

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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\$20M paltry for prostitutes, hearing told



Jul 08 2014

OTTAWA - Calgary's police chief says the Harper government's \$20-million pledge to help sex workers get out of the industry is "woefully inadequate."

Chief Rick Hanson offered that assessment Tuesday during the second day of hearings by the House of Commons justice committee as it examines the government's new prostitution bill.

The government's five-year commitment amounts to \$125,000 a year in Calgary, which is not enough, Hanson said.

He called for a national strategy in which Ottawa, the provinces, municipalities

and social agencies would work towards abolishing prostitution.

"We have to look at the exit strategy," Hanson said.

On Monday, Justice Minister Peter MacKay said the government hopes to see the new bill - which targets demand for sexual services by criminalizing pimps and johns - foster an end to prostitution entirely.

Though not part of the actual bill, the \$20-million commitment is an additional government commitment to help women get out of the sex industry.

Hanson said after his testimony that he hasn't approached the Harper government

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directly about increasing their funding and that includes his city's best-known MP, the prime minister himself.

But he said the underlying causes of prostitution - from child abuse, drug addiction and domestic violence - need to be addressed, and the agencies that deal with these problems need more help.

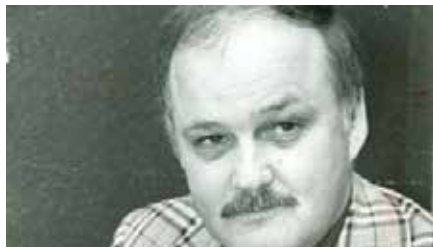
"I don't think the prime minister lays awake at night wondering what Rick Hanson has to think about anything, chief of Calgary, or otherwise," he said in an interview.

"I can tell you that \$20 million, when you actually spread it across five years, and you spread it across the country, it's a start, but that's all it is - it's a start."

Manitoba Attorney General Andrew Swan testified Monday that he'd like to see a larger federal spending commitment, since his province already spends \$8 million a year on the problem.

The funds fit the so-called Nordic model of several Scandinavian countries, which the Harper government's legislation appears designed to imitate.

In addition to making it illegal to be a client or a pimp, the approach calls for social spending to help exploited women in the sex industry.



through the ranks. He is remembered for starting the department's Crime Stoppers program and its special weapons unit as well as making arrangements to buy a discarded Brink's truck for a dollar that became the department's armoured vehicle.

Then, suddenly, at the age of 56 he resigned after 33 years with the service, amid a probe of the vice unit after complaints that confiscated liquor was regularly being consumed by members of the squad.

At the time, then chief Robert Hamilton said Faraway "was not a party to any of the wrongdoings," but as "the man in charge" felt "he must shoulder the responsibility of their actions."

There was a lengthy investigation. Five officers faced alcohol-related charges but eventually those charges were stayed.

Faraway was never charged.

Three years later he told a Spectator reporter he contemplated suicide at the time of his resignation. But he flatly denied allegations made in a preliminary hearing that he had threatened to kill two senior officers.

Close friend Clarke Lane, who retired as deputy chief with Hamilton Police in 1984, said of Faraway's resignation that "he just said the hell with it. He had enough of it."

Faraway "was a real gentleman, an intelligent detective. He was one of the best detectives we had on the job," Lane added.

The department issued a statement Wednesday about Faraway saying: "Hamilton Police are saddened by the loss ... We recognize his long service to the people of Hamilton."

Retired Hamilton Police superintendent Bob Collings called Faraway "a remarkable policeman."

"He turned out to be an excellent executive officer for the Hamilton Police, representing them across the country as well."

Faraway chaired the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police drug abuse committee, was a member of the Canadian Chiefs legislation and arson committee and sat on the Law Reform Commission of Canada as a representative of the police service.

Faraway is survived by his wife Carole and son Douglas and Kelli.

(Hamilton Spectator)

Jul 02 2014

CALGARY - As police in Calgary brace for the yearly spike in drinking and driving infractions during Stampede week, officers showed off a new tool for encouraging motorists to stay sober behind the wheel.

