

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Sept 06, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 36

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Ottawa looking 'very carefully' at marijuana-ticket proposal



Aug 29 2013

OTTAWA - Stephen Harper says his government is looking "very carefully" at a proposal that would give the police the power to ticket – rather than charge – people who are caught with small amounts of marijuana.

"I don't believe the Canadian Chiefs of Police proposed these options because they don't believe in the laws," Mr. Harper said. "On the contrary, they believe this option is a better approach in terms of enforcement of the law and the government is certainly looking at their

proposal very carefully."

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution earlier this month that calls for changes to the federal Contraventions Act so that police can issue fines for individuals in possession of small amounts of cannabis. The proposal would not take any existing laws off the books, but would add a new ticketing power.

The chiefs argue this would neither be decriminalization nor legalization, but rather an improvement on the status quo in which police



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must choose between ignoring a situation or laying criminal charges. The chiefs say laying charges for pot strains police and court resources. The police also note that convictions for pot possession carry heavy consequences for individuals – including potential barriers to travel and employment – that would be avoided with tickets.

There is constant debate over the definitions of decriminalization and legalization when it comes to pot, but some have said the chiefs' proposal amounts to a form of decriminalization.

Tim Smith, a spokesperson and government relations official for the police association, said he was pleasantly surprised to hear the Prime Minister's remarks.

"I thought he was right on. He was obviously very knowledgeable. Someone had briefed him. I'd like to pretend it was us, and it wasn't," he said.

Mr. Smith said the effect of implementing the proposal would be a reduction in the number of cannabis possession cases in the criminal justice system.

"There is the fact that there's a lot of people that have been perhaps unfairly criminalized and our court systems and our police officers are being plugged up with it, and that's one of the major themes behind our proposal was just the efficiencies of the policing system and the justice system in Canada," he said.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford rejected the proposal from the police chiefs this month, calling marijuana a "gateway drug" that could lead individuals to harder drugs.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported Thursday that U.S. Attorney-General Eric Holder informed the governors of Colorado and Washington that the Obama administration has decided not to sue the states over new laws that legalized recreational marijuana use.

(Globe and Mail)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28, 2013

Aug 28 2013

A day after the Ontario government moved to expand the use of stun guns to front-line police officers, a man who studied their use in the RCMP says the weapons are often misused.



Paul Kennedy, former chair of the Dziekanowski commission, said stun guns are an effective tool that police should have, but that they often are used too quickly by officers involved in confrontations.

In an interview on CBC Radio's Metro Morning on Wednesday, Kennedy said police should use Tasers only when there is an imminent threat to officers or to the person they are trying to arrest.

Often, however, Kennedy said officers reach for their stun gun the moment a confrontation begins.

"It becomes used right after talking and sometimes before talking," he told host Matt Galloway.

"Instead of the device being used as the last tool of resort prior to shooting somebody, it became almost the first tool of resort following a confrontation with an individual."

Kennedy said his research uncovered cases in which stun guns were used on children as young as 13, on people in their 80s, and on suspects already handcuffed and surrounded by police officers.

The Ontario government's move allows individual police forces to decide which officers are issued stun guns. Prior to Tuesday's announcement, Ontario had restricted the use of stun guns to supervising and tactical officers, setting Ontario police apart from counterparts in several other provinces and with the RCMP.

The announcement came exactly one month after the death of Sammy Yatim, the 18-year-old fatally shot aboard a Toronto streetcar last month during a confrontation with police. Officers used a stun gun on Yatim after he had been shot multiple times. Toronto police Const. James Forcillo Toronto is facing second-degree murder charges in his death.

Ontario Community Safety Minister Madeleine Meilleu said Tuesday's announcement had been in the works for months and was not related to the Yatim shooting. She added that expanding stun gun use will result in fewer

deaths, and their use will be closely documented and monitored.

Kennedy said officers have to understand that stun guns cause "intense pain" and have the potential to cause death. Expanding their use to more officers brings new risks, he said.

"It's a weapon and it has to be used in the right circumstances and it can't be misused," he added. "Otherwise you're just going to have examples of what I call casual cruelty, and that's a real risk."

(CBC News)

Aug 28 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton is seeing less writing on the walls these days.

Graffiti vandalism is on the decline in most areas across the city, thanks largely to Capital City Clean Up's graffiti management program, which one graffiti expert dubbed one of the most comprehensive in the world.

Capital City Clean Up hosted a daylong workshop on Wednesday, educating 90 law-enforcement officials from the Edmonton Police Service, City of Edmonton and other organizations on the techniques and benefits of wiping out illegal graffiti.

The officers learned about the links between graffiti and serious criminal offences, various investigative techniques, current tracking and enforcement methods, and an overview of the current graffiti scene in Edmonton from a number of speakers.

Vancouver Police Department Sgt. Valerie Spicer was on hand to deliver a keynote speech about her experience as a graffiti investigator for the VPD's property crime unit.

Spicer is considered an expert when it comes to waging war against graffiti vandalism.

Under her leadership, the VPD created the first police section in Canada dedicated solely to investigating graffiti vandalism. The section executed numerous search warrants, interviewed countless suspects, and produced one of the most extensive graffiti databases in the world, with more than 800 suspects on file. Graffiti in Vancouver was reduced by 80 per cent.

The program Spicer helped put in place in Vancouver has been replicated in cities across the country — including Edmonton.

