BLUE LINE

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY July 19, 2013 - Vol. 18 No. 29

Executive Digest

Jul 11 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP says Canadian organized-crime groups have forged links with Mexican outlaws in an attempt to secure a direct supply of cocaine and increase their profits by eliminating the middleman.

Page 3

Jul 12 2013

KENORA - The Treaty Three Police Service board of directors is taking aim at the federal government, claiming that a lack of funding is putting First Nation policing in jeopardy.

Page 4

Jul 12 2013

OTTAWA - The head of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's security detail was officially confirmed as Canada's next ambassador to Jordan on Friday.

Page 6

Jul 14 2013

HALIFAX - Wounded RCMP officers are hoping the federal government will agree to stop clawing back compensation for their injuries.

Page 7

Jul 17 2013

A new program aimed at reducing the number of high-end bike thefts in the Sea to Sky Corridor has been unveiled by the area's RCMP.

Page 8

EMAILED EVERY WEEK 52 WEEKS - ONLY \$10000

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop 🚛

10-Codes on **North American phase out**



Learning to speak in code has been a staple of police training in North America for decades.

But a growing number of law enforcement officials are calling for its elimination, saying it'd be a heckuva lot easier if cops just spoke in plain English to one another.

"The usefulness of 10-codes no longer applies to modern policing, and I'm of the belief that police agencies should drop them," Sylvie Corriveau, civilian officer in charge of support

services for the RCMP's operational communications centres, wrote recently in a column for the force's official magazine, the Gazette.

Proponents of scrapping the coded language say when officers from different agencies respond to a major emergency, such as a riot or natural disaster, they can have trouble understanding one another over the radio because 10-codes are not universal.

This reportedly was a major problem among first responders in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, as well as during Hurricane

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS . . . and we'll keep giving our best



Blue Line Magazine has been the information source for Canadian law enforcement for 25 years. Our first rookie readers have now reached retirement eligibility so we decided to give our readers an opporutunity to tell us what they think of the magazine and how it may have helped them during their career. We will dedicate space in the December edition for these letters and stories.

> Send your comments to Publisher@Blueline.ca

Katrina in 2005.

In 2006, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency recommended that 10-codes be phased out and the Department of Homeland Security subsequently published a manual called the Plain Language Guide.

While there may have been concerns in the past about scanner enthusiasts listening in on sensitive calls, encrypted radio technology now blocks transmissions from being picked up by outsiders, those pushing for the changes say.

Further, they say, the special cop lingo has lost a lot of its mystique as translations for 10-codes can easily be found online.

Corriveau warned in her column that as RCMP members travel from one province to another, the lack of standardized 10-codes "may eventually jeopardize their safety and that of the public."

"The RCMP and other police agencies should evaluate the pros and cons of dropping 10-codes," she said. "Agencies could maintain between five and 10 radio codes, such as 10-4, which has the same meaning worldwide. More than 10 would defeat the purpose."

The RCMP and most major Canadian police forces have so far been reluctant to embrace such a dramatic change.

The Hamilton Police Service is one of the few. It ditched most of its 10-codes at the beginning of the year.

Sgt. Treena Ley said in an interview she saw first-hand how problematic 10-codes could be during the G8/G20 protests in Toronto in 2010.

Officers from different jurisdictions struggled at times to understand each other's calls.

"It blew my mind," she said. "We were misinterpreting each other."



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 \$10500 (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 - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Ressor - 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@blueline.ca At her agency, for instance, a 10-13 indicates an officer is taking a lunch break. In other police agencies in Ontario, it can be a request for road and weather conditions.

At the Peel Regional Police, where she used to work, an officer in distress would call in a 10-78. In Hamilton, it's a 10-33.

While police agencies have a tendency to resist change, the transition away from 10-codes went pretty smoothly in Hamilton, Ley said, likely because members of her force tend to skew younger these days.

Even though 10-codes were intended to be an efficient way to convey information, they don't always provide enough information to the responding officer, said Insp. Jeff Cove of the Lethbridge Police Service, which reverted to plain-language calls in 2007.

For instance, his agency used to have a 10-code for a disturbance, but that could mean everything from a shouting match to a fist-fight outside a bar, Cove said.

"Clarity is imperative," Cove said. Now, "we communicate better on the radio, people know where they're going, what they're getting involved in."

The elimination of all but four 10-codes within the Lethbridge force means they don't have to spend hours training and testing new officers, Cove added. (The four 10-codes they've kept are typically used when they don't want the suspect standing within earshot to hear the conversation, such as "officer is in immediate danger" or "officer needs assistance").

A Calgary police spokeswoman said officials are planning to have discussions soon about the future use of 10-codes.

But a national RCMP spokesman defended them, saying they are a "basic, fundamental way to communicate" between officers and dispatchers.

"Their consistent use supports precise information sharing via police radios with brevity, accuracy and expediency," said Sgt. Greg Cox via email.

Cox added the force will roll out new national standards for its 10-codes later this month to improve "clarity" and inter-provincial "consistency."

The Vancouver Police Department prefers a "hybrid" approach, using a mix of plain language and 10-codes, said spokesman Const. Brian Montague.

If an officer is responding to a call and wants to get a quick snapshot of the person's history, a dispatcher can relay that efficiently with the use of 10-codes, he said. For instance, someone with a history of violence and robbery would be said to have a 10-81 and 10-82.

