

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Funeral service for slain officers hears of outrage, despair



Jun 10 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - The city of Moncton came to another standstill Tuesday, this time to bid a sorrowful farewell at a regimental funeral for three Mounties killed in a shooting rampage that left New Brunswick's second-largest city under siege for 30 hours.

The funeral, attended by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov.-Gen. David Johnston, was preceded by a parade of 2,700 law enforcement officers from across Canada and the United States. They were led by pipers and drummers and four RCMP officers on horseback.

During the three-hour service, held inside an old hockey arena packed with 7,000 mourners, the brother of one of the three men

killed said the death of Const. Douglas James Larche, 40, has left him feeling overwhelming despair.

"I stand here before you with an unbearable sadness, disbelief, rage, because a great man was taken away from us far too soon," said Daniel Larche, a master seaman in the Royal Canadian Navy.

"Never in my worst nightmare did I envision a stitch in time that I would be giving his eulogy."

The other officers killed last Wednesday were Fabrice Georges Gevaudan, 45, and Dave Joseph Ross, 32.

Ross's brother-in-law, Adrian Vander Ploeg, recalled how the RCMP officer was making dinner at home but dropped

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everything, including leaving the barbecue lid up and the garage door open, to be among the first to respond to a report of a gunman walking through the streets of Moncton's north end.

"For those closest to Dave, that barbecue left open says everything about who Dave was and his devotion to those around him," Vander Ploeg said.

"Only recently, Dave turned to (his wife) Rachael and said, 'I am such a happy man. I love going to work every day, I have a wife that I love so much, a beautiful son and another baby on the way. ... Rachael, we are so blessed.'"

Gevaudan was remembered by Geoffrey McLatchie, his spiritual adviser, as a doting husband and stepfather.

"Fabrice lived a heart-centred life, a life of joy and happiness, a life where he connected to the community in which he lived," McLatchie said. "He was very comfortable in his own skin and he was his own man."

RCMP pallbearers carried the flag-draped coffins of the slain officers into the Moncton Coliseum. An RCMP Stetson sat atop each casket at one end of the arena. Danny, a police dog that served with Ross, was led inside.

The prime minister acknowledged the "searing grief" that has enveloped New Brunswick, a province he said he's proud to call his ancestral home.

"Together, we struggle for answers," Harper said. "We ask what in God's name happened here and why. We may never know."

Harper said while the justice system will decide what happened, one thing is certain: "We do not need a verdict to know that what happened here is an outrage," he said.

Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown, commanding officer for the New Brunswick RCMP, saluted the dead officers as well as constables Eric Dubois and Darlene Goguen, two other Mounties who were wounded in last week's shootings.

"With the eyes of the nation upon us today, I want to publicly say how incredibly proud I am of each and everyone of you," he told the officers in the crowd.

"I only wish," he said, before pausing to choke back tears, "I only wish that I could have told Doug, Dave and Fabrice that in person."

Before the funeral service began, people inside the arena stood and applauded for 45 minutes as police officers arrived to take their places. Once seated, the arena was a patchwork of colours, mainly red but also a variety of blue and green uniforms.

In front of a stage were three large portraits of the officers in their dress uniforms. On one side of the arena were several large wreaths and colourful bouquets.

Outside the arena, Brenda Jaillet of Oro-mocto, N.B., said the shooting deaths have deeply saddened her husband, a retired RCMP officer.

"It's a brotherhood," Jaillet said before the service. "What has affected these three members has affected him. It could have been him at any time during his career."

Among the mourners were RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and a number of premiers.

On the streets of Moncton, shopkeepers placed signs in their windows proclaiming, "Moncton Strong." A large makeshift memorial continues to grow outside the local RCMP detachment, where heaps of flowers, candles, teddy bears and personal notes have spread from the front steps to the sidewalk.

As Mounties and other police officers gathered for the parade, local residents reached out to say thank you, often shaking hands or sharing a brief embrace and a few kind words.

Six other sites in Moncton and four more outside the city were set up for mourners to watch the televised service. A public visitation service held Monday drew hundreds of people.

Gevaudan, originally of the Paris suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt, was remembered in his obituary as an advocate of women's rights who adored his wife and "Twin Flame" Angela, and stepdaughter Emma.

The obituary for Larche of Saint John, N.B., says he died while working as a plain-clothes officer who "without fear or hesitation ran towards danger to protect his community and family." He leaves behind his wife Nadine and three daughters, Alexa, Laura and Mia.

Ross's obituary says the dog handler died doing what he loved. He is survived by his wife and son Austin, with another child expected in the fall.

Justin Bourque, 24, of Moncton is facing three charges of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder. He is scheduled to be in provincial court July 3.

THURSDAY
JUNE 05, 2014

Jun 05 2014

OTTAWA - Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak suggested Thursday that the Liberals may have made a deal with the Ontario Provincial Police Association in exchange for its support during the election - an allegation the union president called "baseless and irresponsible."



