

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

March 27, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 13

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## National standards being developed for calls involving mentally ill



Mar 26 2014

**TORONTO** - The beginnings of a national framework to train police on how to best deal with the mentally ill emerged Wednesday from the country's first collaborative dialogue on the issue.

Law enforcement officials, people who live with mental illness and advocates gathered in Toronto over the last three days to discuss what could be done to avert tragedies involving those in crisis.

The conference - hosted by the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - came at a time when statistics suggest one in five Canadians experience a mental health illness in any given year.

"One of the important takeaways that we'll have as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police is a national framework for training all of our officers," said Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu, who also heads the police chiefs association.

It's a significant development as a lack of national standards has been a key issue for police and mental health advocates -there isn't currently a countrywide training curriculum for officers on how to deal with the mentally ill, nor is there comprehensive data collected on the issue.

Certain police forces have been singled out as "pockets of excellence," while others lag behind, but across the country there's a consensus that police are increasingly on the



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front lines of mental health care.

A summary of the training framework released at the conference provided a glimpse into a longer report, expected in June, which will lay out recommended education for officers and standards for agencies.

The document, produced by experts at the Mental Health Commission with some input from police, will then be presented to police leaders across the country in the hopes they will implement it.

"It's a good model and I'm optimistic and very confident that the CCAC membership will support it," Chu said.

Having a set of national standards will help forces better respond to the growing amount of calls related to those with mental illness, added Toronto police Deputy Chief Mike Federico.

"Recognizing that there are common themes right across Canada can help provide excellent public service to our community," he said. "The establishment of a national framework can help us focus our resources on where they're most effective."

The few figures available emphasize the need for a collaborative approach - in Toronto police get 20,000 calls a year directly related to mental health issues while police in Vancouver say mental illness was a factor in 21 per cent of their calls last year.

Although the majority of those calls end peacefully, the handful that result in the death of a person in crisis has led to accusations of police brutality.

One such instance was the case of Toronto teenager Sammy Yatim, who was shot multiple times while apparently wielding a knife on an empty streetcar. Another was the case of Michael Eligon, also of Toronto, who died on a residential street after approaching officers with two pairs of scissors while wearing only a hospital gown and socks.

"I know the public is concerned about the harm that can come to a loved one or friend

who is afflicted with a mental illness," said Chu. "Any type of force used by the police must only be used as a last resort."

The very nature of policing has changed over the last few years as apprehension under the Mental Health Act has skyrocketed, Chu said.

"One of the things I used to say was that police were the mental health response agency of last resort. The police are increasingly becoming the mental health response agency of first resort," he said.

"With this new policing responsibility goes a mindset change that we need to engage in."

Part of that mindset change is also an emphasis on openly discussing and supporting the mental health of police officers themselves.

"That has been the second large component of this conference," said Louise Bradley, CEO of the Mental Health Commission. "It's extremely important that we look at workplace wellness, workplace culture."

The conference, which drew 320 participants, committed to including the experiences of those who have lived with mental illness in further training or policymaking.

It also committed to working with Statistics Canada and other organizations to better measure police calls related to mental illness and try developing new tools to collect and analyze such data.

"It's major step forward," Bradley said. "And a very bold step forward."

agenda wend their way through the courts.

Thursday's unanimous 8-0 judgment was the third successive court to find that the Abolition of Early Parole Act was in clear breach of the Charter because it imposed new punishment on people who had already been tried and sentenced.

The retroactive changes lengthened the amount of time a non-violent, first-time offender had to spend behind bars before being eligible for parole.

The court found no problem with the law going forward. But it ruled out applying the change to people already behind bars at the time of the bill's passage in March 2011.

"A change that so clearly thwarts the expectations of liberty of an offender who has already been sentenced qualifies as one of the clearest of cases of a retrospective change that constitutes double jeopardy," wrote Justice Richard Wagner, appointed to the bench by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2012.

The law was passed at a time when politicians were upset over the sentencing of white-collar criminals, such as fraudster Earl Jones, who, due to the non-violent nature of their crimes, could be paroled after serving only six months or one sixth of their sentence.

Coincidentally, Jones was released Thursday after serving a third of his 11-year sentence for bilking investors out of some \$50 million.

Mar 20 2014

**HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team is investigating after a 22-year-old woman was injured while being arrested by Halifax police.**

The provincial police watchdog says officers responded to a call about a woman who may have been a threat to herself.

They found the woman above the Armview Restaurant on Chebucto Road around 3:25 p.m. Thursday.

Investigators say while officers were attempting to take her into custody under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act, the woman sustained a broken arm.

The woman was taken to hospital for treatment.

Mar 20 2014

**WINNIPEG - The former president of the Manitoba Hells Angels has launched a court battle against Crown prosecutors and police, alleging they took away nearly \$1 million of his legitimate assets.**

Dale Sweeney, who is 43, is suing the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the City of Winnipeg, RCMP and the Attorney General, hoping to reclaim \$850,000 in property he agreed to forfeit to the state as part of a plea arrangement for his role in a cocaine-trafficking ring.

Sweeney is now serving an 11-year sentence.

He and his lawyer allege the manner in which the deal was struck raises fundamental issues of fairness and could be considered possible extortion.

At issue are assets which were frozen

## THURSDAY MARCH 20, 2014

Mar 20 2014

**HAMILTON, Ont. - A 23-year-old man is facing a number of charges after allegedly assaulting a Hamilton police officer with a bicycle.**

Police say a man who was stopped by an officer for riding his bicycle on the sidewalk on Wednesday afternoon was found to be wanted on an outstanding warrant.

Investigators say the man became aggressive, pulled up on his handlebars and struck the officer in the chest with the front tire until he fell off the bike.

The man fled the scene and police say he was subdued with a Taser after drawing a collapsible baton when officers caught up with him.

Paramedics cleared the man medically and police say the officer was not seriously injured.

Christopher Drakoczy is charged with two counts of assault with a weapon, and possession of crystal meth.

Mar 20 2014

**OTTAWA - Passing unconstitutional laws undermines confidence in the justice system, the Supreme Court of Canada said Thursday as it struck down retroactive Conservative changes to parole eligibility.**

And that could spell trouble, justice experts say, as more challenges to the Harper government's "tough on crime" legislative

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and ultimately seized by justice officials after Sweeney's 2012 arrest in Project Flatlined, a Winnipeg police crackdown of a large dial-a-dealer operation being run out of the Elmwood neighbourhood.

The assets include two investment accounts, equity in a Waverley West home and two Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Mar 20 2014

**VANCOUVER - Malcolm MacLennan, a one-time chief constable of the Vancouver police who was killed in the line of duty in 1917, was honoured Thursday in a brief ceremony commemorating his years of service and leadership.**

Piper Tim Fanning, a retired Vancouver police officer, played a lament at the corner of East Georgia and Jackson streets in Vancouver. The intersection is the location of a memorial mosaic honouring MacLennan's memory.

In 1914, MacLennan was so impressed with a police pipe band performance during the opening ceremonies of the Cordova Street police station that he approved the formation of an official Vancouver Police pipe band.