"There's benefits to both," he said. (Postmedia News)

FRIDAY JULY 10, 2013

Jul 10 2013

OTTAWA - Pembroke's 135 year-old police force officially disbanded July 6 as 22 members were sworn into the Ontario Provincial Police.

Acting OPP inspector Jeff Smith said in a release that the swearing in ceremony was a very special occasion for the officers and civilians who are transitioning to the provincial force.

"It is a momentous day," Smith said.

City council voted to sign a contract with the OPP last year, a decision that will save Pembroke an estimated \$2 million over the next three years. Policing previously accounted for a quarter of the city's \$6 million annual budget.

Pembroke, with its population of 14,000, already had to call the OPP for help when they needed dog teams, SWAT teams, or investigators on large or complicated cases.

Police officers trained in Orillia to prepare for the transition, familiarizing themselves with OPP procedures and equipment such as computer systems, firearms and OPP patrol cars.

Pembroke police chief David Hawkins said in a release that the transition has gone smoothly.

"We have worked closely with the OPP to ensure all the details have been covered, with public safety always being a priority. I am confident that the citizens of Pembroke will be well served by the members of the OPP."

Pembroke hired its first Town Constable on Nov. 15, 1878. James Devlin was paid a salary of \$400 a year to perform duties including collecting taxes and being the town's dogcatcher.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Jul 10 2013

VICTORIA - Insp. Steve Ing, a 25-year veteran of the Victoria Police Department, will take over from Deputy Chief John Ducker, who retires Sept. 1.

Announcing the promotion on Wednesday, police Chief Jamie Graham described Ing as "scary smart" and ready for the new job.

"He just brings so much to the table," Graham said. "His legal expertise benefits the organization and the citizens here greatly. He has an analytical mind. He gets through issues really fast. He gets the big picture issues. He understands the disciplinary aspects we have to deal with, rarely, here."

Ing, 49, has a law degree from the University of British Columbia.

Currently the officer in charge of executive services and professional standards, he has risen through the ranks at the police department and served on the police union executive as vice-president and president. His policing experience includes operations, administration, investigations, patrol supervision and police labour relations.

In 2003, Ing was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Meritorious Service Medal for his role in rescuing a suicidal woman from a fifth-storey ledge of a building.

In addition to being a critical- incident commander, Ing has trained and qualified in the U.K. as a Public Order Commander, a position that involves front-line command of a crowd-management unit, according to his official biography.

During a three-year secondment to the provincial government, he served as the deputy director to the Civil Forfeiture Office.

Ing, who described himself as a hands-on type of manager, said one of the most challenging issues heading into the next few years will be resources.

"Budget is a huge issue for all municipalities and all departments within municipalities
— not just police departments," he said.

Victoria council, in an effort to cap property tax increases at 3.25 per cent in each of the next two years, has set a two per cent budget increase for police — leaving little room to do anything but meet expected salary increases.

The department, with a budget of \$43.7 million, has 243 officers and eight jailers. (Victoria Times Colonist)

THURSDAY JULY 11, 2013

Jul 11 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP says Canadian organized-crime groups have forged links with Mexican outlaws in an attempt to secure a direct supply of cocaine and increase their profits by eliminating the middleman.

An internal analysis by the Mounties notes that since 2008 at least 10 Canadians have been shot or killed in Mexico under circumstances suggesting involvement with local criminal elements.

The RCMP analysis says some were known to be active in drug trafficking in Canada and all had extensive criminal backgrounds.

A copy of the assessment and an accompanying review of the implications for Canada were released to The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

The Mounties say global borders have become blurred with the proliferation of transnational organized crime.

As a result, Canadian criminal networks have expanded in scope, conducting business on an international scale with illicit organizations in other countries.

Jul 11 2013

TORONTO - Police-reported hate crimes declined across the country for a second consecutive year, according to figures released by Statistics Canada on Thursday, but experts cautioned against taking the numbers at face value.

The data agency used information from police services collected in 2011 to track hate crimes - criminal acts motivated by hate which can be violent or non-violent.

In total, 1,332 hate crimes were reported or 3.9 hate crimes per 100,000 members of the population - a rate 5 per cent lower than in 2010.

Ontario accounted for just over half of all police-reported hate crimes in 2011, with three cities in the province's south holding the highest rates.

While some might wonder how the retirement haven of Peterborough, Ont., ranked highest, one observer said the figures might signal that the city's residents were among the best at reporting hate crimes.

"Clearly there's differences in the willingness of Canadians to report hate crimes. I think where we may need more research is along that dimension," said Vic Satzewich, a sociology professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, a city that ranked second when it came to hate crime percentages.

"The high rate for Hamilton and Peterborough is not necessarily a bad news story, I think ironically it could be a good thing."

Satzewich, who has studied race, ethnicity and policing, said he was surprised cities like Thunder Bay, Ont., Edmonton and Regina didn't rank higher in terms of the frequency of hate crimes due to anecdotal evidence which has long suggested racism against First Nation populations in those communities.

"I actually think it's more of a bad news story for them...Those low numbers I don't think speak well, actually, of victims of hate crimes feeling like they can report these things to the authorities."

Meanwhile, in the cities that ranked higher in terms of hate crimes, Satzewich suggested residents in those communities might feel more comfortable going to police with their concerns. "People feel like the city and the police care about these matters and take them seriously...so they're going to report them."

In 2011, three primary motivations - race or ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation - accounted for more than 95 per cent of hate crimes, with race or ethnicity representing more than half of the total.