The "drunk driving suit", developed for Ford at the Meyer-Hentschel Institute in Ger-



many, gives the wearer the illusion of being impaired by alcohol or drugs.

It consists of goggles that disorient vision, sound deadening ear muffs and balance-throwing ankle and wrist weights.

Members of the media got the chance to don the gear and try to pass a sobriety test at a demonstration on Wednesday.

"It's completely disorienting," said CBC Calgary reporter Devin Heroux. "There's no way it would be safe to operate a vehicle in that condition."

"Suffice to say I failed the sobriety test miserably," he added.

So far this year, more than 1,000 people in have been charged with impaired driving in Calgary. And there have been four alcohol-related traffic deaths, police said.

The suit can be a great way to open people's eyes to the dangers of driving drunk, said Insp. Ken Thrower.

"Just to make sure you understand, you know some people, they've had a few drinks and think they're feeling OK, and you know, one day you have two or three. But you know what, you got two hours sleep and you didn't eat, so guess what, it's like having six or seven."

Police plan to make the suit available for demonstrations in schools or to interested groups.

(CBC News)

Jul 02 2014

CALGARY - Calgary's police chief says an in-house DNA lab would cut down the turnaround time for results, allow investigators to use the technology for a wider range of crimes, and help identify perpetrators more quickly before they can commit further crimes.

With the cost of equipment currently decreasing, Chief Rick Hanson said now is a good time to move discussions forward to get the Calgary Police Service its own DNA lab.

"We're in conversation with the province and with the RCMP to see how this may move forward. It's going to be a big step, but we're certainly exploring it because it's got, I think, huge benefits to the citizens of Calgary," Hanson told reporters Wednesday following a meeting with council's community and protective services committee.

Currently, DNA is sent to a federal lab for testing and the province is on the hook for the costs, Hanson told the committee.

For capacity reasons, DNA from only serious crimes is sent for analysis, Hanson

WEDNESDAY
JULY 02, 2014

Jul 02 2014

HAMILTON - A former Hamilton Police deputy chief — who resigned in 1986 amid a scandal in the department's vice squad — has died after injuring his head in a fall at his Hamilton Mountain home.

Keith Faraway, 83, known as a "policeman's policeman," was a masterful former homicide investigator who swiftly rose

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Group Publisher: Morley S. Lymburner

PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca

NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca

Subscriptions: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca

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12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1

Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

said, adding it can sometimes take a long time for results to come back.

"The reality is, we would like to use DNA testing for a lot of criminal code offences, like house break and enters, auto thefts, not just in very serious crimes like homicides and sex offences," he said.

"Frequently, if you can get that information rapidly, process the exhibits rapidly, then the quicker you get a bad guy off the street and the more crime you reduce."

"The way technology has evolved now, it's easier to collect DNA from scenes, said Hanson, adding: "If it's the right surface, if you touch something, you could leave something behind."

He said it's not unusual for jurisdictions in the U.S. to do their own DNA testing.

While it's too early to get into the costs, the chief said it would not be in the "tens of millions." The operating costs would not be "excessive" and the pay-off would be huge for the police and for the community, he added.

The lab itself would not take up a lot of space. Hanson said it could be incorporated in the police service's evidence and property building.

Hanson said he hopes to hear whether the plan gains approval within the next 12 months, and is shooting for a lab to be implemented in Calgary in the next year to two years. There are many details that still need to be ironed out with the province and the RCMP, and the police would have to gain access to the national database and adhere to those standards, he said.

Hanson added he's pretty optimistic the police service will be able to work out an agreement, similar to when they implemented an in-house firearms testing lab in Calgary last October.

The weapons lab now allows for investigators to test-fire seized weapons, then analyze the spent casings and bullets and compare them to ones found at crime scenes. Previously, that evidence had to be sent away to a federal lab for analysis.

"As technology evolves, so does our application of that technology in policing," Hanson said. "It makes the streets safer, it makes the community safer."

