

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## HEARING LOSS TOP RCMP DISABILITY CLAIM

May 21 2014

**Prolonged exposure to loud noises — from sirens to squawking radios — is apparently contributing to hearing impairments in a great number of the nation's Mounties.**

Tinnitus, the constant sensation of ringing, buzzing or pulsing in the ears, and hearing loss have been the No. 1 and No. 2 reasons for disability pension claims by current and former male members of the force for at least the past five years, says a report by the RCMP.

For female Mounties, the most common triggers for disability pension claims are post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depressive disorders and chronic lower-back pain, followed by tinnitus.

The report says Veterans Affairs Canada, which administers the fund, projects that the number of current and former members receiving compensation for mental and physical disabilities will nearly double from 11,300 to 19,000 over the next 15 years. As a result, the RCMP's contribution to the fund will likely triple from \$130 million to \$381 million over the same period.

The amount of individual compensation depends on the degree to which the disability is related to service and extent of the disability. The average annual amount per claimant is currently about \$11,000.

There is an "immediate need," the report said, for the force to understand the disability data and key causes for the disabilities.

"The risk of not fully understanding the trends and information is that the organization

will miss opportunities to improve the work environment and lower the risks associated with work related injuries," the report said.

In the case of tinnitus, prolonged noise exposure is the leading cause for the

sometimes life-altering condition, according to the Canadian Academy of Audiology.

For RCMP officers, regular exposure to guns fired at the range, blaring sirens, and dispatch-radio chatter are all likely culprits, said Abe Townsend, a member of the national executive of the RCMP's staff relations representative program. For Mounties working in rural or northern regions, exposure to loud noises from riding snowmobiles or travelling in bush planes are likely contributors, too.

Retired RCMP Const. Dave White, of Bridgewater, N.S., says his tinnitus worsened when he was exposed to a modified — and extremely loud — home alarm system while investigating a break-and-enter call in 2001. The following year, the 29-year veteran of the force was medically discharged because he was unable to work anymore.

To this day, White, 61, suffers from



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continuous ringing in the ears. Occasionally, he also hears a tick-tick-tick sound, sort of like morse code, he said. He also suffers from hyper-sensitivity to sounds.

"My ears are so screwed up I have to hold the phone away a little bit because it would be too loud to tolerate," he said.

While the force has tried to mitigate the problem by providing better hearing protection at the firing range and on bush planes, it's not a hazard you can mitigate completely, Townsend said.

The RCMP did not respond to questions about what it was doing to address injuries on the job after two days.

The issue of PTSD among officers has garnered much attention in recent years. The force just developed a five-year mental health strategy aimed at raising awareness of and reducing stigma around psychological health problems.

(Postmedia News)

## THURSDAY MAY 15, 2014

May 15 2014

**ST. PAUL, Alta. - An autopsy has confirmed that a priest who was killed in a small town northeast of Edmonton on Friday died from gunshot wounds.**

The body of Rev. Gilbert Dasna was found on the floor of a Catholic rectory in St. Paul.

RCMP say they believe John Carlos Quadros, who died in a shootout with police later that day, killed Dasna.

Three Mounties were hurt in the confrontation with Quadros, who owned a health-food store in the town.

Police are still investigating the deaths and have not released information about why Quadros shot the priest.

Dasna was born in Cameroon and had served in St. Paul since 2011.

## BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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May 15 2014

**VICTORIA - A group of Victoria police officers are being hailed as heroes for rushing into a burning high-rise before firefighters could arrive Thursday morning.**

Seven officers suffered smoke inhalation while rescuing residents of the Quadra Street building, where a raging fire broke out on the ninth floor around 7 a.m.

The officers were unequipped but decided to start evacuating the building anyway after seeing the extent of the blaze.

"I got out into the smoke-filled corridor, first thing I saw was policemen rushing up," resident George Garrett said. "They were all worried about us rather than themselves."

The officers ran inside carrying a battering ram for locked doors and proceeded up to the ninth and tenth floors, but the smoke eventually got so thick it forced them out.

Four were taken to hospital in ambulances while three others were driven there by colleagues. Only one non-police officer suffered smoke inhalation.

Fire crews arrived on scene shortly after police and managed to extinguish the blaze, which damaged several units.

Investigators believe it was caused by a single lit cigarette.

(CTV News)

May 15 2014

**TORONTO - The Toronto Police Services Board voted for a sweeping review of the paid-duty system Thursday after board members challenged the practice and the \$26.1 million that off-duty cops collected moonlighting last year.**



Chief Bill Blair also shocked the monthly meeting by announcing an internal investigation into remarks made by a board member.

"Councillor (Mike) Del Grande made a number of very, very serious allegations, including allegations that were, if proven true, are criminal in nature," Blair said to stunned silence in the auditorium at police headquarters.

Blair has asked the force's professional standards branch to investigate Del Grande's comments about paid-duty police officers allegedly demanding "more money or give us food," which could be considered extortion.

Del Grande, one of three city councillors on the civilian oversight board, made several impassioned and animated speeches Thursday about the "exorbitant" amount of money cops earn in their spare time.

