

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

May 10, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 19

## Executive Digest

May 03 2013

**HALIFAX** - The Nova Scotia government wants the power to investigate suspected cases of financial abuse of seniors who don't have the mental capacity to manage their affairs.

Page 4

May 03 2013

**KELOWNA, B.C.** - Senior officers hung former Mountie Geoff Mantler out to dry and made no effort to investigate his side of the story, says a labour representative for the RCMP.

Page 4

May 05 2013

**HALIFAX** - A new survey finds that a majority of sexual assault victims have little confidence in the criminal justice system, the police and the court process.

Page 5

May 06 2013

**EDMONTON** - Alberta is proposing new legislation that would encourage police, social agencies and schools to share information as a way to help struggling children.

Page 6

May 08 2013

**OTTAWA** - Mental health professionals from across Canada are banding together during Mental Health Week to ask the Harper government to rethink its latest crime bill.

Page 6

May 08 2013

**OTTAWA** - A Senate committee will look into whether a British Columbia Mountie on stress leave was intimidated into cancelling an appearance before senators in Ottawa.

Page 7

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK  
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100.00

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

## Powerful ex mayor faces life sentence for gangsterism



timescolonist.com

May 09 2013

**LAVAL, Que.** - For much of his political life, he was known as "The Monarch." Now, for the rest of his natural life, he risks being branded as "The Godfather."

One of the Criminal Code's most severe charges - directing a criminal organization - is being laid against the once-powerful mayor of Laval, Que.

That charge, one of two gangsterism counts and numerous other charges laid against Gilles Vaillancourt on Thursday, carries a maximum life sentence.

The 72-year-old Vaillancourt, longtime mayor of one of Quebec's biggest cities, was

among dozens of people swept up in a raid Thursday and became the highest-profile politician charged in the province's ongoing corruption probes. Thirty-seven people face charges.

It's believed to be the first time that charges of gangsterism, usually reserved for organized-crime groups, have been laid in connection with Quebec's ongoing political scandals.

Vaillancourt served as mayor of Laval, the city just across the river north of Montreal, for 23 years before stepping down last November under a cloud of controversy.

He had run Laval with little political



RCMP  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE

LE CENTRE DU  
PATRIMOINE  
DE LA GRC

**Make it your destination  
Make it your cause**

[www.rcmpheritagecentre.com](http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com)

5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK Canada S4T 0P4

866-567-7267

opposition since 1989. His critics gave him the nickname "The Monarch" because of his unfettered electoral success over the years.

On Thursday, the head of Quebec's anti-corruption unit read out the 72-year-old's name among those who faced charges.

Robert Lafreniere said the busts followed a three-year investigation that included 150 witness interviews, 30,000 wiretapped conversations and the execution of 70 search warrants.

"The investigation targeted the dismantling of an organized and structured network operating a system of corruption and collusion in the provision of public contracts," Lafreniere told a news conference at provincial police headquarters in Montreal.

Lafreniere described the alleged criminal network as "well-established" and he said it included three distinct groups: entrepreneurs and engineers; facilitators, lawyers, notaries and a merchant; and a mayor, a city manager and a top municipal engineer.

The charges, he said, included fraud, fraud against the government, conspiracy, breach of trust, corruption in municipal affairs, laundering proceeds of crime, and gangsterism.

"These are extremely serious accusations," said Lafreniere, who added that 120 police officers were involved in Thursday's sweep.

"Today's operation is a testimony of the magnitude of the corruption phenomena we are facing."

Another person charged Thursday was former construction magnate Tony Accurso, whose name has been frequently mentioned at the Charbonneau Commission looking into corruption in the construction industry. He already faces charges in other cases.

Others charged include lawyers, former city officials, and construction executives.

Ironically, news of the charges surfaced as municipal leaders from across Quebec were gathered in Montreal for the annual meeting of the province's federation of municipalities.

Vaillancourt's arrest quickly became the

topic of conversation at the conference and stunned several attendees, including Saguenay Mayor Jean Tremblay.

He expressed hope that the arrests would lead to positive changes.

He also voiced his disbelief that corruption might have been going on at high levels, for so long, without police stepping in.

"When you're (a mayor) like me, making \$135,000 a year plus an expense account, if you want to make more than that, do something else in life," said Tremblay, known for his colourful and sometimes controversial remarks.

"If you feel obliged to rob your citizens on top of that, to do your work, it's serious."

Vaillancourt stepped down last fall after he was hit with scathing testimony during the ongoing Charbonneau inquiry.

A witness accused him of pocketing kickbacks from construction bosses - something Vaillancourt denied.

At the time, the province's anti-corruption unit had also raided two of Vaillancourt's personal residences, along with his office.

Several hours after the bank raids, Vaillancourt announced he would step away from his mayoral duties citing health reasons. He said he would reflect on his political future.

A few weeks later, he called it quits for good.

## THURSDAY MAY 02, 2013

May 02 2013

**SASKATOON - Thanks to matchsticks and modern technology, police believe they have tracked down the person who killed a golf course maintenance worker in Saskatoon nearly 50 years ago.**

Richard Hartz, 53 was found shot to death at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club the morning of Oct. 17, 1963.

Justice, however, probably won't be served in the case. The unnamed suspect, who was only 17 at the time of the killing, died himself in 2009.

"I'm confident if he were alive, we would be arresting him," Saskatoon police Sgt. Grant Little said Thursday.