Religious hate crimes comprised 25 per cent, while crimes motivated by sexual orientation made up 18 per cent of the total.

While crimes motivated by race or ethnicity continued to be the most common, the amount of them decreased slightly compared to 2010, as did those motivated by religion.

There was, however, a 10 per cent increase in crimes based on sexual orientation.

Overall, the majority of hate crimes reported by police involved non-violent offences; mischief - including vandalism, graffiti and other destruction of property - was the most commonly reported offence.

Youth and young adults comprised the majority of those accused of hate crimes and were also overrepresented among hate crime victims.

Jul 11 2013

TRAIL, B.C. - A man who jumped into the Columbia River in Trail, B.C., after escaping from a second-floor window to evade arrest is missing and presumed drowned.

RCMP say 28-year-old Andrew Evans was wanted on several arrest warrants and numerous attempts to locate him led police to the house from where he fled.

Const. Dan Moskaluk says that while officers were speaking to an occupant on the main floor, Evans ran upstairs and jumped out the window but Mounties stationed outside were unable to stop him before he dove into the river.

Moskaluk says police called for the fire department's rescue boat and saw Evans swim back towards the shore, where he remained in the water while holding a tree branch and spoke to officers at the water's edge.

He says a Mountie urged Evans to get out of the cold, fast-moving water but the man ignored that advice and floated downstream toward a set of rapids where he disappeared from sight.



Moskaluk says Evans then resurfaced and appeared to be in distress before he was swept under again, at which point the rescue boat arrived and searched the river to the U.S. border but without success.

Jul 11 2013

VANCOUVER - A British Columbia pot activist has received the green light to press ahead with a petition that, if successful, would force the provincial government to address the question of marijuana reform and could eventually see voters casting ballots on the issue.

Dana Larsen is using the province's unique initiative legislation to propose a law that would effectively decriminalize pot by preventing police from enforcing simple possession laws.

Elections BC announced Thursday that Larsen's petition, which outlines proposed changes to the provincial Police Act, has been approved, giving Larsen and his Sensible BC campaign two months to sign up canvassers and prepare to start collecting signatures on Sept. 9.

To succeed, Larsen must then collect the signatures of 10 per cent of registered voters in each of the province's 85 ridings by November. That would either force a vote in the legislature or a provincewide, non-binding referendum.

While neither the petition nor a potential referendum would be binding, the process could send the issue to the provincial legislature for a vote.

B.C.'s initiative legislation, which was successfully used to kill the province's harmonized sales tax two years ago, allows any voter to bring forward proposed legislation in the form of a petition.

If a petition collects enough valid signatures, it is then sent to a legislative committee - which, in this case, would be dominated by the governing Liberal party.

The committee can either send the petition directly to the legislature for consideration or ask Elections BC to hold a provincewide referendum, which would require both a majority of voters across the province to approve the proposal, as well as majorities in two-thirds of the province's ridings.

Even then, a successful referendum would merely send the proposal back to the legislature, where it could be amended or voted down.

Jul 11 2013

WINNIPEG - The Mounties are looking for a few good women.

The RCMP headquarters in Winnipeg was the scene of a noon-hour recruiting lunch to launch the careers of new female Mounties.

Their pitch: A career nowhere near ordinary.

Prospective police had a chance to meet current female officers and members from a

variety of different specializations.

More than 31 per cent of people the RCMP

enrolled between April 2012 and Jan. 31 were women, and the police force currently consists of 21 per cent women, officials say.

The RCMP currently has a goal of recruiting 35 per cent women for now, but officials hope to raise that objective to 50 per cent after about two years.

The force says it hopes that upwards of 30 per cent of its regular members will be women by the year 2025.
(CBC News)

FRIDAY
JULY 12, 2013

Jul 12 2013

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - A dangerous driving charge has been laid against an OPP officer after a probe by the province's Special Investigations Unit.

SIU director Ian Scott says he has reasonable grounds to believe the officer committed a criminal offence in relation to injuries sustained by a 26-year-old man earlier this year.

The SIU says OPP officers were conducting an impaired driver spot check on March 3 in Markdale, Ont., about 100 km west of Barrie, when a snowmobile driver caught their attention and an officer pursued him in a police car.

The officer then collided with the snowmobile, whose driver suffered severe injuries as a result of the crash, including a fractured upper sternum and partially collapsed lungs.

OPP Constable James Hunter is facing one charge of dangerous driving and is set to appear in court Sept. 9.

Jul 12 2013

KENORA - The Treaty Three Police Service board of directors is taking aim at the federal government, claiming that a lack of funding is putting First Nation policing in jeopardy.

The board said in a news release that it lacks the funding to keep the Kenora-based First Nation police service afloat, and that it needs the officers' union to accept concessions to keep the force financially viable.

The news release states that "we made it clear to the local union executive that our budgets are fixed and we need them to understand our fiscal situation.

"We are very pleased with the latest news releases put out by the union indicating that they now understand that the debt is attributed to the underfunding of our police service," the release says.

Facing a financial crisis, the board has told the officers' union, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, that it will shut down the service by Aug. 19 if more funding isn't forthcoming or the union doesn't make concessions.

The service's 77 police officers provide culturally sensitive policing to 23 First Nation communities in the Kenora/Fort Frances/Dryden areas.

The police board says it can't pay Treaty Three officers the same as Ontario Provincial Police officers under the current First Nation policing model, which is funded 52 per cent by the federal government and 48 per cent by the provincial government.