(Calgary Herald)

THURSDAY
JULY 03, 2014

Jul 03 2014

VANCOUVER - The Justice Ministry in B.C. says there will be no charges against police dog handlers in two separate incidents where suspects were bitten during arrests.

In the first incident, RCMP officers in Surrey were responding to a complaint at a business last November when a police dog bit the suspect, causing serious injuries.

In the second, a suspect was taken to hospital in December with serious bite injuries from a Victoria police dog.

In both cases, the Independent Investigations Office - the province's police watchdog agency - investigated and filed reports to the Crown.

The Crown says prosecutors reviewed the reports and believe there is no substantial likelihood that the officers who were in charge of the dogs would be convicted of any offence.

Jul 03 2014

HALIFAX - Justice Minister Peter MacKay says he's open to amending the federal government's proposed prostitution law.



The minister says he's looking forward to taking part in committee hearings in Ottawa that will review the bill, starting Monday.

MacKay says the Conservative government is open to constructive changes, but he says the bill is constitutionally sound and adequately responds to a Supreme Court decision that recently struck down parts of the existing law.

He says the committee is under pressure to act quickly because the court ruling stipulates that a new law must be in place within a year, which is why hearings are being held in the summer.

The bill criminalizes the purchase of sexual services, targets those who benefit from prostitution and outlaws the sale of sex near schools and other places where children gather.

Some sex trade workers and their supporters have argued the bill will leave prostitutes more open to violence because it will force them to move to more isolated areas.

Jul 03 2014

RICHMOND, B.C. - RCMP and Transport Canada are conducting a joint investigation into a near miss between a drone and an aircraft taking off Vancouver's airport earlier this week.

The pilot of a K.D. Air Corporation plane reported the incident with the unmanned, remote-controlled aerial vehicle on Canada Day.

Sgt. Cam Kowalski says the remote-controlled devices, also known as UAVs, are becoming increasingly common because they're now so affordable and available online or in hobby shops.

Kowalski says that in the most recent case, the drone measured about half-a-metre square and was likely being navigated by someone close to the site.

But he says lasers pointed at police helicopters and other aircraft are equally troubling and there are few regulations prohibiting the use of either device near aircraft.

Kowalski is leading an aviation safety committee that's part of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to lobby the federal government to enact legislation around laser use that recently led to fines for three Edmonton men.

FRIDAY
JULY 04, 2014

Jul 04 2014

OTTAWA - In the aftermath of the fatal shootings of three RCMP officers last month in Moncton, N.B., the country's top Mountie is promising a full review into the equipment and training his officers are given.



Commissioner Bob Paulson says he has appointed retired assistant commissioner Phonse MacNeil to lead a comprehensive internal review into what happened in Moncton on June 4, where three officers were gunned down and two others injured before a 30-hour manhunt that ended with the arrest of a suspect.

"All facets of this event need to be understood," Paulson said in a statement posted on the RCMP website Thursday that included additional information to an internal email he sent to members of the department June 25.

"Clearly the death of our three members in the course of duty and the near deaths of many others demand that we seek to fully understand the facts, learn from them and if required, change our practices promptly."

The RCMP has faced criticism from Rob Creaser of the Mounted Police Professional Association about the equipment and training its officers receive.

Creaser has said many detachments don't have high-powered rifles or specialized armour that is better able to protect against rifle fire.

He also said the RCMP hasn't acted quickly enough on recommendations made after the deaths of four officers in Mayerthorpe, Alta., in 2005. The officers in Alberta were guarding a marijuana grow-op when the owner opened fire on them with a rifle, leaving them to defend themselves with 9-mm handguns.

As a result of those shootings, it was recommended seven years ago that police be equipped with proper protective vests and the C8 carbines.

Paulson said in the Moncton-based Co-diac detachment, all but three patrol vehicles and traffic cars had one set of hard body armour in them.

In his June 25 email to members of the force, Paulson wrote that each car responding to a report of an armed man in Moncton was equipped with hard body armour, but the updated statement on Thursday clarified what was in the email.

