

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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NEW WESTMINSTER - A West Vancouver police officer was honoured with a military funeral procession in New Westminster Friday, after dying suddenly on the job.

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CALGARY - Calgary's police chief Rick Hanson is calling for changes in federal legislation to allow for a DNA sample to be collected once a person is arrested.

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Social media video vital to police

MISSISSAUGA, ON. - The meteoric rise of video in social media has become a game changer that police should embrace rather than resist, says the outgoing head of the Ontario agency that investigates cops for potential criminal wrongdoing.

Reflecting on his five years as director of the Special Investigations Unit, Ian Scott says video has had a huge impact, and police should be looking at expanding its use.

"This is imagery that the police can have no control over. They bring the issue of police use of force in high focus for the public," Scott says.

"My view is they should be embracing the concept of video imagery."

Scott, 61, who leaves the SIU post this month, says he would like to see officers wear "lapel-cams" to record interactions with the public.

He is especially keen to see all police stun guns equipped with "Tasercams" that record video and audio when the weapon is readied for firing.

"I can't think of a better device to guarantee that Tasers are being used appropriately," Scott says.

"For \$400, this is the deal of the century because they're going to solve a million hours of investigations."

The former Crown and defence lawyer concedes that prosecuting police is difficult.

"They have access to very good lawyers and lots of money for their defence."

During his tenure, Scott has laid 57 charges. Twenty-one cases are currently before the courts. Of the 36 others, 14 resulted in convictions.



Overall, about four per cent of cases the agency investigates lead to charges. It's a percentage Scott says doesn't worry him because he's confident he has thoroughly reviewed the rest of the files.

Police are required to call in the SIU when police action results in death or serious injury. There's not much to quibble about when someone dies, but the concept of "serious injury" remains a thorny one.

Ultimately, he says the legislature should come up with a definition that would be used province wide.

"I've tried to push this issue," he says, noting cases where someone is badly hurt is the SIU's "biggest growth area" and account for about 50 per cent of its probes.

Scott also admits to having had little success in his push to have the SIU report directly to the legislature, as do the province's ombudsman and privacy commissioner, instead of to the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Scott believes he has had one pivotal success in raising the question of whether officers involved in SIU probes should be allowed to



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consult a single lawyer to vet their notes before turning them over to investigators.

The case is currently before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Ultimately, he says, it all comes down to public confidence in their police and in the civilian oversight of a group of people society has entrusted with a mandate to use lethal force.

"We're the ultimate check and balance," he says. "We are kind of the police of last resort."

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Sep 26 2013

MEDICINE HAT - A 33-year-old man remains in serious condition following a suspected shootout with police Monday evening in a residential neighbourhood of Medicine Hat.

Residents near the home described hearing two gunshots followed by a one- to two-minute pause, then two more shots quickly proceeded by four rapid shots around 10 p.m. Monday.

Neighbours also said they saw police rush to perform first-aid on the man, shot an undisclosed number of times, until paramedics arrived at the Rideau Close scene of the shooting.

The man was shot in the driveway of a neighbouring home after exiting the residence he and a woman were in.

The as yet unnamed male was reportedly in possession of more than one firearm at the time of the shooting, according to police.

Medicine Hat police and investigators from the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team were at the scene throughout the day Tuesday.

In a Tuesday morning press conference, Chief Andy McGrogan said he had attended the scene and called the incident "a signifi-

cant and traumatic experience that impacts the well-being of the entire community including members of the Medicine Hat Police Service."

Three officers directly involved in the shooting have been placed on administrative leave, added McGrogan, and a criminal investigation has been launched into the actions of the 33-year-old man.

McGrogan would not comment on many specifics of the incident, how many times the man was shot, number of guns he was in possession of or the nature of his injuries, citing the continuing investigation.

A woman at the home where the incident began initiated the police response at 9:15 p.m. with a 911 call reporting a distraught male, said McGrogan.

Neighbours report hearing the gunshots approximately 45 minutes later, following a large police response involving heavily armed officers. They also report seeing the man treated first by police on the scene prior to quickly being taken away by ambulance around 10:30 p.m.

"I attended the scene, the incident command area" said McGrogan.

"I have spoken personally with all three officers. They seem fine but this is, of course, uncharted territory for them. This is the first officer-involved shooting since the early '80s, so, this is new ground for us."

(Medicine Hat News)

Sep 26 2013

One year after pleading for tips from the public, RCMP says it received no evidence to tie a convicted U.S. criminal to more than one of the 18 unsolved Highway of Tears missing and murdered women files.

The RCMP E-Pana team, which is investigating the high-profile cold case, announced with much fanfare last September that historic DNA had linked 1974 murder victim Colleen MacMillen to Bobby Jack Fowler, who died in a U.S. prison in 2006.

Two other victims, Gale Weys and Pamela Darlington, who also disappeared around the same time and place as MacMillen, could not be tied by DNA to Fowler, but police hoped tips from the public could provide other links.

Although police received 300 tips during the past year, none cracked open the other cases.

"We think he's the right guy for Darlington and Weys and we wanted more information relative to that but we didn't get it," said RCMP Staff Sgt. Wayne Clary, who leads the task force.

"We are looking back several years, and as more time goes on, whatever was there is going to disappear... It is frustrating," he said, adding Fowler is still considered a "strong suspect."

"We know he travelled, we know he picked up hitchhikers, we know he picked up girls in bars, and in the '70s he was younger and quite active."

RCMP still believes someone - especially residents of the Prince George-Kamloops corridor - has information that can help investigators.

Fowler worked at a Prince George roofing company in 1974, but police have not received new information that puts him in Canada after that.

The Oregon man died while serving a sentence for kidnapping, attempted rape and assault. (Vancouver Sun)

Sep 26 2013

TORONTO - Ontario's Liberal government has once again changed a law in secret, this time to give private security guards more powers during the Pan Am Games in 2015, the opposition parties charged Thursday.

However, it wasn't clear exactly what new powers security guards will be given now that they have been exempted from the regulation that states they are not to be "providing services or performing duties connected with police."

Premier Kathleen Wynne said the government followed normal rules to change the regulations to allow the Ontario Provincial Police to hire private guards to augment the security force during the Pan Am Games and for up to eight months afterwards.

"This is not about secret anything," insisted Wynne. "It's about following the process to make sure we have the security in place. That's all it's about."

The government is not bestowing police powers on private security guards, insisted Wynne.

"It's not about expanding anyone's powers. It's not about giving people police powers who don't have them," she said. "It's about making sure that we have the security guards that we need to do the work."

The opposition parties said they don't understand why security guards were granted the exemption from the regulation that they not perform police duties until March 2016, eight months after the Pan Am Games end.

"If we don't need them until 2016, they aren't going to hire them," said Community Safety Minister Madeleine Meilleur.

Sep 26 2013

WINNIPEG - Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay is promising the Tories will introduce new "holistic" legislation in the fall to fight cyberbullying following the recent death of a teen apparently driven to suicide by vile texts and social media messages.