On March 20, 1917, police went to 522 East Georgia St. after a landlord in an apartment complex complained of a disruptive tenant.

When police arrived, the tenant fired a rifle through the door, injuring both the landlord and an officer.

The officers retreated and before backup arrived, the tenant fired his rifle again out of a window and killed a young boy on the street below.

MacLennan was quickly alerted and left his own son's 10th birthday party to supervise the standoff.

When negotiations were unsuccessful, MacLennan made the tactical decision to enter the apartment. He led a team into the unit by using a fire axe to break down the door.

The tenant, armed with two rifles, two revolvers and a shotgun, shot and killed MacLennan.

The incident ended when the tenant turned a gun on himself before he could be arrested.

(The Province)

Mar 20 2014

**A New Brunswick Mountie, who sparked controversy last year by smoking medically prescribed marijuana in his red serge uniform, is accusing the RCMP of trying to force members with post-traumatic stress disorder to quit.**

Cpl. Ron Francis says the force has made his life miserable since he went public about his struggle with PTSD in November, but the chief superintendent disputes his claims.

Francis, a 21-year veteran who serves with J Division in Fredericton, was placed on medical leave, ordered to turn in his uniforms, then arrested and charged following an

alleged confrontation with fellow Mounties and city police officers.

"You got to realize during this process, no one from the RCMP, not the DSSR [Division Staff Relations Representative] program or anyone, come to sit down with me and offer me help," said Francis, who has since been suspended with pay, pending the outcome of a code of conduct review and a trial.

"They just applied pressure to hope that I would crack and break," he said.

Francis said he was hospitalized twice due to suicidal thoughts.

In January, the RCMP offered to send him to the Sunshine Coast Health Centre, a treatment facility in Powell River, B.C., for three months, footing the estimated \$60,000 bill.

Francis agreed to go, but left after three

days because he said he couldn't get settled and felt he was being watched.

He was arrested again and taken to the local hospital, which he contends is all an attempt to make him quit.

"One of the things that the RCMP is trying to do is get members that have PTSD to sign off medically, and what happens is, it turns our claims over to insurance companies so the member has to battle with the insurance. And the RCMP [brushes its hands], and hires a new member," Francis told CBC News on Wednesday.

"That's not the right way to treat someone who has given dedication to this country," he said.

RCMP Chief Superintendent Wayne Gallant said the force does support its members

struggling with PTSD, and he rejects the idea that its support ends when a member leaves.

"They have certain selections that they have to make in terms of health-care provisions that will be provided to them after they leave the organization. I think they're fairly good provisions," Gallant said.

"Ron would be afforded the same opportunity if he chose to leave the organization. But right now, like I say, we're continuing to offer support to Ron, so that he can return to the force as a contributing member."

There is, however, a code of conduct review underway, said Gallant.

"They can take anywhere from three to 18 months. And right now, you know, there's a criminal proceeding as well, and we have to wait for the outcome of that, as well," he said.

Francis has pleaded not guilty to two counts of assaulting a police officer and one count of resisting arrest, stemming from the alleged confrontation with the officers who arrested him in Fredericton on Dec. 6.

A trial has been scheduled for Sept. 3. Three days have been set aside.

Francis remains free on conditions until his trial. He must not be in possession of a firearm, not use alcohol or non-prescription drugs, and not have contact with the alleged victims.

(CBC News)

Mar 20 2014

### **DURHAM - The Durham Regional Police are using social media to find bad guys and girls.**

The DRPS West Division, which covers Ajax and Pickering, is using Twitter with 'Wanted Wednesday' postings of suspects being sought.

Staff Sergeant Jeff Haskins said Wanted Wednesday "is actually taken off from an initiative launched by the Toronto Police Service. We looked at what other forces were doing."

It started in 65 Division in Toronto and "we created our own version," he said.

He noted in Toronto, "without ever posting, people were lined up to turn themselves in, for whatever reason."

That has also happened in Durham, he said, adding postings also bring in information on the whereabouts of some people.

The Wanted Wednesday posting on March 12 was for Sheleeza Hinds, 30, who is wanted for failing to attend court.

One of the suspects sought was wanted on drug-related charges and breaching probation.

Asked if he was surprised at the impact, Staff Sgt. Haskins said, "It's hard to say at this point. Eventually, when we have a larger following on Twitter, we'll have a greater penetration rate. Being on Twitter will have an impact. We're still relatively new to the game to say we're surprised."

The aim, he noted, is to get the information out to the public, as well as checking to ensure some folks aren't breaching their probation or release conditions.

Using Twitter will allow the police to "cast a wider net," Staff Sgt. Haskins said. "We're pretty happy with what we've done so

far. We're looking for feedback from the public."

Jodi MacLean, a spokeswoman for the DRPS, said Wanted Wednesday was started on Oct. 30 of last year and there have been 13 releases and eight arrests.

"Only five remain outstanding," Ms. MacLean said. "We've gotten calls saying they saw Wanted Wednesday and were giving us tips or people turning themselves in."

The police are using Twitter to generate "activity on new cases" as well as seeking leads on old cases, she noted.

"We'll be rolling it out soon to others. West Division is the guinea pig. It's worked out really well. And, not just for Wanted Wednesday," Ms. MacLean said. "It's something done above and beyond their regular duties."

The public can follow the police on Twitter with either the corporate account or with West Division account, she said.


(Metroland)

Mar 20 2014

### **TORONTO - Toronto could be on the hook for more than \$90,000 a year after the police board ended a longtime agreement to provide the city with free "vulnerable sector" screenings for new hires.**

About 1,500 to 1,800 people hired by the city are required to get the in-depth background checks annually, and the force has been waiving the now \$50-plus processing fee since 1999.

The board made the decision Thursday in




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Presenter: Nir Maman  
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Presenter: Clare Lopez, CIA (ret'd)

**DAY 2: April 30th, 9am - 4pm**  
**Law Enforcement First Response – Tactical Casualty Care (LEFR-TCC)**  
Presenter: David Steignaga, Yan Regis, Shawn Denty

**DAY 2: April 30th**  
**Mentally Ill and Law Enforcement**  
9am - 12pm: *Suicide by Cop*  
Presenter: Jean Guy Gagnon, Forensic Psychiatrist  
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Presenter: Dr Yuki Kanomi, Clinical Psychologist

Fee: \$250 – one day; \$400 – two days  
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**CCII Canadian Critical Incident Inc.**

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**Crisis Negotiation**  
Presenter: Tom Hart, President CCII  
Fee: \$100

**INTERVIEWING & DECEPTION**

**Day 1: April 29th, 9am-4pm**  
**The Non Accusatory Interview**  
Presenters: S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd) and A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd)  
Fee: \$100

**Day 2: April 30th, 9am-4pm**  
**Dealing with Deception**  
Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret'd) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd)  
Fee: \$100

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the wake of intense criticism over how long it was taking the force to complete vulnerable-sector screenings, which are conducted for school boards, agencies, the city, other police forces and anyone else who is hiring employees that work with children, youth or vulnerable adults.

