

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY December 14, 2012 – Vol. 17 No. 50

## Executive Digest

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**OTTAWA** - Canada's newest Supreme Court justice says democracy is at stake if the public no longer has trust in the judicial system.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Naughty offenders get greeting cards urging them to reform



Dec 10 2012

**ABBOTSFORD, B.C.** - Police aren't expecting to turn Canada's former homicide capital into Whoville, but they are hoping a new Christmas card with a twist might grow the hearts of at least a few Grinches.

The Abbotsford Police Department has mailed a stack of holiday greeting cards to prolific criminal offenders in the sprawling British Columbia city urging them to change their ways this season.

Between 50 and 100 carefully-selected recipients will open a card that features Santa

dressed in police tactical gear and carrying a machine gun.

The snowflake-coated script on the front asks "Which list will you be on next year?"

Inside it reads: "We believe it is never too late to make a better choice for your life. For the sake of your family and for your own sake, consider 2013 the year you choose a new and better life."

A telephone helpline number is included.

Department spokesman Const. Ian MacDonald said police are making a sincere effort to connect.

Which list  
will you be  
on next  
year?



globalregina.com



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"As a community we can reach out to some people and give them a different message. You can't expect people to change if the only options provided for them are to continue doing the same thing," he said.

"Some people might think that's naive or that's optimistic to think they're going to give you the time of day through your greeting card, but we look at it like, if we don't present an option, then how can we expect people to select that option?"

Abbotsford ranked No. 1 in per-capita homicides in 2008 and 2009, the Fraser Valley city 65 kilometres east of Vancouver largely plagued at the time by gang and drug violence. The designation prompted the police department to begin a concerted effort to cut-down such crimes.

The holiday card campaign is an extension of other anti-gang messaging, and was designed in-house with partial inspiration from Yuletide cards sent by U.K. police targeting seasonal crime like shoplifting.

The same card, only with a different greeting on the inside, will be sent as the department's regular Christmas mail-out. The stern Santa - which is actually the city's Police Chief Bob Rich - will go to people like the mayor and volunteer groups.

"(The idea) was not to be provocative," MacDonald said, explaining that they put out a different greeting card every year.

The department selected the recipients based on three categories. Prolific offenders have ten or more criminal convictions and have been the subject of five or more police investigations within the last six months. Property offenders who committed break and enters or other thefts. Finally, it will go to people known to be involved in gangs and the drug trade.

MacDonald said the department already receives phone calls from people asking for help to leave the gang lifestyle. Whoever phones the helpline will get a call back from someone with

particular expertise or who already knows the individual from previous contact.

The only costs are for printing and postage, making it a low-risk experiment that is so far being largely received as "innovative," MacDonald said.

"We'll see how many calls the helpline gets and we will see if one, two, or three or more people actually do reflect. Maybe that manifests itself as some sort of change."

Abbotsford was the hometown of the notorious Bacon Brothers, a trio of alleged gangsters who have been implicated in a host of drug-related and violent crimes.

The eldest brother, Jonathan, was shot to death in a gang hit outside a hotel in the provincial interior last year, while brother Jamie is accused in the massacre of six people in Surrey, B.C., and brother Jarrod is serving 12 years for drug trafficking.

There were 11 homicides in Abbotsford in 2008, eight of which were connected to gangs and drugs. In 2010 there was four homicides, in 2011 there was zero, and so far this year there have been three murders of which one was connected to gangs.

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 06, 2012

Dec 06 2012

**REGINA - The RCMP has appointed a female officer to its highest non-commissioned job at the training depot in Regina.**

Sgt.-Maj. Tammy Patterson is the first woman to hold the position in Saskatchewan.

RCMP spokeswoman Erin Odishaw says the promotion puts Patterson in charge of protocol, ceremonies and cadet behaviour at the academy.

The role has been vacant since a retirement in September.

Odishaw says the force came up with a short list of officers for the job and Patterson was selected as the best candidate.

Dec 06 2012

**MEADOW LAKE, Sask. - An inquest jury in Saskatchewan is recommending RCMP officers better analyse risky situations in order to prevent fatal shootings.**

The six-member jury deliberated for just under two hours Thursday.

They heard several days of evidence detailing how an officer shot and killed Harry Haineault following a foot chase on the Clearwater River Dene Nation five years ago.

The jury did not comment on whether the officer was justified, but simply presented the court with two general suggestions of how the RCMP should make improvements.