Paulson said on that night, 22 sets of hard body armour were assigned to various vehicles and three tactical troop members were assigned their own armour. An additional 132 sets of the armour were flown to Moncton, Paulson said, as they were “cognizant of the increased number of members involved in containing the suspect.”

The RCMP commissioner said discussions so far about the hard body armour and the number of carbines available has been “a very superficial, easy and incomplete effort to look for explanations and orient blame for what has happened.”

Paulson said the RCMP’s division in New Brunswick was in “the early days” of deploying the C8 carbines and that four members in the Codiak detachment trained on them. The detachment had six patrol carbines, which were being used in training and unavailable, he said.

Paulson said the review by MacNeil must give the RCMP a complete understanding of what happened.

“We - the RCMP - must objectively examine our response and preparation for this type of event,” he said. “We will make whatever changes we must to our practices and policies to minimize the chances of this ever happening again.”

Jul 04 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - The father of a man accused in the shooting deaths of three Mounties and the wounding of two others says his son was ranting against authority and growing paranoid just days before shots rang out in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The comments are contained in a two-page affidavit signed by Victor Bourque that was filed yesterday in provincial court.

His son, Justin Bourque, faces three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

He has not entered pleas on the charges.

In the document, Victor Bourque says he began noticing a change in his son about 18 months ago.

He says his 24-year-old son went from living with his parents and six siblings in Moncton to buying a gun, getting kicked out of the house, and becoming depressed and paranoid.

The affidavit was used by Justin Bourque’s lawyer in court yesterday to request a psychiatric assessment for his client, which was granted by Judge Irwin Lambert.

Jul 04 2014

ST. ALBERT, Alta. - A Mountie based in St. Albert, Alta., has been charged with assault.

RCMP say the case involves a constable and a civilian who was in custody at the

RCMP detachment on Nov. 17, 2013.

Cst. Chris Wilcox is charged with one count of assault and is to appear in St. Albert provincial court on Sept. 15.

Police say Wilcox will remain on active duty pending the outcome of the case.

He will also face an internal RCMP Code of Conduct investigation.

Jul 04 2014

REGINA - A troop of 21 potential RCMP officers have completed a unique program aimed at increasing the number of Aboriginal Canadians joining the Mounties.



The Aboriginal Pre-Cadet Training Program takes people interested in policing careers through three weeks of introductory instruction at the RCMP’s training academy in Regina, Depot Division. Graduates of the special troop go on to spend another eight weeks gaining first-hand experience of police work at an RCMP detachment near their home communities.

“It’s absolutely amazing to take this experience,” Brooke Turnbull, one of the pre-cadets said Friday after a graduation ceremony at Depot. “[It’s] something you cant imagine: to be role models and leaders in our communities.”

The pre-cadet training initiative began in 1996. Since then, according to the RCMP, 470 people have completed the course. Of those, about half applied to join the Mounties and around 70 have gone on to become either officers or civilian staff.

One of the graduates is Maureen Greyeyes-Brandt, now an RCMP Constable and currently running the program.

“I’m so proud of these people,” Greyeyes-Brandt told CBC News Friday. “They’ve transformed in front of my eyes.”

There are roughly 19,000 RCMP officers

across Canada and the Mounties say that just under eight per cent self-identified as Aboriginal in 2013. The police force has a goal of increasing that to 10 per cent.

(CBC News)

Jul 04 2014

MONCTON - The recent tragedy in Moncton was top of mind Friday as Nova Scotia RCMP ushered in a new commanding officer during a change-of-command ceremony.



Chief Supt. Brian Brennan became the Mounties’ top brass in the province, taking over from retired commanding officer and assistant commissioner Alphonse MacNeil.

The rain held off during the hour-long ceremony as a number of speakers, including RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, addressed the crowd gathered in Dartmouth.

Paulson said he has asked Nova Scotia’s outgoing RCMP commanding officer to review the Moncton shootings.