Police believed Hartz died in a robbery gone wrong at the golf course clubhouse where he worked and lived. They think he may have surprised the shooter, who had stolen a cash box containing \$41.

The stolen cash box was found on one of the fairways, along with discarded matches. Little said the investigation focused mainly on the box because of a single unidentified fingerprint.

But the case stumped investigators for decades. While hundreds of witnesses were interviewed and several different suspects were identified, no arrests were made and the case went unsolved.

It was matches that led to the break.

Fibre and microscopic testing done recently in Illinois confirmed the matches belonged to a matchbook found in an abandoned truck, Little said. It was the same truck the

suspected killer had stolen during another break-in at a welding shop that same day, an incident for which he was later charged and convicted.

"The suspect was actually witnessed leaving the vehicle ... and they identified him through fingerprints on the steering wheel," said Little.

Investigators tested his DNA the year he died, but Little said the results were inconclusive.

May 02 2013

**VANCOUVER - An RCMP sergeant involved in a high-profile investigation of the gang slaying of six people in Surrey, B.C., more than five years ago has been charged with theft, adding to a list of charges that already included breach of trust and obstruction of justice.**

A charge of theft under \$5,000 was sworn Wednesday and announced Thursday against Derek Brassington, related to an incident alleged to have taken place in Burnaby on March 30.

Shortly after the charge was announced, the RCMP issued a statement saying it had discharged the sergeant from the force, and Brassington was no longer a Mountie.

The statement said Brassington had "voluntarily submitted these documents."

Brassington, who had been on suspension from the force, said that was not the case.

"It hasn't happened, and I don't know if it will happen," he said when contacted by The Canadian Press and read part of the statement. "I have not resigned."

RCMP Chief Supt. Brian Cantera said Brassington was the subject of statutory and internal code-of-conduct investigations.

With his career with the RCMP over, Cantera said he would no longer face disciplinary action.

Brassington was one of several officers involved in the investigation of six killings at a high-rise apartment in Surrey in October 2007.

Charges against four Mounties, including Brassington, were announced in June 2011, after an investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police.

May 02 2013

**OTTAWA - RCMP officers have faced disciplinary action for acts of bad behaviour ranging from driving a cruiser drunk, to surfing porn on the office computer, to carelessly firing a gun.**

According to the latest annual report on bad behaviour in the RCMP ranks, an Alberta sergeant was also disciplined for deliberately deleting portions of a document that led to a stay of proceedings in a "major criminal case."

In all, there were 51 cases adjudicated in the 2011-2012 period in which Mounties were reprimanded, docked pay or demoted for code of conduct violations under the RCMP Act.

There were only two cases where the officer was forced to resign or be fired. Another 24 cases were resolved by resignations, and 14 were withdrawn, according to the report.

Some of the cases outlined in the report include:

**BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK**  
A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

ISSN 1704-3913  
Copyright 2013  
Blue Line Magazine Inc. & The Canadian Press  
Permission to reprint may be obtained in advance from  
Access Copyright  
Phone 1-800-893-5777 Info@accesscopyright.ca

Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

Most information supplied in this publication is from newswire services. As such Blue Line Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of articles as supplied.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$105 (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.

GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner  
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca  
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca  
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048

12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1  
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueine.ca



May 02 2013

A staff sergeant posted at RCMP headquarters was reprimanded and lost 10 days' pay for using an RCMP computer to access pornographic websites and using the computer to capture and send explicit images.

A staff sergeant in Alberta was reprimanded, lost 10 days' pay, was demoted to rank of sergeant, recommended for transfer and recommended for continued professional counseling for drinking at work, using RCMP resources for sexual encounters, having sex in a public place, inappropriate comments and touching of a subordinate, inappropriate and unprofessional contact with prospective employees and altering data on a prospective employee's security clearance form.

A sergeant received a reprimand and lost eight days' pay for having an inappropriate personal relationship with a subordinate and making inappropriate advances toward a subordinate.

A constable was reprimanded and lost eight days' pay for harassment and for possessing a prohibited weapon with a lapsed registration.

A constable was reprimanded and lost 12 days' pay for using an RCMP badge and identification in an intimidating manner, being intoxicated in a public place and being unco-operative and confrontational with other members of the RCMP.

A corporal was reprimanded, lost five days' pay and recommended for professional counseling for a criminal offence of assault causing bodily harm.

Of the 51 cases, 14 involved drunk driving, drinking while on duty or intoxicated behaviour.

According to the report, stoppage of pay and allowances is an administrative process created to protect the integrity of the RCMP in cases "where the allegations of misconduct are so outrageous that they require a greater response than suspension alone, and is only invoked when it would be inappropriate to pay a member pending the outcome of the disciplinary hearing."

There were also another 210 informal disciplinary cases in the annual period.

The report notes that the incidents of breach of the RCMP's code of conduct are relatively low in number compared to the size of the federal police force and the number of interactions with the public. The members who have received formal discipline has decreased over the last three years, and last year was slightly below the 10-year average of 0.26 per cent.

"While any finding of misconduct is not satisfactory from an organizational and public perspective, in terms of serious acts of misbehaviour requiring formal discipline... as a percentage of the total number of members, the rate of formal discipline is less than half a percent, and for 2011-2012, was .20 percent," the report concludes.

The report also notes that Commissioner Bob Paulson has raised expectations on how the RCMP handles disciplinary action, and has provided extra support and resources to address "a complex area that has challenged the organization for many years."