As well as greater risk analysis, the jury decided Mounties need to take risk assessment training no matter how long they have been on the job.

Const. Jamie Grant and Const. Ryan

Boogaard had gone to a home on the reserve to arrest Haineault in September 2008.

He was wanted on warrants and faced charges that included assault, resisting arrest, possession of a dangerous weapon and escaping custody.

RCMP were aware Haineault had a history of running from officers, so Boogaard went to the front door of the home and Grant went to the rear. Haineault bolted out the back door and Grant followed.

Grant testified earlier this week that he dropped his radio and became separated from his partner during the chase.

He said he struggled with Haineault and the 38-year-old man eventually got him into a scissor-hold with his legs. He said Haineault refused to let go, even when the officer offered him a deal by promising not to arrest him.

Grant said Haineault grew more aggressive and the officer tried unsuccessfully to subdue the man with both a baton and pepper spray. Grant testified he was in fear of his life when he shot Haineault in the chest.

RCMP training expert Sgt. Robert Gourlay, one of the last witnesses to testify, told the jury that any officer who loses his radio and his partner should back off instead of chasing a suspect alone.

But Gourlay also said that if an officer considers the height and weight of a suspect and believes he can manage the arrest on his own, he can go ahead.

Gourlay testified that based on Grant's version of what happened, the officer was clearly in a combative, life-threatening situation and had reason to pull his pistol.

The inquest heard earlier evidence that toxicology tests found no pepper spray on Grant's clothes or the leather gloves he was wearing at the time. Grant admitted to cleaning his gloves with hand sanitizer after the shooting because he feared he may have come into contact with Haineault's blood.

Tests also revealed that Haineault was drunk that night. His blood alcohol level was more than three times the legal driving limit.

A paramedic told the jury that when he arrived, he found Grant walking back and forth, smoking a cigarette, with his shirt hanging out and vest undone. Haineault's body was a short distance away with unattached handcuffs on both wrists.

This is the second inquest into Haineault's death. An inquest started in 2010 but a judge ordered a new one after Haineault's family brought forward new evidence - surveillance video taken from outside the house.

The jury was shown the video, in which Haineault can be seen running outside. A loud pop can also be heard.

(CJLR)

Dec 06 2012

**WETASKIWIN, Alta. - A man accused of wounding two Mounties and killing his uncle in a shootout last February has been granted bail again.**

Sawyer Robison is charged with second-degree murder in the killing of Bradford Clarke.

**BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK**  
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Clarke was found dead in his home near Killam, southeast of Edmonton, where the two officers were shot.

Police searched for Robison after he was spotted leaving the scene.

He was arrested peacefully three days later on a rural road after a public plea from his parents to turn himself in.

Robison had been granted bail in June on the attempted murder charges but was rearrested after the murder charge was laid.

The two injured Mounties returned to work at the Killam detachment in the summer.

Constables Sheldon Shah and Sid Gaudette were wounded Feb. 7 when they went to search the Robison family farm.

Police said at the time that Robison was inside the house during the shooting, then drove off in a pickup truck. Clarke was found dead inside the home following a lengthy standoff.

Area residents have described him as a quiet photographer and musician who lived with his uncle. His parents lived in another home on the same property.

Burnaby RCMP say they were conducting surveillance on several people when three men went inside the Birks store at Park Royal Mall and one of them pointed a gun at an employee.

The police moved in and arrested the would-be robbers without any shots being fired or anyone being hurt.

At the same time, other officers arrested five other men who were waiting in two getaway cars parked at the mall.

The operation was being conducted by the Burnaby RCMP Strike Force.

It's not known why the suspects were under surveillance.

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 08, 2012

Dec 08 2012

**HALIFAX - RCMP in Halifax say an officer was seriously injured today after an oncoming vehicle hit a parked police cruiser, throwing the man into a ditch.**

Police say the officer was at the scene of a single-vehicle crash on the Bedford Bypass on Highway 101 at Rocky Lake Road around 5:30 a.m. when an oncoming vehicle lost control and hit a parked police cruiser.

They say the cruiser then hit the officer, sending him over a 10-metre embankment onto rocks and tree stumps.

The Mounties say he was taken to hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

Police say the officer had been investigating a previous crash after a vehicle lost control and landed in a ditch.

No one was injured in that crash and police say road conditions were slippery at the time of both collisions.