MacKay said Canadians have been touched by the death of 15-year-old Todd Loik, a Saskatchewan high school student whose mother said committed suicide earlier this month after relentless online taunts and tormenting.

"The loss of their 15-year-old son has touched the nation as previous losses have - Rehtaeh Parsons, Amanda Todd and others," MacKay said Thursday at the Canadian Cen-

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tre for Child Protection in Winnipeg, where the federal government made a \$100,000 donation to mark the birth of Prince George.

“There will be legislation introduced this fall in the Parliament of Canada that will be aimed specifically at the issue of cyberbullying.”

The federal government has committed to look at new criminal laws that could include a ban on distributing intimate images without consent.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper also promised in the spring to fast-track efforts to create an anti-cyberbullying law.

The legislation is still in the draft stage, but MacKay said it will combine education with changes to the Criminal Code.

“It is not going to be a single act of Parliament or a provincial amendment to legislation,” he said.

“It is going to require a holistic response, very much so through our education system, through talk, through a national dialogue. This is what I think is necessary.”

Sep 26 2013

CALGARY - As Calgarians turned to Twitter for the latest information while the city was in throws of the flood emergency, the city's police force was front and centre on the social media site.

Now the Calgary Police Service has been recognized with an award for social media event management for making such effective and timely use of Twitter during the disaster.

The award was presented by LAWs Communications, a U.S.-based law enforcement consulting firm.

“On that Thursday morning, June 20... we saw #yycflood trend,” says Sean Stephenson, digital communications team lead for the CPS.

“I think the first post we did got shared over 5,000 times and then of course that evening around 4 p.m. we started getting a lot of questions on Twitter,” he added.

Stephenson says the response from people was immense — 7,060 mentions between June 20 and June 21.

Although the volume was a surprise, Stephenson says they handled it well.

“We were prepared. We deal with crisis communication a lot and so we were able to get out information extremely quickly.”

Stephenson says the whole event has really changed how they look at Twitter.

“I think everybody now at the Calgary Police Service realizes how important social media is,” he said.

The CPS sent so many messages that they were actually blocked by Twitter as part of a spam-reducing policy.

“They are working on changing their policy for first responders specifically because of this situation.”

Stephenson says the award really goes to Calgarians who took to Twitter to help each other.

“I was touched by how many people were

just opening up their homes on Twitter ... that's just the way Calgarians are though,” he said.

(CBC News)

Sep 26 2013

HAMILTON - Hamilton council has deflected a police board request for six new officers and \$1 million to fund an expanded Taser program and instead approved a motion seeking more information from police.

Councillor Brad Clark's motion asks police to provide council with information on use of force and de-escalation training and policies and a more detailed budget picture before they will consider funding the chief's plan to

equip and train all 815 officers in Taser use. The city shouldn't have to wait long for the information.

Earlier this week Catherine Martin, the corporate communicator for the Hamilton police, told The Spectator that police were already “compiling the information” council was requesting. The matter is expected to return to council in October.

But Clark's requests are not likely to be the only questions police face about their Taser deployment plan, outlined — and approved unanimously — at last week's police services board meeting.

The plan seeks \$325,000 for Tasers, cartridges and targets and, most controversially, \$668,000

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to hire six new staff in its first year; thereafter it will cost an additional \$634,000 annually.

"There's not going to be a lot of interest in investing a lot of money in Tasers," said Lloyd Ferguson, a councillor and police board member.

The controversy around the new hires centres on Chief Glenn De Caire's assertion that he needs to beef up his permanent training staff (by two officers) and hire four new officers to backfill staff while they're being trained.

"There will be a lot more questions, particularly around this staffing, there's a ton, a ton of more questions about the need for those (new officers)," Ferguson said.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

Sep 27 2013

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service is being forced to wade into uncharted social media waters after a constable's personal Twitter account has come under scrutiny.

The Twitter account of 10-year EPS veteran Cst. Sam Najmeddine contained tweets such as: "Babysitting suicidal patient #royalexandrahospital, another cup of this lousy coffee and I may join him lol."

The account has been disabled, but screen grabs of the account show Najmeddine identified himself as a police officer, while mainly posting tweets about his children, sports, and less frequently about his work.

The Professional Standards Branch was alerted to the account by James Korchinski, who had an encounter with Najmeddine at Rexall Place in 2007. The encounter led to a law enforcement review board hearing for Najmeddine, who said he used no excessive force with Korchinski. A decision in that hearing has not yet been made.

Korchinski's lawyer, Tom Engel, said the account contains "unprofessional" content.

"Those sorts of tweets are at best unprofessional for a police officer to be uttering in his role as a police officer. Swearing, using obscenities, making fun of people's circumstances ... it's completely unprofessional."

Engel referred to a tweet that read: "Do you ever just look at people and have a sudden urge to push them down stairs." The statement was initially written by a fictitious, frowning cat behind the "GrumpyAssCat" Twitter account. Other tweets from the cat posted on Najmeddine's page contain profanity.

The case comes to light about a week after three Toronto firefighters were fired for posting tweets containing derogatory statements about women on their personal accounts.

The EPS has social media policies for both corporate and personal use. The corporate policy was written about a year ago, while the personal policy appears to be new.

Police service employees are discouraged from affiliating themselves with EPS on personal accounts, said Carolin Maran, the department's website and social media co-ordinator. Members are also warned to be cautious to protect their privacy and safety when using their accounts.

Maran said the organization can't monitor the Twitter accounts of the service's 2,400 employees.

There are 15 officers who "officially" tweet on behalf of the police service. The officers have social media training and the Twitter accounts are meant to encourage recruitment and interact with the community.

"We found that it really humanizes the officers," Maran said. "They know the rules, they know what they can and cannot say. But they get to express themselves a bit more. It sort of shows citizens they're more than uniforms and a badge."

She added: "You're always going to have people disagree with the information or the content that you're putting out (on social media) just because it is such an open medium. So in that case, we always try to let citizens know they have a medium to file a complaint if they need to."

Maran said the Professional Standards Branch decides if any rules have been broken when a complaint is lodged about police use of social media.

Edmonton Police Association president Tony Simioni said he could not comment specifically on the complaint against Najmeddine's account.

"There's freshly minted policy on social media that's just come out for EPS, and I'd advise (officers) to read it carefully. This is relatively newly emerging area and you have to be careful with what you post in terms of your office of police officer," he said.

"I think we've become used to that standard that you have that office, and you're sworn to it, 24-7. Particularly if you hold yourself out as a police officer, you've got to be real careful, and that's where that nexus becomes dangerous in terms of discipline."

He noted some concern was raised earlier this year when a police officer with an officially sanctioned account posted a picture of a sniper rifle. Some people took exception to the image, Simioni said, but no formal complaint was lodged.

Najmeddine was charged in April of this year with one count of improper storage of a firearm under the Firearms Act. He is currently on active duty.

(Edmonton Journal)

Sep 27 2013

RED DEER, Alta. - Two teens are facing serious charges after an RCMP cruiser was rammed head on.