He recalled working as a flagman for a



construction company in the mid-to-late '70s, while he was a student saving for university tuition.

"It offered me an opportunity," he said.

The Scarborough councillor said he knows "for a fact" police officers at the time bullied construction companies into replacing flagmen with cops, in part by falsely claiming they were required under the Highway Traffic Act.

Decades later, when he was city budget chair in 2010-11, Del Grande said he examined paid-duty in police departments across Canada and found "there wasn't anyone close to us."

This, he noted, when 3,000 police officers earned \$100,000 plus last year, three times more than the average salary of his residents living in his Scarborough Agincourt ward, and when 124,000 people are unemployed in Toronto.

Del Grande then turned to two community charity events which he called the Armenian and rib festivals. Organizers complained that Toronto police dictated the number of paid-duty officers they would require and to "add insult to injury... there was an expectation, not said directly, but an expectation that there were going to be free tickets for the ribs and there's going to be free tickets to eat at the Armenian festival.

"Not only that but fellow colleagues would be coming down to also get some free tickets as well too. And people felt intimidated, organizers of those two events, they would go nuts that I was saying this, but they were afraid."

Del Grande said he raised the issue with people at police headquarters.

"Our public should not be afraid of police, it makes no sense, that this goes on."

Del Grande also related an anecdote about directing traffic outside an east-end park at a community-environment day he hosted, while a paid-duty officer stood around doing nothing.

"Is that the social covenant that we want in our society? People making big bucks — but then saying \$100,000 isn't enough, I should have the right for the second job," he said.

"I always fear that policing is starting to become, focusing on paid duty, it takes away from the main core business, which is policing. Do we police or do we rent a cop?"

Board members also approved Councillor Frances Nunziata's motion to express "disappointment" to the Toronto Police Association for bumping the hourly paid duty rate by 4.6 per cent this year, from \$65 to \$68 an hour for a constable.

A paid-duty sub-committee, including Del Grande, Councillor Michael Thompson and board member Andrew Pringle, will consult with various city departments and report back to the board at its July 17 meeting.

At the end of Thursday's meeting, Blair told reporters he will speak to Del Grande and community groups "about their experience."

"If they have any information or any evidence of misconduct on the part of any police officer, I'll deal with it," Blair said.

(Toronto Star)

**The man responsible for shutting down hundreds of marijuana grow-ops in Vancouver and arresting record numbers of people in the city's drug trade is now a security consultant for the burgeoning medical marijuana production industry.**



Kash Heed, the former West Vancouver police chief, former commanding officer of the Vancouver police drug squad and former B.C. MLA and solicitor general, is working with a few Ontario and Lower Mainland companies as they vie to become licensed medical marijuana producers under the new federal regime, which kicked in April 1.

He's advising the legal grow-ops on how to keep organized crime out.

"My job is to make sure the people that come forward to these companies with a considerable amount of money, that the money's clean," Heed said in an interview. "It's all around having an organization that cannot be infiltrated by organized crime, it's all the aspects of ensuring the integrity of the organization."

Heed's clients cover his expenses, but he's not making money from his new role.

"I'm not in it to make a quick dollar, I'm in it to change policy in Canada."

Heed, who has advocated for ending marijuana prohibition since 2001, supports the new federal rules as a step to legalization.

"This is just one step to controlling the industry, removing organized crime from the industry, and getting ready for a legal framework for recreational adult use," he said.

He "strongly believes" such a system will be in place in Canada within five years, regardless of who's in power in Ottawa, due to legalization in places such as Colorado, Washington and Uruguay.

"The taxation dollars that are going to be generated from this industry, governments cannot turn a blind eye to it."

Heed's views on legalization stem from his decades as a police officer.

"We had all these record breaking arrests and were taking millions and millions of dollars of supply off the streets, and we weren't making any difference at all," he said. "What we started to see was more violence, consumption was up and supply was the same."

Heed's goal is to advocate for the industry and ensure its integrity is strong so municipalities, citizens and investors can be confident the legal market is responsible. He also wants to ensure the government gets the appropriate tax dollars as it moves towards a

legal, commercialized market.

In his new role, he has met with officials from Uruguay, which legalized recreational marijuana use last week.

(Metro Vancouver)

May 15 2014

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police were helping to take crime prevention to another level Thursday, hoping to make Edmontions harder targets.**

The Hard Target class is a regular Edmonton Police effort that focuses on how people can lessen the chance they become a victim of crime.

"Hard target is a crime prevention lecture combined with a self-defense course," said Sgt. Ryan Lawley, describing the course.

Lawley said about half of the course focuses on steps people can take to make themselves less vulnerable, like hiding valuables when walking and other steps.

He said there are many things people do that make them easy targets.

"We have people who leave their cars running to warm them up. That's a big one that is so easy to prevent," he said.

Lawley said the self-defence component is designed to show people the basics, just to make them more confident, if avoiding a confrontation is completely unavoidable.

"The skills are things that you need to practice all the time, so you're not walking out here with a black belt. That's not really the intention," he said.