"What we're saying is, up until now, people who are applying for jobs and volunteer positions with the city or city agencies did not have to pay the fee that everybody else has to pay," said Toronto Police Services Board chair Alok Mukherjee. "As of now, they won't be treated any differently."

The board tried to pass a similar motion a couple of years ago, but Mukherjee says members backed down after a city manager said it would cost the city a significant sum.

"They were not prepared to take on any more cost at that time," Mukherjee said, so the board agreed to temporarily continue the exemption.

In January this year, the force had a backlog of 16,947 screenings. That number is now about 11,000, Deputy Police Chief Mark Saunders told the board Thursday. The service receives about 200 new applications each day.

Board members passed a motion to start charging the city in June, and required "that those funds be used to bolster the timeliness of conducting background checks." Mukherjee says he doesn't know how much it will save the service.

All screenings are done through the force's Police Reference Check Program, which has 21 civilian employees.

The city requires the checks for new hires who work in contact with children or vulnerable adults in departments such as parks and recreation services or long-term-care homes.

The board also passed a motion asking Police Chief Bill Blair to investigate whether the force should create a two-tiered system, offering faster screenings for a higher fee. (Toronto Star)

Mar 20 2014

### **CALGARY - Police have supercharged their efforts to investigate everything from cyber-bullying to murder cases thanks to a new tech-savvy team billed as the first of its kind in Canada.**

Since its inception in January 2013, the Cybercrime Support Team has targeted cyberstalkers and child pornographers and uncovered details involving sexting and digital extortion cases.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Jepson said his seven-member crew aided 205 cases last year and appears to be even busier in 2014.

"Crime is not just not localized to things that occur on the street anymore," he said. "Crime has moved onto the Internet as well."

In even the most serious cases, digital clues can prove key for prosecutors, Jepson said. Homicide investigators, for example, will turn to the team to uncover details about who a victim's last contact and what plans they have had in the lead up to their death.

"People communicate not just via face-

to-face or via telephone anymore . . . anything that's open-source on the Internet that can aid the investigation, we'll go obtain that for them," Jepson said, noting his team pulls all necessary paperwork before undertaking their digital endeavours.

Alberta teacher Bill Belsey, who created the website bullying.org and has served as a volunteer "digital ombudsman" for years, deemed the police team a positive step. Belsey said victims of cyberbullying and cyberstalking often have little recourse when turning to major telecommunications and social-media corporations for assistance in warding off online abuse.

"There are a lot of families out there — parents and kids — who are their wits end to know where to begin when either a child is being cyberbullied or an adult is being harassed . . . the reality is when people experience this, you feel quite socially isolated, you feel alone."

(Metro Calgary)



### **TORONTO - Drivers charged with failing to buckle up should be allowed to argue they did everything they could to comply with the law mandating seatbelt use, Ontario's top court ruled Friday.**



In its decision, the Court of Appeal rejected the idea that the seatbelt law bars a motorist from raising due diligence as a defence.

"In the admittedly rare case where the driver has done his or her best to comply (with the law), the injustice of conviction without fault is avoided," the court stated.

The case arose in September 2011 when police in Burlington, Ont., ticketed Tyler Wilson under Section 106(2) of the Highway Traffic Act for not wearing his seatbelt.

At trial, Wilson testified a coffee he had put in a back-seat cup-holder was spilling on his laptop. He said he had just pulled up to a stop sign and removed his seatbelt so he could straighten the coffee cup when the officer spotted the infraction.

Wilson went on to say that there was no other traffic around and it was his intention to put the seatbelt back on as soon as he had fixed the cup.

However, the justice of the peace interrupted his testimony to say the offence

was one of "absolute liability," meaning that no excuses — even if reasonable — could get him off.

Wilson appealed to the Ontario court of justice and won on the basis that the offence was not one of "absolute liability" but rather one of "strict liability."

The Crown appealed to the province's top court, with the attorney general arguing in part that the requirement to buckle up is an uncomplicated, one-step action fully within the driver's personal and physical control.

In rejecting that argument, the appellate court said it was not impossible to imagine a situation in which a driver became unbuckled despite having taken reasonable steps to secure the belt.

Instead, the Appeal Court found that deeming the seatbelt offence one of "strict liability" still enables "efficient and effective enforcement of important public safety legislation while avoiding the injustice of no-fault liability."

In other words, the prosecution still only needs to show a driver was not buckled up to get a conviction, but the accused should be able to offer a due-diligence defence.

"Situations in which a defence of due diligence arise are bound to be rare," the Appeal Court said.

"A defence of due diligence to this charge would only be made out where, although the driver was found not wearing his or her seat belt when driving, the driver had taken all reasonable care to wear the seat belt."

The court did not weigh in on the merits of Wilson's particular excuse.

Mar 21 2014

### **MONTREAL - Montreal police receive around 140 calls a day involving the homeless or people with mental health issues, and the service needs more help in dealing with these cases, said Montreal police chief Marc Parent.**



That's why the police force has created a new crisis intervention unit known by its French acronym, RIC. Its creation is part of a new plan by police to deal with people with mental illnesses crafted after the downtown health and social services agency spent a year working with vulnerable people on the streets.

"Fifteen years ago, it would have been unthinkable for the police and mental health intervention workers to get into the same patrol car to get to an intervention with homeless people," Jason Champagne of the CSSS Jeanne-Mance told Radio-Canada.

"We worked together to evolve the culture,"

he continued.

Champagne and Parent presented their new joint plan on intervention Thursday

"With the intervention of our mixed response teams, we can approach police work in a way that is more integrated with the social fabric of different neighbourhoods," Parent said.

The formation of the RIC crisis intervention team comes just months after Alain Magloire, a newly homeless man in Montreal with mental health issues, was shot dead by police during an intervention.

In situations like these, Parent said specialized officers need to be present.

"A mixed team cannot talk to someone who is in a crisis like that so you have to use our specialized team to come down and control the situation," he said.

Parent said there will be one specially trained RIC officer in every police station by the end of 2014. These officers will be on the front lines when there is a dangerous situation involving the homeless or people with mental health problems.

"You need to have a safe environment so RIC can be there to control and make sure you can have a safe intervention with the social worker and the health [intervention worker]," Parent said.

The RIC program is in addition to ESUP, or psycho-social emergency support team, and EMRII, a roving unit of five specially trained police officers and four health care workers who help provide long-term assistance to some members of Montreal's homeless population.

According to the Montreal police, ESUP has made 2,091 interventions since 2012.

(CBC News)

Mar 21 2014

### **VANCOUVER - A Federal Court has granted an application to allow patients who use medical marijuana to continue to grow their own pot despite imminent changes to the law.**

A group of patients asked the court for a temporary injunction while take the federal government to court over the new regulations, which restrict medical marijuana production to licenced commercial producers.

The changes are part of a major overhaul of Canada's medical marijuana system, which has allowed licenced patients to grow their own pot since 2001.

The patients told the court earlier this week that some of them won't be able to afford marijuana under the new system and they won't be able to obtain the strains that work best for them.