(CBC News)

**MONTREAL - Montreal police repudiated a news report Thursday that the force blew the budget on overtime expenses by \$85 million over the last seven years, saying the cost overruns were created by chronic underfunding and policing expenses that were in fact reimbursed.**

The force more than doubled its overtime budget every year but one between 2006 and 2012, while issuing far fewer traffic and parking tickets than expected, Radio-Canada reported Wednesday, based on information gleaned through an access to information request.

In 2008, the police force almost quadrupled its \$5.4-million overtime budget. Officers filed for more than \$145 million in overtime between 2006 and 2012, \$85 million more than the city had anticipated.

Much of the disparity, however, was due to the fact the city underfunded police overtime expenses in its budget by \$8 million a year between 2006 and 2010, said Bruno Pasquini, deputy director of the Montreal police force, who came into power along with police chief Marc Parent in 2010.

"We saw that the budgeted amount did not reflect the normal needs of a city of Montreal's size," Pasquini said. Parent alerted city council, which increased the amount allotted to police overtime from \$6.6 million a year to \$14.6 million.

Montreal police were conscripted to bolster security at events like the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, at a cost of \$4 million in overtime, which was reimbursed, but not reflected in the news report, Pasquini said. Neither was \$13 million reimbursed by the Quebec government to cover OT related to the student protests of 2012. Unforeseen events, like Stanley Cup playoff rioting in 2008 and 2010, and the 2008 protests in Montreal North surrounding the police shooting of Fredy Villanueva, also played a factor. With all those elements taken into account, the overtime expenses were generally a few million dollars over budget, but not \$85 million, Pasquini said.

Montreal police are also studying ways to cut overtime costs, Pasquini said.

Police also issued less in traffic and parking tickets between 2008 and 2012 than budgeted for by the city, Radio-Canada reported. Officers issued \$217 million in tickets in that time, \$92 million less than the \$309 million the city had anticipated. Pasquini said officers were not expected to hit quotas.

(Montreal Gazette)



May 03 2013

**OPP policing costs in Peterborough County vary widely, ranging from a low of \$126 per household in Trent Lakes to a high of \$405 per household in Cavan Monaghan.**

Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal gathered the information from the provincial police force

and passed it on to the eight local townships after he heard concerns at a recent municipal conference.

Now North Kawartha Township has been randomly selected to take part in a roundtable discussion on OPP policing costs and how the police force calculates prices for municipalities. It's one of about a dozen municipalities from the OPP's central region that has been invited to the meeting in Orillia on May 9.

The OPP is holding a series of six roundtable discussions, one for each of its regions.

Out of the 323 municipalities served by the OPP, 72 have been randomly selected to participate in the roundtable discussions, said Sgt. Pam Ford, a contract analyst in the OPP's municipal policing bureau.

"We have large municipalities. We have small ones... It's a wide variety of municipalities that have varying characteristics... Each municipality has its own challenges," she said Friday. "We know what the issues are, but we need to know how to fix them."

"We want them to come up with their own ideas."

The suggestions from the roundtable discussions are being given to the OPP Municipal Policing Billing Process Review working group that includes representatives from the OPP, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correction Services, and select municipalities.

The working group is developing recommendations on how the OPP can restructuring its billing system.

The roundtable discussions extend beyond how the cost is shared among municipalities to include how service is provided and how to reduce costs, Ford said.

"We wanted to have the municipalities to have their own voice so that their concerns were heard," she said Friday. "It's a loosely based discussion in order to return suggestions back to the working group on billing reform."

The OPP sets a minimum number of officers and hours required to service a municipality, the provincial auditor general stated in a 2012 report.

This determines the projected costs for municipalities, including officers' salaries and support and operating costs such as vehicles, training and communications.

On average, OPP servicing cost less per person than municipal policing in 2010, according to Statistics Canada information released in 2011.

The provincial average for the cost per person for OPP policing was \$160 compared to \$282 for municipal policing, the Police Resources in Canada document shows.

For communities with populations between 5,000 and 14,999, OPP policing cost \$156 per person and municipal policing cost \$329. In the 50,000 to 99,000 population bracket, the cost per person for OPP service was \$153 versus \$264 for municipal.

As rural municipalities search for ways to deal with rising OPP costs, other communities are considering switching from their own municipal police force to the provincial service.

Belleville and Brockville are among the

municipalities that are asking for cost estimates from the OPP.

The OPP service never solicits to take over policing of communities that are serviced by other forces, Ford said.

"It's not always cheaper, but it can be," she said.

(Sun Media)

May 03 2013

### **OTTAWA - Ottawa police will test the process for collecting racial data of drivers they pull over in traffic stops as part of a human rights complaint settlement.**

For three weeks beginning May 6, about 40 patrol and district traffic officers from all three police divisions will record the race of drivers.

That data will be reviewed after the test period to make sure the collection process developed by a team of experts from York University works.

Insp. Pat Flanagan, the officer leading the Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project, described it as a "test drive" before it was put into operation.

The racial data project that resulted from a settlement between the Ottawa Police Services Board and the Ontario Human Rights Commission was initially met with criticism by Ottawa Police Association President Matt Skof.

Although the project ended the long-running human rights case of Chad Aiken, who was pulled over in May 2005 while driving his mother's Mercedes-Benz, Skof said racial data collection will lead to a decline in the community's trust of the police.