But Capital City Clean Up, Spicer says, has gone above and beyond the features typical of such a graffiti program.

"I would suggest the success here is quite outstanding," she said. "I've travelled all over the world and this is probably one of the most comprehensive programs there is."

Since the program was introduced in 2008, graffiti vandalism has dropped significantly in Edmonton. The city began conducting audits in 2010, and discovered that the number of locations of such observed vandalism dropped from 646 in 2010 to 438 in 2012, while the number of graffiti occurrences went from 1,978 to 1,116.

(Edmonton Journal)

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A COMPANION OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

ISSN 1704-3913
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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.

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WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police have chosen a new deputy chief but he doesn't actually start the job until October, just before the current deputy chief retires.

Dave Thorne, a 32-year veteran of the service, takes over officially as deputy chief of police operations in October. That's just ahead of Shelley Hart's retirement in February 2014.

Thorne's resume includes working with the RCMP/WPS Integrated Proceeds of Crime Unit and training as a hostage negotiator.

Winnipeg police have two deputy chiefs; Art Stannard is deputy chief in charge of support services.

(CBC News)



Aug 29 2013

PETERBOROUGH - A woman who had taken a vow of silence broke it to allegedly swear at officers who were attempting to have her not hold up downtown traffic.

Peterborough-Lakefield police say the unusual incident took place at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 21. According to police, officers were called to an intersection to investigate a report of a woman carrying a sign and walking into traffic. Police say the woman was causing vehicles to stop and honk at her.

When officers approached the woman, police say she would only communicate through writing, explaining she had taken a vow of silence.

Officers attempted to tell the woman that it was unsafe to walk into traffic, police say, and at that point the woman broke her vow of silence and began swearing at officers.

She was arrested for causing a disturbance and, during the arrest, police say she resisted by flailing her arms and kicking at officers. Police say she also kicked the side of the cruiser, causing \$300 in damage.

Katherina Charbonneau, 37, of Dumble Avenue, is charged with cause a disturbance, obstruct/resist peace officer and mischief under \$5,000.

She was released from custody and will appear in court on Sept. 19.

(Peterborough This Week)

Aug 29 2013

EDMONTON - Arcade-style video consoles soon will be placed on Whyte Avenue and Jasper Avenue in an attempt to deter young people from jaywalking as they hop from bar to bar.

Developed by Edmonton-based Sticks & Stones Communications for Responsible Hospitality Edmonton, the game, J. Walker, is based on Frogger, the 1980s arcade classic

that had players direct a digital frog across a busy road or a river full of hazards.

"We've actually heard patrons in these areas refer to jaywalking as Frogger before we even launched the game," said Matthew Gresiuk, of Sticks & Stones.

In this version, players must jaywalk to the other side of a busy Edmonton street by avoiding cars, bikes, buses and police officers. If they get hit, their game personas could end up with concussions, cracked ribs or worse, while messages and statistics about jaywalking appear on the screen.

Even if they make it across the road, a police officer will hand them a \$250 ticket — reflecting what could happen in real life.

Gresiuk said Sticks & Stones was asked by Responsible Hospitality Edmonton to create a social marketing program aimed at young people — a media-savvy group difficult to reach through traditional messaging. The games will be placed on sidewalks along Whyte or Jasper, accompanied by street teams of staffers.

"Seeing an arcade cabinet outside on Whyte Avenue or Jasper Avenue is definitely outside of the norm so we do get quite a bit of interest," he said.

The three consoles will eventually move inside participating drinking establishments. People can also play the game online at www.notagame.ca

(Edmonton Journal)

Aug 29 2013

TORONTO - The head of Ontario's police watchdog has strongly criticized Toronto's Police Chief, suggesting Bill Blair does not recognize the importance of maintaining public confidence in civilian police oversight.



Special Investigations Unit director Ian Scott lambasted Chief Blair for not responding to more than 100 letters detailing possible violations of the force's duty to co-operate with the SIU over a 4.5 year period.

"He doesn't answer my letters, and I think if he bought into the concept [of public confidence in civilian oversight], there would be a freer discourse and dialogue between the two of us," Mr. Scott told The Globe and Mail on Thursday. "I'm trying to resolve these issues and I've managed to do it with other police services and I just can't get anywhere with Toronto."

Toronto Police spokesman Mark Pugash

fired back, saying Mr. Scott was overstepping his authority by suggesting that Chief Blair should report to him.

The latest flare-up between the SIU and the country's largest municipal police service — which have long had an antagonistic relationship — comes less than two weeks after the agency charged a Toronto officer with second-degree murder in the July shooting death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim.

In the days after the high-profile shooting, which sparked widespread public concern about excessive force, Chief Blair pledged that his officers would "fully co-operate" with the SIU. On Thursday, Mr. Scott indicated that he is not impressed with that commitment.

"That's the law of the province," he said.

Under the Police Services Act, officers must co-operate with the SIU, a civilian agency that probes serious injuries, deaths and sexual assaults involving police in Ontario. For instance, forces are required to call the SIU immediately to investigate relevant cases and preserve crime scenes so as not to taint evidence, and witness officers have to answer questions.

