TEWS WEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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NEWS WEEK

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Human smuggling from U.S. increasing

Nov 19 2013

OTTAWA - A newly declassified report says smugglers were caught trying to slip dramatically more people into Canada from the United States in 2011 compared with the previous year.

The binational report on border security says authorities apprehended 487 people as smugglers attempted to sneak them into Canada at unguarded points along the border - a 58 per cent increase over 2010.

At the same time, the number of people caught being spirited into the United States from Canada fell slightly during the same period to 360.

The figures on smuggling activity between official ports of entry appear in the 2012 Integrated Border Enforcement Team threat assessment report, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

An advocacy group for refugees attributes the surge in Canada-bound human smuggling attempts to an agreement between the countries that has prompted desperate refugees to turn to criminal groups willing to help them across the border.

Under the Safe Third Country agreement, which took effect in December 2004, Canada and the U.S. recognize each other as safe places for refugee claimants to seek protection.



The number of people apprehended by authorities in human smuggling operations from the United States to Canada in various border enforcement team regions in 2011 (2010 figures in brackets).

Yukon: 0 (0)

Pacific/Okanagan: 35 (11) Rocky Mountain: 5 (5)

Prairies: 0 (0)
Red River: 38 (16)
Superior: 0 (0)
Sault Ste. Marie: 0 (0)
Windsor/Detroit: 4 (0)
Niagara Frontier: 0 (5)
Thousand Islands: 8 (2)

Central St. Lawrence Valley: 5 (0)

Valleyfield: 15 (1) Champlain: 145 (126) Eastern: 232 (132) Atlantic: 0 (10)

Total: 487 (308)



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Nov 14 2013

MONTREAL - Montreal police have seized about 100 kilos of cocaine and 15 kilograms of crystal meth in a series of raids in Monteal and Longueuil.

Also seized in the four raids today were five gold bullion ingots and \$200,000.

Montreal police described the crystal meth seizure as a record.

Seven people - four men and three women - were arrested and police say more people may be rounded up because the investigation is not complete.

The raids stemmed from an investigation into what police describe as a major organized crime drug distribution network.

Nov 14 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP says it is testing a small number of body-worn video cameras on officers in New Brunswick.

The federal police force says the pilot project has been tried in the past in some urban centres and is now being further tested to assess its viability in the field.

The Mounties say while the video will assist the force in public transparency, the force recognizes there are complex privacy, legal and policy issues in relation to the technology.

Police also say they realize the storage and retention of the video recordings must be in line with court disclosure requirements and with police records management systems.

The force hasn't said how many devices will be used or where they will be deployed.

News Week

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FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Nov 15 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton police want more boots on the streets, including the additional 10 sergeants to act as supervisors.



Police officials consider sergeants to be valuable on the streets in coaching recruits, and ensuring laws, rules and procedures are followed.

In the 2014 proposed budget, EPS would receive about \$285 million, an increase of \$7.1 million from 2013.

The police department would like to see 35 positions created for 2014; 31 officers to be sworn in as operational officers and four to work as civilian officers. Police officials say the need for more officers can be attributed to the increase in the number of calls police receive.

"Crime isn't necessarily increasing in the city, but Edmontonians are hearing our message more," police spokeswoman Leila Daoud said.

"The message and t he campaign are getting through, and there are simply more people in the city. The population is growing so on any given day there are more people giving us a call and we want to be ready to answer those calls." Daoud said.

In addition to the 35 policing positions, police also hope to secure eight new prisoner transport jobs. Police officials say they plan to recruit 90 officers in 2014 to fill both new positions and replace retired officers. In 2013, the police department employed 2295.5 full-time equivalent staff.

City council will hold a public hearing on the 2014 budget on Nov. 25. Council budget deliberations are held during the first two weeks of December.

Nov 15 2013

WINNIPEG - The Manitoba government is cracking down on motorists who speed in construction zones.

The province is doing away with part of a law that says drivers only have to slow down when workers are present.

The province is also raising fines for speeding in construction zones, so that they are double regular speeding fines.

The changes were prompted in part by the death of construction worker Brittany Murray in 2010.

The driver who hit her was acquitted in part because he didn't see workers in the construction zone, and so did not reduce his speed.

Nov 15 2013

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police admit they took the "extraordinary measure" of paying for information from a man who ended up confessing to killing two aboriginal women - a confession the Crown says wouldn't have held up in court.

Supt. Danny Smyth said police were investigating a sex assault in 2012 and brought Shawn Lamb in for questioning. While he was being processed, Smyth said Lamb told police he knew where a body was.

After that, Smyth said Lamb clammed up. Lamb, who has a lengthy criminal record, said he would talk to police if they deposited some money into his prison canteen account, Smyth said. Police made three payments - \$1,500 in total - so Lamb would co-operate with investigators.

"This wouldn't be something we would do routinely," Smyth said Friday. "It's the first time in my knowledge that we've entered into this kind of tactic but we were prepared to take an extraordinary measure in this case."