Just before 3 a.m. on Thursday, two officers were on patrol in Red Deer, Alta., when they at-

tempted to pull over a vehicle for an infraction.

The car sped away, trying to flee before turning around and heading straight toward the cruiser.

The two officers in the cruiser received minor injuries in the collision.

The driver, a 15-year-old female from Red Deer, has been charged with assaulting a police officer and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

The 14-year-old male passenger from Blackfalds, Alta., has been charged with taking a motor vehicle without consent and failing to stop for police.

(Global Calgary)

Sep 27 2013

CALGARY - Calgary police have arrested a self-proclaimed sovereign citizen who had declared a rental home his embassy and refused to leave.

Police took Andreas Pirelli, also known as Mario Antonacci, into custody at the northwest Calgary duplex at about 2 local time this morning.

Pirelli, who is 48, was arrested on as many as nine outstanding warrants issued by courts in Quebec, and duty Insp. Darrell Hesse says he will remain in custody until he is transported back.

Pirelli was charged with pushing a landlady down a flight of stairs in Montreal in 2007.

An arrest warrant was issued in May 2010 when he failed to show up during his trial.

Alberta senior, Rebekah Caverhill, has been locked in a two-year battle with Pirelli, who she says identified himself as a follower of the Freemen-on-the-Land movement, changed the locks on the house, refused to leave and placed a lien on her home.

Sep 27 2013

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has given police officers the OK to search people's belongings with sniffer dogs as long as they have "reasonable suspicion" they may find illegal drugs.

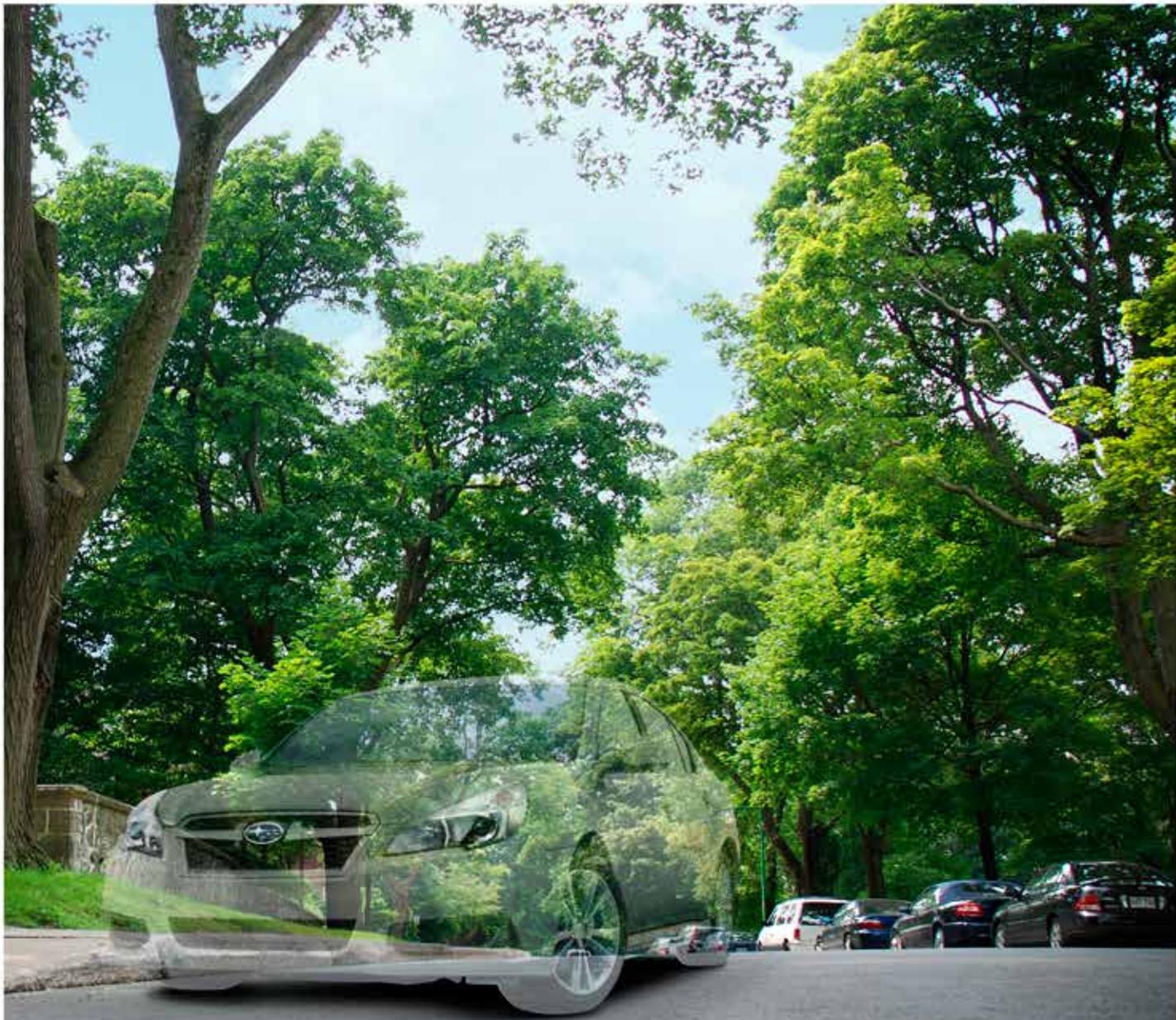
In a pair of decisions released Friday, the high court upheld the current threshold police must meet to use the dogs to ferret out illegal drugs — a standard that some civil-liberties groups argue is already too low.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which was an intervener in the cases, has asked the Supreme Court to refer questions about the use of sniffer dogs to Parliament, which it declined to do.

But Michael Feder, a lawyer representing the group, said while they were disappointed by the court's decision, there were still positives that arose from the ruling.

"The court has made abundantly clear that while police can use sniffer dogs to a so-called reasonable suspicion standard, reasonable suspicion means objective, verifiable facts about a particular individual giving rise to a reasonable possibility that that person possesses or is trafficking in drugs," Feder said.

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"It does not mean a generalized suspicion about types of people or all types of people in one place. It doesn't mean a hunch, it doesn't mean police intuition. It means something much more than that."

The two cases involve the use of sniffer dogs to search the checked baggage of an airline passenger in Nova Scotia and the car of a man pulled over for speeding in Saskatchewan.

In one case, Mandeep Chehil was arrested at the Halifax airport after a sniffer dog singled out his bag.

Chehil had taken an overnight flight from Vancouver. He was one of the last passengers on the flight to purchase a ticket, which he paid for with cash. He only checked one bag.

The combination of all those factors caught the attention of the RCMP as they were looking at the passenger manifest for Chehil's flight. When he landed in Halifax, the Mounties decided to deploy a sniffer dog named Boris to check Chehil's bag.

They found Chehil's bag and lined it up with nine others on the secure side of the airport. The dog twice indicated the scent of drugs in Chehil's bag. Boris also sat in front of a cooler next to Chehil's bag. The cooler was later searched and no drugs were found.