The federal government says the potential risks related to grow-ops, such as fires, mould and crime, outweigh the patients' rights to grow their own.

A full trial on the patients challenge is expected to be scheduled within the next year.

Mar 21 2014

### **MONTREAL - A Montreal police officer best known by her badge number has**

### **been charged with simple assault in connection with a highly publicized arrest caught on video.**

The Crown says the charge against Stefanie Trudeau stems from an arrest in October 2012 that started with a man drinking beer outdoors.

The arrest became highly publicized after a video of it went viral and was widely shown in the media.

Video and audio recordings pointed to a forceful, profanity-laced arrest of a friend of the man who was accused of drinking.

Trudeau's badge number of 728 was first seen during a student protest earlier in 2012 when a video showed an officer liberally pepper-spraying demonstrators.

The Crown decided there was not enough evidence to lay charges in that incident.

Mar 21 2014

### **TORONTO - The Ontario Securities Commission says the number of proceedings it concluded against individuals and companies soared in 2013, although the number of new enforcement cases declined slightly.**

The OSC, which is responsible for regulating capital markets in Ontario, says enforcement actions were concluded against 170 individuals and companies last year, up from 100 in 2012.

Of these, 71 were concluded by way of contested hearings before the commission, versus 60 in 2012; 95 by way of settlement agreements compared with 36 in 2012, and four by way of court proceedings under securities legislation.

The number of sanctions imposed by the OSC increased during the year and included 159 cease-trade orders compared with 80 in 2012, 67 director and officer bans, up from 49, and 118 exemption removals compared with 72 in 2012.

There were also 81 registration restrictions, up from 58 the previous year.

In addition, the OSC secured a total of 63 months in jail sentences against four defendants, up from 21 months against two defendants in 2012.

Meanwhile, the commission said the number of new enforcement cases launched over the year declined to 27 from 30 as the number of cases involving alleged fraud dropped to nine from 15.



Mar 22 2014

**SUDBURY - Sudbury has a new top cop. "I can confirm we have secured a new police chief and actually had the contract signed yesterday when I was in Toronto," said Gerry Loughheed Jr., chair of the Greater Sudbury Police Services Board, on Friday evening. "His name is Paul Pedersen and he's a very, very accomplished individual."**

Pedersen, a member of the York Regional Police for 34 years, will take over from acting chief Dan Markiewicz on April 9, filling a vacuum left by the departure of previous chief Frank Elsner for British Columbia.

"He's an enormously impressive person," said Loughheed. "His credentials are impeccable and I think he's going to bring a vigor and a passion to our community."

Pedersen, 52, retired at the end of January from the York force, where he served most recently as superintendent-in-charge of investigative services. Prior to that he was assigned to uniform patrol, criminal investigations, training and education and the homicide unit, as well as held the post of incident commander.

"It was a unanimous decision by the board, and all the board was part of the selection committee," said Loughheed.

Apart from his experience as a policeman, the new chief brings some impressive academic credentials, noted Loughheed. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Western Ontario and is a grad of the police leadership program through the University of Toronto's prestigious Rotman School of Management. He's also taught at Sheridan College.

While his career has been based in southern Ontario, Pedersen is no stranger to Northern Ontario, having vacationed for years in Killarney Provincial Park, with much time spent in Sudbury.

"My heart has always been in the North and I am thrilled to make this city my home," he said in a press release.

Pedersen is also a logical choice to carry on the shared community safety model that was advanced under the tenure of former chief Elsner, said the police board chair.

"Paul Pedersen is one of the more articulate advocates in Canada, if not North America, for this particular type of model," said Loughheed. "He's lectured across the country on this and authored papers. We feel he's very progressive and at the same time will be respecting, obviously, good policing traditions."

(Sudbury Star)



Mar 23 2014

### **OTTAWA - The chairman of the new Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC) will have a salary that could exceed \$200,000 per year.**

The feds have published a notice of vacancy to lead the CRCC when it's set up later this year as a beefed up replacement for the current Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP.

"Under his or her own authority, the chairperson will initiate complaints, investigations and public hearings when deemed in the public interest," the government says in its job posting. "He or she will also conduct



reviews of specified RCMP activities to ensure they are carried out in accordance with statute, regulations, ministerial directives, policies, procedures and guidelines.”

Applicants have until April 7 to submit a resume to the Privy Council Office. Managerial experience, as well as knowledge of the law and police procedures, are listed among the qualifications.

“Proficiency in both official languages” is also preferred.

A Public Safety official told QMI Agency on Sunday the new CRCC “will be implemented in the near future.”

The feds have been working on building the new commission since Bill C-42 received Royal Assent last June - part of the effort to improve public confidence in the Mounties after numerous sexual harassment allegations within the force, along with other complaints.

The CRCC will be more powerful than the body it replaces by being able to summon and compel witnesses to give evidence and conduct joint investigations with other police review bodies.

Rae Banwarie of the RCMP Professional Association has said the government’s changes aren’t enough to deal with the Mounties’ harassment problems.

“C-42 will achieve nothing without profound institutional and cultural change within the RCMP,” he said last May.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson has said that C-42 gives him the ability to change the culture within the force that tolerates sexual harassment.

(Toronto Sun)

**MONDAY**  
**MARCH 24, 2014**

Mar 24 2014

**ST. JOHN’S, N.L. - Police in Newfoundland say two males have been arrested after a six-month investigation into cocaine trafficking, money laundering and firearms possession.**

The RCMP says they used search warrants at two residences and seized cocaine, \$335,000 in cash and a loaded 9-mm loaded handgun from a vehicle.

One person arrested is from St. John’s and the other from Portugal Cove-St. Philips.

The Mounties say they are facing charges of conspiracy to traffic in cocaine, possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, uttering threats and intimidation of a police officer.

Mar 24 2014

**ST. JOHN’S, N.L. - The government of Newfoundland and Labrador plans to spend an extra \$13.5 million over the next three years to strengthen its legal aid system and the Sheriff’s Office after reviews called for more staff and funding.**

The Justice Department released two reviews today that gave the government 29 recommendations on how it can improve access



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to legal aid and make the Sheriff's Office a more stable and effective work environment.

The reviews were launched last June following a backlash from legal experts over planned Justice Department cuts to courtroom security sheriffs and Crown attorneys.

The government later backtracked on those cuts, and today it is committing more funding to the Justice Department.

Justice Minister Darin King says over the next three years, about \$7.1 million will be set aside to boost legal aid and another \$6.4 million will go to the Sheriff's Office.

King says the government accepts all 29 recommendations.

Mar 24 2014

**TORONTO - A man and woman are facing more than 70 charges after police say numerous guns and other weapons were seized at a U.S.-Canada border crossing.**

The Canada Border Services Agency stopped a couple and their two children on March 16 as they crossed into Canada on the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, after getting a tip from Toronto police.

Police say a search of the couple's van resulted in the seizure of six concealed handguns and a seventh handgun was found on the man.

Also found in the van were two inert hand grenades, ammunition, over-capacity magazines and knives and the discovery of the hand grenades forced temporary closure of several lanes of the Rainbow Bridge.