The police service board has asked the union for wage concessions which would see front-line officers experience a pay cut of \$5,000.

Treaty Three police officers who have been given layoff notices will not have a guaranteed spot at the OPP. Ontario Provincial Police Association president Jim Christie says the officers will need to go through the full hiring process before being hired by the OPP.

"It wouldn't be treated like an amalgamation, like what happened in Kenora a few years ago. The OPP would have to come up with a plan to move people into the different areas to fill the mandate. The Treaty Three officers would be free to apply for the OPP but they would have to meet the OPP standards to be successful," he said.

Christie also says those who manage to get hired on the provincial force will not maintain their current ranks.

He says he hopes to see both sides come to an agreement, but notes the OPP are willing to step up if needed.

"I hope that sanity prevails and the federal government and Treaty Three folks can come to an arrangement. We have hard working Treaty Three Officers up there who are, as usual, caught up in the middle of bargaining and politics. The OPP's mandate is to provide policing services all over Ontario when needed, and we'll step up to the plate and do that if needed," he said.

The clock started running last week, when officers were handed 45 days notice of the shut down of the police service. (Chronicle-Journal, Kenora Online)

Jul 12 2013

SURREY, B.C. - Charges could be laid following a fatal police shooting in New Westminster, B.C.

The province's independent civilian police watchdog has sent a report to Crown counsel after concluding an investigation of an officer-involved shooting that occurred in the Vancouver suburb on Nov. 8, 2012.

Rosenthal notes no recommendation on charges is included in the report and possible charges are not suggested because the Criminal Justice Branch has jurisdiction over charge assessment and approval.

The shooting ended a nearly five-hour standoff in a Casino parking lot on the northeast corner of Lulu Island, that caused gridlock on several Metro Vancouver commuter links as New Westminster police blocked off a nearby bridge and other area roads.

Richmond resident Mehrdad Bayrami died several days after being shot as he sat in a vehicle holding a weapon, although investigators have never said what prompted the actions of the 48-year-old.

Jul 12 2013

WINNIPEG - Organized crime's loss is a gain for Winnipeg police.



winnipegfreepress.com

Manitoba Attorney General Andrew Swan says city police are getting \$356,000 from property seized from criminals.

The cash will be used to buy two cargo vans, surveillance equipment and an automated licence-plate reader.

Swan says the money is part of \$1 million in grants from the criminal property forfeiture fund that is to be doled out this summer.

Winnipeg police Chief Devon Clunis says money is at the heart of organized crime.

He says the fund deprives criminals of cash and instead uses the ill-gotten gains to fight crime.

Jul 12 2013

PETERBOROUGH - Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett and his lawyer Richard Taylor now believe there is sufficient evidence the local police services board was keeping a secret file on him.

While it's not the first time Mayor Bennett has publicly accused the Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board of compiling secret information about him, Mr. Taylor says he and Mayor Bennett plan to ask for the Ontario Civilian Police Commission counsel for the full file.

The move comes in the midst of legal hearings involving the Commission's investigation on Mayor Bennett's work as a member of the Board.

In a 14-page document tabled at a hearing on June 26, the Commission detailed nine allegations against Mayor Bennett, including sending letters on Board-related business without approval from other members and making City councillors privy to confidential board business.

The Commission wants Mayor Bennett off the Board, stating he's unable to 'remove his board hat' and act solely as the Mayor. The Commission alleges Mayor Bennett shared a confidential complaint regarding Police Chief Murray Rodd's conduct with council members instead of immediately bringing it to the board. It also argues the mayor tried to negotiate the police budget directly with Chief Rodd instead of negotiating with the Board as a member of council.

In all, the Commission states he's violated five sections of the Members of Police Services Boards Code of Conduct.

In his statement, Mr. Taylor says it has been confirmed that no part of the investigation dealt with any aspect of criminal wrong doing.

"As a consequence, it would appear that the Police Board has kept a secret file on the Mayor," the statement reads. "We believe that the foregoing has significant implications in terms of Board governance, and raises other issues as it would pertain to the use of taxpayer money to keep a secret file on a municipal politician."

The hearings will continue this fall, with arguments scheduled to come forward on Sept. 12 and 13.

(Peterborough This Week)

Jul 12 2013

A U.S. senator says a low-cost, high-tech cable sensor system could be planted along the Canada-U.S. border to boost security without impeding business.



examiner.com

Montana Democrat Senator Jon Tester, who will chair a special field meeting of the U.S. Senate homeland security committee today focusing on the northern border, said cutting-edge technology, private partnerships and bilateral collaboration are key to closing potentially critical gaps — especially at expansive unmanned stretches.

"I think there's some real opportunity to save money and get better border security," Tester told CBC News. "I'm not talking drones here, I'm talking low-level radar. I'm talking things like Blue Rose technology, where you can lay a cable in the ground and determine whether a gopher runs over it, or a human being, or a horse."

Blue Rose is an in-ground perimeter defence and security system developed by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and based on fibre optic technology. According to an abstract summary prepared for Homeland Security, the system detects the sound and vibration of intruders, such as people and vehicles, moving near the sensor.

It has potential border security applications that could reduce manning requirements and overall costs, according to the abstract, but it is not yet being used along the Canada-U.S. border.

Jul 12 2013

EDMONTON - Police in Edmonton are pleading with owners of older model Ford pickup trucks to take precautions to prevent theft.

Acting Insp. Malcolm Allan says older model Ford F250s and F350s are being stolen at a rate of about one per day in the Edmonton area.