When Chehil collected his bag at the airport, the Mounties approached him and told him the sniffer dog had indicated there were drugs in his bag. They brought Chehil to a room and searched his bag, in which they found a backpack containing three kilograms of cocaine.

The trial judge ruled that Chehil had a reasonable expectation of privacy in his checked luggage and that the RCMP officers did not have reasonable suspicion to search his bag. The trial judge also found that only the cash purchase of the ticket was suspicious.

An appeals court agreed that Chehil had a reasonable expectation of privacy in his suitcase, but disagreed with the trial judge that the factors that led the Mounties to search his bag could be looked at in isolation. The appeals court overruled the trial judge.

In a 9-0 decision, the Supreme Court upheld the appeals court decision.

"In this case, given the strength of the constellation, the reliability of the dog and the absence of exculpatory explanations, the positive identification raised the reasonable suspicion generated by the constellation to the level of reasonable and probable grounds to arrest the appellant," Justice Andromache Karakatsanis wrote for the court.

In the second case, the RCMP pulled over Benjamin MacKenzie as he was driving to Regina from Calgary because he was travelling two kilometres over the speed limit.

They said he looked nervous because his hands were shaking and he was sweating and breathing quickly. They also claimed his eyes had a pinkish hue.

The Mounties ran a police check on MacKenzie and found nothing, but they still de-

ployed a sniffer dog which found marijuana in his trunk.

One of the officers later testified that of the 5,000 of so traffic stops he'd been involved in, MacKenzie was one of the most nervous people he'd encountered.

The trial judge found MacKenzie not guilty, which an appeals court set aside.

In a 5-4 split decision, the majority of the Supreme Court justices found police indeed had reasonable suspicion to deploy the sniffer dog.

Four of them disagreed with their colleagues, saying the appeals court was wrong to overturn the trial judge's decision.

Sep 27 2013

OTTAWA - The Canada Revenue Agency has launched an internal probe to determine how a late Mafia don who owed \$1.5 million in back taxes received a refund cheque for more than \$381,000.

Andrew Treusch, the agency's commissioner, says investigators from the security and internal affairs division are to report back by the end of the year, and their findings will be made public.

Treusch says the agency will immediately call in the police if the investigation uncovers possible criminal behaviour.

The statement follows a published report that the Canada Revenue Agency issued the refund to the now-deceased Nick Rizzuto despite his owing the taxman \$1.5 million.

Rizzuto had just been arrested as part of a sweeping police operation in November 2006 and sent to prison. The elderly Mob boss was eventually released. He was murdered in his kitchen in 2010.

Enquete, an investigative program on Radio-Canada, says Rizzuto received a cheque dated Sept. 13, 2007, for more than \$381,737.

Sep 27 2013

TORONTO - Ontario's top court says it's illegal to hold a cellphone while driving even if it's not transmitting and no matter how briefly it's in a driver's hand.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario released a pair of decisions Friday ordering two people convicted under the Highway Traffic Act for violating the ban on using cellphones while driving.

In one case, Khojasteh Kazemi argued that she had just picked up her cellphone, which had fallen off the seat to the floor of her car when she stopped at a red light, when a police officer spotted her holding it.

A lower court judge dismissed Kazemi's charge, ruling that there must be some "sustained physical holding" in order to convict, but the Appeal Court overturned that finding.

In the other case, Hugo Pizzurro was caught driving with a cellphone in his hand but argued the Crown couldn't prove it was capable of sending or receiving at the time.

But the Appeal Court concluded the lan-

guage in the law requiring a capability of sending or receiving applies only to devices other than cellphones as cellphones have that capability built in.

"Moreover, to impose the requirement that a cellphone held by a driver while driving was capable of receiving or transmitting would be unreasonable both for enforcement and for prosecution," the court ruled.

"The legislature could not have intended that result."

"Road safety is best ensured by a complete prohibition on having a cellphone in one's hand at all while driving," the Appeal Court wrote in the Kazemi decision.

"A complete prohibition also best focuses a driver's undivided attention on driving...In short, it removes the various ways that road safety and driver attention can be harmed if a driver has a cellphone in his or her hand while driving."

The Appeal Court made similar comments in the Pizzurro case.

"To hold out the possibility that the driver may escape the prohibition because the cellphone is not shown to be capable of communicating, however temporarily, is to tempt the driver to a course of conduct that risks undermining these objectives," the court wrote.

Sep 27 2013

MONTREAL - A Quebec judge has decided that 51 Hells Angels members and sympathizers who face a wide variety of charges including gangsterism and murder will be tried in two different groups.

The accused were arrested in 2009 as part of the sweeping Operation SharQc.

"It is out of the question to have one trial with 51 people," Superior Court Justice James Brunton said Friday.

Brunton went along with a Crown proposal to have one set of legal proceedings for 29 accused from Quebec, Trois-Rivieres and Sherbrooke and a separate trial for those accused who hail from the Montreal area.

Brunton said he had considered a similar split in terms of numbers even before the Crown's suggestion, although he did not have the same geographical divisions.

Earlier in the day, a slew of defence lawyers had said they couldn't determine whether such a split would hurt their clients because the Crown had not given them all the necessary information, including the list of witnesses.

Brunton ordered the Crown to provide the information before Nov. 1 to allow the defence to complete its preparation.

Operation SharQc nabbed 156 suspects. The others have pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

Sep 27 2013

VICTORIA - The Victoria police board now has enough members to finalize the process of hiring a new chief.

The B.C. Justice Ministry announced three appointees Friday — 12 days after the hiring process came to a halt because the contracts of four members weren't renewed, and their replacements hadn't been named.

That left the board with only four members, not enough to continue the process of hiring the replacement for Chief Jamie Graham, whose term ends in December.

Greater Sudbury Police Chief Frank Elsner, 50, had been selected to replace Graham but the police board couldn't make a formal offer until the decision was ratified.

Esquimalt mayor and police board vice-chairwoman Barb Desjardins said she's happy the appointments have been made so the board can "pick up the pieces that were dropped."

She said an emergency board meeting will likely be scheduled before the next public board meeting Oct. 8.

The new members will have to approve of Elsner as the top choice before the board agrees on an offer of employment.

The province can appoint up to five police board members; two positions remain vacant.

The Victoria board shakeup may have been prompted by a June 2012 mediator's report, which recommended overhauling the police board to repair the broken relationship between Victoria police and the Township of Esquimalt.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

Sep 27 2013

EDMONTON - The Law Enforcement Review Board has upheld the firing of an Edmonton Police Service officer found guilty of corrupt practice for interfering with a traffic stop in October 2011.

Cst. Adam Kube was fired from the police department earlier this year after an internal disciplinary hearing. His lawyer appealed the decision to the Law Enforcement Review Board in August.

The board has now decided that Kube's firing was appropriate.