President Jim Christie has said that ads his association took out against the PC party were not an endorsement of the Liberals nor of the NDP - they just don't want Hudak as premier.

Speaking in Ottawa, Hudak pointed to a National Post report suggesting Christie is pushing for a Liberal victory in the June 12 election.

"I do have concerns about the OPP union meeting with the Liberals during the campaign and what was promised by (Premier) Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals in return for advertising," Hudak said.

"These government unions are spending millions and millions of dollars on ads to re-elect the Liberals...What they're trying to do with all that money is they're trying to elect a legislature of the compliant, politicians who will bend to wage and benefit increases and try to intimidate their opponents. Not me."

Hudak said when he met with the OPPA they wanted him to exempt its members from his proposed wage-freeze policy and he said no.

"My question is: What did Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals say yes to?" Hudak said.

In Toronto, Wynne didn't respond directly when asked if there was anything offered to the OPPA in return for the ads, but she said as far as she knew the association hadn't made any endorsements.

"I had no idea - we had no idea - what the OPPA was going to do in terms of their judgment on our policies or the Conservative policies," she said.

Wynne said at another event later in the day that she has not met with the OPPA recently and "there is no interaction between me and them in terms of their decisions."

Christie did not return a request for an interview, but issued a statement saying he meets with senior officials from all three parties to advocate for his members.

"Tim Hudak's concerns about the OPP Association securing any promise

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whatsoever with the Liberal Party of Ontario in return for advertising are baseless and irresponsible," he wrote.

FRIDAY
JUNE 06, 2014

Jun 06 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada says an offender's aboriginal status does not need to be taken into account when the Crown is deciding whether to seek a mandatory minimum sentence.

In a 7-0 decision, the high court says the only way the Crown's decision to seek a mandatory minimum can be reviewed is if there is an abuse of process.

The case involved an aboriginal man charged with impaired driving who was notified the Crown would be seeking a mandatory minimum sentence.

This being his fifth impaired-driving conviction, he would have spent at least 120 days in jail.

His lawyers argued his aboriginal status had to be taken into account before any decision was made that would limit the judge's sentencing options by imposing a harsher penalty.

The Supreme Court overturned the lower courts' decisions and sentenced the man to 120 days in jail.

Jun 06 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - A senior RCMP officer in New Brunswick says a man suspected in the shooting deaths of three Mounties and the wounding of two others in Moncton was unarmed at the time of his arrest early Friday.

The nerve-wracking manhunt came to an end at 12:10 a.m. after police apprehended Justin Bourque, who was wanted for one of the worst mass shootings in the RCMP's history.

The harrowing search for Bourque lasted nearly 30 hours, causing a large swath of northwestern Moncton to be locked down with residents asked to remain inside their homes.

Supt. Marlene Snowman said Bourque was unarmed when he was arrested without incident but police did find weapons near the wooded residential area where he was found.

Snowman had to pause to gather her composure as she thanked residents for keeping their outdoor lights on, which she says helped police in their night-time search.

"It has been a very challenging 30 hours or more for the officers who worked around the clock to get this done," she told a news conference.

Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown, the Mounties' commanding officer in the province, says it will take time for the department to heal as he released the names of the officers who were killed and injured.

Brown said the officers who died were: Const. David Ross, 32, originally of

Victoriaville, Que.; Const. Fabrice Georges Gevaudan, 45, originally of Boulogne-Billancourt in France; and Const. Douglas James Larche of Saint John, N.B.

He said Larche, who worked in Miramichi before he joined the detachment in the Moncton area, was a highway patrol and general duty officer who received a commander's commendation six years ago for saving the life of an unconscious baby in Moncton.

Larche had been a member of the RCMP for 12 years.

Brown said Ross joined the RCMP from Ottawa after graduation in July 2007 and was posted to the detachment based in Moncton as a general duty police officer.

Linda Ross, the aunt of Ross, told The Canadian Press on Friday that her nephew leaves behind his wife Rachel and an 18-month-old son. She said Rachel has another baby due in September.

"Dave has been married for four years and he was perfectly happy, he had found his soul mate," Ross said in a telephone interview from Victoriaville.

"He was really happy, really passionate about his work and he was an excellent person."

Brown said Gevaudan was born in France and joined the RCMP in Regina. After his graduation from the training academy on Feb. 11, 2008, Brown said Gevaudan was posted to the detachment in Moncton as a general duty police officer.

The injured officers are constables Darlene Goguen and Eric Dubois.

"Fortunately, most people will never have to experience what our officers have gone through in the past couple of days," Brown said. "Their resilience is truly remarkable."

Brown said almost 300 officers were involved in the search for Bourque.

A woman who watched members of a tactical unit arrest the Moncton man in the frontyard of her home said the experience was scary.

"They started yelling, 'Come out with your hands up!' and they had their guns loaded," said Michelle Thibodeau, 21.

"About five minutes later, Justin surrendered himself and he said, 'I'm done,' and then they arrested him and brought him to my frontyard where they had him sprawled on the ground."