It's who's stealing them and what they're doing with them that have police urging owners to use a steering wheel locking device.

Allan says the vehicles are being stolen by the career criminal, often times addicted to methamphetamine and sometimes cocaine, heavily involved in property crime and personal robberies.

He says they aren't in the best frame of mind when they steal the trucks and have led police on dangerous chases.

Police also find loaded weapons, and drugs when they make arrests.

The problem is with older model vehicles. He says they worked with Ford dealers and since 2008 changes were made making the vehicles more difficult to steal.

"Essentially it's a problem they have remedied in 2008 models and up, although we've seen some of them stolen as well, but the number after 2008 drops off dramatically," Allan said.

Other provinces don't experience Ford thefts on a level comparable to Alberta.

Jul 12 2013

WHITEHORSE - RCMP are holding a ceremony to honour four Mounties who died in a plane crash in the Yukon 50 years ago.

Insp. Ken Foster says the officers were delivering a prisoner back to Whitehorse after the man appeared as a witness in a court case in Mayo.

He says the plane was to make a stop in Carmacks when the Beaver aircraft crashed into a bank near the airport, killing everyone on board.

Foster says there's no conclusive evidence on what caused the plane to go down.

He has organized a ceremony for Saturday, on the 50th anniversary of the crash on July 13, 1963, and says it's important to remember people who sacrifice their lives in service to their country.

The victims' family members are expected to attend.

CALGARY - A baseball bat, a stool and a couple of burly firemen were waiting for some would-be thieves who tried to rob a jewelry store in northwest Calgary.

Surveillance video from the store has surfaced on the Internet, showing a pair of young men in hoodies walk into the store with crowbars and start to threaten staff and customers.

However, someone behind the counter clocks one of the thieves with a baseball bat and while his buddy tries to drag him out of the store, a customer wielding a stool at the door prevents him from leaving.

Somebody else then takes a swing with the bat, though one of the thieves manages to get away.

The remaining, disoriented thief is then subdued by a passing group of firefighters who pin him to the ground until police could arrive.

Police made an arrest and charges were laid.

Jul 12 2013

OTTAWA - The head of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's security detail was officially confirmed as Canada's next ambassador to Jordan on Friday.



The appointment comes three months after Postmedia News revealed Bruno Saccomani had been tapped for the position, prompting a flurry of controversy over whether the RCMP inspector had the skills and temperament for the diplomatic post.

Saccomani has had a lengthy career in the RCMP dating back to 1985 when he started work as a patrol officer in British Columbia. In the mid-'90s, he moved to Ottawa to work as a bodyguard on then prime minister Jean Chretien's security detail.

In 1997, he was assigned to the embassy in Rome and was responsible for co-operating with other countries in international criminal investigations — a role that took him to Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan.

After a similar stint at the Canadian embassy in Thailand, and as a senior investigator in Ottawa, Saccomani was transferred in 2006 to Harper's protective detail. He quickly rose through the ranks and became its head in 2009.

But last year, Saccomani's name surfaced in the media after a leaked report revealed that some Mounties within his unit had complained in an internal review about his management style.

They alleged he was an overly domineering boss who created a workplace environment in

which some members of the team felt intimidated.

However, the prime minister's office immediately rallied to his defence and some members of his unit have praised his leadership.

Jul 12 2013

CHATSWORTH - A Grey County OPP officer has been charged criminally with dangerous driving after an investigation into a collision between a police cruiser and a snowmobile which injured the snow machine rider in March.

A Special Investigations Unit news release announced the charge Friday laid against the officer and summarized what happened.

The SIU investigation found a 26-year-old snowmobile operator was injured after a collision on the West Back Line in West Grey on March 3.

The release said OPP officers were conducting a drunk driving spot check when a snowmobile came to their attention.

"One of the officers involved in the spot check traveled to West Back Line in a marked cruiser, where he eventually collided with a northbound snowmobile being operated by the 26-year-old male," the release said. The man's upper sternum was fractured and his lungs were partially collapsed.

The vehicles were traveling in opposite directions when the collision occurred on West Back Line north of Hamilton Lane, a news release from Grey County OPP said at the time. The snowmobile rider, from Chatsworth Township, was taken to Owen Sound hospital with non-life threatening injuries, police said after the incident.

OPP Const. James Hunter was charged and he is to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Walkerton Sept. 9.

(Owen Sound Sun Times)

SATURDAY JULY 13, 2013

Jul 13 2013

HAMILTON, Ont. - Hamilton police got a surprise after several marijuana plants were spotted growing outside the city's courthouse.

A woman spotted the plants Thursday growing in plain sight in the courthouse garden.

Police confirmed there were seven immature marijuana plants.

It's unknown who is responsible. (CHML)

Jul 13 2013

MONCTON, N.B. - An outside police force will investigate after shots were fired and a man died in an incident involving RCMP in Moncton,

N.B., Saturday morning.

"Our officers discharged weapons. A man is dead," said RCMP Const. Damien Theriault.

"As for the circumstances, the Fredericton police are investigating to establish exactly what happened."

Police say the officers involved in the incident have been taken off regular policing duties, as per policy.

Codiac Regional RCMP responded to a complaint shortly before 6 a.m. of an armed man in his 30s attempting to break into a vehicle near the Moncton Coliseum.

Officers arrived at the scene and began a search for the suspect, who had by that time fled.

Around 7 a.m., shots were fired. The victim was later pronounced dead.