"It has been said that, for a police officer, the penalty of dismissal is the ultimate penalty, but, even with this in mind, we conclude that the Presiding Officer's decision to impose that penalty is within the bounds of acceptable, reasonable, outcomes on the facts and law before him," the board stated in a written decision.

The internal police hearing found that in August 2011 Kube sold his motorcycle to a woman and then cancelled his insurance policy. He received a confirmation of the cancellation and put it away with the original insurance card.

When the woman who bought the motorcycle was pulled over in a traffic stop on Oct. 22, 2011, she called Kube, who soon arrived at the scene.

He provided the cancelled insurance card to one of the police officers at the scene and identified himself as a police officer in an effort to prevent the woman from receiving a ticket for riding without insurance, Mark Logar, the hearing's presiding officer, found.

Logar found Kube was motivated by a desire to develop a personal relationship with the woman.

(Edmonton Journal)

Sep 27 2013

WINNIPEG - The government of Manitoba is naming a lake and two islands in honour of three conservation officers who died while on duty decades ago.

Conservation Minister Gord Mackintosh says Robert Logan, William McLeod and Charles Morrish put themselves in harm's way "to protect us and Mother Earth."

Logan died on Nov. 3, 1983, when the car he was in crashed after hitting black ice.

Robert Logan Lake, near Childs Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park, will be named for him.

McLeod, who will have an island named for him in Cormorant Lake, died after being shot by a trapper on May 12, 1967.

Morrish, who will have an island named for him in Clearwater Lake, died on April 3, 1966, when his vehicle went through the ice.

(CTV Winnipeg)



Sep 28 2013

BURFORD, ON. - A police officer and a male suspect are hurt after police say a stolen vehicle crashed into a cruiser east of Woodstock, Ont.

Provincial police say officers spotted a stolen Cadillac in Burford around 10:30 p.m. Friday.

Police say the driver tried to evade the officers but they gave chase.

They say that's when the Cadillac collided with the cruiser, causing significant damage.

Police say the suspect and an officer were treated for minor injuries at Brantford General Hospital.

There's no word yet on charges.

(CIHR, CKOT)

Sep 28 2013

MONTREAL - Montreal police argued that publishing station-by-station metro crime statistics would hamper investigations, help criminals and "panic" passengers.

But those claims failed to convince Quebec's access-to-information commission.

In a 13-page ruling dated Aug. 16, commissioner Christiane Constant found the po-

lice department did not back up arguments it made in a June hearing over a Gazette request to obtain the data.

She ordered police to make the statistics available to the newspaper.

The decision ended a three-year battle.

The Gazette filed an access request for the information in 2010, seeking statistics for crimes and bylaw infractions committed at the 64 stations patrolled by Montreal police in 2008 and 2009.

Police responded with partial information, supplying data only by metro line.

The accuracy of that information was questionable because four stations that serve multiple lines — some of the busiest in the network — were lumped into figures for the Yellow Line

The Gazette appealed to the access commission, which heard the case in June 2013.

There, the police department's lawyer said transit users might "panic" unnecessarily if told the number and type of crimes that occur in individual metro stations.

The former head of the police metro squad testified that releasing the data would tell criminals where police are concentrating efforts and criminals would then move elsewhere in the network.

In its arguments, the police department focused on Article 28 of Quebec's access-to-information law.

That section says a public body can refuse to release information related to the "prevention, detection or repression of crime" if its disclosure would likely "reveal a method of investigation, a confidential source of information, or a program or plan of action designed to prevent, detect or repress crime or statutory offences."

The Gazette argued that the police force provided no evidence that crime would move to other stations if the statistics were revealed.

Nor does the data fall into the category of information that the law would allow the police force to keep under wraps, the newspaper told the commission.

In her ruling, Constant said "the hypotheses and general evidence" presented by the police department did not back up its contention that the documents could be kept secret.

(Montreal Gazette)

Sep 28 2013

It's a bird. It's a plane! It's Superman — locked in a lovers' quarrel with Super Woman.

At around 9:40 p.m. Thursday, Vancouver police received a report of Superman and Super Woman fighting outside Stadium SkyTrain station in downtown Vancouver.

"Police attended the Stadium SkyTrain station after receiving reports of a domestic dispute between Superman and Super Woman," confirmed Sgt. Randy Fincham.

"There was no assault, no crime and there-

fore no arrest," said Cst. Brian Montague in an update on Friday morning.

"It appears... that the two had been drinking and were kidding around. Officers spoke with them and they were allowed to proceed."

No information has been released on the couple's secret identities.
(The Province)

Sep 28 2013

SASKATOON - The Saskatoon Police Service are featured in a new documentary set to premier in October as Police Chiefs from across North American gather for their annual conference.



The documentary will make its debut at the 120th annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Philadelphia.

Saskatoon Police Service Spokesperson, Alyson Edwards says Saskatoon's contribution tells a story about a police service that turned things around after going through some very difficult times with the community.

"And a community that had gone through some difficult times in its relationship with the [Saskatoon] Police Service," Edwards said.

Edwards is referring to the fall out from the Neil Stonechild inquiry, and other events. Stonechild died from hypothermia back in November of 1990. A report from a formal inquiry into his death found that Stonechild had been picked up by police and driven to the outskirts of Saskatoon before his death.

Since then, Edwards says a lot of work has gone into fixing what was wrong with the force and rebuilding the relationship with the community. The documentary will show how the force has turned things around.

"A large focus was on building those relationships again, and making them healthy in the Metis and First Nations community, because that is where the trust suffered the most," Edwards said.

Edwards said a change in leadership of the force has really helped turned things around, and the credit goes to current Chief, Clive Weighill.

In 2007, Weighill initiated a complete restructure and redeployment of the Saskatoon Police Service.

They brought in technology that introduced geographic capabilities. The City was split into three districts, and each of those districts had staff that were directly responsible for what was happening in their area. They were accounting for those events on a daily basis through "Comstat", computerized statistical analysis.

(CKOM)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

Sep 29 2013

NEW WESTMINSTER - A West Vancouver police officer was honoured with a military funeral procession in New Westminster Friday, after dying suddenly on the job.



Cst. Louis Beglaw, 50, died Sept. 16, after suffering a medical emergency

while on duty at West Vancouver Police Department headquarters.

Cst. Jeff Palmer, spokesman for the West Vancouver Police Department, said Beglaw's death is being felt around the police department.

"We're a small group here. Everybody knows and works with everybody," said Palmer. "He was a really great guy to work with very, very professional."

Beglaw joined the West Vancouver Police Department in 2003 after graduating from the police academy at the Justice Institute of British Columbia. In 2007, Beglaw became a police dog handler, serving in the K-9 unit with his faithful four-legged partner, police service dog Capone.

In addition to his policing work, Beglaw also had a distinguished military career. He joined the Canadian Army Militia with the Royal Westminster Regiment in 1989 and worked his way up to become the commanding officer of A Company. Beglaw served a tour of duty in Bosnia in 2002 with the multinational peacekeeping force.