Mr. Scott, whose five-year term as SIU director ends in October, said there were problems with the Toronto Police Service's co-operation in nearly half of SIU cases — 106 out of 224 — that did not result in charges against its officers. Of his 106 letters outlining the issues between October, 2008, and March, 2013, Mr. Scott said Chief Blair provided a substantive response to only one, which was related to the issue of blacked-out notes.

"I think frankly he's hurting himself when he doesn't co-operate," said Mr. Scott, who singled out Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chris Lewis for answering his letters and looking into his concerns.

In responding to Mr. Scott's criticism, Mr. Pugash referred to part of a 2011 report by former Ontario chief justice Patrick LeSage saying that police chiefs, who also investigate cases in which the SIU is called, must report their findings to their police services board.

"The SIU director's authority does not extend to requiring the chief of police or OPP commissioner to investigate or report to him and should not be part of the SIU director's communication with the chief of police or OPP commissioner," the three-page report says. It also says the SIU's public statements should be confined to the integrity of its investigations.

"Can you imagine a situation where a public official is told you have no authority to do this and don't do this and he is somehow trying to now turn that into we don't get civilian oversight?" Mr. Pugash said. "That is just extremely roundabout and totally wrong."

Mr. Scott acknowledged that Chief Blair is not required to respond to his letters, but said he has had success in addressing co-operation

problems with other police forces.

Mr. Scott said the 106 problems with the Toronto Police Service included delayed notifications, officers refusing to answer questions and police interviewing witnesses after the SIU had invoked its mandate.

(Globe and Mail)

Aug 29 2013

MADOC, Ont. - A veteran provincial police officer is to appear in Belleville, Ont., court next month to face fraud and theft charges.

The OPP's professional standards bureau arrested the 53-year-old constable on Thursday and charged him in relation to incidents that occurred between June 15 and Aug. 29.

Sgt. Kristine Rae says the officer was posted to the Napanee detachment and was on-duty at the time of the alleged offences in the Napanee area.

Rae says he has been suspended from duty with pay in accordance with the Police Services Act.

Const. Wayne Burrows, a 30-year member of the OPP, is charged with theft under \$5,000, fraud under \$5,000 and possession of property obtained by crime.

Burrows is to appear in court on Sept. 26.

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 30, 2013**

Aug 30 2013

WHITEHORSE - The RCMP have officially pulled out of a reality TV show set to document the work of the force in Canada's North.

U.S.-based production company True Entertainment began filming in Whitehorse earlier this month, much to the alarm of community groups concerned about using policing as a form of entertainment.

There were also worries that the show would exploit the territory's most vulnerable citizens.

RCMP suspended production shortly after filming began, and this week, police announced they are pulling the plug on the show.

Mounties spokesperson David Gilbert says he still believes there is value in giving people a behind-the-scenes look at some of the positive work that police are doing in the Yukon.

However, he says the negative public response indicates a television series is not the right path to take.

(Whitehorse Star)

Aug 30 2013

ST. CATHARINES, ONT. - A disgraced Niagara Regional Police officer has been fined \$15,000 for his part in a scheme that involved smuggling copious quantities of cheese and chicken wings across the border.

Casey Langelaan, 49, resigned from the police service last year after he was caught up in a large-scale smuggling operation that saw thousands of dollars worth of U.S. cheese and chicken wings smuggled into Canada and sold to Ontario restaurants.

"A man of otherwise good character has been embarrassed and shamed in his community," Judge David Harris said Friday after Langelaan pleaded guilty in a St. Catharines, Ont., courtroom to charges of evading compliance with the Canada Customs Act and possession of imported goods.

Court heard the investigation began in January 2012 and involved Niagara police, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Canada Border Services Agency.

The investigation initially focused on the cross-border activities of another NRP officer, Const. Geoff Purdie, who is now serving time behind bars in an American jail for smuggling steroids into Canada.

When investigators questioned Purdie, he offered up Langelaan, a sergeant at the time and making well over \$100,000 a year, as a fellow smuggler.

But instead of smuggling steroids, court heard, Langelaan's preference was cheese and chicken wings.

No one was interested in the poultry, court heard, but Langelaan, a resident of Fort Erie, sold the cheese to restaurants in Aylmer and Dorchester, Ont., at a profit of more than \$50,000.

Lawyer Paul O'Marra described his client as a "highly respected officer" whose reputation has taken a "major hit" because of the crimes.

O'Marra said Langelaan has also suffered a blow to his pocketbook.

Canada Borders Services Agency wants him to pay a penalty of \$50,000, almost three times the amount of duties and taxes the former cop didn't pay at the border. That matter is subject to civil litigation.

His taxes were also re-assessed.

Two other people were arrested as a result of the investigation that revealed more than \$200,000 worth of cheese had been purchased in the U.S. and distributed in Canada. Const. Scott Herron and Bernie Pollino are scheduled to appear in court Dec. 12.

(Niagara Falls Review)

Aug 30 2013

TORONTO - Ontario Provincial Police say deaths involving off-road vehicles have spiked across the province, with nine deaths so far this year.

Police say the fatalities, two of which occurred Aug. 12, were largely caused by impaired driving and drivers not wearing proper safety equipment.

In five of the deaths alcohol was a factor, they say, and in six the drivers were not wearing a helmet.

Off-road vehicles include motorized ve-

hicles ranging from golf carts to scooters and ATVs or quads, most of which do not require a driver's licence to operate.

Sgt. Dave Woodford says the vehicles have become more popular because they are relatively inexpensive and have a wide variety of uses and styles, including some that can be driven by children.