The RCMP said Thursday that of the two wounded officers, one was released from hospital and the other had injuries that were not considered life-threatening.

Bourque, 24, is charged with three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Jun 06 2014

GANANOQUE, Ont. - An overpass on Highway 401 east of Kingston has been officially dedicated in memory of a provincial police officer who died in the line of duty 57 years ago.

OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes led Friday's ceremony that saw the structure near Gananoque named the Constable Henry J. Harper Memorial Bridge.

Harper joined the provincial force in 1954.

He died on Sept. 11, 1957, from injuries sustained a month earlier when he was hit by a car while investigating a collision on the Thousand Islands Parkway east of Gananoque.

The County Road 32 overpass now has memorial signs with the officer's name and police service crest posted at each end of the bridge.

Fifty-three provincial highway structures have been dedicated in honour of fallen police officers since 2002, when the province began allowing the practice.

"Losing a loved one in the line of duty is always a tragic occasion," Hawkes said. "I am pleased that, despite the passage of many years, the people of Gananoque and Leeds County continue to acknowledge the sacrifice that Constable Harper made."

(CJOJ, The Canadian Press)

Jun 06 2014

LONDON, Ont. - A new study shows speed-related deaths and injuries among young Ontario men have dropped significantly since the province passed a strict law against street racing.

The research out of Western University found there have been about 58 fewer speed-related deaths or injuries a month for males between 16 and 24 years old since the law took effect in 2007.

The law says drivers caught travelling at 50 kilometres per hour above the speed limit, street racing or stunt driving can immediately have their licence suspended and their vehicle impounded for seven days.

If convicted, they also face a fine of up to \$10,000, a licence suspension for up to two years or six demerit points, along with possible jail time of up to six months.

The study, which was conducted in collaboration with Ontario's Ministry of Transportation, looked at data from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2011.

Lead researcher Evelyn Vingilis says the law is making a difference in the number of collisions, not just of convictions.

"First of all, we looked at males and females, and then we looked at younger and older individuals, because we know from my earlier research that street racing and extreme speeding is an activity that typically younger males are more likely to engage in," Vingilis said.

"What we found was a substantial reduction in the number of convictions for extreme speeding for males, and no change for females because they were pretty low any way. And importantly, we found a significant decrease in the number of motor vehicle casualties of males 16 to 24 - quite a significant reduction."

Vingilis says the findings suggest that imposing strict sanctions can deter risky driving behaviour.

Jun 06 2014

KINGSTON, Ont. - Police in Kingston, Ont., say some creative editing of provincial election signs has led officers to a marijuana grow operation.

Investigators say an officer saw a 35-year-old man using a marker to change the facial characteristics of candidates' photos on election signs.

Police say the man was detained on Wednesday, but they received information that caused them concern for the well-being of a person at the man's apartment.

Officers who went to check the apartment discovered what appeared to be a marijuana grow-op.

A warrant was obtained and more than 30 plants and grow paraphernalia were seized.

Michael Dalton remains in custody charged with mischief under \$5,000, possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking, and unlawfully producing marijuana.

Jun 06 2014

TOFIELD, Alta. - A couple is crediting an Alberta RCMP officer for saving their lives after their pickup truck was struck by lightning as they were travelling down the highway.

Al and Betty Perry were driving along Highway 14 near Tofield, southwest of Edmonton, last weekend when a massive bolt of lightning hit their silver pickup truck, instantly filling the vehicle with smoke.

The Perrys say the airbags deployed, the metal body was rippled by the heat and parts of the truck were completely melted.

Al says he thinks the electrical system inside the truck was destroyed as the doors and windows locked and would not open.

Luckily for them, Strathcona RCMP Const. Brian Jamont saw what happened and used his baton to smash out a window, then help the couple get out.

Doctors told the Perrys the bolt doesn't seem to have affected them in any physical way. (CTV Edmonton)

Jun 06 2014

TORONTO - Const. Jason Nanton of the Toronto Police is facing an assault charge after a December 2013 incident.

Nanton was among several officers who took a 24-year-old man into custody on Dec. 12, 2013. The man suffered a serious injury, resulting in a Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigation.

The SIU has issued an assault with a weapon charge against Nanton.

He is set to appear in Old City Hall courtroom on July 17. (CBC News)

Jun 06 2014

VANCOUVER - Despite a move-over law, bright lights and the wail of sirens, many Vancouverites either don't see or don't hear emergency vehicles in the city's increasingly dense downtown. To reduce the risk of deadly collisions, Vancouver's fleet of police cars will soon be equipped with a rumbling siren that is felt as much as heard.

The new siren operates on the same principle as a subwoofer, emitting a deep, low-frequency rumble that will alert inattentive

motorists and pedestrians that an emergency vehicle is approaching in a hurry.

"It's hard to describe; it isn't like your body begins to vibrate, but you feel it," said Rob Rothwell, the fleet manager for the Vancouver Police Department. "It's far more effective at getting the attention of people who can't hear our normal siren due to sound insulation in their car or a loud audio system."