Beglaw leaves behind a wife and two young children.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Sep 30 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto group hopes bringing medical examinations, police interviews and other key events in a child abuse case under one roof will make the inquiries easier for investigators as well as children.

The Child and Youth Advocacy Centre will provide the full range of services an abuse child requires. It means rather than visiting several agencies around the city, a child would be assigned a team of law enforcement, medical, and mental health professionals who would be in charge of the case.

The head of Boost Child Abuse Prevention

and Intervention, which runs and houses the centre, says the move will make it easier for children by letting them be interviewed about the abuse only once in a comfortable room at the centre.

Karyn Kennedy says that right now a child would be interviewed in a police station, often in the same room used to question offenders.

And she says the more relaxed a child is during the experience, the better the chance of a detailed statement to help investigators.

"One of the things that we really wanted to achieve was to reduce the trauma that children and families can experience going through a child abuse investigation and entering into the system," Kennedy said.

According to Kennedy, Toronto's 25-year-old protocol for joint police and child services investigations "eroded" over time, leaving the system fragmented and in need of restructuring.

"Over the years I've heard many kids and families talk about how if they had to do it over again, they would have never told because in some cases, the process of the investigation and prosecution can be more traumatic than the actual abuse was," she said.

Ideally, the new, refined approach to dealing with child abuse investigations will lead to better evidence and higher conviction rates, said Kennedy.

While there are more than 800 child and youth centres in the United States, there are only 15 in Canada.

The Zebra Child Protection Centre in Edmonton saw a rise in conviction rates from 25 per cent in 2001 to 86 per cent in 2008 after adopting the multi-disciplinary approach.

However, a Justice Department report suggests there is not enough evidence that proves the centres are responsible for higher conviction rates.

The results from the youth centre in Toronto are being tracked in a partnership with the University of Toronto and the Child Welfare Institute.

Authorities in Toronto deal with 1,500 child abuse cases every year.

Sep 30 2013

TORONTO - A preliminary inquiry has been set for next year for a Toronto police officer charged in the shooting death of a young man on a streetcar.

Cst. James Forcillo, 30, is charged with second-degree murder in the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim.

Yatim was shot multiple times and Tasered on an empty streetcar in July.

It was captured on surveillance and cell-phone video on which nine shots can be heard following shouts for him to drop a knife.

Forcillo was not in court today but his lawyers set dates for a preliminary inquiry, which is held to see if there is enough evidence to go to trial, for April, May and June of 2014.

OMAHA - Just over three years after being turned on to social media, Deputy Chief Peter Sloly is a global law enforcement leader in creating, sharing and exchanging information and ideas in virtual communities and networks.

Sloly was recognized for his leadership in this field with the Top Cop Award presented Sept. 25 at the eighth Social Media, the Internet & Law Enforcement (SMILE) conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

The award is presented to the law enforcement executive who is a risk-taker and pioneer in the promotion and use of social media in policing.

"I wanted to use my rank and role in the Toronto Police Service to enlighten and empower other officers to use social media to improve public safety," Sloly said.

"The Top Cop Award validates those efforts."

With Sloly at the helm, the Service launched its new social media platform and redesigned website two years ago. The new strategy allows the Service to enhance public safety, public service and public trust while improving internal communications and reaching out to an extensive audience.

LAWs Communications established the SMILE conference and the ConnectedCOPS Awards.

"When I ask myself what police executive has contributed the most to the progress of social media in policing, it's without doubt Deputy Chief Peter Sloly," said LAWs Communications principal Lauri Stevens.

"He was years ahead of just about any other police leader anywhere and more importantly he has a true understanding of the depth of what can be achieved with social media like no other leader, even today. He's a risk taker to be sure, but he leads by doing and with strong governance."

Stevens said she agreed wholeheartedly with Sloly being chosen as this year's award winner.

"Without his leadership, not only would the Toronto Police Service not be as advanced as it is today, but the world's policing community wouldn't have the role model that it has in TPS. The Service has proven to police executives worldwide that, when done with a proactive strategy, strong governance and training, the world does not come to an end when you hand a cop a smart phone and allow him or her to tweet."

All three accused in the so-called Surrey Six murder trial have pleaded not guilty as their long-awaited trial began this morning in BC Supreme Court in Vancouver.

Matthew Johnston, Cory Haevischer and Michael Le are charged with first degree murder in the deaths of four known gang members.

They are also charged in the deaths of

innocent bystanders Chris Mohan and Ed Schellenberg.

They were caught in the crossfire of an alleged gang turf war that left six people dead in a Surrey apartment in October of 2007.

The trial, before a judge alone, is expected to run for as much as one year.

Information from the trial is also subject to numerous far-reaching bans - meaning no release of details such as the name of a fourth man who pleaded guilty several years ago to second degree murder in the case.

VANCOUVER - The decades-long "war on drugs" has failed to curb the \$350-billion a year global trade in illicit drugs, says a new study by researchers in British Columbia and California.

Using statistics gathered by law enforcement and health authorities in the United States, Europe and Australia over a nearly 20-year period, the team from the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy tracked and compared the rate of drug seizures to indicators of availability for cocaine, opiates and cannabis.

Those numbers show that while the number of drug seizures has increased, the price of cocaine, cannabis and opiates like heroin has dropped.

At the same time, the purity and potency of those drugs has increased, said the study pub-

lished in the latest issue of the British Medical Journal "Open."

"These findings suggest that expanding efforts at controlling the global illegal drug market through law enforcement are failing," said the report that involved the University of British Columbia, the B.C. Centre for Excellence on HIV/AIDS and the Institute of the Americas at the University of California.

Based on statistics gathered by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, they found that the price of heroin in the U.S. dropped 81 per cent from 1990 to 2007, while the purity of cocaine seized by police increased by 60 per cent.

For cocaine, the price - adjusted for inflation and purity - dropped 80 per cent, and the purity increased by 11 per cent. For marijuana, price decreased 86 per cent and purity jumped by 161 per cent.

"The bottom line is that organized crime's efforts to succeed in these markets has flourished, and the criminal justice system's efforts to contain these markets has really been quite remarkably unsuccessful," Dr. Evan Wood, one of the report's authors and the Canada Research Chair in Inner City Medicine at UBC, said Monday.

Similar trends were noted in Europe and Australia.

Over the same period, the amount of drugs seized by law enforcement increased drastically, both in drug-producing countries like Afghanistan and Thailand and in western nations.

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“By every metric, the war on drugs has failed,” said Wood, adding that some estimates suggest more than \$1 trillion has been spent over the past 40 years on that war in North America alone.

The authors said they hope the study prompts authorities to re-examine drug control strategies that focus on supply reduction, over prevention and treatment.

Werner Antweiler, a professor of economics at the Sauder School of Business at UBC, has studied the illicit drug economy and said the study results are no surprise.

“The drug problem has not become less, but more,” Antweiler said.

As was the case with the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s and 30s, the illicit drug trade is so profitable and criminals will find a way to meet a continuing demand. The suppression of supply has only a temporary, local effect on the trade, he said.