Police say another 34 firearms - including 20 handguns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition - were later seized in raids at the couple's home.

Investigators also allege that five firearms smuggled into Canada by the accused were recovered at crime scenes in Toronto and Peel Region, including one used in an attempted murder.

Donald Earl Hare, 44, and Amanda Brent, 43, both of Proton Station, Ont. (northwest of Orangeville) have been charged with 73 firearm and firearm-trafficking-related charges.

Mar 24 2014

**WINDERMERE, Fla. - Funeral plans have been announced for an Ontario-born U.S. police officer who was fatally shot on the weekend in central Florida.**

Officer Robert German, 31, was killed Saturday after stopping two teenagers along a road in Windermere, a town of 3,000 about 24 kilometres west of Orlando.

The bodies of the teens, 18-year-old Brandon Goode and 17-year-old Alexandria Hollinghurst, were later found a short distance away.

Authorities say the teens apparently committed suicide.

Windermere police said German was born in Burlington, Ont., and moved to Florida with his family when he was five.

Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Northland Church in Longwood, Fla.

German's graveside services and burial

will take place Thursday at 10 a.m. at Oaklawn Cemetery in Sanford, Fla. Services are open to the public.

Authorities say German worked for the department for five years.

Mar 24 2014

**ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The government of Newfoundland and Labrador has appointed eight people to serve on its first child death review committee.**

The establishment of the committee follows a recommendation from a September 2006 review into the death of Zachary Turner, who was drowned by his mother in a murder-suicide.

The review concluded the 13-month-old boy should not have been in her care at the time.

The report also called for the creation of a child death review committee that could help the province's chief medical examiner in recommending measures to prevent deaths in circumstances similar to those involved in Zachary Turner's case.

The committee will review the deaths of children that have been provided by the chief medical examiner.

It will be chaired by Ellen Oliver, who has 37 years of experience in the field of social work.

Mar 24 2014

**WATERLOO REGION - Three Waterloo Regional Police officers were fired for misconduct at a police hearing on Monday.**

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FOR SUICIDE**

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To register, contact Pat Mazan at: T: 403.428.8380 E: pat.mazan@calgarypolice.ca.

 CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

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Jeff Vongkhamphou, Graeme Kobayashi and Timothy Green had been charged under the Police Service Act for their roles in a private BlackBerry Messenger group of six officers where they mocked and posted photos of members of the public and other officers.

Vongkhamphou was terminated immediately on Monday, while the other two officers have seven days to resign before being dismissed, ruled Supt. Robert Gould.

However, the officers' lawyer said the decision will be appealed.

David Butt said papers will be filed by the end of Monday with the Ontario Civilian Police Commission.

The officers will continue to be suspended with pay through the appeal process.

The defence had sought demotions to the lowest rank, fourth-class constable.

In criminal court, Vongkhamphou was convicted of obstructing justice and was given a suspended sentence.

The comments in the BlackBerry Messenger group included disparaging remarks about a mentally ill woman and a pregnant woman, insults toward a supervising officer with a cleft palate, as well as sharing nude photos that were stolen while on police calls.

In her submissions, prosecutor Lynda Bordeleau said the officers had a serious moral character flaw and they don't deserve to be officers.

She said the officers showed a callous and discriminatory attitude when they posted vulgar captions on photographs of vulnerable people.

The tribunal heard that the officers ridiculed a boy with Down syndrome, a group of Asian men in a pub and someone of Middle Eastern descent.

At the hearing, a witness for the defence, a forensic psychiatrist, said the officers are normal young men who were kind and loving but made an error in judgment.

(The Record)

Mar 24 2014

**EDMONTON - A controversial Edmonton police program that pressed people with outstanding warrants to turn themselves in failed to make reasonable arrangements to protect personal information, Alberta's Privacy Commissioner ruled.**

Jill Clayton found that Project Operation Warrant Execution, an initiative aimed at reducing the large volume of outstanding warrants in Edmonton, contravened the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The project featured a public campaign encouraging individuals to come forward and address their warrants or risk having their names and faces advertised publicly.

Names, photographs, and other personal information of individuals appeared in newspapers and on the police website.

Clayton initiated the investigation on her own to ensure compliance with the FOIP Act and to ensure that consideration was given to the protection of personal information.

But she found police did not make rea-

sonable security arrangements to protect personal information as required under FOIP and while police had the authority to disclose some of the personal information, it released more than what was necessary to carry out its purposes.

The commissioner recommends from now on that police consult her office before initiating any future "roundup" campaigns.

The project is also at the centre of a \$40,000 civil lawsuit launched against police by a 16-year-old girl whose identity was revealed on posters in violation contrary to the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

(CBC News)

Mar 24 2014

**A Southern Ontario police chief says he's worried about the possibility of criminals hijacking delivery trucks leaving Canada's new large-scale medicinal marijuana grow facilities.**



Health Canada has so far licensed 12 companies to sell marijuana to roughly 40,000 Canadians authorized to grow or use the drug for medical purposes. It was in preparation for regulations originally scheduled to take effect April 1 that would make it illegal to grow pot at home and force patients to get their prescriptions from government growers.

Health Canada requires companies applying for a licence to notify their local fire and police chiefs. Durham Regional Police Chief Mike Ewles said he's already received a dozen notifications and that's left him concerned about safety.

"There are certainly certain specifications with regards to the buildings and the locations in which they can grow the medical marijuana, but I think the weakest link in the armour here is the actual distribution after it is produced," said Ewles.

Health Canada regulations stipulate that marijuana must be shipped in securely sealed containers that prevent the escape of telltale odours, inside packages that don't identify what's inside. That's all well and good, but Ewles said he's concerned about the hijacking of courier trucks.

"It doesn't take long for someone to do a little counter-surveillance and figure out exactly where the location is, wait for the truck to pull out of the lot and into the community and then lo and behold they've just taken over, it's ripe for a takeover and a cargo theft of the entire truck. And that's putting the driver at risk and our community at risk."

Michael Haines is CEO of Mettrum, a federally licensed producer in southern

Ontario that started shipping marijuana to patients at the end of January. He said Mettrum follows Health Canada's shipping guidelines by using a bonded courier that delivers directly to patients who must show identification when they sign for each package.

"It's quite common for pharmaceutical companies to ship to end users using couriers and we're using the same systems and the same companies they would be using," Haines said.

He added his company isn't allowed to send each patient more than a one-month supply.

"I think if you look at in terms of the average size of package that's being shipped out, it's not a major concern. There's not a large concentration of product at any given time in any one area that would be of concern to the public."

Health Canada says no package may contain more than 150 grams per package.

But Brent Zettl said physicians typically prescribe much less. He's CEO of CanniMed, another federally licensed marijuana company in Saskatchewan and a subsidiary of Prairie Plant Systems, which until recently was the only government-approved medical marijuana producer in Canada. Zettl said the average package shipped out by his company contains 20-30 grams.

Even so, Ewles said he's curious how many prescriptions on average, are inside each truck.