In three subsequent police interviews, Lamb confessed to killing 25-year-old Carolyn Sinclair and 18-year-old Lorna Blacksmith and was charged with second-degree murder. On Thursday, the 54-year-old pleaded guilty to two lesser charges of manslaughter, after the Crown admitted his police confession likely wouldn't have been admissible in court.

A judge approved a jointly recommended sentence of 20 years in jail. Lamb can apply for parole in nine years.

Court heard Thursday that both women were killed in Lamb's apartment in 2012 after they had smoked crack cocaine. Their bodies were found wrapped in plastic and dumped in back alleys.

Defence lawyer Martin Glazer and the Crown told court Lamb's confession likely wouldn't have been admissible in court and without his confession - police had little forensic evidence for a conviction.

Police consulted prosecutors before making the payments to Lamb and did talk about how the payment might be seen as an "inducement," Smyth said.

"We agreed to pay so we could have access to Mr. Lamb. That was the only way he would agree to be interviewed," Smyth said. "In this case, the investigators explored all available options in the interests of justice and public safety."

Nov 15 2013

BARRIE, Ont. - A central Ontario police officer who viciously beat a man at a shopping mall and then tried to frame him has resigned from the police force in Barrie, Ont.

Jason Nevill was convicted in June of assault causing bodily harm, attempting to

obstruct justice and fabricating evidence, and sentenced last month to a year in jail.

Nevill had been suspended without pay and was to face a Police Services Act hearing on allegations of unnecessary use of authority, deceit, and discreditable conduct.

Chief Kimberley Greenwood says Nevill tendered his letter of resignation late Thursday and she accepted it, effective immediately.

Jason Stern was beaten after a friend broke a Christmas ornament, and Nevill initially maintained Stern was intoxicated and had attacked him with intent to resist arrest at a mall in November 2010.

The charges against Stern were dropped after video surveillance emerged showing Nevill attacking him without provocation, and beating him even after handcuffing him, leaving a pool of blood.

In addition to the year in jail, Ontario court Judge Lorne Chester also sentenced Nevill to one year on probation.

In convicting Nevill, Chester called the officer's use of force "excessive" from the outset, noting that Stern was "rag-dolled" by the burly constable.

Following Nevill's sentencing, Greenwood called Nevill's conduct "unacceptable," and a betrayal of her police force's sworn oath and principles, saying he'd "tainted the image" of the Barrie Police Service.

Stern is suing Nevill and the mall for \$1 million, arguing he sustained permanent physical and emotional injuries from the beating.

Nov 15 2013

VANCOUVER - The B.C. Coroners Service says it will hold a public inquest into the death of a man who was found unresponsive in an RCMP jail cell on Boxing Day two years ago.

Surinder Singh Mahli was transported to hospital on Dec. 26, 2011, after he was found unresponsive in an RCMP lockup cell in Surrey.

Mahli, who was 58, died four days later at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

Coroner Margaret Janzen will oversee a coroners jury, which will hear evidence over four days beginning Jan. 20 of next year.

Nov 15 2013

VANCOUVER - A coroner's jury looking into the death of Angus Mitchell has recommended that the Health Ministry consider allowing people to force a mentally ill family member to undergo a psychiatric assessment.

Mitchell was killed in May 2012 in a shootout with police officers who tracked him down after he killed two people and injured a third

The inquest heard that Mitchell had a history of mental illness and substance abuse, but that wasn't disclosed when he applied for a firearms licence.

Even when Mitchell was arrested under the Mental Health Act for walking into a doctor's clinic with a rifle, he was discharged and given the gun back that he later used to shoot his victims.

Mitchell's father told the inquest that he tried to get his son psychiatric help, but he was told he couldn't be forced to do a psychiatric assessment unless it was ordered by the court.

Among the jury's seven recommendations are that there be thorough reporting for an arrest under the Mental Health Act that include firearms, that those applying for a gun licence include a consent for releasing medical information, and the police database be unified to allow access to officers across the province.

Nov 15 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer has been cleared on a misconduct charge arising from the detention of a cyclist during the weekend of the tumultuous G20 summit in June 2010.

A Police Services Act disciplinary hearing officer found Cst. Ryan Simpson acted reasonably and legally in stopping, handcuffing, searching and placing Nicholas Wright in the back of a cruiser.

The ruling released Friday says Wright matched the description of people who had broken windows and set fires during protests the previous day.

It also notes that Wright was carrying a metal container in his backpack, and calls the use of handcuffs reasonable until the backpack was searched.

The decision says Wright, who was released after about 19 minutes, was detained but not placed under arrest while the backpack was searched.

Wright says the decision is one more example of the failure to hold politicians and police responsible for what he terms "widespread unconstitutional mass arrests" carried out during the G20 summit.

SUNDAYNOVEMBER 17, 2013



Nov 17 2013

BRAMPTON – Detectives with Peel Regional Police's 21 Division in Bramalea have been recognized as outstanding investigators for their part cracking down on a gang of mail thieves earlier this year.