The sirens have been tested on 30 police vehicles over the past year to rave reviews, according to Mr. Rothwell. The rumbler won't eliminate the traditional siren, but will be activated for short bursts when needed.

While the soundproofing in modern cars has made for a more enjoyable driving experience, it also has had the unintended effect of making more drivers unaware of their surroundings. The proliferation of noise-cancelling ear buds on sidewalks and bike paths has had a similar effect.

Not all Vancouver drivers purposefully ignore sirens. With so many competing sounds on city streets, the traditional sirens that are heard dozens of times daily have become an easily missed part of the cityscape.

Vancouver's changing architecture has also led the fire department to experiment with the sirens. Surrounded by new condo towers, the medical unit operating out of the No. 8 Yaletown fire hall has used the rumbler for three years. The department is still mulling whether to install the siren on future vehicles.

The rumbler siren is already used by some emergency services in Canada and the U.S. — often ambulance providers who are interested in the additional margin of safety. However, the police department says the sirens will become standard on new police vehicles.

The force is currently phasing out the venerable Crown Victoria, a mainstay of policing for decades and feared sight along highways. Over the next three years, 180 new Dodge Charger patrol cars will also be equipped with the sirens as well as brighter LED lights as a safety measure. (Globe and Mail)

Jun 06 2014

MONTREAL - A Canadian whose drug ring allegedly imported 400 kilos of cocaine into the country every month has been found cut to pieces in Colombia.

El Tiempo newspaper reported Tuesday that the body of Quebec City native Frederic Lavoie, 31, was found on May 12 in the town of Sabaneta, 300 km northwest of the capital, Bogota.

His remains were found on a street inside four garbage bags that were leaking blood.

Colombian officials analyzed the body parts and informed Quebec provincial police that they were Lavoie's.

He was among more than 100 people sought by provincial police in a massive anti-drug operation launched in 2012 against bikers, the Mafia and their associates.

It's believed Lavoie's murder was a settling of accounts.

He's the second fugitive from the drug ring to be murdered in grisly fashion.

Lavoie's alleged accomplice, Timoleon Psiharis, 29, was tortured, doused with acid and beaten to death in Greece in 2012.

Psiharis's bound body was found in a ditch. Both men had been sought by Interpol at the time of their deaths. Lavoie had abandoned his Montreal condo when police showed up to arrest him.

A dozen other reputed drug kingpins also fled prior to the police raids.

The drug ring, run by the Hells Angels and the Irish mafia, imported massive amounts of cocaine from Mexican cartels.

Police say the ring brought 75 kilos of cocaine to Canada every week between March and October 2012. (QMI Agency)

Jun 06 2014

A Saskatoon police officer is being treated for non-life threatening injuries after being attacked downtown.

The incident happened Friday afternoon in a parkade.

The suspect — armed with a broken bottle — was confronted by the off-duty officer after police received reports of a man causing damage to a building on Spadina Crescent.

The man was taken into custody with the help of a bystander. (CTV Saskatoon)



Jun 08 2014

MONTREAL - The search widened Sunday for three Quebec inmates who used a helicopter to make a brazen escape from jail as dusk approached a day earlier.

Authorities were put on alert across the province, in the rest of Canada, and in the United States, according to Quebec provincial police.

"We have co-operation with all the police forces across the country and abroad also," said Sgt. Gregory Gomez.

"We have many, many officers who are scattering all the areas possible. Investigators are, of course, checking every lead."

Police were reluctant to provide many details about their investigation for fear the escapees could be monitoring media reports.

The escapees were identified as Yves Denis, 35, Denis Lefebvre, 53, and Serge Pomerleau, 49.

The men fled from the Orsainville Detention Centre barbed wire in suburban Quebec City around 7:45 p.m. with the help of a green-coloured helicopter.

The facility is lined with barbed-wire fencing and features a watch post.

The chopper landed in a courtyard of the detention centre then quickly took off again heading west, perhaps toward Trois-Rivieres or Montreal, police said.

The three men were originally arrested on drug trafficking and gangsterism charges

in 2010, according to police.

Two of the men, Denis and Lefebvre, were subsequently charged with murder, according to the Quebec provincial police website.

Police released photos of the three men on social media and appealed to the public for help, but warned anyone who spotted them not to approach and immediately contact police.

Audrey-Anne Bilodeau, another police spokeswoman, said Saturday police were working with surrounding airports and Quebec's Valcartier military base to help track down the chopper.

The Orsainville Detention Centre, about 10 kilometres from the centre of Quebec City, can hold up to 710 offenders.

Jun 08 2014

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver police officer is in hospital after he was struck by a car.

The motorcycle officer was following an anti-pipeline demonstration through the city.

Police say he was knocked off his motorcycle by a driver who made a U-turn into his path.

The officer requires surgery to repair a fractured knee.

The driver is co-operating with investigators.