To avoid a negative backlash, Skof fought to prevent his officers from having to ask a person's race during a traffic stop. Instead, officers will make a note of a person's race based only on observations.

Flanagan believes the project will help to strengthen the relationship with the community, and will result in better policing.

"The objective is that it will result in solid, meaningful data that is measurable at the end of the two years, and at the same time engaging in positive dialogue," Flanagan said.

The \$400,000 racial data project was developed after public consultations were held to hear from residents and is set to launch at the end of June.

It was initially delayed by two months to allow more time to incorporate feedback into the project, train officers, and finalize the methodology and design of the study.

The results of the project are expected to be released by the spring of 2015.

(Ottawa Citizen)

May 03 2013

### **HALIFAX - The Nova Scotia government wants the power to investigate suspected cases of financial abuse of seniors who don't have the mental capacity to manage their affairs.**

Health Minister Dave Wilson says changes to the Adult Protection Act would allow anyone concerned about financial abuse of people 65 or

older who lack mental capacity to report their concerns to the government.

But Wilson says it could take up to a year for his department to develop a plan and assess training requirements.

He also says no budget is in place yet and the department must examine whether additional staff are needed to conduct investigations.

May 03 2013

### **NANAIMO, B.C. - Two suspects bitten by a police dog in Nanaimo, B.C., won't have their case probed by B.C.'s fledgling Independent Investigations Office.**

The man and woman were bitten as they fled following a suspected car theft in the Vancouver Island city last Saturday morning.

Police say the woman was treated and released but the man was more seriously hurt.

An IIO team was on the scene within hours and has completed its preliminary investigation.

The office has now released a statement saying while the incident was officer-related, the victims' injuries do not meet the definition of serious harm, so the IIO does not have jurisdiction.

The case has been closed.

May 03 2013

### **KELOWNA, B.C. - Senior officers hung former Mountie Geoff Mantler out to dry and made no effort to investigate his side of the story, says a labour representative for the RCMP.**

Staff Sgt. Tom Almasi is dismayed that senior Mounties outside Kelowna, B.C., criticized the

disgraced officer after video of the notorious kick to Buddy Tavares' head went viral.

"There has to be an expectation for police officers that when you go out and try and do your job and something goes wrong, the organization will back you," Almasi said after Thursday's sentencing.

"He was abandoned at every level."

Geoff Mantler pleaded guilty to assault causing bodily harm for kicking Buddy Tavares during an arrest in the Okanagan city two years ago.

He was handed a suspended sentence and 18 months probation by a judge on Thursday.

Almasi is upset that no senior officer supported Mantler after the 2011 assault.

"It had a chilling effect on front-line police officers when they saw there was no organizational support when things go wrong," Almasi said. "It causes apprehension because you don't know if the force will back you up."

RCMP managers outside Kelowna singled out Mantler as a villain and made prejudicial comments before his trial started, he said. They generated more complaints against Mantler - some of them baseless.

When someone made a bogus complaint that Mantler assaulted him and it was proven false, police failed to investigate the culprit for public mischief, Almasi said. Mantler reported the incident as a citizen to West Kelowna RCMP, but senior brass ignored it.

Almasi went to the top with this case - the RCMP commissioner in Ottawa. He complained to high-ranking managers at E Division headquarters in Surrey.

**WHOM SHALL I SEND ?**

**2013 FCPO National Conference**  
June 14-16, 2013  
Summerside, PEI

The 2013 National Conference will be held at the Slemon Park Hotel and Conference Centre in Summerside, PEI. with a focus on Christian response to emergency management.

For more information go to:  
**www.fc pocanada.com**



"He was a victim of a crime and the RCMP refused to investigate. He didn't even get the most basic police service that an average Canadian would receive," Almasi said.

Mantler's lawyer Neville McDougall said senior RCMP in Kelowna have "thrown Geoff Mantler under the bus." They refused to admit they made mistakes by not offering any supervision when junior officers drove to what they believed to be an active shooter.

"This occurred on a Friday at 10 a.m. The members would estimate there must have been at least 10 to 15 NCOs - the rank of corporal and higher (with) a minimum of eight years service. Not one responded," McDougall said.

Mantler made mistakes but his performance report shows he was an excellent member and the hardest worker on the watch, he said.

"You throw that all away in five minutes and you turn on him. That's what these men and women are working with now from a managerial perspective and I think it's wrong. And I feel bad for them," McDougall said.

Mantler knew he did wrong as soon as another officer told him the shooter may have been scaring geese, court heard. It was too late. He believed he may be dealing with a double homicide during a domestic dispute.

Now that he's quit the RCMP, there's little chance he'll apply to work for another police department. He landed a good position out of province and has no plan to return to Kelowna.

RCMP managers made it clear to Mantler that if he kept his job after the trial and a disciplinary hearing, he may get stuck in Fort McMurray for the rest of his career, McDougall said.

"They didn't care what happened here. They were going to try to get him out . . . He made one mistake and they completely discarded him."

The Mantler arrest was a low-point for the Kelowna detachment, Almasi said. Officers were overworked and a report found the city was 38 positions short when it happened. Statistics Canada concluded Kelowna had the lowest proportion of officers per capita of any city in Canada in 2011.

Then-Supt. Bill McKinnon lobbied for the report on police staffing in Kelowna and convinced city council he needed more officers.

"When you are short-staffed, you're under stress, you cut corners and you make mistakes," Almasi said. "We're getting those bodies slowly."