The 21 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau officers received the Investigative Partnership Award from the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI) Thursday.

In December 2012, an investigative project team named Project Copper Creek was formed with members representing Peel Regional Police 21 and 11 Division Criminal Investigations Bureaus, Peel Intelligence,

Canadian Border Services and Canada Post Investigators. Investigators from 21 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau took the lead on the investigation and co-ordinated information obtained from all involved agencies.

Throughout the investigation, Peel investigators collaborated with representatives from Durham Regional Police, Canada Border Services, T.D. Bank Group, Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and ING Direct.

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013, a series of search warrants were conducted on four residences in the Toronto area resulting in the arrest of six individuals. A quantity of stolen mail was recovered along with several thousand dollars' worth of jewelry and other property that was seized as proceeds of crime. 100 charges were laid against the six individuals, ranging from theft of mail, possession of stolen property, fraud and mischief.

Project Copper Creek was nominated by Canada Post for an Investigation of the Year Award and was then selected to receive the Investigative Partnership Award by the IAFCI.

"The success of Project Copper Creek is a testament to the hard work of our investigative team and an excellent example of what can be accomplished when we work in partnership with other agencies," said Peel Supt. Kim Whyte.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Nov 18 2013

LONDON - Google and Microsoft have introduced software that makes it harder for users to search for child abuse material online, the companies said in a joint announcement Monday.

Writing ahead of a British summit on Internet safety, Google's executive chairman Eric Schmidt said his company has fine-tuned Google Search to clean up results for over 100,000 search terms.

When users type in queries that may be related to child sexual abuse, they will find no results that link to illegal content.

"We will soon roll out these changes in more than 150 languages, so the impact will be truly global," Schmidt wrote in the Daily Mail newspaper.

The restrictions are being launched in Britain and other English-speaking countries first. Similar changes are being brought out on Microsoft's Bing search engine.

The two companies are sharing picture detection technology to identify child abuse photographs whenever they appear on their systems, and Google is also testing technology to identify and remove illegal videos.

Other measures include warnings shown at the top of Google search for more than 13,000 queries to make it clear that child abuse is illegal.

Schmidt acknowledged that no algorithm is perfect and Google cannot prevent pedophiles adding new images to the web.

Campaigners welcomed the move but doubted how much impact the changes would bring. Pedophiles tend to share images away from the public search engines, they say.

"They don't go on to Google to search for images," said Jim Gamble, the former chief of Britain's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Center. "They go on to the dark corners of the Internet on peer-to-peer websites."

Nov 18 2013

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog is probing the circumstances surrounding the shooting death of a 22-year-old man in Oakville.

The Special Investigations Unit says police were called to a residence in the town west of Toronto at about 10:45 p.m. Sunday and found a man sitting in a vehicle nearby.

The SIU says the man got out of the vehicle and there was an interaction with the officers, who discharged their firearms.

The man was struck by a gunshot and was pronounced dead shortly after midnight.

The SIU has assigned seven investigators and four forensic investigators to the incident and anyone with information regarding the case is asked to contact the agency.

Nov 18 2013

WINNIPEG - Manitoba schools will be required to hold at least one lockdown drill every semester.

The provincial government is mandating the practice lockdowns on top of 10 fire drills that must be held each year.

Education Minister James Allum says everyone inside a school must remain in secure rooms during lockdowns.

Schools will also be required to review their emergency response plans every year.

Allum says although violence in schools is rare, lockdown drills ensure staff and students know what to do in an emergency.

Nov 18 2013

EDMONTON - The families of four Alberta Mounties gunned down in 2005 are reflecting as one of the two men convicted in the deaths gets out of prison.

Dennis Cheeseman's statutory release date is Tuesday after serving two-thirds of a sevenyear, two-month, 15-day sentence for manslaughter. But a source said his release would come one day earlier.

Colleen Myrol, mother of slain Cst. Brock Myrol, said she hopes that Cheeseman, 29, will turn his life around.

She said she wants to forgive him, but she can't just yet.

"I am compelled to forgive, because that is what I believe as a Christian; however, I can't forget," Myrol said from her home in Red Deer, Alta.

"I would like him to come to my door and

knock on it and sit down and talk to me. To forgive, someone has to ask for forgiveness."

Cheeseman and his brother-in-law, Shawn Hennessey, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for giving James Roszko a rifle and a ride the night before Roszko ambushed the RCMP officers on March 3, 2005, near the town of Mayerthorpe.

The Mounties had been guarding a hut on Roszko's farm as part of a marijuana grow-op and automobile chop-shop investigation.

Roszko was shot and wounded by another Mountie and then killed himself.

Rev. Don Schiemann, father of Cst. Peter Schiemann, said he wishes Cheeseman well.

"I don't harbour any bitterness or hatred toward him. To do so would mean to succumb to the same vile motivations which drove James Roszko to ambush and murder those now known as the Fallen Four," Schiemann wrote in an email.

"Rather, I look to the example of our Lord who prayed for those who crucified him: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Schiemann is president of the Alberta-British Columbia district of Lutheran Church-Canada.