MONDAY
JUNE 09, 2014

Jun 09 2014

LAS VEGAS - A man and a woman ambushed two police officers eating lunch at a Las Vegas restaurant, fatally shooting them at point-blank range before fleeing to a nearby Wal-Mart where they killed a third person and then themselves in an apparent suicide pact, authorities said Sunday.

The shooters walked into CiCi's Pizza and gunned down Officers Alyn Beck, 41, and Igor Soldo, 31, Las Vegas police officials said.

One of the officers was able to fire back before he died, but it's unclear if he hit the suspects, Sheriff Doug Gillespie of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department said at a news conference Sunday afternoon.

One of the shooters yelled, "This is a revolution," but a motive remains under investigation, Las Vegas police spokesman Larry Hadfield told The Associated Press. He added that "we don't know anything about the suspects yet."

After shooting the officers, the suspects fled to the Wal-Mart across the street, where they killed a person inside the front door and exchanged gunfire with police before killing themselves, police said.

The female suspect shot the male suspect before killing herself, Gillespie said. The victim's identity hasn't been confirmed, and the suspects' names haven't been released.

Jun 09 2014

ORANGEVILLE - At least one police officer is facing charges after an Orangeville man alleged he was beaten and wrongfully arrested last fall.

On Nov. 5, Jeremy Smith claims members of the Orangeville Police Service beat him after he attempted to use his cell phone to record his interaction with officers.

The alleged beating led to a complaint to the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD). Their following investigation found evidence of misconduct by Const. Glen Holmes and Sgt. Ralph James.

"I am satisfied that there is sufficient evidence for me to determine there are reasonable grounds to believe that misconduct occurred with regards to Constable Holmes,"

the OIPRD wrote in an investigation report. "Constable Holmes committed misconduct of a serious nature."


Smith was charged with assault with intent to resist arrest, resisting arrest, possession of a controlled substance and being intoxicated in a public place.

During his arrest, Smith received several bruises on his face and back. The Orangeville man said when he was on the ground he was grabbed by the head and his face was repeatedly pushed into the concrete.

According to the report, police lacked "good and sufficient cause" to make the arrest.

"It's exoneration based on findings of an investigation," Smith told The Banner. "I'm glad it happened to me and nobody else."

The OIPRD's investigation into an



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allegation against a third officer is pending, as the constable has not yet been interviewed.

According to an emailed statement from Orangeville Police Association President James Giovannetti, Chief Joe Tomei has been ordered to lay Police Service Act (PSA) charges for the allegations of misconduct.

"The Orangeville Police Association stands behind our Members and fully supports them throughout this process," Giovannetti said in the statement. "The Association believes that the OIPRD has erred in their review."
(Orangeville Banner)

Jun 09 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's police watchdog has launched an investigation into a motorcycle crash that sent a man to hospital with broken bones.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the crash happened today when Halifax Regional Police tried to stop a motorcycle in the suburb of Dartmouth.

The team says the motorcycle sped off and crashed a short distance away.

The 20-year-old driver suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Jun 09 2014

OTTAWA - The prime minister says the Conservatives are cracking down on johns and pimps because legalizing their activities would be unacceptable to Canadians.

Stephen Harper says activities related to prostitution are outlawed because they are harmful to women and society in general.

New legislation would criminalize the purchase of sexual services, take aim at those who benefit from prostitution and outlaw the sale of sex near places where children gather.

The new prostitution-related offences are intended to reduce demand for sexual services, shield sex workers from exploitation, and safeguard children and communities.

Jun 09 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - People in Moncton came together Monday in a public show of support for the RCMP as they grieved the deaths of three Mounties shot dead in the line of duty last week.

Under a cloudless sky, people gathered at the Moncton Wesleyan Celebration Centre for a public visitation service for constables Fabrice Georges Gevaudan, Douglas James Larche and Dave Joseph Ross.

About 200 people were lined up as the doors swung open to a large auditorium, where three flag-draped coffins lay end-to-end near the front of the room. Atop each coffin was a Mountie's brown Stetson and on a stage behind the coffins were several wreaths and large bouquets, most of them laden with red and white blooms.

In front of the wreaths were displays featuring framed photos of each of the victims and their brown leather boots.

"I really think there's a need for us, the people of the city, to support the RCMP," said

local resident Elaine Gray, who dabbed her reddened eyes with a tissue as she emerged from the building.

"For me, I just wanted to say thank you again and again to these people. ... (What happened) was so senseless and such a shame and such a loss. I didn't know any of them personally. I know all of them now."

As the crowd filed past, there were six RCMP officers in red serge there to greet them. There was a quiet murmur of voices and a few heavy sighs and sobs as each Mountie took turns shaking hands and accepting quiet thanks and personal tributes from the mourners.

Jun 09 2014

Family members who are concerned about changes in a loved one's personality and behaviour have other options besides going to police, an expert said Monday.