(Metro Edmonton)

May 15 2014

**TORONTO - Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair has permission to pay nearly double the originally estimate for a review into police use of lethal force after the death of teenager Sammy Yatim, as long as the costs are "reasonable."**

The Toronto Police Services Board's own lawyer will first review bills of services provided by law firm Torys LLP to ensure the higher cost is reasonable, the board decided at its Thursday meeting.

"This better be a damn good report that we can actually get some recommendations [from] and the chief can actually utilize them," said board member Michael Thompson.

Torys now estimates the review and resulting report, conducted by retired Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci, will cost \$985,000, up from a bill of \$560,000 in March. The law permits Chief Blair to make agreements only up to \$500,000.

Chief Blair retained Justice Iacobucci to conduct a review into the police service's use of lethal force policies, practices and training in August, with services from Torys. It was originally expected to cost less than \$500,000.

(Globe and Mail)



May 16 2014

**THUNDER BAY - A Thunder Bay man has been charged following an early morning collision Feb. 13 that killed off-duty OPP officer David Dennie.**



The 36-year-old Blind River resident's sport utility vehicle crashed with a transport truck driven by Gary Tyska, 61, on Highway 17, east of Blind River.

Tyska was taken to hospital with minor injuries and later released.

OPP now report Tyska has been charged with criminal negligence causing death, careless driving, failing to enter a defect in the daily inspection report and failing to report the defect to the operator.

ABI Trucking of Thunder Bay has also been charged with failing to ensure a daily inspection was conducted properly.

Tyska is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice on July 3 in Blind River.

The investigation is continuing, OPP said.

(CBC News)



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**MONTREAL - Just five per cent of Montreal police officers renewed their target-shooting permits last year. All 4,600 police officers who are issued sidearms are required to renew their permits annually, but just 250 did so.**

The data appears in a police union complaint obtained by QMI Agency and recently filed with the workplace, health and safety commission.

Montreal cops have fired their guns 55 times over the past five years, but have the lowest qualification rate among Quebec police officers.

Front-line cops make up nearly half of the force, but just 100 constables have completed the annual target-shooting sessions required by provincial law.

Coroner Jean Brochu noted the poor shooting record in an October 2012 report into the death of mentally-ill suspect Mario Hamel.

Officers gunned down the knife-wielding man on a downtown street, but a bullet ricocheted off the sidewalk and struck hospital worker Patrick Limoges in the head.

Limoges died, prompting a rare apology from the police chief.

The coroner said target shooting isn't a priority at the force and officers routinely miss training sessions because of court appearances or staff shortages.

He recommended the force "take the necessary measures to ensure its police staff receive the best training conditions."

The qualification rate for firearms dropped in the year that followed Brochu's report.

The police union responded with a complaint, accusing top brass of "behaving recklessly."

"The current situation is likely to endanger police officers, as well as the citizens they protect," wrote Montreal Police Brotherhood president Yves Francoeur.

(QMI Agency)

May 16 2014

**A police pilot project is about to take off - literally.**



Mounties have been using camera-equipped drones, which resemble a sophisticated toy helicopter, for the past two years, giving officers a bird's-eye view of crash scenes.

Now Edmonton city police are set to jump on board, with one 'copter waiting in the wings, set to lift off the ground in just a few weeks.

Acting Staff Sgt. Gary Lamont, with Edmonton city police traffic, says the mini-chopper will help officers piece together collision scenes.

"We'll take the vehicles that have collided and separated and we'll tow them back to where they collided. We like to take pictures of that," he said.

"Up until now we've been calling the fire department to come in with their ladder trucks but this will show everything how it happened."

The copters are compact and efficient, and can climb up to 8,000 feet high.

However they are regulated by Transport Canada, and require licences called Special Flight Operations Certificates, which prevent them from flying higher than 500 feet.

The RCMP used their device Thursday afternoon during pedestrian collision training at the Edmonton Soccer Centre South, attended by dozens of officers from agencies across Western Canada.

There are currently 10 RCMP UAVS - unmanned aerial vehicles - in the province, one for each traffic investigation unit.

The full kit - including the unit itself, batteries, carrying case, and a live-stream viewer, cost about \$12,000 - although with additional tools the cost can surge much higher.

RCMP say they've become vital tools for officers in search-and-rescue missions as well, helping locate missing persons in rugged or difficult terrain.

Late last year the RCMP in Saskatchewan used their device to locate a man who had rolled his car off the road near Saskatoon and wandered in a wooded area.

Infrared technology on the chopper helped locate the man, who was only wearing a t-shirt, no match for winter conditions.

Edmonton police have their chopper ready, Lamont said, with the force in the process of training and getting the necessary licensing and approvals in place.

(Sun Media)

May 16 2014

**DENVER - Police unions across the U.S. are pushing for officers to be able to collect workers' compensation benefits if they suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, whether they got it from the general stress of police work or from responding to a deadly shooting rampage.**

"I can't imagine a department in the United States without officers who have symptoms of PTSD and are still working," said Ron Clark, chairman of the Badge of Life, a group of active and retired officers working to raise awareness of police stress and suicide prevention.