“The problem is, ultimately, a demand-side issue,” Antweiler said. “What we need to do is treat it as a medical problem, and not a problem of controlling the production and distribution.”

Wood said there have been some encouraging changes in the United States and Europe.

“In Canada, with our federal government it oftentimes feels like things are going in the opposite direction but I think there’s just a growing recognition that we need to begin exploring alternatives and greater openness to do so,” he said.

Sep 30 2013

LONDON – A thief was caught not so much red-handed as green-faced in London after breaking into a car in that sprayed him with a liquid that glows emerald under ultraviolet light.

Yafet Askale, 28, denied entering the vehicle that police set up with a dye-trap in Harlesden, northwest London, to catch thieves in June.

But he was found guilty of stealing objects inside the car after police produced photos showing his face covered with the liquid, invisible under normal light.

Askale, from Harlesden, was sentenced to 49 hours of community service and ordered to pay 400 pounds (\$650) costs on Friday. Police released photos of Askale on Monday, warning they had set up similar traps in the area in cars and houses.

(Reuters)

Sep 30 2013

Calgary’s police service has received international recognition for using social media during the June floods to keep Calgarians informed.

The CPS was awarded the honour at a law enforcement social media conference called Connected Cops last week.

The city and police worked together to

get the word out during the floods and at one point the CPS twitter account exceeded the daily maximum number of tweets and was suspended for a time.

“Calgarians immediately rallied and lobbied Twitter to get our accounts back up and active,” said Digital Communication Team Lead Sean Stephenson. “They played a tremendous role in not only getting our account back up but also keeping the spirits of emergency responders high with their support, pictures, videos and incredible acts of kindness over Twitter and Facebook.”

The award was accepted on behalf of all partnering agencies and citizens who used social media to share vital information during the crisis.

(CTV Calgary)

**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 01, 2013**

Oct 01 2013

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A former RCMP corporal in Kamloops, B.C., has lost his legal battle against the force.

Grant Aune argued he was denied promotion to sergeant after his score on a performance test was underestimated.

He successfully filed a grievance in 1998 and the Mounties were ordered to create a performance report for the promotion board so Aune’s scores could be reviewed.

But two years later, with the issue still unresolved, Aune accepted a job with the Insurance Corporation of B.C. and left the force.

He launched court action against the Mounties but a B.C. Supreme Court judge has dismissed the claim, saying Aune left the force for a new job and failed to prove his departure was linked to negligence or the slow pace of the grievance.

Justice Hope Hyslop noted in her judgement that had Aune remained with the RCMP and won his suit, his damages would have amounted to \$402,000 for pension loss and loss of income.

(CHNL)

Oct 01 2013

EDMONTON - The National Parole Board says one of two men convicted in the deaths of four Alberta Mounties is bound to face public hostility when he is released from prison next month.

The board makes the point in a report outlining special conditions that Dennis Cheeseman must abide by when he gets out Nov. 19.

The conditions include getting psychological counselling to help cope with what’s expected to be a stressful return to the community.

Cheeseman and his brother-in-law, Shawn Hennessey, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for giving gunman James Roszko a rifle and a ride the night before Roszko ambushed the officers near Mayerthorpe in 2005.

Hennessey was sentenced to 10 years and four months and Cheeseman was handed seven years and two months.

Cheeseman cancelled a parole hearing set for earlier this year, opting to wait for automatic release after serving two-thirds of his sentence.

Oct 01 2013

PORT MOODY - After a brief stint teaming up with the Vancouver Police Department, Port Moody police are back partnering with Mounties and other municipal forces. On Sept. 23, Port Moody police announced it had joined the Lower Mainland District Emergency Response team.

In a statement, the department said the partnership brings with it a highly trained team of tactical officers, crisis negotiators and canine units capable of employing specialized weapons, equipment and tactics to resolve extremely high-risk situations. The ERT is comprised of members of the RCMP and New Westminster, Delta and Port Moody police forces.

Port Moody police have also rejoined the Lower Mainland Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, or IHIT.

The cost and terms of the agreement were not released. The department signed on with the VPD’s homicide team at the start of 2012, at a cost of \$150,000 a year.

(Tri-Cities Now)

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 02, 2013**

Oct 02 2013

GUELPH - A member of the Guelph Police Service has been charged with assault causing bodily harm stemming from an arrest last December in Guelph.

Cst. Corey McArthur, a 12-year veteran of the force, is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 15.

Police said in a press release that the charge stems from an allegation of unnecessary use of authority and excessive force during dating back to an arrest on Dec. 6, 2012.

An original complaint was filed with the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, and subsequently investigated by the Professional Standards Branch of the Guelph Police Service, where it was determined the complaint was “unsubstantiated,” said a Guelph Police press release.

The OIPRD is a provincial civilian agency that looks into public complaints against police in Ontario.

The complainant did not ask for a review of that decision but later laid private information with a Guelph justice of the peace. On Monday that justice of the peace issued a summons charging the officer with assault causing bodily harm.

The name of the complainant and details of the incident were also not released.

(Guelph Mercury)

Oct 02 2013

AMHERST, N.S. - A former police officer in Nova Scotia has been sentenced to six months in jail and a year of probation for taking marijuana from an evidence locker and stealing gas from a police station.

Joshua Wilfred Demers was serving with the Springhill police force at the time of the offences, which occurred over a four-month period from late 2010 into 2011.

Demers was sentenced on two counts of theft, two counts of drug possession and one count of breach of trust.

In delivering his sentence, provincial court Judge Paul Scovil said the theft from the evidence locker put the integrity of the justice system into question.

(ECFM)

Oct 02 2013

EDMONTON - Police should not be investigating police officers accused of wrongdoing, says Rod Knecht, chief of the Edmonton Police Service.

"I don't think the police should be investigating the police at all," he said.

This week CBC News told the story of former Edmonton police officer Derek Huff who says he saw fellow officers severely beat a suspected drug dealer in 2010.

That allegation is under investigation, but Huff said his complaint was ignored for more than two years and he was labelled a rat.

While Edmonton police deny a cover-up, Knecht says the optics are bad.

He has asked the province to take the responsibility for investigating their own officers away from the Edmonton Police Service.

In Ontario, the all-civilian Special Investigations Unit handles most serious complaints against police.

But Alberta Justice Minister Jonathon Denis says that might not work here.

"Different types of processes may work for different police forces in different parts of the country," he said.

Denis said he's considering Knecht's request, but it depends on whether other police forces will support it and the province can afford it.

(CBC News)

Oct 02 2013

HAMILTON, Ont. - The province's police watchdog says two Hamilton, Ont., police officers were justified in fatally shooting a man who ducked through his backyard fence to charge at them with a shovel.

The Special Investigations Unit says the first officer encountered 45-year-old Mladen (Steve) Mesic walking in traffic on the Lincoln Alexander Parkway the morning of June 7.

It says the officer tried to speak with Mesic but that he moved away, and both the initial officer and a second one who arrived on the

scene temporarily lost sight of him.