Terry Coleman, a former police chief in Moose Jaw, Sask., who is now working with the Mental Health Commission of Canada on developing a national mental-health training protocol for police, said most provinces allow family members to go before a judge and swear an affidavit outlining the troubling behaviour. The judge can then order police to apprehend the person so they can undergo a mental health evaluation in hospital.

Without a judge's order, police essentially have to witness behaviour that leads them to believe the person is a threat to themselves or others in order to apprehend them; thus, their hands are often tied, Coleman said.

"Sometimes (someone with a mental disorder) can be quite skilled at behaving normally or maybe the episode has passed," he said. "Police do need to see it with their own eyes."

Police may also be reluctant sometimes to apprehend someone because they know they might have to wait long hours at the hospital with the patient before a psychiatrist is available, Coleman said.

Questions about whether police could have intervened sooner have been raised after recent mass shootings.

The father of Justin Bourque, the 24-year-old Moncton, N.B., man charged in the shooting deaths of three Mounties and the wounding of two others last week, has said that family members spoke to retired Mountie friends about troubling changes in his behaviour — including increasing paranoia — but were told police couldn't intervene until he did something.

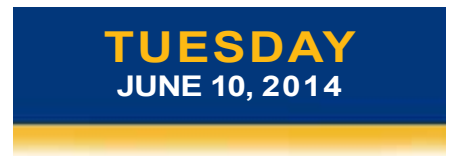
Generally, in Canada, people can be held for 72 hours in a psychiatric hospital against their will if two key criteria are met: They are

suffering from a mental illness and they pose a risk of harm to themselves or to others.

Police should already have a basic grounding in the mental health law in their provinces, Coleman said. He said he hopes the national training protocol under development will further help police assess whether someone is suffering from a mental disorder.

Coleman said he also sees value in patrol officers teaming up with mental health workers, something which is happening more often across the country.

There is no central database showing how often people are forced to go to hospital for mental health evaluations, but they seem to happen frequently. The Canadian Medical Association Journal has reported that Toronto police made 8,500 apprehensions in 2011 and that Vancouver police were making about 2,500 apprehensions annually.
(Postmedia)



Jun 10 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's police watchdog has found no charges are warranted against Halifax police officers who arrested a homeless man accused of stabbing another officer outside a shelter.

The incident occurred on Sept. 20, 2013, at the Metro Point Shelter, where officers tried to meet with a man who missed a court date.

The man initially ran from police, and then turned and stabbed one of the officers several times, leaving him with a serious wound to his neck.

The officer was rushed to hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

Halifax police asked the province's Serious Incident Response Team to investigate the possible use of police force after the man was taken into custody and he was found to have suffered injuries including a broken nose.

The agency concludes in a report that video shows the police responded appropriately.

The report says there was a brief period during the man's transfer from a van to the station when the video didn't capture events, but no testimony was available about what happened during those 35 seconds.

The man, 31-year-old Alexander John Welch, is facing charges including attempted murder.

Jun 10 2014

EDMONTON - A man who fired at police officers on two different occasions has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Patrick Young appeared in an Edmonton court on Monday and pleaded guilty to charges that included aggravated assault against a police officer and possession of a weapon.

The first shooting occurred Dec. 23, 2012, when Edmonton police pulled over Young's car during a routine traffic stop.

Young got out of the car and fired once at the police vehicle with a sawed-off shotgun.

No one was hurt and officers returned fire, but Young fled the scene.

Two days later, on Christmas Day, officers tracked Young to a motel in Redwater, northeast of Edmonton, where he shot at police two or three times.

(CTV Edmonton)

Jun 10 2014

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog says there are no grounds to charge a group of Toronto police officers in the death of a 50-year-old man arrested at a strip club last summer.

The Special Investigations Unit says the man became disruptive in the early morning hours of Aug. 19 and grew violent once police arrived.

The SIU says the officers put leg shackles on the man, after which he went limp and appeared to be in medical crisis. He was pronounced dead in hospital.

It says the man resisted arrest even after being handcuffed, and kicked at additional officers who arrived to provide backup.

The SIU says the officers put leg shackles on the man, after which he went limp and appeared to be in medical crisis. He was pronounced dead in hospital.

SIU director Tony Loparco says police used reasonable force "in light of the man's aggression and level of resistance."

Jun 10 2014

VANCOUVER - Three people, including a police officer, have been injured in separate but related incidents of gunfire that began with a shooting outside a Starbucks in downtown Vancouver.

Police responded to reports of shots fired at about 11 a.m. today and found a man had been shot and seriously wounded.

Paramedics rushed him to hospital as police followed a man believed to be responsible for the mayhem.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says the alleged suspect was shot several blocks away while exchanging gunfire with the officer, who sustained minor injuries.

He says the victim is in serious condition in hospital and that the alleged shooter has also been transported to hospital.

Details about the officer's injuries were not immediately available.

Jun 10 2014

REGINA - Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says he's OK with allowing a politician to temporarily return to his old job as a police officer while retraining and recertifying.

Prince Albert Carleton MLA Darryl Hickie has been training for his return to active police duty when his political term is up in two years.