Dec 08 2012

**HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team is investigating after a man broke his jaw during a police chase early today.**

In a statement, police say two RCMP officers were conducting a traffic stop around

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 07, 2012

Dec 07 2012

**WEST VANCOUVER, B.C. - Eight people have been arrested in a police operation that foiled what could have been a major jewelry store robbery in West Vancouver.**

Dec 07 2012

**VANCOUVER - Canadian border officials say a truck driver has been arrested after agents found 23 kilograms of suspected cocaine in a truck carrying produce into B.C. from the United States.**

The Canada Border Services Agency says the tractor trailer was stopped at the Abbotsford-Huntingdon crossing on Monday.

During a check of the truck, officers became suspicious about the wall of the trailer and unloaded the cargo.

CBSA says when officers drilled holes into the trailer they hit a white powder and discovered 23 bricks of suspected cocaine inside a cavity in the wall.

The driver and the drugs were turned over to the RCMP for further investigation.



The *Police Leadership Award* recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies leadership as "an activity not a position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organization and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

The 2012 award recipient will be recognized in the May 2013 issue of *Blue Line Magazine* and will receive the award at a presentation held in conjunction with the *Blue Line Expo*, April 23, 2013.

Questions?  
Email: [Leadership@blueline.ca](mailto:Leadership@blueline.ca)

Application forms at  
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**BLUE LINE**  
Police Leadership Award  
"An activity not a position"

2:45 a.m. in Cherrybrook.

Police say a driver was directed to pull over because of a suspected breach of curfew, but the vehicle fled the scene.

They say police pursued the car and found it less than a kilometre down the road on its roof.

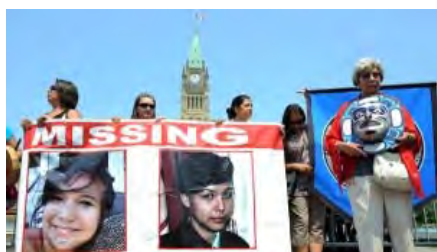
The driver of the vehicle, a man in his mid-20s, was seen running from the car and was arrested.

He was taken to hospital with a broken jaw and police say it is believed he was the only occupant of the car.

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 09, 2012

Dec 09 2012

**OTTAWA - The Assembly of First Nations says the murder of a 16-year-old native teen is yet another reason Ottawa should call a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.**



ctvnews.ca

National Chief Shawn Atleo says the death of Summer Star Elizabeth Krista-Lee Fowler has triggered an overwhelmingly painful reminder of losses suffered by other families whose loved ones have disappeared or been killed.

The addition of Fowler, also known as "CJ", to the list of women has prompted him to urge Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make the matter a higher priority in order to prevent further crimes.

Over the past week, members of the assembly gathered and committed to renew efforts to seek safety and justice for aboriginal citizens, as well as accountability for those who have died.

Aboriginal groups want an inquiry into an estimated 600 aboriginal women who have disappeared or been killed in the last two decades, although last month a meeting of provincial cabinet ministers only decided to debate the issue further in the spring.

The body of Fowler, a member of the Gitanmaax First Nation in Hazelton, B.C., was discovered by a man walking his dog in Kamloops on Wednesday and an autopsy confirmed it was homicide.

## MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2012

Dec 10 2012

**WEST VANCOUVER, B.C. - A driver in Metro Vancouver may owe his life to the off-duty abilities of two West**

### Vancouver police officers.

The officers were answering a call about an erratic driver on the twisting and steep Cypress Bowl Road just before 1 a.m. when they saw a Mitsubishi Lancer careen into a 20-metre deep ravine.

Fortunately, both officers are experienced backcountry hikers and one even had crampons in the back of his cruiser, while the other - a dog handler - tied a makeshift harness from two leashes.

Together, they reached the upside-down car, pulled the trapped driver out of the wreckage and, with the help of a third officer, managed to haul the injured victim up to the road.

Firefighters then searched the entire crash scene to confirm no one else had been thrown from the car as it tumbled down the embankment.

Police say the unnamed driver is seriously hurt but is expected to survive, and an active investigation of the crash is underway.

Dec 10 2012

**SYDNEY, N.S. - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team is investigating the death of a 66-year-old man who was arrested by the Cape Breton police.**

The agency says police arrested a man on Sunday after searching a vehicle waiting to board the Newfoundland-Labrador ferry at the North Sydney terminal.

The man was transported to the jail cells in Sydney, and on arrival officers noted he was in distress.