The other Mounties who died that day were constables Anthony Gordon and Leo Johnston

Doreen Jewell-Duffy, Gordon's mother, said it is hard to believe that Cheeseman will be free to live his life when all that is left to her are memories of her son.

"It is just that he gets to go home and my son will never come home," she said from her home in central Alberta. "He should serve his years the court had given him."

Grace Johnston, constable Johnston's mother, wrote a personal message to Cheeseman to express her feelings about his release.

"Dennis, I hope you realize how fortunate you are to have, in such a short time, your freedom back, even if it is temporarily restrictive," she wrote from her home in Lac La Biche.

"I also hope that you never forget that you caused so much pain and loss to so many that will never go away by you being a big part in taking the freedom, the life, of our son, a brother, an uncle, from us forever."

Hennessey, 34, the other man who pleaded guilty to the crime, was sentenced to 10 years and four months. He applied for early parole from Grande Cache Institution last year, but was denied. His statutory release date is Dec. 29, 2015.

Cheeseman had applied for parole in 2011 while at Drumheller Institution, but was also denied. Earlier this year, he cancelled another parole hearing and opted instead to wait for automatic release.

A National Parole Board report earlier this year said Cheeseman, who is from the Barrhead area northwest of Edmonton, is bound to face public hostility when he gets out.

The report said Cheeseman was a model prison inmate, attending school and working as a cleaner. It said he didn't have a job lined up but plans to live with a relative until he can get his own place.

Cheeseman's sister Christine is married to Hennessey. Messages left at her home were not returned.

Cheeseman is to get psychological counselling and abstain from drugs and alcohol. He is not to associate with criminals. The conditions remain in effect until his entire sentence expires on April 13, 2016.

Nov 18 2013

VANCOUVER - A B.C. lawyer who admitted to feeding information to a violent gang in the North Okanagan has had his sentence increased to two-anda-half years.

The B.C. Court of Appeal says the oneyear sentence originally handed to William Mastop was too lenient.

Mastop, a lawyer in Vernon, B.C., pleaded guilty to passing along information about police activities, such as search warrant documents, to a gang known as The Greeks.

Court heard he also tracked down drug runners who had been arrested or who had talked to the police and took members of the gang to a local gun club as his guests to practise shooting.

In a unanimous decision from the Appeal Court, Justice Sunni Stromberg-Stein says the one-year sentence originally handed to Mastop was unfit and failed to reflect the gravity of his crimes.



Stromberg-Stein says Mastop abused a position of trust, and he passed along information knowing his actions could cause harm, including to confidential police informants.

Nov 18 2013

LAVAL, Que. - A scandal-plagued community north of Montreal will no longer be subject to government trusteeship and will be able to resume making its own decisions next month.

Laval was placed under trusteeship in June following testimony at Quebec's corruption inquiry alleged that almost every sitting councillor took part in illegal party financing.

The city is the third largest in Quebec and ranks No. 13 in Canada.

Its political class has been hit hard as of late - the city had three mayors in the span of a year, with two of them resigning in disgrace.

Long-serving mayor Guy Vaillancourt is facing gangsterism charges while Alexandre Duplessis was forced to resign over a controversy involving an escort, among other scandals.

A Quebec municipal commission said in a statement today that the decision to lift the trusteeship is based on the openness, collaboration and rigour of newly elected officials.

Nov 18 2013

OTTAWA - Technology originally developed for the U.S. military in Iraq that automatically detects threatening objects on vehicle undercarriages could be available for use on Parliament Hill by the end of March.

It will be the first time the RCMP has installed an "automatic under vehicle inspection system" in the National Capital Region, and the first use of Virginia-based Gatekeeper Security's industry-leading technology in Canada.

The RCMP plans to buy three of the hightech inspection units, which list for about \$100,000 each. They'll be installed below grade in each of the three lanes of the Parliament Hill vehicle screening facility.

The RCMP issued an advance contract award notice for the system last week. The proposed contractor is US Testing Equipment Ltd., a Washington state firm that is the exclusive provider of Gatekeeper technology in Canada.

Other firms have until Nov. 22 to bid on the contract if they can demonstrate the required capabilities. But the tender specifications appear to have been drawn up with Gatekeeper's product - which the company describes as "the only fully automatic under vehicle inspection system in the world today"— in mind.

Moreover, Public Works and Government Services Canada said Gatekeeper's product is "guaranteed interchangeable" with the current licence plate recognition system used by the RCMP on Parliament Hill.

"This will allow the RCMP to match the

licence plate and car information to the vehicle's underside provided by the inspection system, all with time stamping," Public Works said in an email.

As vehicles pass over dual-view scanners running at 300 frames a second, Gatekeeper's system scans and compiles two high-resolution, virtual 3D digital images to create the vehicle's "fingerprint."

It takes only two-to-three seconds for Gatekeeper's software to compare the vehicle's undercarriage to that of a safe vehicle stored in the database and display both on a screen.