The SIU says the officers next heard banging sounds coming from the back of a townhouse they later learned was Mesic's own, and found him inside the property's fence trying to pry open a sliding door with a garden shovel.

It says Mesic then squeezed through a hole in the fence and rushed towards the officers wielding the garden shovel like a baseball bat, causing them to open fire when he was within swinging distance.

Oct 02 2013

CALGARY - Calgary's police chief Rick Hanson is calling for changes in federal legislation to allow for a DNA

sample to be collected once a person is arrested.

Rick Hanson says it might be new to Canada but police in some European countries have the power to take a DNA sample at the point of arrest.

Hanson understands civil rights activists won't be happy, but says there's a thousand reasons that people would say no and one reason to go ahead -because it's the right thing to do.

The chief says 80 years ago, fingerprints and mug shots were rolled out to make sure the right person was in front of the courts; today the new technology is DNA.

Hanson says it would clear huge numbers of crime where there is evidence, but it hasn't been linked to the perpetrator.

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“That’s how you positively identify that that person is who they say they are and how you link a person to the crime,” Hanson said. (CHQR)

Oct 02 2013

STEINBACH, Man. - Two Steinbach RCMP officers say they’re lucky to be alive after a run-in with a suspected drunk driver.

Cpl. Kyle McFadyen and Const. Rob French say they were out patrolling back roads near the community one night in September when they were struck broadside by a vehicle going highway speed.

Despite being injured, the officers jumped out of their cruiser and ran to the roadway to help the four people inside the car that hit them.

McFadyen says when he got there, he smelled alcohol.

He also says that rather than being grateful for the help, the driver started threatening him.

Once emergency crews arrived, the driver was arrested for impaired driving while the two officers and the other passengers were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

(Global Winnipeg)

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 03, 2013

Oct 03 2013

SAN FRANCISCO - FBI agents found him in the science fiction section of a small branch of the San Francisco public library, chatting online.

The man known as Dread Pirate Roberts - 29-year-old Ross William Ulbricht - was on his personal laptop Tuesday afternoon, authorities said, talking about the vast black market bazaar that is believed to have brokered more than \$1 billion in transactions for illegal drugs and services.

When a half-dozen FBI agents burst into the library in a quiet, blue collar neighbourhood they abruptly ended Ulbricht’s conversation with a co-operating witness, pinned the Austin, Texas, native to a floor-to-ceiling window and then took him off to jail, law enforcement and library spokeswomen said.

Ulbricht was later charged in criminal complaints in federal courts in New York and Maryland. He’s accused of making millions of dollars operating the secret Silk Road website and of a failed murder-for-hire scheme, all while living anonymously with two roommates whom he paid \$1,000 to rent a room in a modest neighbourhood.

Federal authorities shut down the website.

Ulbricht has not entered pleas to any of his charges. His federal public defender in San Francisco declined comment Wednesday.

Ulbricht is due back in San Francisco federal court Friday morning to discuss bail and his transfer to New York, where the bulk of

the charges have been filed.

He is charged in New York with being the mastermind of Silk Road, where users could browse anonymously through nearly 13,000 listings under categories like “Cannibus,” “Psychedelics” and “Stimulants.”

Ulbricht also is charged in Maryland with ordering first the torture, and then the murder, of an employee from an undercover agent. He feared the employee would expose his alias as Dread Pirate Roberts, a fictional character. Court records say he wired the agent \$80,000 after he was shown staged photos of the employee’s faked torture.

His arrest culminated a two-year-investigation that painstakingly followed a small trail of computer crumbs Ulbricht carelessly left for the FBI to find, according to court documents.

Ulbricht first came to the attention of federal agents in 2011 when they figured out he was “altoid,” someone who they say was marketing Silk Road on other drug-related websites the FBI was watching. In October 2011, “altoid” posted an advertisement for a computer expert with experience in Bitcoin, an electronic currency, and gave an email address.

From there, investigators began to monitor Ulbricht’s online behaviour closely, according to the court records. Investigators said Ulbricht was living within 500 feet of a San Francisco Internet cafe on June 3, 2013 when someone “logged into a server used to administer the Silk Road website.”

Court documents show investigators slowly connected Ulbricht to Silk Road by monitoring his email and picking up on some slipups, including using his real name to ask a programmers’ website a highly technical question about connecting to secret sites like Silk Road.

His final mistake, according to the court papers, was ordering fake identification documents from a Silk Road vendor from Canada.

One of the nine documents was a California driver’s license with Ulbricht’s photograph, birthdate but a different name. The package was intercepted at the border during a routine U.S. Customs search.

On July 26, Homeland Security investigators visited Ulbricht at his San Francisco residence. He “generally refused to answer questions,” the agents said.

The investigators left that day without arresting Ulbricht, who holds a bachelor’s of science degree in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas and a master’s degree from Penn State.

They returned Tuesday and arrested him at the library. He faces the prospect of life in prison if convicted of all the charges.

The Silk Road website protected users with an encryption technique called “onion routing,” which is designed to make it “practically impossible to physically locate the computers hosting or accessing websites on the

network,” court papers said.

As of July, there were nearly 1 million registered users of the site from the United States, Germany, Russia, Australia and elsewhere around the globe, the court papers said. The site generated an estimated \$1.2 billion since it started in 2011 and collected \$80 million by charging 8 to 15 per cent commission on each sale, they said.

Oct 03 2013

BRANDON, Man. - A Manitoba judge says a mandatory prison sentence for a bullying victim who lashed out against his abusers is excessive and harsh.

Queen’s Bench Justice John Menzies has overruled the federal guideline in the case of 21-year-old Bryce McMillan of Carberry, Manitoba.

He had pleaded guilty to reckless use of a firearm when he admitted to shooting a rifle into the home of a person he claims had been tormenting him.

Nobody was hurt in the September 2011 shooting, although two people were inside the residence at the time.

Menzies says sentencing McMillan to the mandatory four years - on top of the 18 months of house arrest he has already served - would violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

He sentenced McMillan instead to a year in jail and two years of supervised probation.

Menzies says mandatory minimum sentences aren’t intended to put a remorseful bullying victim behind bars with hardened criminals.

(CKLQ)

Oct 03 2013

MONTREAL - Quebec’s most powerful labour union has been rocked by allegations of corruption in its construction division over two days of testimony at a public inquiry.

A co-operative witness has described how Hells Angels sympathizers and men connected to the Italian Mafia infiltrated the FTQ labour union through its construction wing.

Ken Pereira says a senior adviser to the union’s president had complained that the construction arm let organized crime in and now the union leadership had to deal with the problem.

Pereira told in inquiry that union brass were aware that the former construction wing head Jocelyn Dupuis had ties to a reputed top-level figure in the Italian Mafia.

Pereira says he talked about it with Henri Masse, a longtime FTQ president who left the organization in 2007.

Pereira says that’s when the union president told him he’d been involved in a loan to Ronald Beaulieu, a man identified as a Hells Angels sympathizer.