They administered first aid and CPR until paramedics arrived.

The serious incident release says the man was transported to the Cape Breton Regional Hospital, where he later died.

The Cape Breton police referred the incident to the Serious Incident Response Team, which assumed responsibility for the investigation.

Dec 10 2012

**PORT HOPE, Ont. - This James Bond didn't have a licence to speed - in fact, police say he had no licence at all.**

Provincial police say a man who hasn't had a driver's licence since the mid-1980s has been charged with driving offences north of Port Hope, about 110 kilometres east of Toronto.

Police say they clocked a southbound vehicle Sunday on County Road 28 at 104 kilometres an hour in a posted 80 zone.

The officer followed the SUV into a parking lot and found the person he had seen when the vehicle passed him was now sitting in the passenger's side. The man denied being the driver but reconsidered after the officer warned both male occupants about obstructing police for switching positions.

Police say the man finally admitted he was the driver, and it was determined the man has been suspended since 1985.

Kenneth James Bond, 52, of Bowmanville, is due in court Feb. 6 to face two counts of driving while under suspension and speeding.

(CJOJ)

Dec 10 2012

**VANCOUVER - B.C.'s top court has ordered a new trial for a man convicted of sex crimes, ruling that the trial judge made a mistake in using the accused's silence with police to determine he was not credible.**

A panel of three judges for the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled a miscarriage of justice occurred when Kulvinder Sandhu was convicted in August 2011.

Sandhu was charged with sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching after complaints from a young woman.

The incidents were alleged to have occurred in the 1990s, although the man was not charged until six years after the young woman complained to police.

During the trial, the Crown argued the man's failure to promptly address the allegations of sexual assault showed that he was guilty.

The appeal judges also ruled Monday the trial judge made a mistake by finding the accuser to be credible.

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2012

Dec 11 2012

**LONDON - HSBC avoided a legal battle that could further savage its reputation and undermine confidence in the global banking system by agreeing Tuesday to pay \$1.9 billion to settle a U.S. money-laundering probe.**

Europe's largest bank by market value will pay the biggest penalty ever imposed on a bank after facing accusations it transferred funds through the U.S. from Mexican drug cartels and on behalf of nations such as Iran that are under international sanctions.

Money laundering by banks has become a priority target for U.S. law enforcement. Since 2009, Credit Suisse, Barclays, Lloyds, and ING have all paid big settlements related to allegations that they moved money for people or companies that were on the U.S. sanctions list.

HSBC conceded that its anti-money laundering measures were inadequate and that it has taken big steps in beefing up its controls. The bank also said it has reached agreements over investigations by other U.S. government agencies and expects to sign an agreement with British regulators shortly.

"We accept responsibility for our past mistakes," said HSBC Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver. "We have said we are profoundly sorry for them, and we do so again."

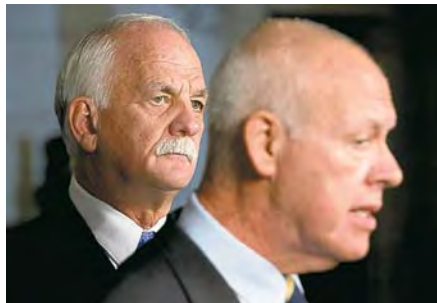
A U.S. law enforcement official said the sum HSBC was paying would include \$1.25 billion in forfeiture - the largest ever in a case involving a bank - and \$655 million in civil penalties.

In return for being spared prosecution, HSBC said it would continue to strengthen its compliance policies and procedures. Its performance will be evaluated by an independent

monitor over the 5-year term of the agreement with the Department of Justice, which has used such arrangements in cases involving large corporations, notably in settlements of foreign bribery charges.

Dec 11 2012

### **OTTAWA - Canada's spy and defence agencies - not just police - would be able to refer people to the federal witness protection program under changes proposed Tuesday.**



winnipegfreepress.com

The Safer Witnesses Act, tabled in the House of Commons, would also make it easier for witnesses in provincial programs to obtain new identities.

The bill includes new restrictions on the disclosure of information, to help make the program more secure.

In addition, it increases the amount of time emergency protection may be provided to witnesses.

"An effective and reliable witness protection program is valuable in the fight against crime, especially organized crime and terrorism," Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said in a statement.

The RCMP-administered program shields people who help the police by providing everything from short-term protection to permanent relocation and identity changes.

Revelations five years ago that a protectee committed a murder while in the program triggered a wave of review.