(Kelowna Daily Courier)

May 03 2013

**EDMONTON - Police confronted and shot a bleeding, knife-wielding, agitated man in the parking lot of a downtown Edmonton mall.**

An electrician who was working at Kingsway Garden Mall says the man left the mall and approached a woman.

"She offered help and he was really nice to her, polite and everything," said Les, who wouldn't give his last name.

"He was walking away, so she called 911 because of the blood, and the police showed

up, five or six of them surrounded him at gunpoint. They gave him orders to drop down to the ground, he didn't obey them. He was just basically evading them."

"He was barefooted, dazed, confused, or whatever you want to call it."

Les said police pepper sprayed the man several times, and when that didn't stop the man, police shot him and the man went down.

"They were giving him orders to drop his weapon, drop down to the ground and he wasn't listening or obeying orders at all," Les said.

Sarah Jackson with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says the agency is handling the investigation.

(CHED)

## SUNDAY MAY 05, 2013

May 05 2013

**MONTREAL - Bachelor No. 1 boasts about his "bad-boy body and sweet-guy attitude" and Bachelor No. 2 wants a woman to join him as he closes a dark chapter from his past.**

Bachelor No. 3, meanwhile, says he can't be available for a first date for awhile - at least not before 2021.

Not only do these men share a quest for love, they have something else in common: they're all in prison for murder.

The suitors are among dozens of male and female cons who have posted personal profiles and photos on a matchmaking website with a twist.

This site hooks up people on the inside with those on the outside.

The federal prisoners, many behind bars for violent offences like attempted murder, sexual assault and first-degree murder, have written blurbs highlighting their personal qualities - and, in some cases, their crimes.

Which leads us to Bachelor No. 4.

He claims to hold the Toronto record for robbing the most banks in the shortest span: 11 financial institutions knocked off in four-and-a-half hours.

"Not something I am really proud of," Alex Nikoloski writes in his profile.

The page indicates that any prospective partner should be ready to wait for his expected May 2015 release date, adding: "But I am worth it."

Canadian Inmates Connect Inc. showcases numerous prisoners serving life sentences and helps the incarcerated find pen pals and, perhaps, much more.

The 16-month-old website, which promotes some 40 convict profiles, has even churned out a few lockup love stories.

The site's founder says several prisoners have asked her to remove their bios because they have already found that special someone.

May 05 2013

**TORONTO - Colleagues of a young Guelph constable who died in the line of**

**duty this year wiped away tears Sunday as her sacrifice and dedication were remembered in the annual tribute to the province's fallen police officers.**

Friends and relatives of Const. Jennifer Kovach comforted each other following the ceremony, which drew officers from across Ontario and as far away as the U.S.

Kovach, 26, died on March 14 when her cruiser crashed into a bus while she was responding to a colleague's call for assistance. She had joined the force four years before, fulfilling what relatives said was her lifelong dream.

Hers was one of two names added to the memorial wall of honour in Toronto. The other was that of Cobourg Const. William Rourke, 64, who died in 1915 after suffering a massive heart attack while making an arrest.

"The loss of Jennifer is a terrible tragedy but this ceremony will ensure that her service is never forgotten," Mike Abbott, president of the Ontario Police Memorial Foundation, told the solemn crowd.

"Her name is now forever engraved in these granite walls alongside 252 other heroes. Jennifer truly was a hero in life," he said.

Each name was read aloud before the ceremony as police pipe bands led a march around Queen's Park toward the monument.

May 05 2013

**HALIFAX - A new survey finds that a majority of sexual assault victims have little confidence in the criminal justice system, the police and the court process.**

The Justice Canada digest report released late last month says the bulk of female and male victims surveyed were either not very confident or had no confidence at all in those three areas.

The report surveyed 207 sex abuse survivors at six sexual assault centres across Canada and represented different demographic groups, including aboriginals in the North.

It finds that the majority - including 70 per cent of the male participants - did not report the abuse to police because they feared they wouldn't be believed or didn't trust the justice system.

The document says 43 per cent of people in the northern sample had no confidence in the criminal justice system while 35 per cent of the female sample were not very confident in the court process.

May 05 2013

**PETERBOROUGH - Taxpayers are picking up the tab as the Vagos re-fortify their clubhouse. The Peterborough city police service had to give the biker gang a new security camera system.**

Club members picked up the new units Friday.

The four cameras were ripped down in July after city police and the OPP's Biker Enforcement Unit raided the property.

The video equipment was seized under the city's anti-fortification bylaw. Under the bylaw, cameras can only be pointed at an owner's own residential property or at property line.

Club member Larry Turner said the club won't break the bylaw, and are keeping the cameras pointed at the perimeter of the Vagos clubhouse located at Park and Perry streets.

He said the camera system cost about \$1,000.

City police Insp. Ted Boynton said that's not even close to what city police spent.

He wouldn't elaborate on how much the system cost, but said police bought the cheapest unit available.

Police worked with the city's lawyers, he said, and determined that the cameras needed to be returned to the club members.

Unfortunately, he said, the equipment was damaged during the search of the house.

"We damaged something, and we have to replace it," he said. "That's the cost of doing business."

Who actually pays for the cameras has yet to be determined.

City police led the search on the clubhouse, but the cameras were actually taken down by officers with the BEU.