According to the company, the system then immediately identifies any threatening foreign objects or modifications by circling them with a red ring and activating an audio or visual alarm.

It can perform this analysis on vehicles travelling up to 35 kilometres an hour. "Vehicles can either crawl over them, stop on top, or just rip across. It doesn't make any difference to the image quality," Gatekeeper CEO Christopher Millar said in an interview.

Though this will be the first Gatekeeper system installed in Canada, Millar said the company is "working on three transactions that are quite large in Canada." He declined to identify the prospective buyers.

Nov 18 2013

OTTAWA - The flags at Ottawa police headquarters were flown at half-mast Monday to honour the 32-year-old constable killed Sunday in a car crash on his way to work.

Cst. Mike Robillard, an East Division

district investigator who was a husband and father, was on his way to a night shift when the Honda he was driving collided with a Dodge Caravan on 8th Line Road, south of Parkway Road just after 3:30 p.m.



The officer who proudly wore badge No. 2137 was trapped in his car and pronounced dead at the scene, just east of the village of Greely.

A woman and a seven-year-old girl in the van were taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

A short time after the crash, Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau went to the scene in plain clothes.

The scene of the crash was a tough one for responding police officers, who, working out of East Division, were Robillard's colleagues.

As the news of his death spread, officers posted pictures on social media of a badge tied with a black ribbon, which symbolizes the mourning of a fallen officer.

Robillard transferred to the Ottawa police

from the Cornwall police about four years ago. Members of the Ottawa police told the Citizen that Robillard was a respected and well-liked officer

In a statement issued late Sunday, Bordeleau offered his sympathy to Robillard's family.

"All members of our Service mourn his loss," Bordeleau said.

The Ottawa Police Service Collision Investigations Unit is investigating the crash. (Ottawa Citizen)

Nov 18 2013

CALGARY - A black Labrador retriever named Hawk has joined the Calgary Police Service to help support witnesses and victims of crime.



The three-year-old canine's job as a socalled trauma dog is to calm people and encourage them to open up to investigators.

His primary handler, Sgt. Brent Hutt, says Hawk has already been a big help since he joined the police service in October.

Hawk was raised and trained by the Pacific Assistance Dog Society.

The group provides canine assistance to people in Western Canada who have disabilities. Hawk is believed to be only the third trauma dog in Canada.

Nov 18 2013

EDMONTON - An RCMP officer was found not guilty Monday of assault for releasing his police dog on a suspect in May 2010.

Cpl. Stephen Clayton Prior, 34, was acquitted in a St. Paul Aon charges of assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon.

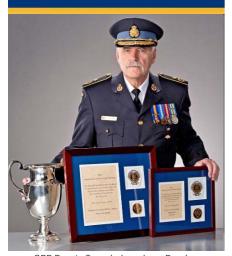
The charges were laid in May 2011, a year after Prior helped Elk Point RCMP execute a search warrant at a home on the Frog Lake First Nation.

A man received puncture wounds during the search and later filed a complaint with the RCMP.

Prior was charged after an investigation by an independent RCMP investigator, based on a recommendation by Alberta Justice. Prior was moved to administrative duties once the charges were laid against him.

Prior was a 10-year veteran of the RCMP and a five-year member of the canine unit at the time the charges were laid. (Edmonton Journal)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2013



OPP Deputy Commissioner Larry Beechey

Nov 19 2013

ORILLIA, ON, Nov. 19, 2013 /CNW/-The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has been awarded three prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) awards for its commitment to traffic Safety on Ontario roadways.

The National Law Enforcement Challenge (NLEC) is a traffic safety awards program issued by the IACP that recognizes excellence in law enforcement traffic safety programs. It provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to make a difference in the communities they serve and allows agencies to learn from one another and establish future goals in traffic safety enforcement and education.

The OPP won in the following three NLEC award categories:

First place in the "International Agencies" category.

"Speed Awareness". The OPP won this award for its commitment to preventing injuries and deaths on its roadways, using a holistic approach that includes high visibility enforcement, public awareness, intelligenceled strategies and extensive media coverage.

The "Clayton J. Hall Award" which is presented to the law enforcement agency that submits the most comprehensive traffic safety program in the competition.

"I am extremely proud to be part of a policing organization that has been recognized internationally for its exemplary traffic safety and enforcement programs. These awards speak to the OPP's leadership and professionalism in traffic safety and I would like to thank our members for their ongoing dedication and innovative approach to saving lives and reducing injuries on Ontario Roads," said OPP Deputy Commissioner Larry Beechey, Provincial Commander, Traffic Safety and Operational Support.

Nov 19 2013

EDMONTON - An RCMP officer says he should have handled the case differently of a northern Alberta woman who called 911 and was later killed by her boyfriend.

Cst. Devon Bateman says the 911 operator didn't pass on important information about the call from Brenda Moreside in High Prairie in 2005.

He told the inquiry into Moreside's death that it sounded like a mischief complaint, not domestic violence.