"We're beginning to see more and more states talking about this," he said.

Federal employees and military members can collect compensation if a psychiatrist finds PTSD symptoms. But most states require officers and firefighters to have an accompanying physical injury.

Supporters say lawmakers' efforts to change that are encouraging, but the push-back shows a stigma remains.

"They don't get too worked up when an officer gets shot or physically assaulted because they can see it," Clark said. "If you think every cop is just going to run to that lifeboat and say, 'I have PTSD,' I just don't see it."

It is hard to say how many officers suffer symptoms because many do not come forward for fear of seeming weak, Clark said.

May 16 2014

**WINNIPEG - An RCMP report says aboriginal women have been much more prone to violent death than non-natives, but police have solved cases involving both groups at almost the same rate.**

The report says there have been 1,181 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women since 1980.

That number is considerably higher than earlier estimates, and the Mounties say they are taking steps to try to solve more cases.

The "operational overview" reveals that missing and murdered aboriginal women are over-represented, given their numbers in the Canadian population. They make up for 4.3 per cent of the Canadian population, and yet account for 16 per cent of female homicides and 11.3 per cent of missing women.

"Every file we reviewed represents a mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt or friend," Bob Paulson, commissioner of the RCMP, said in a statement. "We cannot lose sight of the human aspect of these incidents and we call upon partners and communities to work together to find solutions to this issue."

The report says police forces across Canada have solved 88 per cent of aboriginal female homicides since 1980 and 89 per cent of cases involving non-natives.

There are stark differences, however, in how aboriginal women fall victim to violence.

The report says they are more likely to be killed by an acquaintance and are less likely to be killed by a spouse.

They are also more likely to be killed by someone with a criminal record, someone on social assistance or someone with a history of family violence.

The RCMP also say murdered aboriginal women were more likely to have a criminal record, to be unemployed and to have consumed intoxicants just before their deaths.

The force points out that a small number of victims, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal, had worked in the sex trade.

The Mounties say they are sharing the data with other police forces and have directed their own divisions to review all outstanding cases.

They are also promising to add resources to investigative units where needed.

There have been several calls for a national inquiry, including from aboriginal groups, but the federal government has so far resisted, saying the issue has been studied enough and it's time for action.

May 16 2014

**ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Two so-called pop-bottle bombs have exploded in Abbotsford, B.C., in one case releasing gases noxious enough to overcome a police officer.**

Const. Ian MacDonald says the officer was treated for exposure to fumes released when the bottle blew up outside a home on Thursday evening.

He says both explosions were in an area where a series of arsons occurred last month.

In the first incident on Tuesday, police and fire officials responded to reports of a loud noise and found remnants of a plastic two-litre pop bottle on the street.

MacDonald calls the incidents troubling, saying that besides the mischief involved, there's a potential for injuries and property damage.

May 16 2014

**KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A man infected with hepatitis C has been handed a six-month jail sentence for spitting into the eye and mouth of an RCMP officer during an arrest.**

Graham Penner, 43, pleaded guilty to one count of assaulting a peace officer.

Court heard Mounties were called to the home of Penner's girlfriend at about 4 a.m. on March 2 for an alleged domestic assault.

Constables Kevin Roy and Howard Morine arrived and placed Penner in handcuffs after a short discussion.

Crown lawyer Will Burrows said that's when Penner began lashing out.

"Mr. Penner advised the members that he was contagious with hepatitis C and he spat right in the face of Const. Roy," he told provincial court.

"Const. Morine hit the accused twice in the face with a punch and they forced him to the ground."

Penner's saliva got into Roy's mouth and eyes, justifying Morine's actions, Burrows said.

"He indicated he's been a member for seven years and it's the first time he'd ever had to hit somebody."

Some of the saliva also got on Morine and both officers were treated in hospital.

Burrows said Roy has had two clear hepatitis C tests since the incident, with a final examination slated for September.

Besides the six-month sentence for spitting, Penner was handed an additional three months behind bars for a separate breach charge dating back to February, to which he also pleaded guilty.

(Kamloops This Week)

May 16 2014

**WINNIPEG - Provincial figures show mix-ups at provincial jails and penitentiaries have resulted in 38 prisoners being accidentally released since 2010.**

Nine of those came in the last year.

Most of the inmates were taken back into custody within a month of their release, but

others were free for up to five months.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation requested the information from the province, which started an independent review in 2011.

Colin Craig of the CTF says corrections officials need to spend more time and attention getting it right because "people pay taxes to ensure there's public safety in our community."

But Attorney General Andrew Swan says there's no need to panic, saying police can be relied upon to decide whether any public notification is necessary when a prisoner is released too soon.

(Global Winnipeg)

**SATURDAY  
MAY 17, 2014**

May 17 2014

**OTTAWA - A 29-year-old woman has been charged in a collision that killed an off-duty Ottawa police officer.**

The officer, who the police service has not identified, died after the crash on Nov. 17 southeast of the city.