(Peterborough Examiner)

## MONDAY MAY 06, 2013

May 06 2013

**EDMONTON - Alberta is proposing new legislation that would encourage police, social agencies and schools to share information as a way to help struggling children.**

Human Services Minister Dave Hancock says they can already share details in most cases, but they tend not to for fear they might violate privacy laws.

Hancock says everyone needs to work together to help children whose difficult home lives may be causing problems in classrooms or with the law.

The bill also proposes changes to other legislation to assist agencies helping kids in need.

Those changes would affect family violence prevention, maintenance enforcement and the work of the child and youth advocate.

The bill is to be introduced this week.

## TUESDAY MAY 07, 2013

May 07 2013

**MONTREAL - Montreal police dismantled a secret drug lab and seized a powerful, new narcotic they say is 40 times stronger than heroin.**

The lab was hidden in a housing project on the eastern tip of Montreal island.

The chemical stockpile in the unit was so powerful that a police officer was hospitalized and two others were overcome by fumes.

The vault at the local precinct had to be shut down after the ingredients were brought to the facility.

"The vault has been quarantined since then and we can't process anything," investigator

Yves Rousseau testified at a recent court hearing for suspects Jason Berry and Patrick Provencher.

Drug producers used paint thinner to make hashish, said the investigator.

Cops had seen that before, but they were surprised to find desmethyl fentanyl, which has very powerful mind-altering qualities.

"This is a first in Quebec," the investigator testified.

The chemical stockpile allowed the drug producers to make a wide range of drugs including synthetic cocaine, oxycodone, Cialis and speed.

Mechanical presses allowed the crooks to produce 10,800 tablets an hour, and there were enough ingredients to produce at least one million tablets.

"This is unheard of. It is one of the largest seizures on the island in the past five years," said the police investigator.

Seven sites were raided on April 25 and police seized 200,000 pills and 31 stun guns.

(QMI Agency)

May 07 2013

**VANCOUVER - A police officer in Abbotsford, B.C., faces allegations he helped a drug dealer, took part in the movement of drugs and falsified information.**

Police say Const. Christopher Nicholson is accused of conspiracy to traffic a controlled substance, obstruction of justice and breach of trust.

Abbotsford Police Chief Bob Rich says two of his officers got information last July that a constable had leaked information to a drug dealer, so the dealer could avoid being arrested.

He says Vancouver police were called and took over the investigation and conducting an eight-month undercover operation that led to the charges.

More charges may be laid over allegations that Nicholson provided false information to other police officers who used the information to obtain search warrants related to alleged drug activity.

Nicholson, who's been with the Abbotsford police since November of 2005, has been suspended without pay, and will face an internal disciplinary process in addition to the criminal charges.

## WEDNESDAY MAY 08, 2013

May 08 2013

**OTTAWA - Mental health professionals from across Canada are banding together during Mental Health Week to ask the Harper government to rethink its latest crime bill.**

Nine different organizations, including their multiple provincial organizations, say changes to the Not Criminally Responsible regime for mentally ill offenders have been made without evidence or input from mental health workers.

They're offering to help the government

redraft bill Bill C-54 so that it continues to help victims but doesn't undo years of progress.

They say Bill C-54 has been framed by the Conservatives in such a way that it stigmatizes millions of Canadians who will never commit a crime.

The Schizophrenia Society of Canada says the government message is to be afraid of people with a mental illness.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper used Allan Schoenborn's horrific murder of his three children in 2008 to promote the government legislation this spring, but a trio of top mental health experts say the bill would do absolutely nothing to prevent such crimes.

May 08 2013

**TORONTO - A man who spent decades behind bars on a wrongful murder conviction has lost his bid to sue the police involved.**

In a recent decision, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice dismissed a \$14-million lawsuit for damages filed by Romeo Phillion.

The defendants included two Ottawa police officers and Ontario's attorney general.

In his suit, Phillion alleged "malicious, reckless and negligent conduct" led to conviction for the 1967 murder of an Ottawa firefighter.

In 2009, Ontario's highest court quashed the conviction and the Crown later withdrew the charge.

The officers' lawyer says it would have been unfair to allow the suit to proceed given the amount of time that has passed since the original events occurred.

May 08 2013

**VERNON, B.C. - The sword is not mightier than the skateboard in Vernon, B.C.**

Mounties in that North Okanagan city say they are still sorting out a bizarre fight that erupted Tuesday night in the downtown core.

They say several men in their early 20s squared off, but the situation became much more pointed when one of the men ran into a nearby specialty shop and emerged with two swords.

That's when a second suspect smashed the would-be musketeer in the head with a skateboard.

Fortunately, the sabre-rattler was not seriously hurt and everyone involved was rounded up.

Not surprisingly, they spent the night sobering up and, as clearer heads emerge, police hope to learn what sparked the unorthodox duel. (CKIZ)

May 08 2013

**WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government is putting up money for another 10 police officers and 10 cadets in Winnipeg.**

It's part of a 2011 NDP election campaign promise to add 150 officers and cadets across the province before the next election.

Premier Greg Selinger says the government is on track to meet that target.

Selinger says an announcement will be

made soon regarding new police officers for areas outside Winnipeg.

He says there is still work to be done on setting up a cadet program by the RCMP for areas outside Winnipeg.

Winnipeg police Chief Devon Clunis says the city's new officers will focus on street patrols and crime analysis.