Some members have sued over their treatment in the program, while others have been kicked out.

Protection is currently available to witnesses referred from any police service in Canada, as well as from some foreign agencies.

Under the new legislation, federal departments and agencies with a mandate relating to national security, national defence or public safety would also be able to refer witnesses to the program.

The proposed federal changes follow recommendations from a Commons committee, an inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing and extensive consultations with the provinces.

Several provinces have their own witness protection programs, but often they provide only short-term assistance. In addition, obtaining new federal identity documents for protectees requires co-operation with the Mounties.

The changes announced Tuesday are intended

to simplify the process of obtaining these crucial documents and generally improve relations with provincial agencies.

Ontario and Alberta have been pushing for more federal recognition of their witness programs.

Dec 11 2012

### **HANNA, Alta. - A southern Alberta town has implemented a bylaw that it hopes will help cut down on bullying.**

Mayor Mark Nikota says the community of Hanna began working on the bylaw in September after a request from the RCMP.

He says police have been having difficulty controlling bullying among young people and wanted to have another way to help fight the problem.

The fine for the first offence is \$250 and could jump to \$1,000 for subsequent offences.

Nikota says there is also a provision for fines if someone knows about bullying and doesn't make authorities aware of it.

The mayor acknowledges it remains to be seen if the bylaw will be effective.

Dec 11 2012

### **ST-LEONARD-D'ASTON, Que. - You've heard of corn on the cob but what about corn on the lam?**

Thieves using at least a dozen large trucks struck at a farm in central Quebec overnight Tuesday, making off with an estimated 400 tonnes of the product.

The farmer who owns the crop estimates the value of the theft at \$140,000.

The unidentified farmer says the corn had been stored in silos at the farm located about 130 kilometres northeast of Montreal.

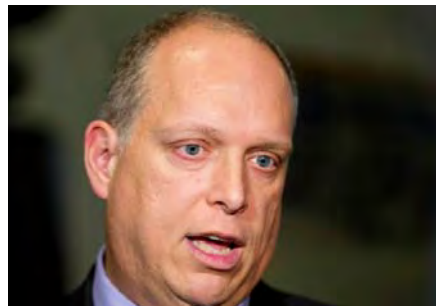
Thieves broke locked fences to get onto the property in St-Leonard-d'Aston and then neutralized the alarm system, even shorting out surveillance cameras.

Corn prices have increased significantly in recent months because of a drought in the United States last summer.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2012**

Dec 12 2012

### **QUEBEC - The Quebec government has announced that it will investigate three high-ranking members of the provincial police for possible criminal activity.**



theprovince.com

Public Safety Minister Stephane Bergeron said the senior officials being targeted are suspected of improperly using of a special-operations fund.

The money is supposed to fund investigative operations, like paying informants. But Bergeron said people drew from it to pay severance packages and also a consultant who had been barred from receiving government contracts because of his tax troubles.

Bergeron said that fund is also supposed to be rigorously accounted for - and he said that didn't necessarily happen in this case.

Speaking in Quebec City, the minister told a news conference Wednesday that the activities in question could be a criminal offence for breach of trust.

"The alleged facts are extremely troubling," Bergeron said.

"I'm well aware of the tumult this will cause."

Bergeron said he has created a special task force to investigate, comprising mostly retired police officers. He says he had to take that step because the legislature has yet to adopt a bill that would create a special-investigation unit in the province.

He said those being investigated have been suspended, with pay.

Bergeron said the behaviour was uncovered when the newly elected PQ government replaced the head of the provincial police force and tasked the new administration with finding cost savings. He used the case as an example of his new government's commitment to ethics.

"This shows that nobody - regardless of rank or status - is above the law," Bergeron said.

The new director general of the Quebec provincial police, Mario Laprise, was touted for his competence when he was appointed in October.

Even the opposition Liberals' public safety critic, former provincial cop Robert Poeti, touted his competence - although he was quoted at the time describing the new top cop as a well-known Parti Quebecois sympathizer.

Poeti criticized the PQ government for replacing the police boss soon after taking office, and warned that such a move could unduly politicize the force and send it "back 50 years."

Dec 12 2012

### **EDMONTON - Investigators say an armed man shot by Edmonton police during a bank robbery has died.**

The man, who was 24, underwent surgery in hospital but died of his injuries.