He also admits that as a junior officer in High Prairie, his inexperience caused him not to ask Brenda Moreside more questions, including whether she wanted to go to a women's shelter.

He says he should have done a criminal record check on the boyfriend and made the two-minute drive to the house to help resolve the dispute.

The inquiry has heard that Moreside called 911 because her boyfriend had broken a window and she didn't want him in the home.

The officer has testified that he called Moreside to talk about her concerns over the window but determined Stanley Willier couldn't be charged or removed from the home.

He says he now understands destruction of property in a relationship does constitute domestic violence.



Nov 19 2013

MONTREAL - Quebec provincial police say they underestimated the threat level at a student demonstration that turned into a riot last year.

Marcel Savard, the force's assistant director, told a commission looking into the student protests of 2012 that police underestimated demonstrators outside a provincial Liberal meeting in May 2012.

He also confirmed fences erected to keep demonstrators away from the gathering in the central Quebec town of Victoriaville were inadequate and there was a breakdown in the communication of intelligence information.

Savard said police have learned valuable lessons from the experience.

He said maintaining the peace is a shared responsibility between police and demonstrators and that such weapons as rubber bullets were not used indiscriminately.

Students protested last year in opposition to tuition fee increases imposed by the provincial government, which argued fees had not been raised in years. Many demonstrations were held in Montreal and some of them turned violent.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Nov 20 2013

WINNIPEG - Tighter rules and greater control are coming for people who enter Manitoba's witness-protection program.

Justice Minister Andrew Swan has introduced amendments to the province's 2009 Witness Security Act.

Swan says most of the people who enter the program have been involved in crime, or have close ties to an organized crime group such as the Hells Angels. He says under the proposed changes, witnesses who continue to be involved in crime while in the program would see a cut their payments.

The amendments would also create a witness security officer who would investigate applicants and manage protective services offered to witnesses.

Manitoba was the first province in Canada to put a witness-protection program in place and since its 2002 inception, more than 400 witnesses and family members have participated. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Nov 20 2013

TORONTO - Ontario estimates the cost of security for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto will be at least \$206 million, while transportation costs are budgeted at up to \$90 million.

Provincial officials say that will put the total bill for the Toronto games at \$2.5 billion, a figure that could go even higher as actual security costs come in.

But they say security will be only a

fraction of the nearly \$900 million spent at the Vancouver Olympics because there is a lower risk profile for the Pan Am Games and not nearly as many so-called high profile targets.

There may be dedicated "priority lanes" on Toronto area highways to make sure the athletes can get to and from events, but officials say it's possible they would be implemented only when traffic is congested, not for the entire games.

All three levels of government are helping fund the games, but Tourism and Sport Minister Michael Chan confirms Ontario is on the hook for any cost overruns.

However, Chan says everything so far is on time and on budget, and he's confident the games will come in the same way.

Nov 20 2013

FREDERICTON - New Brunswick's Opposition Liberals are calling for an independent review of inspection policies after police found a marijuana grow operation in the basement of a special care seniors home.

The discovery was made last Friday following a fire at the home in Clarks Corner, and police say they seized 550 marijuana plants and marijuana growing equipment.

All the residents of the home were safely evacuated.

Social Development Minister Madeleine Dube says she can't comment on that specific case while it's under investigation.

But Dube says there is a rigorous set of inspections that are done, including random spot checks, of special care homes for seniors.

She says her department will look to see if improvements can be made.

Jan Seely, president of the New Brunswick Special Care Home Association, says the current inspection system is adequate and that she is surprised that a marijuana growing operation could go undetected.

Nov 20 2013

COLD LAKE, Alta. - A Mountie posted to a community in northeastern Alberta has been charged with assault.

RCMP say Cst. Chad McRae of the Cold Lake detachment was charged over an arrest made on Sept. 21, 2012.

A video of an arrest in the Cold Lake area taken at the time shows a Mountie kicking a handcuffed man in the face.

The video of Richard Claybert, who is hearing impaired, was uploaded to YouTube.

At the time RCMP said the video didn't show that the giant of a man was drunk and had been taunting officers and flexing his muscles for a fight. Police say McRae remains on duty and is to appear in Cold Lake provincial court on Jan. 8.

RCMP said in 2012 that Claybert repeatedly refused to leave a rowdy party and, when told he was under arrest, wouldn't get down on the ground.

Officers struck him in the leg with a baton but he didn't flinch.

After officers doused him with pepper spray, Claybert voluntarily got down on the ground on his stomach.

RCMP said officers had to use two sets of handcuffs on the 300-pound man.

At the time police called the kick a "stun technique."

Claybert was taken into custody and released a few hours later.

Nov 20 2013

OTTAWA - The Conservative government has introduced legislation that would make it illegal to distribute "intimate images" without consent and to make it easier to take such images off the Internet.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney announced the bill after question period today.

If passed, the legislation would also empower courts to seize computers, cellphones and other devices used in the offence and provide for reimbursement of costs related to removing the images from the Internet

MacKay says the legislation is part of the government's commitment to help put an end to online exploitation and harassment.