Police say the 32-year-old officer was on his way to work when it happened.

The driver of the other vehicle and her seven-year-old child were taken to hospital, where they were treated.

Police announced on Saturday that Brandi Krystyna Edwards has been charged under the Highway Traffic Act with failing to drive in a marked lane.

**SUNDAY  
MAY 18, 2014**

May 18 2014

**OTTAWA - An internal RCMP study found 322 incidents of corruption within the national police force over an 11-year period - including a dozen examples involving organized crime.**



Improperly giving out police information was the most common type of corrupt behaviour, followed by fraud, misuse of police officer status, theft and interference with the judicial process.

The RCMP undertook the study, dubbed Project Sanction, to help identify trends with a view to developing an anti-corruption strategy.

"It was apparent that many of the incidents identified in this study were a result of poor guidance, lack of adequate supervision, or a combination of life pressures that culminated in a desperate decision," the report says.

The study - covering documented cases from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2005 - was completed in 2007 but only recently released to The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

The RCMP says it has since adopted many of the report's recommendations, adding there is no evidence that corruption is a significant issue within its ranks.

A total of 204 regular members were involved in the 322 incidents of corruption, with the study characterizing the "nature and gravity" of the episodes as "relatively moderate."

Many cases of improperly sharing police information involved misuse of confidential details in police databanks, sometimes to family, friends or known criminals.

Fraud cases often included doctored expense claims or abuse of government credit cards.

Examples of interference were ticket fixing, perjury, falsifying evidence or protection of illegal activities.

Twelve incidents involved organized crime and another 20 included officer dealings with known criminals.

"The RCMP can and should be doing more in terms of a risk reduction strategy," the report concluded.

"Left unaddressed, corruption can fester and affect the vast majority of honest employees, in that there is more potential for less public co-operation on an operational level."

In addition, employees may see a lack of action as a sign that management doesn't take the corrupt behaviour seriously, the report added. "It is clear that the risk of not making proactive changes to address the incidence of corruption can have grave consequences."

The study made recommendations on recruiting new members, ethics training, employee evaluation, security clearances and identifying officers at risk of corrupt behaviour.

Since the report, the RCMP has taken a number of actions to support and encourage ethical behaviour of its members, said Cpl. David Falls, an RCMP spokesman.

The recruitment process is "much more exhaustive" than it was in 2007, Falls said, citing a list of exam, interview and testing procedures that "have been extremely effective at screening out a high proportion of applicants who do not reflect the core values of the RCMP."

The RCMP also points to measures including:

- a more rigorous promotion process.
- regular employee evaluations and security briefings.
- more ethics training and a conflict of interest directive.
- a proposed new code of conduct.
- a plan to formally recognize professionalism and integrity.

May 18 2014

### EDMONTON - More commercial vehicles in Alberta are failing safety checks.

Almost 500 trucks, semi-trailers and other commercial vehicles were targeted for inspection during an enforcement blitz this month and just over half were pulled from service pending problems being fixed.

Police and transport officers found another 24 per cent required attention for improperly adjusted breaks, bad tires and insecure loads.

Only one in four vehicles over 4,500 kilograms that were pulled over across the province actually passed.

May 18 2014

### SASKATOON - Police in Saskatoon say a review board will scrutinize the actions of officers who fired Tasers at a man who appeared to be set to plunge a knife into himself.

Police say the 26-year-old man was found kneeling in the street on Saturday night clutching a large knife with both hands.

They say the knife was pointed at his body and the officers were trying to convince him to put it down, but they say he suddenly raised his hands and made a stabbing motion towards himself.

That's when police say two officers fired their energy weapons and the man was immediately disabled.

He was treated in hospital and now remains in police custody to face assault and weapons-related charges.

Staff Sgt. Dave McKenzie says the incident will be reviewed by the police department's Use of Force Review Board, which he says is a mandatory process whenever officers use their weapons.

## MONDAY MAY 19, 2014

May 19 2014

### LONDON - Once a police chief, always a police chief.



After retirement, a former top cop is still referred to as chief — even by the officer now holding the job.

That's the unwritten rule honoured by the London police force, who lost one their most respected chiefs on Friday.

Walter Johnson, police chief from 1971 to 1983, died at age 88.

"He was always chief to me, even though I was chief," said Murray Faulkner, a former police chief hired by Johnson in 1975.

Colleagues remember Johnson as a pioneering police officer credited with modernizing the force's communication system, introducing police dogs to the service and spearheading the family consultant unit that teamed specially trained civilians with police officers to combat domestic violence.

May 19 2014

### MONTREAL - Authorities in 16 countries, including Canada, took part in a

### global crackdown on a sophisticated malware that lets cybercriminals take over a computer and hijack its webcam.

Charges were announced Monday against at least 97 people worldwide.

More than 350 properties were raided last week as part of the operation, including 15 in Quebec.

Police said they had arrested people suspected of using or distributing the malicious software called BlackShades.

Const. Philippe Gravel, an investigator with the RCMP's Integrated Technological Crime Unit in Quebec, said he expected charges will be laid in Canada as well.

