the development of personnel from date of hire to retirement. Law enforcement managers can evaluate individuals, instructors, and even organizations for compliance with established standards or regulations. Add-on modules available to: catalogue firearms and equipment; test and score; manage images, documents and computer files linked to records.

Crown Point Tech

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Forensic inspection kit

Spectronics Corporation introduces the OPTIMAX Multi-Lite Forensic Inspection Kit, featuring a flashlight with six Qwik-Connect interchangeable LED lamp heads and three snap-on contrast filters. The kit is ideal for crime-scene investigation, gathering potential evidence and forensic laboratory work. The LEDs provide six single-wavelength light sources useful for specific applications. The NiMH battery provides 90 minutes of continuous service between charges. The model OFK-6000 inspection kit comes with a cordless flashlight body, six interchangeable LED heads, three contrast filters, AC and DC battery chargers and four pairs of spectacles, all conveniently packed in a padded carrying case.

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5.11 Tactical



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Conrad started his photographic career in 1991 as a photographer for a small town newspaper one hour's drive away from South Africa's Kruger National Park. Today he'd describe himself as a keen hobby photographer with an eye for picking out the right photo equipment for any job.

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Since finishing Ryerson's photography program, and working his way through the ranks as both an assistant and a photographer, Rod now draws from over 12 years of experience in both professional and consumer environments to find solutions for his many clients.

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Since completing his studies in photography in 1994, Russell has worked closely with law enforcement in three different countries. Drawing on his training and experience over the years, Russell has helped many departments develop their photographic training methods and offered guidance on equipment requirements to achieve departmental goals.

Contact Russell at rwilliams@henrys.com



Henry's
André Paquette

André has been in the photo industry for well over a decade. Former National Technical Sales Representative for Nikon Canada Inc. André established a solid reputation as a product specialist in field applications. He is always looking for the right gear (photo, or video) to maximize the customer's needs. The list of related law enforcement direct involvement with instruction and key note seminars include CPC, OPC, and CISO to name a few.

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I know I'm only a civilian but...

by Chris Lewis

We used to reserve most police functions for trained officers because "only a cop understands." Then we began to see the light. There are wonderful people, with no desire to be police officers, who bring tremendous skills, education and training to our organizations.

Call takers, dispatchers, data-entry and administrative personnel, IT experts and forensic scientists, to name but a few, have chosen specific career paths and are very good at what they do.

Policing is a team effort and the many capable and committed civilian personnel and volunteers, including auxiliary officers, greatly contribute to keeping our communities safe but are often taken for granted by police officers, supervisors and managers.

It really bothers me when I (all too frequently) hear things like 'I know I'm only a civilian, but...' What have we done or said that makes them feel they are "only" anything?

Civilian support vital

I had a good look at the OPP's Eastern Region staff during the 1998 ice storm and was greatly impressed by ALL personnel. Everyone pulled together as a team and got the communities and organization through the crisis. Civilian personnel regularly came to work when they didn't have to, despite facing crises in their own homes, just because they wanted to help. It was a remarkable and shining example of teamwork at its best.

Police officers come and go, often working outside the detachment or transferring to other units. Civilian staff are often the only consistency in a police station or division and keep the ship running smoothly.

Sheila Jacques is an excellent example. A wonderful lady born and raised in Smooth



Rock Falls in Northern Ontario, she was the only consistency in that OPP detachment for her 30-plus year career. She knew everyone in town and OPP policy and procedures better than any of us. She was bilingual and did everything for us, up to and including questioning suspects!

For all intents and purposes, she ran that detachment. Sheila didn't carry a gun and never made an arrest, but the detachment could not have served the community as effectively without her.

Commitment demonstrated

When I commanded the OPP's Eastern Region, we had a run of dreadful incidents involving our own officers. Two were tragically killed in on-duty collisions and another seriously wounded in a fire fight with violent career criminals on the 401, all within a year. Those awful incidents woke me up more than ever to the important role of the com centre personnel.

They worked with the officers involved each and every day and were impacted as much as any police officer. Perhaps even more so, as they sat miles away and, in their minds, could do little to help. Without them and the incredible and professional way they

do their jobs, we would not have that critical and crucial lifeline.

"When an elderly lady calls the OPP in the middle of the night because she heard a noise and is scared," observed OPP Communications and Technology Services Bureau Insp Frank Grimaldi, "the first person she speaks to... is a call taker."