He says it's clear that cyberbullying and online harassment can destroy lives, and that the government has an obligation to make the penalties and consequences more serious for perpetrators.

MacKay says Canadians have been touched by the deaths of a number of teens



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tormented by online bullies, including 15-yearold Todd Loik, a Saskatchewan high school student.

Nov 20 2013

Essex OPP are investigating an accident in the eastbound lanes of Highway 401 in which two Chatham-Kent police officers were injured.

The accident occurred Wednesday around 6:30 p.m. The two police officers were conducting a motor vehicle stop when an eastbound tractor-trailer slammed into the rear of the cruiser.

One of the officers was reportedly transported to Windsor hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The other officer was treated at the scene.

Essex OPP were investigating the crash. (Windsor Star)

Nov 20 2013

VANCOUVER - The British Columbia government is promising immediate action to help some of the province's most difficult patients, those with both mental illnesses and severe drug addictions.

However, the \$20-million plan appears to be far from what Vancouver's mayor and police chief called for two months ago, when they pleaded for help to curb what was described as a mental health crisis on the city's streets.

Health Minister Terry Lake said Wednesday that over the next four months, the province will establish a nine-to-12-bed psychiatric assessment and stabilization unit at St. Paul's Hospital, which sees the majority of Vancouver's psychiatric emergencies because its closest to the impoverished Downtown Eastside.

"It was clear that there are gaps in some very hard-to-serve people that tend to concentrate in certain areas - the Downtown Eastside being one of them - that weren't having their needs met because they are a very difficult population to serve," Lake told reporters.

"This is a very collaborative effort to focus resources to deal with that very vulnerable part of our population and to consider the safety and security of citizens."

The program also includes better information-sharing between health authorities and police departments, two new outreach teams to serve people in the Downtown Eastside, and two more Assertive Community Treatment Teams - or ACT teams, which consist of psychiatrists, nurses, addiction counsellors and social workers who treat the mentally ill.

The plan also incorporates what Lake said are broader goals, such as establishing a new six-bed inpatient facility and five new group homes, and investing \$750,000 annually in services for homeless youth.

Lake's announcement partially addresses an appeal by Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and Police Chief Jim Chu asking the province for help with a growing crisis of random attacks on the streets, police call outs, and emergency room visits involving those with severe mental illnesses.

It's the third time in five years that the Vancouver Police Department has asked for help, despite the B.C. government pouring millions of dollars into mental health and addiction services and supportive housing every year.

Chu said then that 21 per cent of city police's calls involve someone who is mentally ill, and St. Paul's Hospital has seen a 43 per cent spike over three years in patients with severe mental health or addictions problems.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Nov 21 2013

WINNIPEG - The books have quietly closed on a massive RCMP undercover operation in Manitoba that mostly targeted members of the feared Rock Machine biker club.



Eleven suspects were nabbed by the Mounties earlier this year under Project Dilemma, which saw a Rock Machine associate paid about \$400,000 to infiltrate the gang and report on their activities.

More than 70 years in prison were doled out among the suspects, who did not fight their charges at trial.

The last person to be sentenced was Teagveer Gill, a 29-year-old man who was handed a five-year stint last Friday for his role in two cocaine deals between the paid police agent and another person.

The RCMP drug section investigation began in September 2012, and also involved wiretaps and extensive surveillance.

Court documents revealed that in 2011, the gang got into a heated biker war in Winnipeg with the Hells Angels and an associated club, which prompted shootings, fire bombings and other acts of violence. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Nov 21 2013

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will hear an appeal in a case where an Ontario manslaughter conviction was overturned because of a lack of aboriginal jurors.

The Ontario Court of Appeal found the absence of aboriginals on the jury violated

Clifford Kokopenace's constitutional rights, and threw out his 2008 conviction.

The appeal justices ruled in a split decision last spring that the province had long known of the problem of aboriginal underrepresentation on juries but did little to address the issue.

In 2011, the Appeal Court upheld the manslaughter conviction as reasonable, but put the ruling on hold pending the outcome of the constitutional fight over the composition of the jury.

The years-long under-representation of aboriginals came to light at coroner's inquests in northern Ontario into the 2007 deaths of two aboriginals.

As usual, the Supreme Court gave no reasons Thursday for deciding to hear the case.

Kokopenace was convicted in 2008 of stabbing a friend to death on the Grassy Narrows reserve in northwestern Ontario.

In 2008, the jury roll for Kenora, where he was tried, comprised 699 potential jurors of whom only 29 or 4.1 per cent were onreserve residents even though First Nation residents represented about 33 per cent of the district population.

"The integrity of the process was fundamentally compromised by the inattention paid by the state to a known and worsening problem, year after year," the appeal court said in its ruling.

"What the state knew or ought to have known was considerable; what the state did in response was very little."

Nov 21 2013

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada will hear a Quebec government appeal to preserve data from the federal long-gun registry

Quebec asked the court to hear the case after losing at the Quebec Court of Appeal last summer.