He says drivers often think that drinking and driving is less dangerous on an off-terrain vehicle, but it is just as risky as when operating a car or boat.

Aug 30 2013

TORONTO - Toronto's police chief has appointed a retired Supreme Court justice to review use-of-force policies after another retired judge withdrew from the process earlier this week.



Dennis O'Connor said earlier this week he was pulling out over conflict-of-interest concerns raised by victims' families.

Police Chief Bill Blair says Frank Iacobucci will now conduct the review.

Blair is mandated under the Police Services Act to conduct a review following the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim because the Special Investigations Unit is involved.

Yatim died last month after being shot by police on an empty streetcar, but Blair said his review would cover several other fatal police shootings in recent years.

Blair has described the review as "extraordinary" in scope and says it will include a review of international best practices.

He says O'Connor's withdrawal and Iacobucci's subsequent appointment has not set the review back as the preliminary work for the process has already begun.

Hundreds of people took to the streets of Toronto in two marches after Yatim's death, which was captured on surveillance and cellphone videos.

Nine shots can be heard on the videos following shouts for Yatim to drop the knife. The final six appear to come after Yatim had already fallen to the floor of the streetcar.

A coroner's inquest this fall will examine the deaths of three people who may have had mental health issues when they approached Toronto police officers with weapons and were shot and killed.

Reviews were conducted in all of those cases, Blair said, but they were internal reviews

and this one is expected to be made public.

Aug 30 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A lawyer has taken over an external review that is being done on Newfoundland and Labrador's legal aid system after a retired judge who was originally given the task had to withdraw for personal reasons.

The government says John Roil will finish the legal aid system review replacing John Rorke, a retired provincial court judge.

A separate review of the Sheriff's Office is being done by retired RCMP inspector Leigh DesRoches.

The reviews were announced this spring following a backlash from legal experts over planned Justice Department cuts to courtroom security sheriffs and Crown attorneys.

The province's justice minister later backtracked on those cuts.

Aug 30 2013

WINDSOR, Ont. - A Windsor police officer has been found guilty of assault after court saw video surveillance of the officer punching and kicking a man lying in a stairwell in February 2012.

The judge called the video "a tie-breaker" and that the two kicks Const. Kent Rice delivered to Gladson Chinyangwa in February of last year were excessive force.

In his defence, Rice testified that Chinyangwa was combative and unco-operative and that he hit the alleged victim on the chin with an open hand because Chinyangwa was about to spit on him.

The defence said that the force was intended to get the man to calm down so he could be arrested for breach of peace.

The Crown had argued that the force used was unnecessary and that Rice changed his tactics after he realized he was on camera. (CKLW)

Aug 30 2013

WINNIPEG - A former Manitoba police chief accused of deliberately botching a high-profile investigation into a deadly car crash will learn his fate in November.

Harry Bakema, 62, has pleaded not guilty to perjury, obstruction of justice and breach of trust.

Crystal Taman, 40, a married mother of three, was killed after her car was rear-ended by a police officer while she waited at a red light in 2005.

Derek Harvey-Zenk pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death and was given a conditional sentence.

Harvey-Zenk, now 39, had been heading home from a night of drinking with fellow Winnipeg police officers.

The failure of East St. Paul police to properly document signs Harvey-Zenk was im-

paired is one reason alcohol-related charges were dropped.

That issue was the primary focus of a 2008 inquiry that led to Bakema's arrest and the end of the East St. Paul police service.

Crown and defence lawyers made closing arguments in Bakema's trial on May 17, 2012. Moar then reserved his decision and gave no indication when it would be ready.

Since then, the case has repeatedly been remanded.

No explanation has been given for long wait.

Crown attorney Ashley Finlayson argued last year there is no doubt Bakema deliberately overlooked compelling evidence that suggested his former police colleague was drunk at the time of the deadly 2005 fatality.

Bakema's lawyer, Hymie Weinstein, argued last year the Crown failed to prove Bakema had criminal intent while acting as chief of East St. Paul police.

Weinstein suggested several former police officers who testified at the two-week trial were either mistaken or misrepresenting the truth about what happened. At worst, Bakema is guilty of making unintentional errors, he said.

He also took issue with the testimony of several witnesses who painted an ugly picture of Bakema's role in the investigation.

Corrine Scott, a retired superintendent of the Winnipeg Police Service, told court Bakema called her from the crash scene, warning her an officer was involved.

Winnipeg police patrol Sgt. Cecil Sveinson testified Bakema told him at the crash scene that Harvey-Zenk was "pissed." Sveinson, who was Taman's cousin, went to the scene to perform an aboriginal ceremony. He said Bakema added they had to get Harvey-Zenk "out of there right away."

Jason Woychuk, a former East St. Paul constable, told court a paramedic said Harvey-Zenk may have been intoxicated, but Bakema ordered him to keep that detail out of his report.

Provincial court Judge Kelly Moar will deliver his verdict on Nov. 1.

(Winnipeg Free Press)



Aug 31 2013

MONTREAL - Twenty-seven outlaw bikers who were rounded up in Quebec in 2009 have made a deal with the Crown.

They've pleaded guilty to reduced charges of conspiracy to commit murder.

The accused are all members of the Hells Angels or gang sympathizers.