Jul 13 2013

MAPLE RIDGE, B.C. - The Mounties are searching for two suspects after someone shot at an RCMP officer near Vancouver.

A news release says the incident happened early Saturday morning in Maple Ridge, when an officer spotted two men hiding in some bushes.

The officer approached the men, but they fled on foot.

The officer then got in his vehicle and pursued the men, and during the case, one of the men pulled out a firearm and fired it at the officer.

The news release says investigators used a police dog to search for the suspects, but they have yet to find them the men.

Jul 13 2013

Organized crime experts are speculating that the murder of alleged hitman Salvatore "Sam" Calautti, 40, at a stag party in suburban Toronto was revenge for the murder of 86-year-old mob boss Nicolo Rizzuto at his home on Antoine-Berhelet Ave. on November 10, 2010.

Calautti was among 100 people assembled at the party in Vaughan, Ontario when he was shot dead in his BMW at around 1 a.m. Friday.

His friend James Tusek, 35, was also killed in the shooting.

Vito Rizzuto, the current alleged Montreal mafia gang leader, was in prison in Colorado when his father, son, brother-in-law and several other associates were killed, some believe by Ontario-based underworld figures.

Calautti was part of a Calabrian clan, while the Rizzutos are Sicilians.

The Rizzutos led a violent overthrown of the ruling Calabrian Violi clan in Montreal between 1976-80.

Calautti was a father of three and ran a pizza shop in Toronto but was also known as a brutal loan collector who was said to be a suspect in several murders. Nicolo Rizzuto was killed by a sniper who snuck up to his house through a forested area and shot him through double-paned glass with a high-powered rifle, killing him instantly.

Montreal's La Presse newspaper and the Toronto Star have reported that a close associate of Calautti was detained and questioned by Montreal police following Rizzuto's murder. (CTV News)

SUNDAYJULY 14, 2013

Jul 14 2013

LAC-MEGANTIC, Que. - Police say they expect to be on the scene of last weekend's train derailment in Quebec for quite some time.

They announced yesterday they've recovered five more bodies in the charred ruins of Lac-Megantic's downtown core.

It raises the confirmed death toll to 33 but police say another 17 people are unaccounted for and are presumed dead.

Inspector Michel Forget of Quebec provincial police says certain areas are more heavily damaged and the investigation and recovery efforts are more complex.

Forget says officers and firefighters face difficult conditions due to hot, humid weather and the toxic vapours wafting from the crudeoil-soaked ground.

This weekend residents are getting a chance to vent their grief.

The bells at the local church rang 50 times yesterday, once for each of the 50 people believed dead.

Pictures of victims and flowers have been left at the church as residents remember friends and loved ones.

Jul 14 2013

HALIFAX - Wounded RCMP officers are hoping the federal government will agree to stop clawing back compensation for their injuries.

David White says his hearing was severely damaged while he was working as a Mountie in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

White is the lead plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit that aims to end federal government clawbacks of benefits given to RCMP veterans.

The case is similar to one that involved military veterans who had their benefits clawed back.

In that case, a judge ruled that the practice was harsh and unfair, and Ottawa later agreed to an 889-million dollar settlement.

The federal government has so far not sat down to try to come up with a similar settlement in the RCMP case.

But lawyer Dan Wallace, who is representing the Mounties, says he plans to meet with federal lawyers tomorrow.

MONDAYJULY 15, 2013

Jul 15 2013

TORONTO - Toronto police say 25 people are facing charges in an alleged multimillion-dollar loan fraud and money-laundering investigation.

Police allege that between March 2011 and October 2012, several people took part in a scheme to defraud banks, private lenders and other financial institutions in the Greater Toronto Area and then launder the proceeds.

Det.-Const. Sarath Thayalan says the scheme involved the creation of several shell companies, which were used to apply for loans from the lenders.

He says the total amount of the alleged fraud is \$8 million and that police began their investigation after receiving a complaint from a bank.

It's alleged that the suspects produced large amounts of fraudulent records and documentation, had false liens registered and that they impersonated legitimate accountants.

Police say the accused passed off buildings and equipment of other legitimate businesses as that of a shell company.

Jul 15 2013

REGINA - Drivers passing through highway construction zones in Sas-katchewan could now find themselves on camera.

The province has started using photo radar to catch speeders in highway construction zones.

The move to improve safety comes after a flag person was struck and killed in August 2012.

MLA Darryl Hickie, who is heading up a traffic safety committee, says there are three of the mobile radar devices that will be deployed across Saskatchewan.

Photos will be taken of vehicles going faster than 60 kilometres an hour and then sent to the RCMP, who can issue tickets.

The camera, which is also used in Alberta and Manitoba, can take clear images of vehicles up to 150 metres away.

Jul 15 2013

VANCOUVER - A man and his spouse are suing a Port Moody, B.C., police officer for an arrest that knocked him unconscious.

Herbert Ramos and Tracey Ferris have also filed a lawsuit against the city for wrongful arrest and detention and a local pub and its manager for providing officers with false information.

A court document says Ramos and Ferris were celebrating a birthday at the Golden Spike Pub on July 6 when a dispute began with bouncers.

It says Sgt. Ian Morrison grabbed Ramos, a CTV cameraman, from behind the neck and threw him violently backwards without warning onto the parking lot.

Ramos and Ferris say there were no grounds to arrest and detain them before they were released without charges in the incident caught on video and posted on the Internet.

The allegations have not been proven in court, and none of the defendants have filed statements of defence.