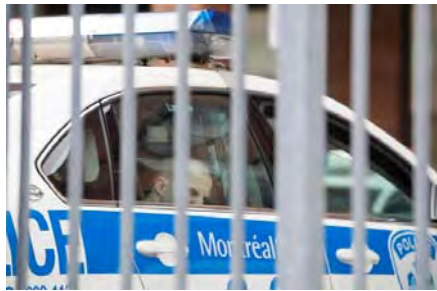
The robbery took place Tuesday at the Canadian Western Bank at the South Edmonton Common shopping complex.

Two officers fired several shots at a suspect, who was taken to hospital in critical condition.

No customers or staff at the bank were injured.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is reviewing the actions of the officers.

**MONTREAL - After nearly a month of uncertainty, the Montreal police force still doesn't know whether it will be able to keep its specialized anti-gang unit up and running past the beginning of next year.**



montrealgazette.com

In mid-November, federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews announced that the Harper government was not planning to inject any new money into the Police Officer Recruitment Fund, a five-year program that has been the main source of funding for the Montreal-based tactical unit known as Groupe Éclipse.

As of Tuesday morning, Montreal police were still waiting for official confirmation that the money will stop flowing in April 2013. If that does happen and no new funding is secured, a spokesperson confirmed the force might have no choice but to shut down the 46-member squad.

The federal Police Officer Recruitment Fund was created in 2008 "to support the efforts of provinces and territories in recruiting additional front-line police officers nationwide who can target local crimes." Of the \$400 million the Harper government poured into the pot over five years, Quebec received just over \$92 million, a total that the provincial government then divvied up among several regions. Specialized "mixed" squads were created in Gatineau, Laval, Longueuil and Quebec City, bringing together officers from the Sûreté du Québec, the RCMP and local municipal forces.

Montreal, meanwhile, used its \$37-million share to create Groupe Éclipse, a specialized unit with a singular mission: stamp out crime related to street gangs. A year after its creation, the squad appeared to be having the desired effect. The number of gang-related murders plunged from 14 in 2007 to eight in 2008, and then five in 2009. But while it was producing results, the team also came under fire for alleged racial profiling and heavy-handed tactics such as making hundreds of arrests for simple probation violations. Approximately 400 of the 1,419 arrests carried out by Éclipse between June 2008 and October 2010 fell into that category, records show.

In 2011, under new police chief Marc Paré, Éclipse's mandate was revised and officers began targeting specific gang members instead of entire neighbourhoods. They also redoubled their efforts to snuff out new gangs before they could establish themselves.

A total of nine homicides related to street

gang activity were recorded in 2011. While the numbers for 2012 are not yet available, two high-profile incidents last summer will undoubtedly make the list.

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 12 2012

**OTTAWA - The constitutionality of Canada's anti-terror law comes under the microscope Friday when the Supreme Court of Canada delivers a series of major rulings on the legal definition of terrorism.**

The high court will rule on a handful of charter challenges brought by a convicted terrorist and two accused terrorists, key among them whether Canada's post 9-11 anti-terror law violates the constitutional guarantees to freedom of expression, association and religion.

The long-awaited rulings could determine whether the terror legislation needs to be amended or rewritten, or is struck down for giving law enforcement too much latitude.

The ruling also will decide the fate of former Ottawa software engineer Momin Khawaja, the first person charged under the law, and two other men, awaiting extradition to the United States, where they face charges of supporting the banned Tamil Tigers terrorist group.

Khawaja is now serving life in prison with no chance of parole for 10 years, after the Ontario Court of Appeal took the unusual step of increasing his original 10-and-a-half year sentence to send a message about terrorism.

The high court will also rule on whether Khawaja's stiffened sentence should be upheld, and whether the extradition order approved by Justice Minister Rob Nicholson against Suresh Sriskandarajah and Piratheepan Nadarajah should be overturned.

The overarching feature of the Supreme Court ruling will focus on how terrorism is defined in the Canadian law, which came into effect two months after the 9-11 al-Qaida attacks on the United States.

Dec 12 2012

**OTTAWA - Canada's newest Supreme Court justice says democracy is at stake if the public no longer has trust in the judicial system.**

Justice Richard Wagner said in an interview with The Canadian Press that court decisions are being examined and commented upon in the media as never before.

He said the credibility of the justice system is put at risk if its decisions are criticized without being properly explained. He said lawyers, media and governments all have a duty to educate the public.

Wagner lamented the loss of public confidence he's seen in the judiciary over the years, insisting the system actually functions well.