A spokesman for the director of criminal and penal prosecutions says other charges against the accused - including murder - have been dropped.

On Wednesday, two other members of the Hells Angels pleaded guilty to conspiracy to murder charges and had further proceedings against them stopped.

They each face sentences of 15 years in prison.

In April 2009, 156 Hells Angels and sympathizers were rounded up in a massive police operation said to have dealt a severe blow to the gang.



Sep 01 2013

Despite a lack of resources putting a strain on local RCMP resources, North Okanagan officers are still effectively beating crime.

Out of 101 members in the detachment, the RCMP is currently down 23.

"It makes it very tight," said Superintendent Reg Burgess.

"When we get reduced by that amount we have to adjust the service levels."

For example, there's currently limited resources for dog handlers due to leaves.

"Our police dog section has dwindled down a bit," said Burgess. "We're currently operating with only one of the three dog masters."

While Burgess is admittedly uncomfortable having that many members away, he hopes to see those numbers change over the next few months.

"We have some light at the end of the tunnel with people coming back from injuries and maternity/paternity leaves."

While resources are tight, the local RCMP detachment is still making a dent in area crime.

For the last quarter (April to June 2013) there was a six per cent drop in criminal code offences and a 12.6 per cent decline in property crime.

Officers have also stepped up their road presence by increasing road checks by 60 per cent. Traffic enforcement remained consistent at 97 per cent of last year's quarterly results, which were the highest recorded in many years. (Vernon Morning Star)



Sep 02 2013

MILTON, Ont. - Police in Halton Region say one of their constables has been charged with assault over an incident that took place while he was on duty.

Police say it happened last Monday in Milton, west of Toronto, as the officer investigated a reported disturbance.

It's alleged the officer assaulted a man who

had just been arrested.

Police say the man didn't suffer "significant" injuries and didn't require medical attention.

Const. Dwain Newham is due in Milton court on Sept. 25.

Sep 02 2013

EDMONTON - In the next four to five years, the City of Edmonton is projected to have the largest urban population of Aboriginal people in Canada.

In order to deal with that growing population and the increase of Aboriginal people that police deal with on a daily basis, the Edmonton force has created an Aboriginal relations unit to build partnerships and relationships with the community.

"Certainly in the downtown core, and the homeless community and the mental health issues, the predominance of First Nations people - we are really seeing an increase there," said Police Chief Rod Knecht, adding historically police were ill equipped to respond to the increase.

"We are seeing a lot more people migrating to the City of Edmonton from First Nations communities and we have to better respond to them."

The Aboriginal relations unit began on July 29 and consists of one civilian and one police officer, Staff Sgt. Dan Jones.

The unit supports front-line operations by educating members about Aboriginal culture, the history of colonization, residential schools, segregation and the impact such issues have had on the community.

Part of the education also involves breaking down racism and discrimination, Jones said.

"You look at 7% of our city's population is Aboriginal. No other community has that significant percentage of our population," said Jones. "Our goal as a unit is to have our members have more comprehensive understanding of those things to allow them to better police an Aboriginal population."

According to national statistics, an Aboriginal person is twice as likely to be the victim of a violent assault, sexual assault or robbery and seven times more likely to be murdered.

During the last 10 years, the incarceration of Aboriginal people has increased by 53% in the federal prison system compared to a 9.6% increase from the rest of the population.

Jones said that number is significantly higher in the Prairies.

Lewis Cardinal, co-chair of the Aboriginal commission on human rights and justice, welcomes the new unit.

The relationship between Aboriginal people and city police has not been positive, he said, and many in the community don't feel the police are their friend.

"The perception from our people is that racism is still practiced within the police force. They don't feel that the police are interested in protecting Aboriginal people,"

Cardinal said.

Forming an Aboriginal relations unit is long overdue, he added, noting police and leaders from the Aboriginal community need to form a relationship agreement and get together on a regular basis to review how it's going.

The unit is also partnering with recruiting assistance to get more Aboriginal members on the force.

At the moment, about 5% of Edmonton police are Aboriginal.

Knecht said he would like to see that number close to 7% or 8%.

(QMI Agency)



Sep 03 2013

VANCOUVER - Justice and legal officials are concerned about the growing popularity of an anti-government movement in British Columbia and other provinces.

The Freeman-On-The-Land, or sovereign citizen movement, is considered a domestic terror threat in the United States.

Followers believe they can revoke their consent to be governed by Canadian governments and laws.

One Freeman says he believes there are thousands of followers in BC, though legal officials suggest a few hundred now call the province home.

Brian Alexander, a Freeman from Kamloops, says people have simply had enough of a government that's overstepped its bounds, and they're turning to the courts to fight high taxes and excessive laws.

But the RCMP, the Law Society of BC and the Society of BC Notaries all warn of an escalation in confrontations and of court time being tied up with nonsensical and ineffective legal arguments filed by followers.

The RCMP is developing a protocol for officers who come across Freeman during routine stops, and the movement will be the subject of upcoming policing seminars in Vancouver and Toronto.

Sep 03 2013

HALIFAX - Two Nova Scotia men are facing charges after police pulled over a car last night because its headlights were off.

Police say the car's passenger compartment was stuffed with 20 large marijuana plants.

And in the trunk, there was another surprise - a second young man, apparently making room for the pot plants.

The car was stopped on Prospect Road southwest of Halifax.