TUESDAY JULY 16, 2013

Jul 16 2013

MONTREAL - Forget about the glamour suggested by such TV shows as "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and their high-tech gizmos. The most vital tools in Lac-Megantic include keen eyes, expertise and persistence.

Nothing is left to chance in the work to bring the dead back to their loved ones.

"Those poor guys are on their hands and knees, wading through soot," said Dr. Bill Inkster, an identification specialist with the British Columbia coroner's office.

"They look like 17th century coal miners by now, I'm sure, and brushing ashes (away) with paint brushes," he said in a telephone interview from Burnaby. "It's just plain hard work - meticulous, slow."

Search and rescue teams including specially trained police, firefighters and forensic anthropologists have been combing the debris in staggering heat for more than a week since Canada's worst railway disaster, so far resulting in the recovery of 37 bodies.

Of those, 11 have been identified at this point. When searchers believe they've found remains a forensic anthropologist is called in to determine it is in fact a body. Afterward, the coroner is notified so the process of removing it, then identifying it, can begin.

Crews have an array of equipment at their disposal.

Some is as simple as a basic shovel or a brush. In other cases, it can involve huge construction excavators that can gingerly pick apart buildings making it safe for search crews to enter.

"The initial search is beyond comprehension," said Inkster, who was part of the team of specialists that worked in Thailand in the wake of the 2004 tsunami.

"It's going to be incredibly complex."

Inkster, who with his partner helped develop Canada's first database for unidentified remains and missing persons, said the Lac-Megantic disaster is unlike anything members of the Quebec team have ever practised or expected.

He was unshakable in his confidence that

they would prevail.

"They'll absolutely get the job done, one way or another," he said. "I know they will. They're just excellent people."

Jul 16 2013

TORONTO - Ontario's ombudsman says the governing Liberals have failed to live up to their promise to replace a law that resulted in a "massive" violation of civil rights during the G20 summit in Toronto three years ago.

Watchdog Andre Marin also says they've done nothing to give the Special Investigations Unit some teeth in investigating police involved in cases of serious injury or death.

Marin says progress has been made on other fronts, such as dealing with operational stress injuries and suicide among Ontario Provincial Police officers.

Jul 16 2013

BELLEVILLE, Ont. - A motorcyclist is dead after police say he fled from an officer who tried to pull him over in eastern Ontario overnight.

Ontario provincial police say an officer tried to stop a motorcyclist on Highway 401 near Belleville just after midnight but the biker took off into the opposite lane.

The bike crashed into oncoming traffic, killing the motorcyclist, shortly after the officer stopped the pursuit.

The Special Investigations Unit is looking into the incident.

It says the male motorcyclist was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the other vehicle was not seriously injured.

Jul 16 2013

BURLINGTON, Ont. - Police say a motorcyclist who allegedly zoomed past a speed trap in Burlington, Ont., was eventually caught - through a much slower pursuit - hiding between two parked cars.

A Halton Regional police officer conducting radar enforcement clocked a motorcycle speeding at 128 kilometres per hour in a 60 kilometre-per-hour zone Monday night.

Police say the officer couldn't safely stop the motorcyclist and watched him travel out of sight.

They say the officer "methodically" followed the motorcyclist on the same road and found him trying to hide between two parked cars.

The 28-year-old man from Mississauga, Ont., faces charges including racing, speeding and using plates not authorized.

Jul 16 2013

HALIFAX - Three men are facing 170 charges after a four-month police investigation into a spate of break and enters across part of Nova Scotia.

The accused, who police say refer to themselves as the "Pillowcase Bandits," were arrested Monday at Halifax provincial court as they appeared on other matters.

The RCMP say they discovered the group's use of the moniker during a forensic analysis of cellphones that were confiscated in April when the men were arrested following a break and enter in the Halifax suburb of Tantallon. The name comes from the practice of allegedly using stolen pillowcases to transport loot.

Sgt. Paul Robinson said information uncovered from the seized cellphones helped police tie the trio to 30 alleged break-ins between Feb. 15 and April 24.

"In 18 years this is probably the largest break and enter investigation I've been involved in," Robinson said Tuesday.

"It's not just a case of the numbers but the levels of sophistication too."

Robinson said online tools, such as Google Street View and the real estate listing service MLS, were used to identify target homes.

"You can see a lot of information from looking at the house (on MLS), especially if it's furnished and what kind of property would be in there and maybe if they have an alarm or not," he said.

Robinson said stolen property - mostly jewelry, cash and small electronics - was sold almost immediately, typically through online classified ads or through pawn shops.

The break-ins happened in the Halifax area and in Lunenburg and Colchester counties.

Robinson said he anticipates more arrests will be made.

Jul 16 2013

TORONTO - Toronto police Chief Bill Blair says an officer has been disciplined for posing as a stranded passenger on a waterlogged commuter train during major flooding last week.



cbc.c

Blair told radio station Newstalk 1010 the officer was "shameful" to pretend he was one of the 1,400 riders on the GO train when it became trapped by flood waters during the evening rush hour.

CBC said the officer was Const. Nickolas Dorazio. The network said he was working to help rescue the passengers, but told their TV crew he was stuck on the stranded train and even draped an orange towel around his shoulders for effect.

Blair says the force has disciplined the officer for his "stupid behaviour" that

Monday night.

The police chief says the officer's conduct was an "eyebrow raiser" that undermined public confidence in the force.

Police and firefighters used small inflatable boats to ferry the trapped passengers a short distance to higher ground, with the evacuation taking some seven hours.

WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2013

Jul 17 2013

GUELPH, Ont. - A strange call about a driver being followed by a mystery pursuer has led to an arrest for police in Guelph, Ont.

Police say a man called for help at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, saying someone was chasing him down a road.

The man was told to drive to a nearby police station for assistance.

But police say officers who were waiting at the station when the man arrived determined that he was under the influence of drugs and was not actually being followed by anyone.

Jesse Becker, 22, of Kitchener, is charged with impaired driving and is to appear in court on July 30.

Jul 17 2013

EDMONTON - Police have charged the owner of a website that posted a grisly video at the centre of the Luka Magnotta murder case.

Mark Marek, who operates bestgore.com, faces one count of corrupting morals.

Edmonton police allege Magnotta sent Marek the video last year and Marek posted it online while knowing that it depicted a real killing.

Magnotta is to stand trial in September 2014 for the murder and dismemberment of Chinese university student Jun Lin in Montreal last year. Parts of Lin's body were mailed across Canada in a gruesome killing that made headlines around the world. Magnotta has pleaded not guilty in that case.

Staff Sgt. Bill Clark with the Edmonton homicide unit said the investigation was long and complex because Marek was "very elusive," with no home address and had been out of the country.

Clark said investigators didn't originally have the evidence they needed to charge Marek. The staff sergeant explained that police needed evidence of three things before they could do so: that Marek knowingly and willingly posted the video, that he did so while in Canada and that he was the site's owner and operator at the time.

Across the U.S., police increasingly use license-plate reading technology that can track the movements of cars. And according to documents released Wednesday, local authorities have a patchwork of rules for storing and using the data, with some deleting it almost immediately and others keeping it indefinitely.



The documents, which were obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union through public records requests, raise questions about whether laws and regulations are keeping up with new surveillance technologies.

Information from hundreds of state and local law enforcement agencies shows a variety of rules governing the use and storage of the license-plate reader data, which typically includes a photo of the car, along with geolocation information and the time the plate was scanned.

Some areas have laws or rules limiting the use of license plate readers or the amount of time the data can be kept. Arkansas, for example, requires data that isn't part of an ongoing investigation to be deleted within 150 days. Ohio's State Highway Patrol requires the data to be thrown out "immediately" unless the plate shows a "hit" on a car that is sought by the patrol.

Others allow data to be kept for years or permanently. New Jersey requires law enforcement to keep the data for five years so that it can be data-mined. Yonkers, NY, and Mesquite, TX, have indefinite retention, according to the documents.

The Wall Street Journal reported last year that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has distributed more than \$50 million in federal grants for automated license plate readers to law-enforcement agencies. The agencies receiving these grants range from those in large cities like Los Angeles to rural areas such as Crisp County, Ga., which has a population of 23,000.

The government also is able to get data from private companies that scan hundreds of millions of plates across the country for repossession agents, the Journal reported.

Proponents of collecting and storing large amounts of license plate data point to the fact that the readers are simply taking photos of things that are already public. Courts have often found that people don't have a reasonable expectation of privacy in something like that.

"I take absolute exception to any government telling me that I can't go into public and take video," Scott A. Jackson, founder of license-plate tracking firm MVConnect, told the Journal last year.

But new technology enables such comprehensive data collection that people's privacy could be affected, the ACLU said.

"The fact that some jurisdictions delete the records quickly shows that it is a completely reasonable and workable policy," said Allie Bohm, an ACLU strategist, in a statement. "The police should not be storing data about people who are not even suspected of doing anything wrong." (Wall Street Journal)

Jul 17 2013

A new program aimed at reducing the number of high-end bike thefts in the Sea to Sky Corridor has been unveiled by the area's RCMP.



The program, called the Sea-to-Sky Free Ride (S2S Free Ride), will allow RCMP in Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton to strategically place special bait bicycles throughout the area.

The bikes when stolen, will allow the RCMP to track and locate both the stolen bikes and the thieves who have them.

"Bike theft across the region has steadily increased over the last few years, to the point where we, as police, had to try a new approach to stop it," said Sgt. Rob Knapton, Whistler RCMP in a statement.

"The S2S Free Ride program will allow us to track and recover the stolen bikes and will help identify the people responsible for the theft."

Knapton points out that thieves are on the prowl for expensive bikes because the Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton area is a hotbed for mountain biking.

"Anyone considering stealing a bike should be aware know that our S2S Free Ride bikes are out there, and they won't know which ones they are," said Knapton.

"If you happen to steal one of our bikes we will know exactly where it is and we will be coming to get it back."

THURSDAY JULY 18, 2013

Jul 18 2013

SAN FRANCISCO - The top prosecutors in San Francisco and New York say they are bringing in state and federal security experts to test the newest anti-theft features designed to thwart the surge of stolen smartphones.

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced Thursday the security experts will be in San Francisco to test Apple's iPhone 5 with its activation lock and Samsung's Galaxy s4 with Lojack for Android.

Gascon says the experts will treat the phones as if they were stolen and try circumventing its anti-theft features to draw their own conclusions on its effectiveness.

Gascon and Schneiderman met in New York City last month with representatives from Apple, Samsung, Google and Microsoft, urging them to create a "kill switch" to render stolen smartphones inoperable.

Subscribe at Blueline.ca/store



RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE

PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC

Make it your destination Make it your cause

www.rcmpheritagecentre.com 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, SK Canada S4T 0P4 866-567-7267