Gravel says police raided homes on May 13 and 14 in Montreal, Quebec City and elsewhere in the province after obtaining search warrants.

"We've searched the houses, we've seized computers and we're still analyzing the data," Gravel said. Gravel said he couldn't comment on whether there would be further raids in Canada.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney issued a statement praising the operation "for preventing further harm from the proliferation of such cybercrime networks."

The FBI said the BlackShades Remote Access Tool has been sold since at least 2010 to several thousand users. The agency said one of the program's co-creators is now cooperating with the government and had provided extensive information.

The malware lets hackers steal personal information, intercept keystrokes and hijack webcams to make secret recordings of users.

BlackShades also can be used to encrypt and lock a computer's data files, blocking the

# PRESENCE, COMMAND, IMAGE

The three aspects of law enforcement authority to which all police and security agencies aspire are presence, command and image however they differ on which is the most important.

Many studies indicate that image is a primary factor and unspoken asset in encouraging voluntary compliance. Appearance can be the one determining factor that improves community respect for an agency in general and the officer in particular.

For many years *Blue Line Magazine* has looked at Canadian law enforcement attire and apparel with a view toward encouraging an atmosphere of continuous improvement from both agency and industry. Toward this end we have now set aside a single issue each year to recognize the agency which best exemplifies quality improvement and function in its uniform attire and apparel. Emphasis will be placed on the success of the image projected to the community along with the cooperative efforts of both



members, stylists and industry manufacturers and fabricators.

The *Blue Line Uniform Image Award* may be bestowed upon any police or parallel law enforcement agency where a uniform is a primary part of day-to-day operations. The

award can recognize design and style of an entire array of uniforms or one improved aspect of the uniform kit which creates a demonstrably enhanced public image. Factors considered include style, safety, comfort and innovation.

Apply to be considered for this recognition by supplying appropriate photographs and supporting documentation outlining the process, goals, and achievements made in the attire and/or apparel. All submissions will be viewed by a group of judges with extensive experience in law enforcement, manufacturing, retail and design.

Recipients will be the featured cover story in the November edition of *Blue Line Magazine* and receive a plaque of recognition suitable for display. All submissions may be made to [uniforms@blueline.ca](mailto:uniforms@blueline.ca) before September 15, 2014.

*Blue Line Magazine* will also be entertaining resumes and suggestions for judges for this award up to August 31, 2014.

rightful owners from regaining access unless they pay a ransom.

The low cost of the hacking tool has made it increasingly popular across the hacker underground, where variants have been circulating online for years.

Last year, security firm Symantec said that use of BlackShades was going up, with licenses for the program going for \$40 to \$100.

Law enforcement co-ordination agencies Europol and Eurojust, based in The Hague, Netherlands, said Monday that police in 13 European countries - Austria, Belgium, Britain, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Moldova, the Netherlands and Switzerland - as well as in Canada, the United States, and Chile raided 359 properties and seized cash, firearms, drugs and more than 1,000 data storage devices.

The two European agencies declined to provide country-by-country breakdowns of arrests, details of items seized or the specific days when last week's raids occurred.

In a statement, the RCMP advised Canadians to make sure an anti-virus software is in place and not to open email from an unknown source.

**TUESDAY**  
**MAY 20, 2014**

May 20 2014

**Former British Columbia police-officer-turned criminologist Rick Parent says policing costs are unsustainable and a two-tiered system inevitable.**



"That's where policing is going, says Parent, a 30-year veteran of the Delta Police Department and assistant professor at Simon Fraser University.

"There are different duties within policing that probably don't require this five-star, highly trained, highly equipped, highly armed police officer, in fact you don't need a gun to do a lot of police duties," Parent told the Star.

The Vancouver Police Department has launched an innovative, \$6 million three-year Community Safety Officer pilot project.

Recruits are trained for 10 weeks in "low-risk" areas. They're taught crisis intervention, paperwork, crowd and traffic control. Since they aren't armed, they don't require firearm training nor are they taught serious crime investigative techniques.

Community Safety Officers get paid roughly \$20 to \$25 an hour — less than half

of a regular police officer — and wear uniforms and drive their own vehicles. They are supervised by regular Vancouver Police Department officers.

"They're like a support team to help the regular police."

CSOs can guard crime scenes or knock on doors to look for witnesses in a homicide. "Normally we would pay policemen \$50 an hour or pay them overtime \$100 to literally knock on a door and say 'Hi, it's the police. Did you see anything?'"

Parent, who also works as a police trainer, says the CSOs are not "flunkies or second-rate people. These are very admirable people who we'd love to hire." Several of Parent's students now work in the CSO unit.

The Vancouver Police Union criticized the program when it launched last year, saying the department should have been filling police officer vacancies instead.

"Change is never accepted well in any organization, especially in policing," Parent responds. "It can also affect morale."

(Toronto Star)

May 20 2014

**Two Americans have pleaded guilty in an Oklahoma courthouse to hacking into Toronto Police computers, amongst other targets.**

The men were motivated by a blend of anti-government politics, ego and boredom, according to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

American authorities say they managed to hack into Toronto police computers between May 23 and June 1, 2012, accessing the names of 500 confidential police informants.