A 23-year-old man from Brookside and a

24-year-old male from Hatchet Lake are each facing charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking and cultivation of a controlled substance.

Sep 03 2013

DETROIT - As cars become more like PCs on wheels, what's to stop a hacker from taking over yours?

In recent demonstrations, hackers have shown they can slam a car's brakes at freeway speeds, jerk the steering wheel and even shut down the engine - all from their laptop computers.

The hackers are publicizing their work to reveal vulnerabilities present in a growing number of car computers. All cars and trucks contain anywhere from 20 to 70 computers. They control everything from the brakes to acceleration to the windows, and are connected to an internal network. A few hackers have recently managed to find their way into these intricate networks.

In one case, a pair of hackers manipulated two cars by plugging a laptop into a port beneath the dashboard where mechanics connect their computers to search for problems. Scariest yet, another group took control of a car's computers through cellular telephone and Bluetooth connections, the compact disc player and even the tire pressure monitoring system.

To be sure, the "hackers" involved were well-intentioned computer security experts, and it took both groups months to break into the computers. And there have been no real-world cases of a hacker remotely taking over a car. But experts say high-tech hijackings will get easier as automakers give them full Internet access and add computer-controlled safety devices that take over driving duties, such as braking or steering, in emergencies. Another possibility: A tech-savvy thief could unlock the doors and drive off with your vehicle.

"The more technology they add to the vehicle, the more opportunities there are for that to be abused for nefarious purposes," says Rich Mogull, CEO of Phoenix-based Securosis, a security research firm. "Anything with a computer chip in it is vulnerable, history keeps showing us."

Sep 03 2013

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is investigating an incident in which they say an 80-year-old woman suffered a fractured hip after she was struck by police with a Taser.

Special Investigations Unit spokeswoman Monica Hudon says three Peel region police officers approached the woman (near Thomas Street and Erin Mills Parkway in Mississauga) around 3:30 a.m. last Wednesday after calls about a female walking along the road.

Hudon says officers spoke with the woman until "at some point" in the incident an officer

fired his Taser.

Hudon says the elderly woman fell to the ground and was rushed to Credit Valley Hospital for treatment of a fractured hip, among other injuries.

The SIU is an arm's length agency that investigates reports involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

The incident occurred one day after the province announced it would permit all front-line police officers to carry stun guns.

Sep 03 2013

VICTORIA - Two Victoria police officers have minor injuries in connection with the arrest of a woman involved in an alleged drug-induced incident.

Police were called to a home just before midnight Sunday amid reports of a domestic assault in progress.

Officers heard a woman screaming in a home and say they found two people inside, including the woman, suffering from some kind of drug-induced delirium.

Police say the woman became combative when they tried to arrest her.

Both people were transported to hospital when police believed their conditions were deteriorating.

Both people have since recovered from their medical emergencies, and the woman faces charges of assaulting police.

Sep 03 2013

REGINA - RCMP say they believe a child under 12 is responsible for the death of a six-year-old boy on a Saskatchewan reserve.

Staff Sgt. Larry Brost says the child from the Kahkewistahaw First Nation cannot be charged because of his age.

"Because the person investigators feel is responsible for this homicide is under the age of 12, the child cannot be charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act," Brost said Tuesday at a news conference.

He said the child suspect was known to police before the killing, but the two children did not know each other.

Social Services spokeswoman Andrea Britten said the child is in the care of the ministry. The department will focus on his treatment and on the safety of the community, she said.

"He is a child in need of protection and it is our responsibility to ensure he receives the treatment that he requires," Britten said. "Those treatment needs are going to change as he grows older."

Lee Bonneau died in hospital last month from injuries that police have said were consistent with an assault.

Brost said it may never be clear what exactly happened.

"This is a unique case. We may never find that answer."

There is no evidence to suggest there may be other suspects, he said.

"There's no other person at this point in time in the investigation that could be responsible for this other than this child," Brost said.

RCMP received the initial report of a missing child on Aug. 21.

Lee had last been seen playing with dogs outside the community's recreation centre. He was found about 20 minutes later in a wooded area about two blocks from the centre.

Authorities have said Bonneau was in the care of the Ministry of Social Services and was in a foster home.

His family has asked for privacy.

Sep 03 2013

HAMILTON - A week after he had an "OK" performance review, Chief Glenn De Caire has announced he'll retire from the Hamilton Police Service at the end of 2014.

The move, which caught some members of the Hamilton Police Services Board by surprise, comes during a year when the chief clashed with city council over the issue of belt-tightening within the police budget.

Councillor Lloyd Ferguson said the review "went OK. Things aren't perfect, but things are reasonably well."

He declined to comment further.

"It really hit me like a ton of bricks," said Mayor Bob Bratina, who chairs the police board and has been a big ally of the chief. "The chief is like a rock. It seems like he's been here forever."

A statement from De Caire posted to the police website announced: "I will not seek to exercise the term extensions of my contract and will be retiring from the Hamilton Police Service effective December 31, 2014."

The chief could not be reached for comment.

De Caire's original five-year contract expires next year, but reportedly the contract allowed for an extension (with a year's notice) if both parties agreed. That would come up for discussion this fall, if not sooner.

De Caire, 47 at the time of his 2009 appointment, was only the second chief to be hired from outside the service. His exit from Hamilton will come just four months before his old boss, Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair, steps down.