Hickie said in April that he wouldn't run

again in the next provincial election expected in 2016 and that he planned to return to the force.

The Opposition NDP says Prince Albert residents who have encountered Hickie in the course of his investigations in recent days have raised concerns.

NDP justice critic John Nilson says people have told the Opposition they're uncomfortable that a politician can conduct investigations involving his own constituents.

The premier says Hickie will quit his political post if he decides to return to active duty when his training ends later this month.

"I am certainly comfortable with a temporary arrangement and his continued focus on the constituents of PA Carlton while retraining and recertifying. Should Mr. Hickie decide to return to active duty at the conclusion of his retraining later this month he will be stepping down as an MLA," Wall said in a statement emailed to media Tuesday.

"Darryl has received approval from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for his reinstatement."

Nilson acknowledged that politicians can have other jobs, but he's questioning how Hickie can collect two salaries paid for by taxpayers.

"Here, on the face of it, there's an appearance of conflict, especially when you work two taxpayer-funded jobs. That's the part that's an issue," he said.

"The problem is that you have access to information as an MLA that maybe the police shouldn't have and vice versa. Police can have access to all kinds of identity information that an MLA can't have."

Hickie has represented the constituency of Prince Albert Carlton since 2007. He served as minister for corrections, public safety and policing from 2007 to 2009 and most recently was tasked with leading an all-party committee on improving traffic safety.

Jun 10 2014

SASKATOON - Proponents of a partnership say it is making significant progress in directing people in custody due to intoxication to the proper facilities in Saskatoon.

The Saskatoon Action Accord started in July 2011 and involves the Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatoon Health Region, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Saskatoon police.

Members of the accord said Tuesday that the number of people in detention due to intoxication who are being directed to police cells was reduced to 50 per cent from 80 per cent in 2013.

Tracy Muggli, director of mental health and addiction services with the health region, says the brief detox unit and The Lighthouse, an emergency shelter and supportive living facility, are still turning people away on any given night but the situation has greatly improved.

In July 2013, The Lighthouse added 20 brief detox beds, and Muggli says the plan is

to increase it to 38 beds, while the brief detox unit has 12 beds.

Muggli adds permanent funding for a paramedic at police cells for 12 hours per day is also helping to improve services.

(C.J.L.R., C.J.W.W.)

Jun 10 2014

PETERBOROUGH - As long as the Ontario Civilian Police Commission signs off on the deal, Peterborough's police are set to continue providing service to Lakefield next year.

The Peterborough-Lakefield Police Services Board was the last of three parties that needed to give approval to a policing contract for the village, and it did with little discussion during its monthly meeting on Tuesday (June 10). Peterborough councillors and Selwyn Township councillors signed on to the agreement last week.

Currently, Peterborough and Lakefield have an amalgamated police force. After Selwyn Township refused to give up its seat on the police services board in late 2012, city councillors voted to disband the service starting in 2015.

The agreement will see Selwyn Township pay roughly \$530,000 per year for Peterborough police continue to provide service to Lakefield over the next four years, although the price will be tied to inflation and only includes baseline policing.

Any situation arising in overtime for the police will cost the Township extra.

As part of the amalgamated police force, the Township was paying more than \$800,000 per year into the police budget - or 3.85 per cent of the overall budget, which is based on the population of the Lakefield.

Although the contract could make policing cheaper, it will lose voting power on the police services board.

Before the contract takes effect on Jan. 1, 2015, the Ontario Civilian Police Commission will need to approve it.

A cancellation clause will give the City and Township the option of cancelling the contract with a year's notice.

(Peterborough This Week)



Jun 11 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - A man charged in New Brunswick with uttering a threat to cause death to peace officers has been ordered to undergo a five-day psychiatric assessment to determine his ability to stand trial.

Jasper John Stam was charged earlier this week with uttering a threat in Moncton between May 10 and 18.

The 24-year-old is to return to provincial court in Moncton on Monday for a bail hearing.

Judge Anne Dugas-Horsman has continued an order that Stam have no contact with

the accused in the shooting deaths of three RCMP officers last Wednesday in Moncton.

RCMP have said the charge against Stam is not connected to their investigation of the fatal shooting of constables Fabrice Georges Gevaudan, Douglas James Larche and Dave Joseph Ross.

Outside court, defence lawyer Jean Cormier said he has not received all the information yet from the Crown and further details will have to wait until the case returns to court.

Jun 11 2014

QUEBEC - The Quebec government is ordering an internal investigation into the aftermath of last weekend's spectacular escape from a provincial detention centre via a helicopter.

Premier Philippe Couillard says there has been a slew of contradictory information in the two days since Public Security Minister Lise Thériault reacted to the incident.

Couillard said today it is impossible to get coherent information in a timely fashion and that the government is not satisfied.

The administrative probe will also look into events that followed a March 2013 helicopter escape, when two inmates latched onto a rope dropped from a chopper at the St-Jerome detention centre and were spirited away.