Since the charges were laid earlier this month, Toronto Police have maintained no informants were compromised and the hackers didn't breach any internal systems. According to Toronto police, the hackers only accessed outdated information such as crime alerts and community bulletins.

Toronto Police spokesperson Mark Pugash said in an email Tuesday that the Toronto Police position has not changed.

However, prosecution documents allege an underage member of the U.S. group, referred to only as "Member B," hacked into at least one Toronto police computer and downloaded files with "sensitive and private information," including more than 3,500 email addresses, 2,500 usernames and cleartext passwords and "names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of greater than 500 police informants; suspect descriptions; and press releases, police reports, and Tweets."

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for August 27 in Tulsa.

The hacking group called itself "Team Digi7al" and was led by Nicholas Knight, 27, of Virginia, who worked at the time of the attacks as a nuclear system administrator on the aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman.

Also pleading guilty was Illinois community college student Daniel Krueger, who was studying to be a network

administrator.

Assistant United States Attorney R. Trent Shores said in an email interview that Knight and Krueger pleaded guilty to conspiracy on Tuesday, including the allegation that they hacked the Toronto Police computer.

(Toronto Star)

May 20 2014

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police are taking a soft approach on frivolous 9-1-1 callers before they start handing out hefty fines.**

On April 1, the province's 911 legislation came into effect, introducing fines for frivolous 911 callers that abuse the system. The fine for first time offenders is \$5,000 and \$10,000 for repeat offenders.

Dealing with frivolous 911 callers has been a thorn in the side of Edmonton police for years. Callers have dialed the emergency number asking how to cook a turkey, calling for taxis, pizza, Chinese food, a ride home and even a problem with a muffin at Tim Hortons.

The problem with non-emergency calls and pocket dials from cell phones to 911 became so bad that in November 2012, police launched an awareness campaign, asking the public to make the right call.

According to a 911 supervisor, about two thirds of the calls that come into 911 are non-emergency. Operators screen about 100 pocket dials daily and re-route another 100 non-emergency calls from people who have a legitimate need for police, but it's not an emergency. Despite the campaign, police say some people continue to abuse the number.

In order to handle ballooning calls to police in general, Chief Rod Knecht has added 30 more people to communications. During the last couple of months, he said, the service has also aggressively started looking at options for accidental calls to the emergency line.

"They'll get the option to push two or three. So we hope to reduce the number of unnecessary dispatches that are occurring right now," said Knecht, noting officers have to physically attend and deal with nuisance callers, tying up valuable resources on people who don't need help.

"We're not getting a lot of those, but we do have some people that really abuse the 911 situation and they've got to understand they are putting other emergency issues at risk."

So far Knecht isn't aware of any penalties against frivolous callers, but said officers have visited people to have conversations.

"We'd like to take a softer approach first before we penalize," Knecht said.

The best thing to do if you accidentally dial 911 is to stay on the line and let the dispatcher know there is not an emergency.

(Sun Media)

May 20 2014

**A regional police unit dedicated to chasing prolific offenders across municipal borders is collapsing, a major blow to co-ordinated crime fighting in Greater Victoria.**

20-cylinder automatic engine also available. Δ Fuel consumption figures rating provided by Natural Resources Canada of 6.0L/100 km (highway) for the 2014 Legacy equipped with the Lineartronic<sup>®</sup> continuously variable automatic transmission and a 70L fuel tank capacity. Fuel consumption figures should only be used for vehicle comparison purposes. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on driving conditions and driver behavior. For more information on fuel economy ratings, visit the highest rating award for performance in the safety tests. (www.nhtsa.gov). To earn a 2013 Top Safety Pick+, a vehicle must receive a "Good" rating at least four of the five tests and a "Good" or "Acceptable" rating in the fifth test. Technical specifications are subject to change without any prior notice. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.

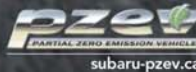


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LEGACY	
Fuel economy (L/100 km) <sup>Δ</sup>	
Lineartronic <sup>®</sup> CVT	City 8.4 / Hwy 6.0
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**2014 LEGACY**



**SUBARU**

Confidence in Motion



Saanich Police Department is pulling out of the Regional Crime Unit — withdrawing \$621,000 in funding, three officers and one civilian staffer — at the end of the year. Losing the biggest partner leaves only West Shore and Sooke RCMP, which cannot run the unit alone.

Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard said following the withdrawal of Victoria police in 2009, then Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney last year, the unit wasn't as effective as it used to be.

"So we were limping along with just ourselves and West Shore without those other members," Leonard said. "The other municipalities having withdrawn, the unit isn't doing anywhere near what it used to. It did a really good job on prolific offenders, but as we lost participants, it had less value."

The RCMP confirmed it has no plans to continue the unit following Saanich's withdrawal.