"Are they going to take out hundreds or thousands of packages at a time in a truck. I mean a cargo theft, you know could certainly happen, a takeover could happen in our community because there is still a criminal market for this product and now we're going to be providing it in individual weighed out packages."

Last year Zettl's company shipped 12,000 prescriptions to patients across Canada. Of the five that went missing, Zettl said they had simply been misplaced and were quickly found. He adds CanniMed has implemented an additional security measure.

"We always ship the product without using the CanniMed name simply because it's supposed to be a private matter for the patient but it's also to protect the patient's security so it's unknown what could potentially be in that package," he said.

(CBC News)

Mar 24 2014

**MEDICINE HAT, Alta. - Police in Medicine Hat, Alta., are investigating two deaths from the weekend, one the possible homicide of a city businessman and the other the police shooting of a suspect in the case.**

Police have confirmed that Chester Hunchak, a former U-Haul dealer, was reported missing Friday by his spouse.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, which investigates all officer-related shootings, said an officer who went to a rural residence on Saturday looking for Hunchak was confronted by an armed man.

Backup was called in and officers at some point saw a body being dragged from the back of the building.

When the suspect drove toward officers while trying to leave the scene, he was fatally shot.

Police won't confirm the body being dragged was Hunchak, but have said the search for him has been called off. Close friends have told the Medicine Hat News that the businessman was indeed killed in connection with the weekend's events.

The newspaper also quoted sources as saying Hunchak had gone to meet with someone interested in buying his SUV.

Police Chief Andy McGrogan said the shooting of the suspect was justified.

"It was a dynamic situation," he said Monday. "The officer's actions were based on a lot of troubling information that involved a great deal of safety concerns for our community and our officers."

The officer involved in the shooting of the suspect, who has not been named, is on a 30-day administrative leave following the incident.

(Medicine Hat News)

Mar 24 2014

## MONTREAL - It's something many of us take for granted: drinking a glass of water.

For Walter Filipas, it's isn't so simple.

It's taken him two decades to properly swallow again.

The former Montreal police officer has numerous physical problems with pretty much every one of his senses, including his vision, his hearing and his sense of smell.

Filipas has not been the same since May 22, 1993 – the day he was shot twice in the face by Claude Forget.

On that spring day, Filipas remembers he and his partner Lucy Krasowski were in their patrol car in Dorchester Square looking for a suspect in a robbery, when they were approached by a man.

"He put a 9-millimetre gun right to my face right here," Filipas said pointing to his right cheek.

"He took his first shot under my right eye and it came out a quarter of an inch near my spinal cord."

The bullets travelled through Filipas' face and struck his partner.

Forget then stole the officer's gun and fired a third shot into Krasowski's leg.

Incredibly, both officers survived the attack.

"We were really at the wrong place, at the wrong time," Filipas told Global News.

"It was unprovoked."

Forget was arrested a few weeks later. He was later convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison, a sentence that expires next month.

According to the crown prosecutors' office, Forget is scheduled to be released from a Quebec prison on April 26.

Filipas and his wife are now worried for their safety.

"Who can trust him after what he did 20 years ago?" Filipas' wife said.

"Can you trust him?"

Fearing for her safety, she has asked for her identity to be concealed.

A spokesperson with the Parole Board of Canada told Global News that Claude Forget will not be under special surveillance upon release.

"If I see him, what will he do? I don't know what's in his head," Filipas said.

A parole report from August 2013 concluded that Claude Forget continues to remain a high risk to reoffend.

The same report stated that he has shown no commitment to rehabilitation.

Attorney Eric Sutton said that unless Walter Filipas can prove he's being targeted, there is very little that can be done to help him.

"I'm doing my part not to feel helpless," Filipas said.

The now 53-year-old said that he is trying to get the attention of senators and MP's in Ottawa to help with his case.

(Shaw Media)

Mar 24 2014

## Manitoba peace officers have taken large chunks of cash from criminals and will use it to both prevent and investigate future crimes.

They seized almost \$1 million in cash from two different traffic stops, Justice Minister Andrew Swan announced at RCMP's Manitoba headquarters on Monday. That \$960,000 in cash, which was involved in drug trafficking, will be redistributed to law enforcement and victims' services through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund, Swan said.

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"We take the ill-gotten gains of criminals and use that money for crime prevention, education, and tools to further assist law enforcement," said assistant commissioner Kevin Brosseau, commanding officer of RCMP's Manitoba division.

"We continue to take very large sums of money out of crime and and re-invest that money across the province, supporting victims, police and public safety programs," Swan said. "Our ultimate goal is to reduce crime and keep our communities safer.

"Taking money away from bad guys is just one of the tools we're using to make this province hostile territory for those who endanger public safety. Whether it's hundreds of dollars, thousands of dollars, or hundreds of thousands of dollars ... these seizures send a strong message that unlawful activity is not welcome in Manitoba."

RCMP seized \$735,000 following a routine traffic stop near Headingley in 2006. Winnipeg police collected \$225,000 after stopping a different vehicle near Headingley in 2003.

"The reason it took so long is because we (Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund) didn't exist back then," said Gord Schumacher, the fund's executive director. "Once we got involved, the forfeiture was pretty quick — less than a year."

More than \$7.3 million in assets have been forfeited to Manitoba through that fund to date. More than 150 more forfeiture files are still being pursued.

"To those who choose to commit crimes, we're making our message loud and clear: Crime does not pay," Brosseau said. "Forfeiture reduces criminal activity by denying offenders profit from their crimes."

That money will be used to purchase special equipment, provide extra training for the RCMP and police throughout Manitoba, and to help victims of crimes. In the past, the fund had been used to purchase a vehicle for the K-9 unit in Morden, Zodiac boats, and to improve technology.

(Sun Media)

Mar 24 2014

**OTTAWA - The outgoing commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police says the writing is on the wall for small-town police forces as the soaring cost of policing makes regional police forces or the OPP a more cost-effective choice.**



"With the cost of policing rising as it is, sadly, a lot of those small-town police forces will go," said Commissioner Chris Lewis, who retires Friday after 36 years with the OPP.

"In some ways, the OPP has been seen as the antichrist of Ontario policing ... but this is not about the OPP trying to take over more turf," he said. "The reality is small municipalities just can't afford the cost of policing any more."

In the past year, municipal police forces in Perth and Pembroke have been disbanded and their officers absorbed into the OPP, which now patrols the towns on contract. Perth estimated the town would save \$750,000 a year by moving to the OPP, after 162 years of having its own force. In Pembroke, councillors estimated the OPP contract would save that town \$2 million over three years.

Ontario once had more than 200 municipal police forces, Lewis said. Today, there are 52.

The average cost of policing varies wildly in Ontario, but averages about \$550 per household in municipalities that have their own police force, he said.

Where the OPP provides service, the cost is about \$350 per household, he said.

"A large organization like a regional department or the OPP will provide a more cost-effective service," Lewis said. "Not necessarily better — I'm not going to say we're better than anyone — but we can do it more cost effectively because we have economies of scale."

Small towns often resist that change, he said.