It is hoped the inquiry will shed light on communications between the office of the public security minister and the deputy minister, the detention centres, the Quebec provincial police and the Justice Department.

Thériault says the various entities have provided contradictory information and only after long delays.

She also told reporters at the legislature that despite information provided by Nav Canada, a deal does exist to prohibit air traffic over the detention centres.

Jun 11 2014

REGINA - A Saskatchewan RCMP officer is charged with impaired driving and the way that three other Mounties' handled the situation is being reviewed.

The RCMP say an off-duty member in Fort Qu'Appelle, east of Regina, got a call at his home last December from a local waitress who said there was a man she felt should not be driving.

The man in the establishment is a constable in the Fort Qu'Appelle detachment who was off-duty at the time.

A criminal investigation was then launched that led to Alphonse Noey being charged in May with one count of operating a motor vehicle while his ability to operate the vehicle was impaired by alcohol.

Noey has been on administrative leave since May 5.

The RCMP also say the actions of three other officers, including the off-duty member who got the call at his home, will be reviewed to make sure all the rules were followed.

Jun 11 2014

HAMILTON - He submitted his retirement notice in the fall, but Chief Glenn De Caire says he doesn't want to leave the Hamilton Police Service after all.



De Caire submitted a letter to the police services board on Wednesday morning rescinding his retirement.

"I have listened and I have taken counsel from many members of the community," De Caire said on the Bill Kelly Show on CHML Wednesday morning.

"I will offer my services to the board."

De Caire's contract ends in December 2014. In September, he publicly announced he wouldn't seek an extension. The board has already spent about \$20,000 looking for a new chief.

De Caire has been chief since November 2009, arriving from Toronto, where he served as a staff superintendent. His retirement notice came on the heels of a performance review last year.

The year was a tumultuous one between De Caire and city hall. Council asked him three times to trim the budget, and Coun. Terry Whitehead was placed on leave from the police services board after a private and public clash with De Caire. Whitehead has since returned.

In announcing his decision Wednesday morning, De Caire cited a recent community movement to get him to stay, a movement that has included a handful of well-known business names in Hamilton. His supporters cite a 19-per cent reduction in violent crime in 2012, and a decrease in robberies, he said.

"I have listened to the citizens and, literally, so many people have asked me to find a way to stay because they like what our people are doing," he said.

Speculation around his retirement has been rampant. Among the rumours: that De Caire made an unsuccessful bid for another policing job, or that he was calling city hall's bluff during a time when his leadership was under scrutiny.

But De Caire insists his decision to rescind his retirement was "cumulative over the last 10 months."

"There's been tons of speculation, but my commitment to Hamilton always been demonstrated by my work, and nothing has changed here at all," he told CBC Hamilton. "I love the city and love the organization."

The board has budgeted \$80,000 for a consultant to help find a chief and deputy chief. So far, the board has spent about \$20,000 to find a new chief and \$10,000 on the deputy search, Coun. Chad Collins said.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY
JUNE 12, 2014

Jun 12 2014

MONTREAL - Police in Quebec say they used intercepted BlackBerry communications to take down two alleged organized crime groups operating in the province.

The RCMP said Thursday more than one million private PIN to PIN messages were intercepted and analyzed as evidence as part of an operation dubbed "Clemenza."

Officials from the RCMP and Montreal Police said it is the first time this investigative technique has been used on such a large scale in a North American criminal investigation.

RCMP Supt. Michel Arcand told a news conference the intercepts make up the bulk of the evidence used to make arrests on Thursday.

The arrests are aimed at dismantling two cells which police say took over after Operation Colisee seven years ago, an operation aimed at their predecessors.

Police described the cells as linked to Italian-based organized crime in Montreal.

One clan was led by now-deceased mob boss Giuseppe De Vito while the other had an association with a group known as the Bastone brothers, police said.

"These two networks operated with the goal of trafficking in drugs, doing business in their respective territories in Montreal," said Arcand, who runs the organized crime unit for the Mounties in Quebec.

De Vito died at the Donnacona federal penitentiary last July while serving a 15-year sentence for drug trafficking. A coroner's investigation determined he died of cyanide poisoning. But his clan continued to operate, police said.

Their investigation began in October 2010. Using the BlackBerry investigation technique, investigators said they were able to identify people related to a series of violent crimes between 2010 and 2012.

PIN messaging allows BlackBerry users to send messages directly between devices over wireless networks, bypassing email servers.

Police said they've arrested 31 people and are carrying out arrests and seizures in Montreal, Quebec City, Laval and Gatineau.

Three people remain on the lam.

Police had originally said they were looking for 32 people, but have since added two more names to their list.

Some 200 officers are taking part in the operation under the guidance of the RCMP's Quebec detachment.

The accused face different charges that include gangsterism, conspiracy, drug importation, trafficking, possession, kidnapping, forcible confinement, possession of weapons and explosives, arson, extortion and assault.

In total, police say more than 80 charges were filed in court.