May 08 2013

### **BRUSSELS, Belgium - Unlike the brilliant thieves in "Ocean's Eleven," it appears that those behind the clockwork-precision, \$50 million diamond heist at Brussels Airport may not get a Hollywood ending.**

After three months of virtual silence on the matter, authorities struck this week, detaining at least 31 people in a three-nation sweep and recovering so many diamonds from the loot Antwerp traders lost that they are still figuring out the exact value.

The evidence seized includes large sums of cash, precious stones and luxury cars.

Six to eight people were detained in Geneva, and 24 in and around Brussels. It was unclear exactly what roles each suspect may have played.

Some 250 policemen were involved in the dawn raid in the Belgian capital, and many of the two dozen suspects were being interrogated late Wednesday. It could take at least another day before it's clear how many will be placed under arrest, said Anja Bijmens, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office.

The value of the diamonds recovered was still being estimated. It was unclear how many of the other stolen diamonds are still missing.

The Feb. 18 heist was stunning and brazen.

The stones from the global diamond centre of Antwerp had been loaded on a plane bound for Zurich when robbers, dressed in dark police clothing and hoods, drove through a hole they had cut in the airport fence in two black cars with blue police lights flashing.

They drove onto the tarmac, approached the plane, brandished machine-guns, offloaded the diamonds, then left in an operation that barely took five minutes. Later that night, investigators found the charred remains of a van most likely used in the heist.

May 08 2013

### **QUEBEC - Quebec's public security minister has named an independent three-person panel to look into last year's tumultuous student crisis.**

Stephane Bergeron says the panel will study the actions of students and the police during the anti-tuition demonstrations that rocked the province in the spring of 2012.

He says he wants to ensure there is never again a repeat of the clashes that put Quebec on the international radar.

The so-called "Maple Spring" was highlighted by numerous skirmishes between police and protesters.

Bergeron says the panel will conduct its hearings in private to allow anyone wanting to testify to do so without fear of reprisals.

The group will deliver a report to the government by this coming December 20th.

He says the panel will not intervene in cases already filed before the province's police ethics committee or seek out people to face charges.

The committee will be chaired by former Bloc Quebecois and Parti Quebecois cabinet minister Serge Menard.

The other two posts will be held by ex-union boss Claudette Carbonneau and former judge Bernard Grenier.

May 08 2013

### **OTTAWA - A Senate committee will look into whether a British Columbia Mountie on stress leave was intimidated into cancelling an appearance before senators in Ottawa.**

Members of the upper chamber unanimously adopted a motion to investigate the matter after Senate Speaker Noel Kinsella ruled there appeared to be enough of a case to proceed.

In a question of privilege put to the Senate, Liberal Sen. James Cowan said an alleged attempt by the RCMP to prevent Cpl. Roland Beaulieu from testifying Monday at a committee may amount to serious interference.

The Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada, which represents many regular and civilian Mounties, says the RCMP recently told Beaulieu that if he was well enough to go to Ottawa to testify, he should be fit enough to work.

Rob Creasser, a former RCMP officer and spokesman for the association, says the force had not previously objected to Beaulieu travelling outside his district of duty even though he is on medical leave.

Beaulieu, who is involved with the professional association, did not go to Ottawa - though another representative of the group did testify at the Senate national security and defence committee.

May 08 2013

### **VANCOUVER - Eight young drivers were ticketed and their high performance cars impounded after an RCMP helicopter clocked the vehicles speeding over 140 kilometres an hour down a winding stretch of the Sea-to-Sky Highway.**

West Vancouver Police launched the Air One helicopter around noon last Friday after receiving a report of vehicles speeding southbound on Highway 99 near Furry Creek.

The chopper quickly tracked the vehicles, apparently travelling more than 60 kilometres an hour over the speed limit.

Footage released by the RCMP shows the vehicles driving closely together winding down the scenic highway as they are observed from the sky by officers.

"We are currently flying at 142 kilometres an hour and the whole pack of cars, they're all pulling away from us," the Air One operator is heard telling RCMP dispatch in the footage.

The vehicles were stopped at a roadblock set up on Highway 1 east of Eagleridge Drive shortly after.

The drivers, ranging in age from 21 to 25, received tickets for excessive speeding, and the vehicles were towed for immediate seven day speed impounds.

Const. Jeff Palmer told CTV News each of the vehicles had been given high-performance modifications.

Five of the cars are Nissan 240SX models ranging from 1989 to 1997 model years. Police also impounded a 1989 Nissan Skyline, a 1992 Toyota MKII and a 2000 Acura Integra.

Police say there is no evidence to support charges of street racing or dangerous driving.

At least one of the impounded cars had a new driver sticker, and another donned an 'I heart drifting' sticker.

(CTV News)



May 09 2013

### **CLEVELAND - A man suspected of keeping three women captive inside his decrepit house for a decade was charged Wednesday with kidnapping and rape, accused of holding them under conditions so oppressive they were allowed outside for only a few moments in disguise and never saw a chance to escape until this week.**

Investigators said the women apparently were bound with ropes and chains, and a city councilman briefed on the case said they were subjected to prolonged sexual and psychological abuse and suffered miscarriages.

Ariel Castro, a 52-year-old former school bus driver, was charged with four counts of kidnapping - covering the captives and the daughter born to one of them - and three counts of rape, against all three women.

The women, now in their 20s and 30s, vanished separately between 2002 and 2004. At the time, they were 14, 16 and 20 years old.