"You have small town police chief with a lot of 'scrambled eggs' on his hat," he said, referring to a chief's gold braid. "He thinks he might go from being chief to a sergeant

or working on a night shift. But the reality is municipalities can't afford policing any more, and the way to cheaper policing is through larger forces."

Smiths Falls remains one of the few towns near Ottawa that still has its own police force, and it has no plans to change, said Mayor Dennis Staples.

That despite the fact the town pays \$1,067 per household to support its 25-officer police service.

He said the town asked the OPP for a cost estimate in 1997 and again in 2005, but both times decided it was cheaper to keep its own force.

"We found there were no significant financial advantage to us changing," Staples said. "In fact, it was going to be about the same amount of money."

In some cases, small town forces must rely on the OPP for specialized services, tactical teams, K9 units or sophisticated forensic investigations. Talks are underway to ensure towns pay their fair share of that cost, Lewis said.

In one case, he said, a "mid-sized" police service in Ontario eliminated its K9 unit and now depends on the OPP to supply police dogs.

"In that case, they effectively uploaded the cost onto the province, and we need a mechanism to deal with that for cost recovery."

Lewis spoke Monday at Algonquin College, first to staff about the lessons of leadership, then to students about careers in policing. Lewis rose through the OPP from the bottom, serving in every rank until being named commissioner in 2010.

A high school graduate, Lewis said he



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## A Study Exploring Police Officers who Maintain Multiple Identity (Life) Roles

The purpose of this research project is to give police officers who have maintained multiple identity (life) roles throughout their career the opportunity to describe their experiences. It also provides individuals with an opportunity to discuss what has helped or hindered them in the process of maintaining multiple life roles and what might be helpful to them, if it were available.

The investigator for this study is **Stephanie M. Conn**, 604-780-1967. Stephanie is being supervised by **Dr. Bill Borgen**, 604-822-5261, and **Dr. Marla Buchanan**, 604-822-4625, Professors in Counselling Psychology at the University of British Columbia.

We would be interested in hearing your experience of maintaining multiple identity (life) roles IF:

- You are a police officer with at least five years police experience
- You identify as having multiple identity (life) roles
- You identify as being content with the number of identity (life) roles
- You are currently working or have worked in the last six months
- You are willing to talk about your experiences relating to maintaining multiple identity roles in a confidential 90-minute interview.

If you would like to participate, or would like further information about this study, please contact Stephanie Conn by email at [stephmconn@gmail.com](mailto:stephmconn@gmail.com) or by phone at 604 780-1967.

is likely the last person to hold the commissioner's job without having a university degree. Ottawa native Vince Hawkes will succeed Lewis at the helm of the OPP's 6,000 uniformed officers and 3,000 civilians. (Ottawa Citizen)

## TUESDAY MARCH 25, 2014

Mar 25 2014

**Durham Regional Police will soon have a new boss.**



Deputy Chief Paul Martin will take the reins from Chief Mike Ewles, a 32-year veteran who will retire by the end of May.

"Actually hearing the words, it's surreal but it was very exciting," Martin said Tuesday.

The 49-year-old father of two, who has lived in Durham since the age of six, always wanted to be a police officer.

"Very early on, I can remember in public school, policeman was the role I wanted," he said.

The path to policing had its "twists and turns." After college, Martin worked in retail and then spent two years in enforcement at GO Transit.

By the time he was 26, he decided to join Durham's force because "this is where I lived, I worked, grew up, and my family was here."

A veteran of Durham's tactical support unit, Martin said he has seen his share of hostage situations and murder scenes.

"Fortunately for me, I don't think it has affected me to the point where it has been serious, but certainly you do take those memories away with you," he said.

As the incoming chief, he said he's "not averse" to oversight, such as lapel cameras for officers, but would be cautious in relying solely on technology.

"I wouldn't want to put necessarily all of my faith in one thing, especially technology, because technology can fail, it can be shut off, a lot of things can occur," Martin said. (Toronto Sun)

Mar 25 2014

**WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg police officer is facing several charges including sex assault and extortion.**

Police say they began an investigation into an officer's conduct in June.

It's alleged the officer committed the crimes on and off duty.

Const. Remi Van Den Driessche, who is 39, is charged with breach of trust, criminal harassment, sex assault and extortion.

The eight-year veteran was released on a

promise to appear and has been put on administrative leave pending a review.

Police did not give any other details.

Mar 25 2014

**MONTREAL - Quebec provincial police are confirming they have wrapped up their investigation into the deadly train disaster in Lac-Mégantic last summer.**



The crash and explosion killed 47 people and destroyed a large swath of the downtown area.

The runaway train belonging to the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway rolled into town carrying volatile crude oil, derailed and exploded in the wee hours of July 6.

Police spokeswoman Aurelie Guindon says the investigation was officially completed on Saturday and the case is now in the hands of the province's director of criminal and penal prosecutions.

Neither the Crown nor police would discuss the results of the probe.

Police said last summer their investigation would focus on the possibility of criminal negligence.

A spokesman for the Crown's office said the file is in the hands of a team of prosecutors, who have been working with police since the beginning.

Crown spokesman Jean-Pascal Boucher said his office will leave it to the prosecutors to review the file and that there is no timetable for potential charges.

Mar 25 2014

**CALGARY - Three years after Rocky View County councillors rejected plans for stand-alone officer training complex, the Calgary Police Service is pairing with a racetrack promoter on another bid in the rural district.**

A grid-style road circuit design for police training is part of Rockyview Motorsports Park's \$70-million proposed track complex near Airdrie's northeast boundary.

It's being pitched as an alternative to the city police force's attempt to build its own road course and shooting range east of Calgary. The rural council unanimously turned down that plan in 2011.

Police had said building their own outdoor training facility would have cost \$5 million to \$10 million. Officials haven't yet worked out details of a lease with the race-track planners, said police spokesman Kevin Brookwell.

"Certainly this would be far more cost-effective than us building our own," he said,

without providing figures.

A gun range isn't part of the race park plan, which will boast a four-kilometre motor-sport track and a smaller kart track as its main features. Police are developing a smaller gun range near its existing indoor facility in industrial northeast Calgary, Brookwell said.

Calgary police's stand-alone 2011 proposal near Chestermere was hotly opposed by neighbours who wanted to preserve their farm community.

Calgary police currently share their driver training course with the fire department and other emergency services, and are constantly outgrowing it, Brookwell said.

(Calgary Herald)

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 26, 2014

Mar 26 2014

**BROADVIEW, Sask. - A report into a deadly crash between a train and a van warns the risk of such accidents remains until better warnings are required at so-called passive railway crossings.**

The Transportation Safety Board report is based on an investigation into a collision that killed four people in Broadview, Sask., in broad daylight in August 2012.

The report says the van was driven by a tired, 15-year-old novice driver on a road where trees and brush made it difficult to see the tracks.

The train sounded its horn and had its lights on, but struck the van broadside at a railway crossing that only had standard reflector signs.

The report says there have been 658 accidents over the last 10 years at passive crossings, which resulted in 59 deaths and 107 serious injuries.

The board says equipping such crossings with advance warning devices triggered by trains to warn drivers would improve safety.