The province wants to force Ottawa to keep data related to the federal long-gun registry and wants police forces to continue to have access to the information.

Opponents of the registry, which was scrapped in 2012, say it is wasteful and irrelevant in stopping crime, while some police organizations call it a valuable lawenforcement tool.

Quebec wants the data to support its own registry, say it would cost too much to start a new one.

As usual, the justices gave no reasons for deciding to hear the appeal.

Nov 21 2013

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - Charges of accessing and possessing child pornography have been stayed in a Prince George, B.C., courtroom after a B.C. Supreme Court Justice found police lacked sufficient information to search the suspect's home.

In his reasons for judgment issued this week, Justice Ian Meiklem agreed with defence counsel's argument that police acted

on an effectively anonymous tip and lacked the corroboration to meet the threshold for reasonable and probable grounds to search the man's home.

As a result, Meiklem concluded the charter rights of the accused were breached and any evidence found at the scene could not be admitted into the trial. The charges were stayed on Monday.

According to Meiklem's ruling, Prince George RCMP had acted on information from the Vancouver Police Department, who in turn had received a tip on May 1, 2008 from a complainant who had been on a gay chat site when a person with the handle "zapattack" told him a 14-year-old boy was available for sale for sex and was staying at a downtown Vancouver hotel.

The complainant relayed the information to a VPD dispatcher but a search of hotels in the area failed to turn up the boy. However, the email address associated with the handle was traced back to the accused's address in Prince George and was used on the day in question

Prince George RCMP subsequently obtained a search warrant and seized evidence from the home on July 4, 2008.

Details on what police found was not provided in the ruling but in addition to the child porn charges, the man was also charged with unsafe storage of a firearm and possession of a prohibited weapon without a licence.

Meiklem noted that none of the offences facing the accused were related to the May incident. Rather, he was charged with accessing child pornography between June 1 and July 2, 2008 and the three other charges were dated July 4, 2008.

Although the complainant gave his name to the VPD, defence counsel argued that the call was "analogous to a Crime Stoppers tip and, absent any corroboration, does not meet the threshold of reasonable and probable grounds to believe."

Meiklem agreed, noting that, although the complainant identified himself, he would not provide a written statement or become further involved.

"Plausible excuse or not, this is tantamount to remaining anonymous," Meiklem said and went on to say there was no further evidence to show "zapattack" had visited the chat site on the date in question "or any other specific date."

Once the investigation's focus shifted from searching for the boy to tracking down the identity of "zapattack," Meiklem said there is no evidence police asked the complainant to provide a copy of his own computer records and the complainant could have done so without compromising his confidentiality and providing a written statement.

"One wonders how the evidence is expected to be on the accused's computer if it is not on the complainant's," Meiklem said. (Prince George Citizen)

Nov 21 2013

WINNIPEG - There will be no independent investigation into how the Winnipeg police headquarters budget went \$76 million over budget.

A move on the floor of council Wednesday to have an independent audit of the project ran into stiff opposition from Mayor Sam Katz and members of his executive policy committee.

Councillors Paula Havixbeck and Jenny Gerbasi proposed the audit, arguing too many questions remain unanswered surrounding a project that now has a price tag of \$211 million.

But Katz and his six-member EPC killed the move, with help from speaker Devi Sharma and deputy speaker Thomas Steen.

"I would have thought that given the gravity of the situation, given the information we've had, an audit would be the obvious thing to do," Gerbasi said following the vote. "I'm very disheartened that the mayor's EPC pulled together and they had the votes to stop an audit from going forward."

Havixbeck and Gerbasi said council remains in the dark about who made key decisions, why, when and who else was aware of the situation.

"Council must learn from its mistakes and steps must be taken to ensure such mistakes are not repeated," Gerbasi said. The audit "would identify more clearly who can be held accountable and how we got to this point."

Katz said those calling for an audit only had to read the latest administrative report, which itemized the cost overruns. He added cost overruns are common on major projects and are no reason for an investigative audit. Wyatt seemed content to blame the mess from the headquarters project on former CAO Phil Sheegl. While not naming Sheegl, Wyatt said the individual behind the mess was the same one responsible for the fire-paramedic station controversy.

The audit in that case concluded Sheegl was responsible for much of the oversight.

While Wyatt acknowledged the management of the police project was the result of incompetence at the highest level, he said since the same person had already been dealt with — members of EPC forced Sheegl to quit days before the magnitude of the overruns on the police project were made public — there would be no point in holding an audit.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Nov 21 2013

MONTREAL - Quebec police say they've arrested 28 men in a sweeping crack-down on online juvenile pornography.

Most of the suspects have already appeared in court on several charges, including possession, distribution and production of child pornography.

Lt. Jean Lafreniere told a news conference in Montreal today that some suspects may be charged with sexual assault. Police allege a five-year-old boy was the victim of one of the accused.

Authorities have seized 28 computers and filed 61 charges in all, with other arrests in the works. The operation began this summer and included the RCMP and other municipal police forces.