Using technology installed and operated by civilian personnel, they send the information to the dispatcher, who sends an officer. The officer may call the dispatcher for backup, he added and after dealing with the situation and comforting the woman, records the details on CAD and RMS systems, also installed and maintained by civilian personnel.

None of that potential life-saving activity would occur without our civilian members, who play an important role in public and officer safety. It's the same situation in every Canadian police service.

US Navy pilot Charles Plumb flew 75 combat missions before his plane was destroyed by a missile. He ejected and parachuted into enemy hands, spent six years in a Vietnamese prison and went on to lecture across the US about his experience.

A man approached him one day at a restaurant and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"Who are you and how did you know that?" Plumb replied. "I packed your parachute," answered the man. Plumb was taken aback. "I guess it worked!," the man said as he shook his hand. "It sure did," Plumb assured him. "If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man and wondering how many times he might have passed by without even greeting him. Plumb was a fighter pilot and he was "only" another sailor. Now, Plumb asks his audience "who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides them with what they need to make it through the day.

Do you express appreciation?

It's important that police officers also recognize the people who pack their parachutes. Our dedicated civilian personnel are every bit as important as those who carry guns and we cannot survive without them. Each and every one make us richer through their education, life experience, diversity, compassion, professionalism and a commitment to make our communities safe and secure.

We need to ensure that **all** of our personnel recognize that and that **all** are treated with the same level of appreciation and respect.



Chris Lewis is deputy commissioner of the OPP and commander of field operations.

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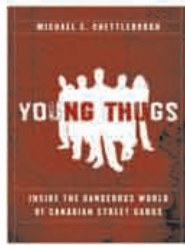
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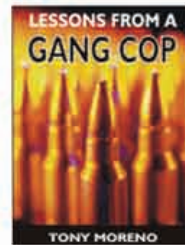
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Provides a practical and usable guide to interpreting and applying the complex drinking and driving statutes and case law. The fourth edition includes a new chapter on the ten concepts of impairment and the addition of significant case law decisions and investigative procedures.

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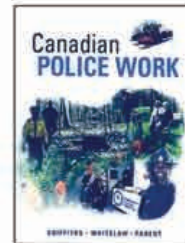
Now in its fourth edition, *Basic Police Powers: Arrest and Search Procedures*, offers the basic elements in arrest, search and seizure, release, police discretion and use of force. The workbook format allows practice through cases and exercises.

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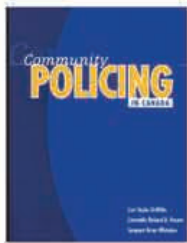
The second book in the First Response series focuses on both familiar and unfamiliar club and designer drugs encountered by police including: ketamine, PCP, 2C-B, Wet and tryptamines.

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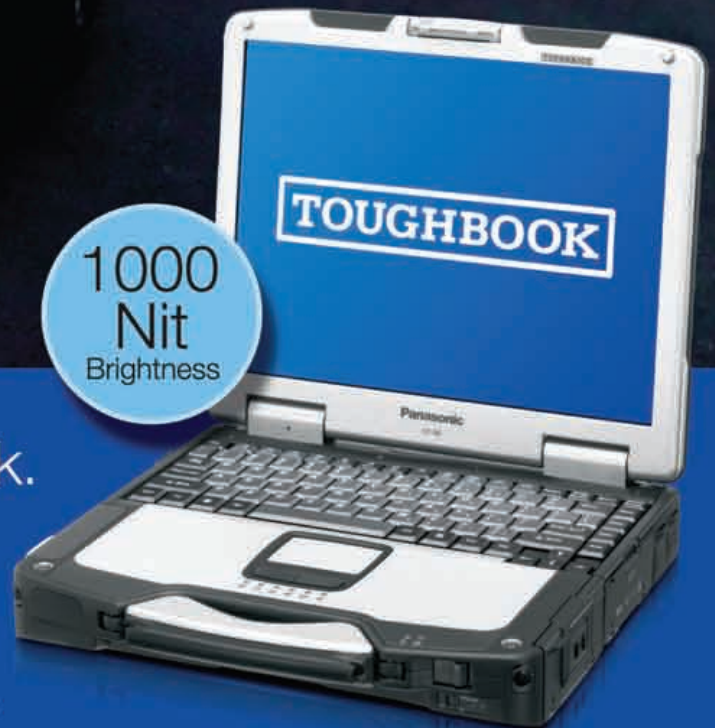
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