(Hamilton Spectator)

Sep 03 2013

HALIFAX - Two Nova Scotia men are facing drug charges after RCMP said they stopped a car stuffed with marijuana plants and a passenger in the trunk during a traffic stop on Prospect Road over the weekend.

Tantallon RCMP pulled the car over on Sunday at 10:05 p.m. because it was driving with no headlights.

"The driver of the Toyota Corolla was

overcrowded by 20 marijuana plants which were loaded into the front and rear seats of his vehicle," RCMP Sgt. Alain LeBlanc said in a statement.

"A passenger was located in the trunk of the car, seemingly to make room for the marijuana in the front seat area."

A 23-year-old man from Brookside and a 24-year-old man from Hatchet Lake are each facing charges of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and cultivation.

They're scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court on Oct. 30 to enter pleas.

(CBC News)

Sep 03 2013

AYLMER, ON - Bill Stephens, Acting Director of the Ontario Police College (OPC) since May 3, 2010, says he will retire at the end of November.

The OPC is one of the largest residential police training colleges in North America. With over 1300 recruits and 8,500 senior students completing training annually, it plays an integral role in training and developing Ontario police officers.

Stephens began his career with the Windsor Police Service in 1971, working his way up through progressively more responsible positions, including uniform patrol, intelligence branch and criminal investigation, to become superintendent in charge of patrol training.

Stephens became deputy director of the OPC in 2001, providing leadership and direction to the patrol training, senior and special course areas. Stephens has completed an extensive number of courses at both the OPC and Canadian Police College. He also participated in the inaugural class of the police leadership program at the University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management.

Stephens has been honoured with a number of awards, including the Windsor Jaycee's Police Officer of the Year, the Police Exemplary Service Medal with a 30-year bar and membership in the Ontario Municipal Management Institute as a Certified Municipal Manager - Level IV.

Stephens is a member of the OACP and CACP and serves on the OACP training and community policing committees.

The Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services has issued a call for applications to fill the vacancy. The deadline is Sept. 17. More information is available from www.gojobs.gov.on.ca - (Job ID# 56787).



Sep 04 2013

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Ohio corrections officials say Ariel Castro, who held three women captive in his home for nearly a

decade, has committed suicide at a state prison facility.

Spokeswoman JoEllen Smith says 53-year-old Castro was found hanging in his cell around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient. Prison medical staff performed CPR before Castro was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The three women disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004, when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old. They escaped May 6, when one of the women broke part of a door and yelled to neighbours for help. Castro was arrested that evening.

Castro was sentenced Sept. 1 to life in prison plus 1,000 years on his guilty plea to 937 counts including kidnapping and rape.

Sep 04 2013

HEADINGLEY, Man. - Police have arrested a man who allegedly crossed the Manitoba-U.S. border illegally before evading police by stealing several vehicles.

Headingley RCMP say the suspect was found in a treed area and taken into custody without incident Tuesday in the Rural Municipality of Cartier.

Citizens had alerted officers of an unknown male in the area west of Winnipeg.

Police allege the man was fleeing U.S. authorities on Saturday when he drove through the Lena point of entry in southern Manitoba without stopping.

The Mounties continue to investigate in collaboration with the Canada Border Services Agency.

The suspect is identified as a 29-year-old man from Fargo, N.D.

Sep 04 2013

LODI, Calif. - A SWAT officer's gun that was being displayed at a literacy fair in Northern California accidentally discharged when a child walked up behind the officer and pulled the trigger, CBS Sacramento reported.

"This should have never happened, especially in an environment where children were present," Lodi Police Chief Mark Helms said.

According to CBS Sacramento, on Aug. 24, SWAT Officer Robert Rench was displaying tactical equipment to children at the Lodi Public Library when a boy - perhaps 6 to 8 years old - walked up behind Rench and pulled the trigger of his holstered handgun, say officials.

The bullet that discharged grazed the side of the officer's leg.

The boy then fled. His identity is unknown.

Chief Helms says the department is focusing on learning more about the incident and how to prevent something similar from happening again.

"As peace officers, we have a responsibility to the public to ensure our weapons and equipment are properly safeguarded," he said.

Police want to speak with the boy to better understand how the incident occurred.

"We're fortunate this event didn't result in a tragedy," said Helms.

No other injuries were reported.

(CBS News)

Sep 04 2013

ORILLIA - It appears it will be status quo for the OPP in the City of Orillia.

The Orillia Police Services Board passed a motion in a recorded vote of 3-1 at a special meeting

on Tuesday to return to the provincial police force "under protest".

The motion calls for the City to be serviced under a Section 10 contract - or an integrated detachment - but it will also allow the City to opt in to any new costing methodology that is developed during the term of the contract.

It also calls on the OPP to agree to an accountability and auditing program.

Mayor Angelo Orsi - who also sits on the Board - says by agreeing under protest it will mean the OPP will continue to service Orillia.

But he says it also preserves the City's right to any future amendments that can be incorporated into the contract.

Board Chair Rick Fraracci says one of the reasons that the Board decided to go back to the OPP is that the OPP is developing a new costing formula that would take effect January 1, 2015.

He says he hasn't seen the new formula but believes it could result in rural communities paying more for policing and urban centres like Orillia pay less.

Fraracci says Orillia could not continue to work under a Section 5.1 - where they have been since the current agreement expired on Sunday - as it would mean the OPP would send the City a bill and the taxpayer would be on the hook for it.