He feared that a drop in confidence could lead to a "parallel justice system" in the country.

"In Quebec, the number of files in litigation is decreasing year after year and there is a reason for this," he said. "I hope it is not because people no longer believe in the justice system because if this is the case, this is the beginning of the end.

"When people stop appearing before the courts, it will create a parallel justice system and our democracy will be on the line.

"These seem like big words but this is very real, it's not fiction. Little by little, these attitudes are created and they perpetuate themselves and they can lead to results that aren't good for society in terms of democracy."

Dec 12 2012

**MONTREAL - He stabbed his children 46 times. He was freed after 46 months.**

In the latest twist in a case that has shocked Quebecers, a cardiologist who killed his two children was granted his release from a psychiatric institution Wednesday, with conditions.

The decision to release Guy Turcotte came as little surprise. A jury last year had found him not criminally responsible for killing his three-year-old daughter and five-year-old son.

Since the court verdict, he had been in Montreal's Pinel institute where a panel Wednesday found him mentally fit to be released. The case had provoked a torrent of outrage in Quebec, with Turcotte becoming a household name.

Turcotte told the hearing Wednesday that he wants to lead a regular, productive life - but he's concerned about his newfound notoriety.

"I'd like to work, to do some good around me," the cardiologist told the panel.



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“My biggest challenge will be will be dealing with others, with the public. There’s been a lot of badmouthing, a lot of things that will be said. There will be a lot of prejudice against me.”

The cardiologist had admitted to stabbing his young children 46 times.

But he said he didn’t remember doing it, hadn’t wanted to do it, and had been experiencing blackouts on the night of the killings.

He said he was distraught over the breakup of his marriage. Gaston had left him for a family friend who was her personal trainer.

Turcotte’s release was unanimously approved by a three-member panel. He will have to get annual mental-health checkups, continue his therapy, stay out of trouble, get approval for his choice of address, and avoid all contact with his ex-wife.

But his legal woes are not quite over yet: the Crown has filed to appeal the 2011 court verdict.

His psychiatrist said he didn’t object to Turcotte’s release, as long as he continued his therapy.

Several cases like Turcotte’s, including the 2008 bus-beheading in Manitoba and the Schoenborn child-killings in B.C., have prompted a federal policy change.

The Harper government plans to make it more difficult for mentally ill offenders found not criminally responsible to be released from custody.

The government announced proposed amendments to the Criminal Code last month, in the latest in a series of tough-on-crime initiatives by the Conservative government.

The Tories plan to introduce a bill in the House of Commons early next year that would make the safety of the public the paramount factor for review boards that determine an offender’s release.

**THURSDAY**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2012**

Dec 13 2012

**TORONTO - The auditor general found the Ontario Provincial Police were doing a poor job of keeping track of what’s in their evidence lockers and parking lots.**

Auditor General Jim McCarter says the OPP were unable to locate 200 vehicles in their fleet but eventually were able to track them down.

However, McCarter says visits to eight OPP detachments found police records did not match the contents of their evidence lockers, where cash, drugs and guns are often stored for use in court.

He says there were examples where a gun was missing from a locker or there was too much cash in the evidence room compared with the written records.

McCarter says provincial police brass reacted like they’d been slapped in the face when confronted with the evidence locker problems, and promised to fix what they admitted was a systemic problem.

The auditor’s annual report also criticizes the OPP for increasing spending and hiring at a time when crime and highway accidents rates have been declining and for allowing overtime costs to soar by 60 per cent since 2004-05.

McCarter’s ten-year term is about to expire, and he says unlike most ministries and agencies that get audited, the OPP has not shown “much of an improvement” during the past decade.

Dec 13 2012

**TORONTO - Toronto Police have arrested a suspect in an alleged hit and run last Friday in the busy intersection of Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue.**

Police had been pursuing a suspect in a

stolen car when the driver mounted the sidewalk, striking three pedestrians and sending one to hospital with minor injuries.

The suspect, who allegedly tried to hit a police officer before driving onto the sidewalk, later ditched the vehicle and fled on foot.

A 47-year-old man was arrested at about 3 a.m. today in the city’s north end (near Sheppard and Bathurst) after police received a tip he was in the area.

Officers spotted him in a truck and the suspect tried to escape but was arrested following a short chase on foot.

Steven Brunswick faces 33 charges, including attempted murder, failing to stop after an accident, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.



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