Prosecutors brought no charges against Castro's two brothers, who were arrested along with him on Monday, saying there was no evidence they had any part in the crime.

Castro owns the run-down home where the women were rescued on Monday after one of them, Amanda Berry, broke through a screen door to freedom while he was away. The discovery electrified Cleveland, where many people had come to believe the missing young women were dead.

Police Deputy Chief Ed Tomba said it was the only opportunity they ever had to escape.

"Something must have clicked, and she saw an opportunity and she took that opportunity," he said.

Tomba said the women could remember being outside only twice during their time in captivity.

"We were told they left the house and went into the garage in disguise," he said.

The women were not kept in the same room but knew about one another, he said.



May 09 2013

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada won't hear an appeal from a British Columbia man who was nabbed by a so-called Mr. Big police sting in 2008.**

Denis Florian Ratte told undercover police officers posing as gangsters that he had killed his wife, who disappeared from Prince George, B.C., in 1997.

Police mounted the sting in 2007 and got Ratte to tell them details about the killing.

After his arrest, Ratte confessed, but recanted at trial.

He was found guilty of second-degree murder and the British Columbia Court of Appeal dismissed his appeal.

The Supreme Court, as usual, gave no reasons for refusing to hear the case.

May 09 2013

**STONY PLAIN, Alta. - It was the catch of the day for Edmonton-area Mounties.**

Police pulled over a speeding driver near Stony Plain on Wednesday and seized nearly seven kilograms of marijuana.

They also reeled in 22 kilograms of processed crab meat and several kilograms of other fish products.

The 52-year-old man from B.C. is facing drug charges.

He may be on the hook for more trouble, once B.C. Fisheries and Oceans as well as wildlife authorities finish their investigation.

The suspect is to be weighed on the scales of justice next month in Stony Plain.

May 09 2013

**OTTAWA - A research project which seeks to understand how extremism is fuelled online is among the proposals approved by the federal government in a third round of grants from a fund named in memory of the Air India victims.**

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews has sprinkled \$1.7 million among 11 research proposals, including an analysis by defence researcher Arnav Manchanda.

His organization will conduct a review to understand the process of radicalization through social media and other Internet sources.

Self-radicalization through the Internet has been a growing concern for security officials and the notion was front and centre earlier this spring with reports that two young Canadians were involved in a deadly January attack on a natural gas plant in Algeria.

In the wake of those reports, critics said the federal government wasn't doing enough to understand how young people cross the line from legitimate dissent to violence.

Toews says terrorism and violent extremism pose real threats and as threats evolve, the government must improve its ability to better prevent and disrupt attacks.

May 09 2013

**Authorities in the U.S. have arrested a third suspect in connection with an alleged plot to derail a Toronto-to-New**

**York passenger train.**

The FBI unsealed charges Thursday against Ahmed Abassi, from Tunisia, for fraudulently applying for a work visa in order to remain in the United States to facilitate an act of international terrorism.

"As alleged, Ahmed Abassi had an evil purpose for seeking to remain in the United States – to commit acts of terror and develop a network of terrorists here, and to use this country as a base to support the efforts of terrorists internationally," U.S. attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Abassi, who previously lived in Canada, was arrested on April 22 but the charges against him weren't unsealed until Thursday.

Late last month, RCMP had arrested two men — Chiheb Esseghaier and Raed Jaser — on several terror-related charges in connection with the alleged plot. Both men are currently in custody until their next court appearance, scheduled for May 23.

The FBI alleges that Abassi "radicalized" Esseghaier and that the two men met in New York City at one point.

But Abassi didn't know that one of his associates, with whom he shared his alleged terror plot, was an undercover FBI agent.

Authorities said Abassi was under surveillance "at all times" since his mid-March arrival in the U.S.

Abassi kept in regular contact with the undercover FBI agent, referred to as "UC," authorities said.

"During Abassi's discussions with

Esseghaier and with the UC, which were recorded by the UC, Abassi discussed his desire to engage in terrorist acts against targets in the United States and other countries, and his intention to provide support and funding to organizations engaged in terrorist activity – including the al Nusra Front, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of State as an alias for al Qaeda in Iraq – and to recruit other individuals for terrorist plots," the FBI said in a statement.

The FBI alleges that, on April 12, Abassi told the undercover agents about his efforts to recruit other terrorists. He also said that he might be able to get documents to remain in the U.S. under the pretense of working for the undercover officer's company.

Abassi is charged with two counts of knowingly making false statements in an application to the immigration authorities for a green card and work visa, in order to facilitate an act of international terrorism.

Each count carries a maximum prison sentence of 25 years.

CTV News has reported that 30-year-old Esseghaier, a Tunisian-born PhD student in Montreal, had travelled to Iran within the past two years.

He was also reported to have received terrorist training.

His alleged accomplice, 35-year-old Jaser, of Toronto, was almost deported from Canada in 2004 because of fraud convictions. But because he was listed as a stateless Palestinian, Canadian authorities had nowhere to send him. (CTV News)

**International Police Association**  
Canadian Section

The IPA strives to enhance the image of police in its member countries and to facilitate international cooperation through friendly contacts between police officers of all continents.

**Service through Friendship**

Membership is \$30 annually  
To learn more visit our website [ipa.ca](http://ipa.ca) or contact:  
Chris Barratt, Communications Officer, IPA Canada, Region 2  
Email: [nbarratt@ils.net](mailto:nbarratt@ils.net)