He says that would be a dangerous path as neither the City nor the Board would have any say in the any police-related matters.

City Councillor and Board Member Patrick Kehoe was the only one who opposed to the motion.

Kehoe says the issue he has is that by not negotiating a contract we are going to be spending money that the City doesn't have and it will mean a substantial tax hit to residents.

He says there was a requirement for a discussion to take place that would see both sides provide their case.

He says the City presented their case but they have not heard back from the OPP.

The motion will now go to Council Committee for discussion this Monday night and, if passed, will go to Council for ratification at their September 16th meeting.

(Baysshore Broadcasting)

Sep 04 2013

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service is unveiling its first ever charity calendar, featuring some of their hairiest members.

Almost all of the Canine Unit's 19 dogs are featured in the 2014 calendar, which shows the four-legged models in and around the city at several local landmarks.

The 13-month family-friendly calendar was spearheaded by Canine Unit Const. Shawn MacGillivray, a 13-year member of the service, with six of those in the Canine Unit.

His dog, Nox, a general patrol dog who is also trained in drug detection, is the feature image for December 2014.

Money raised goes towards the Calgary Police Foundation, which helps fund community initiatives to reduce youth victimization and criminal activity by focusing on education, prevention and early intervention.

CPS dogs attend more than 8,000 police-related calls every year.

This year alone, police service dogs have responded to roughly 4,200 calls, with the dogs being deployed in more than half of those situations.

Since January, at least 174 arrests can be attrib-

uted directly to the unit.

Only 2,500 of the limited-edition \$10 calendars were printed.

(Global News)



Sep 05 2013

VAUGHAN, Ont. - Five Ontario residents are facing numerous drug-related charges after what police are calling the largest seizure of methamphetamine and clandestine drug labs in Ontario's history.

Members of the Asian Organized Crime Task Force - which includes police forces from across Ontario and Canada - revealed details Thursday of the investigation into a crime ring they allege involved large-scale production of methamphetamine.

They said seven search warrants had been executed in July at residences and businesses across the Greater Toronto Area, along with two in the Campbellford and Warkworth areas of eastern Ontario.

Investigators say among the drug labs they dismantled was one in Warkworth, northwest of Trenton, which was used to produce raw methamphetamine. Police said it's one of the largest methamphetamine labs ever discovered in Ontario.

A pill-pressing lab in nearby Campbellford was found to have been guarded with a bear trap shrouded by leaves.

Other drug labs were found in the Greater Toronto Area, including a pill-pressing operation in Aurora, north of the city.

In total, police say 120 kilograms of pure methamphetamine, equivalent to about four million pills, was seized, along with more than 110,000 meth pills, 14 kilograms of meth powder, five vehicles and \$81,000 in cash.

The task force includes officers from Toronto police, Ontario Provincial Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, York Regional Police, Peel Regional Police and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Sep 05 2013

EDMONTON - An investigation has concluded that two Edmonton police officers did not cause the in-custody death of a man who was Tasered during a struggle.

The executive director of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) says the officers were lawfully trying to restrain the 34-year-old man after his arrest in April 2012.

Clifton Purvis says the man became violent in an office at police headquarters, stood on a desk and threw TV monitors at officers.

Purvis says the man continued to struggle as he was taken to a cell and a stun gun was used on him to no effect.

The man went into medical distress while he was restrained and died two days later in hospital.

Purvis says an autopsy determined the man died of excited delirium syndrome.

Sep 05 2013

CALGARY - Calgary police are looking to move their evidence management into the 21st century with a new system that would employ barcode or radio-frequency ID tags for tens of thousands of exhibits.

"It's going to help us with absolutely everything," said Kellie Cooper, manager of the Calgary Police Service's evidence and property unit. "Currently it's very paper-based and it's a very manual system."

As a result, the CPS has put out a request for proposals for "a new property tracking and management solution that includes the implementation of bar code or radio-frequency identification (RFID) scanners or both," with a closing date of Sept. 12.

"It literally will be the week after that we will be assessing proposals," Cooper said. "We want to get this in progress as quickly as possible."

The goal is to catalogue not just new evidence as it comes in but old evidence currently in the main warehouse and branch storage units, she added, so as to make information more easily accessible to investigators and potentially aid in solving cold cases.

In addition, the system is expected to make for stronger prosecutions because it will more easily and consistently maintain the continuity of exhibits.

"We can tell who touched an exhibit, and that's great for when it goes to court," she said.

(Metro News)

Sep 05 2013

WILLIAMS LAKE, B.C. - A long-time city councillor in B.C.'s central Interior has been arrested and charged with obstruction of justice.

The RCMP have issued a news release that says Surinderpal Rathor, who sits on the Williams Lake city council, has been charged in connection with his work as a police translator late last year.

The news release says Rathor was helping police investigators in a crim-

inal case on Dec. 24, 2012, though the Mounties haven't disclosed details of the case.

The release says the charges relate to allegations that a translator interfered with an investigation.

Rathor was arrested and later released, with a court appearance scheduled for Oct. 2 in Williams Lake.

A biography on the City of Williams Lake website says Rathor has lived in the area for 38 years and is currently the longest-serving member on council.

"Please join me for a very special evening with entertainment and fabulous food in support of Victim Services Toronto."
— Chief William Blair

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