Mar 26 2014

**LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - A former member of a southern Alberta police force has been given a 12-month suspended sentence for fraud and public mischief.**

Trever James Sparrow, who is 38, pleaded guilty in December.

The one-time Lethbridge officer falsely reported to police three years ago that his truck had been broken into during a trip to British Columbia.

Sparrow said a generator and other items had been stolen and he filed a false insurance claim for just over \$3,500.

He has paid the money back to the insurance company.

He also faces probation with counselling and 50 hours of community service work.

Sparrow was an officer with the Lethbridge police for eight years, but resigned shortly after he was charged early last year.

(CJOC)



Mar 26 2014

**BOWDEN, Alta. - A man convicted of manslaughter for his role in the shooting deaths of four Alberta RCMP officers near Mayerthorpe has been granted unescorted, temporary absences from prison.**

The National Parole Board says Shawn Hennessey will be allowed out for up to 72 hours at a time over the next six months.

Board spokesman Gary Sears says there are conditions attached to the decision.

Hennessey is not to consume or possess drugs or alcohol and he is to avoid any associates who are involved in criminal activity.

Hennessey and Dennis Cheeseman gave gunman James Roszko a rifle and ride to Roszko's farm where Roszko ambushed and killed the four RCMP officers in 2005.

Hennessey was sentenced to 15 years in prison, but his jail time was reduced to a little more than 10 years because he pleaded guilty and spent time in pretrial custody.

Mar 26 2014

**ORILLIA - The Orillia Police Services Board (OPSB) is asking OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes to promptly implement live-scan fingerprint technology.**

"The delay is unacceptable," OPSB member Ralph Cipolla said during Tuesday's board meeting.

The OPSB has been advocating for live-scan technology for the Orillia OPP detachment for two years, Cipolla said, adding it's not the fault of the local detachment.

"It's just bureaucracy in the upper echelon," he said.

As of July 1, the RCMP will no longer accept fingerprints submitted by paper.

In February, the OPSB wrote to Insp. Malcolm Quigley, commander of the Orillia OPP, requesting an update outlining the OPP's progress toward implementing the live-scan technology.

Quigley contacted bureau commander Chief Supt. Rick Barnum.

"The procurement for live scan is one massive procurement and has been slow moving. I can't commit any more to the July date due to the hurdles put in front of us regarding procurement (not OPP problems). We won't be too far behind our date, but I am not sure exactly what it will be now," Barnum said in his response.

The OPSB has recommended using private-sector service providers as an interim measure.

(Sun Media)

Mar 26 2014

**LONDON, Ont. - The province's police watchdog has charged two London, Ont., constables with assault after allegations that a man was injured during his arrest last fall.**

The Special Investigations Unit says 27-year-old Charles Snodgrass was being arrested early on the morning of Nov. 2, 2013 when there was an "interaction" involving two

officers that left him injured.

Const. Gareth Harris and Const. Ryan Hendrick are each charged with assault causing bodily harm.

They're due in court May 8.



Mar 27 2014

**EDMONTON - A former army sniper fired from the Edmonton Police Service for misconduct that included urinating on another officer has lost a chance to save his job.**

The Alberta Court of Appeal has ruled that a review board's decision to uphold Rob Furlong's firing for misconduct was acceptable.

The Law Enforcement Review Board ruled last summer that it was reasonable for police to fire Furlong for misconduct during a training event after a night of heavy drinking.

Furlong had argued before the Appeal Court that the review board had applied an unfairly high standard of review.

He also questioned whether his firing was consistent with punishments in other serious police misconduct cases.

The Appeal Court ruled the board made no reviewable errors in its decision.

"Upon a review of the decision of the presiding officer, it is clear that he considered and weighed all of the relevant factors," the Appeal Court wrote in its judgment released Thursday. "He came to a decision that fell within the range of acceptable outcomes and was defensible in respect of the facts and the law.

"The fact that the appellant disagrees with the weight that the presiding officer gave to these factors does not make his decision on sanction unreasonable."

The Appeal Court had agreed to hear Furlong's challenge of the review board's decision, because it was a reversal of an earlier board ruling that the firing was too harsh.

The court said last fall that the two different rulings raised questions about how the review board could reach different conclusions based on the same facts.

Furlong had seven years of unblemished police service before the misconduct in September 2011. He has been suspended without pay while his case has been ongoing.

Mar 27 2014

**MONTREAL - Quebec provincial police say they have broken up a major debit card fraud ring that was allegedly behind more than \$1 million being siphoned from unsuspecting automated teller machine users.**

Four people were arrested Thursday in Quebec as police executed warrants in two communities north of Montreal as well as in the Toronto area.

Four other suspects from Ontario remained on the lam, actively sought by police.

The ATMs were usually rigged in broad daylight as people conducted their banking

business.

Police said the accused installed card cloning equipment in more than 200 ATM machines in Quebec and Ontario over the years, with cameras hidden in the rigged ATMs to capture pin numbers.

The fraud network members had to come by every two hours - the lifespan of the batteries and illicit gear being used - to collect the equipment and card data.

Police said their investigation had been going on for a few months, but the fraudulent activities began in 2008.

Among those arrested was the alleged leader of the network, Martin Antonov Kuzov, 52.

Some of the ATMs were affiliated with bank branches located in the Montreal area, a police spokesman said.

"Fraudsters, then in possession of the pin and card numbers, transferred this information abroad where large cash withdrawals were made," said Benoit Richard, a Quebec provincial police spokesman.

Mar 27 2014

**EDMONTON - After three years, Edmonton's motorcycle noise bylaw appears to be garnering more convictions and enforcement does not seem to discriminate against motorcyclists.**

An Edmonton police commission report reveals that just over half of tickets issued under the bylaw have resulted in convictions, and it says the number of quashed tickets has declined each year.

City of Saskatoon administrative staff are drafting a similar vehicle noise bylaw that would include decibel level limits for motorcycles. Motorcycle advocacy groups and some city councillors have complained the spirit of the proposed bylaw discriminates against riders.

During the three years the Edmonton bylaw has been in effect, 338 motorcycle operators were charged under the bylaw, while 714 drivers of other motor vehicles were charged under the Traffic Safety Act. The report says this indicates motorcyclists were not targeted more than other drivers.

"Motorcycle noise is not a traffic issue; it is a community disorder issue," the report states. "The bylaw is a most effective piece of legislation to deal with this problem and the first of its kind in Canada."

The report says a change in wording on the calibration certificates helped reduce the number of tickets quashed from 52.3 per cent in 2011 to 27 per cent in 2012 to 23.2 per cent in 2013. The report does not break down the number of tickets by year.

Edmonton's bylaw allows police to issue \$250 tickets for motorcycles exceeding 92 decibels while idling and 96 decibels with the engine revving. Saskatoon staff are eyeing similar decibel levels. Motorcycles and mopeds account for 2.5 per cent of all registered vehicles in Alberta, according to 2010 Statistics Canada numbers. In Saskatchewan, two-wheeled motor vehicles represented about one per cent of all vehicles in 2010.

(Star Phoenix)