The Regional Crime Unit was set up in 2008, heralded as a way for police departments across Greater Victoria to track repeat offenders operating throughout the region and to prevent police agencies from working in silos. At one point, the unit had 15 officers who would do covert surveillance and intelligence gathering to track property criminals. In the past year, it dwindled to as few as six officers.

Saanich police Sgt. Steve Morgan, who heads the unit, said he's "really disappointed" by the decision to disband. "It's really a bummer because I've been really enjoying the type of work I've been doing and we have had some great files," Morgan said. "I don't think there's anything I'm going to be able to do to change [the decision]. They know the good work we've been doing and they understand that."

(Victoria Times Colonist)

## WEDNESDAY MAY 21, 2014

May 21 2014

**HANOVER - Hanover Police Service has announced the arrest of another suspect in connection with a theft that left a veteran officer seriously injured.**

A 49-year-old woman from Clifford is accused interfering while police attempted to arrest Christopher Weber, who allegedly shoplifted from the LCBO before trying to steal a television from Walmart.

According to a news release from Hanover Police Service issued Wednesday morning, the 49-year-old woman attempted to assist Weber by causing a disturbance, yelling and cursing at the citizens who came to the aid of the injured police officer.

The woman surrendered to Hanover police Monday and was charged with obstructing a peace officer and causing a disturbance.

She was released from custody on an undertaking with conditions, and will be in court June 23 to answer the charges.

Weber, 36, remains incarcerated and is scheduled to appear in Walkerton Court May 27 by video.

Meanwhile the injured Hanover officer, a 36-year-veteran, underwent a second surgery at Victoria Hospital in London and was released from hospital Friday.

The injured officer will have a long recovery ahead of him and is grateful for the assistance of the citizens that came to his aid, the news release stated.

(The Post)

May 21 2014

**REGINA - The head of the RCMP in Saskatchewan says she believes work by the force is helping to reduce the number of murdered and missing aboriginal women - despite a disproportionate number of victims.**

Assistant Commissioner Brenda Butterworth-Carr says she's comfortable with the direction the Mounties are taking.

But she also says things can get better.

An RCMP report released last week found that while aboriginal women make up 4.3 per cent of the Canadian population, they account for 16 per cent of female homicides and 11.3 per cent of missing women.

In Saskatchewan, native women make up 55 per cent of homicide victims - the highest per cent of all provinces.

Butterworth-Carr says law enforcement alone can't solve the problem, and the RCMP is working with other agencies, such as the Social Services and Education ministries, to prevent high-risk behaviour.

May 21 2014

**WASHINGTON - Law enforcement faces an "enormous challenge" in preventing state-sponsored cyber crimes, FBI Director James Comey said Wednesday, days after the Justice Department announced charges against five Chinese military officials accused of hacking into American companies to steal trade secrets.**

"There are two kinds of big companies in the United States: those who've been hacked by the Chinese and those who don't yet know that they've been hacked by the Chinese," Comey told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Justice Department on Monday announced a 31-count indictment against Chinese hackers accused of penetrating steel computer networks of big-name steel companies and makers of solar and nuclear technology to gain a competitive advantage. China denies the allegations.

Comey said the increased focus on cybersecurity has heightened his agency's demand for new, tech-savvy experts.

Describing efforts to beef up the FBI workforce on the cyber front, Comey was quoted this week as saying at a conference in New York that "some of those kids want to smoke weed on the way to the interview."

Questioned about the remark Wednesday, he said he has no intention of changing current

hiring policy that disqualifies applicants if they've used marijuana in the last three years.

"I am determined not to lose my sense of humour, but unfortunately there, I was trying to be both serious and funny," Comey said.

He said someone told him of a "great candidate" for the FBI who had smoked marijuana within the last five years. Comey said the person should nonetheless apply.

Comey said the FBI was grappling with how to balance its desire to recruit a strong workforce with changing attitudes on marijuana use by states and young adults.

(AP)

## THURSDAY MAY 22, 2014

May 22 2014

**An OPP officer injured in a crash near Angus on Wednesday is improving.**

The crash happened just before 10 a.m. on a curve along County Road 10 when his unmarked cruiser went off the road. Police say it rolled off the road, through a ditch, and hit trees before coming to a stop. The officer had to be pulled from the vehicle by emergency crews.

The officer was taken by air ambulance to St. Michael's hospital in Toronto with serious injuries to the head and chest.

His injuries were considered serious at the time of the accident but he was listed in stable condition on Thursday morning.

It's unclear why he was in the area at the time, or whether he was responding to a call. Police are still investigating.

(CTV News)

May 22 2014

**CALGARY - A man accused of killing five young people in Calgary's worst mass murder has been found fit to stand trial.**



Matthew de Groot is charged with first-degree murder after four men and a woman were stabbed to death at a house party that was being held last month to mark the end of the university school year.

De Groot, who is 22 and the son of a senior Calgary police officer, had been ordered to undergo a 30-day assessment to determine whether he was mentally fit to stand trial.

Court heard de Groot will remain in psychiatric care under a mental health certificate.

Police have not said what they think motivated the attack.

They have said de Groot was invited to the party April 15 and mingled with guests before violence broke out.