Brennan said the Moncton shooting has brought the Mounties together.

“When that tragedy happened and it was time for us to step up and do what we had to do and support each other, morale actually went up,” Brennan said in an interview after the ceremony.

“Everyone understood their role, whether a front-line uniformed policeman or someone supporting in the background. Morale went up, people got together, teams became closer and the focus was clearer.

“Out of that horrific tragedy, it just proved to me ... that our employees are ready to stand up.”

Brennan said a comprehensive review of the tragedy will give confidence to RCMP members that any gaps in operations will be addressed.

(Herald News)



Manitoba will contribute new equipment for the RCMP that includes a drone, with money from property seized during criminal investigations.



RCMP in Prince Edward Island have had a drone since January. It's a miniature helicopter which carries a camera and operates by remote control.

The Manitoba government said Friday the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund will provide nearly \$205,000, which will be invested in new equipment for the RCMP, such as an "unmanned aerial device" to be used in search and rescue missions, during traffic accidents or critical incident investigations.

It will also help pay for:

- Two automated licence plate readers;
- Surveillance equipment for the Manitoba Integrated Organized Crime Task Force;
- A trailer to transport tactical unit equipment during an emergency response;
- Existing programs in Stonewall and Selkirk for at-risk youth and their families.

Some of the money will also go towards the province's Victims' Services programs.

The province said since 2010, more than \$8 million in seized assets have been reinvested in police agencies and victims' services.

(CBC News)

VICTORIA - A full-patch member of the Hells Angels will be facing extortion and theft charges after all following a ruling that says the B.C. man's charter rights were violated because the case took too long to get to trial.

The provincial criminal justice branch says Robert Widdifield appeared in court in Nanaimo, B.C., on Friday and that his trial has been scheduled for nine days starting Oct. 6.

In staying the charges, a B.C. Supreme Court judge ruled in June 2013 that the Crown contributed to the delay in proceedings with its errors in disclosure and should have proceeded to trial against Widdifield alone, instead of with his three co-accused.

The Crown appealed the decision and it was overturned by the court of appeal, which said the Crown was responsible for only part of the delay.

Widdifield was charged with extortion, theft and possession of stolen property in what the Crown said was an attempt to get someone to repay a claimed debt.

He and three others linked to the Hells Angels were charged in October 2010, and the trial was scheduled to start in October 2012 but was then put off until last fall.

SATURDAY JULY 05, 2014

ORILLIA - The OPP opened a new exhibit and honoured retired veterans at their museum in Orillia on Saturday.



The 'Behind the Badge' exhibit examines what life was like in the early days of the force for officers and their families.

Retired Senior Constable Neil Hurtubise spent 30 years on the force and calls it the best job in the world even though his life nearly ended on January 2, 1981 when he stopped a car in a snowstorm.

"He shot me multiple times but I was able to get back to the cruiser and call for help and help did come," said Hurtubise.

He says the OPP dispatcher service helped save his life that night – a service Yolanda Sunnerton spent 36 years doing.

"Loved it, loved every minute of it, it was great."

Yo, as she is known, says there were many serious calls but the funny ones stand out. Like the time a lady had too much to drink in a tavern, caused a little trouble and thought the police car she was getting into was a taxi.

"When the doors locked she called 911 and said she was locked in the back of a taxi and they wouldn't let her out. We had a good chuckle about that one."

Retired Staff sgt. Ron Allen has enough stories to fill a book – from working the Olympic Games, to undercover work carrying surveillance equipment in beer cases, to trailing bad guys on the water a fishing lodge.

"As luck would have it we just happened to have our fishing equipment with us cause you never know. So we went fishing with these guys for two days."

Allen's wife Sharon says she knows he's had a colourful career but now she's glad he's at home every night.

"I'm going to keep him; we've been married 52 years so I think I'll keep him another few years."

(CTV News Barrie)

MONDAY JULY 07, 2014

WASHINGTON - The ongoing availability in Canada of an abuse-prone pharmaceutical may be having a spillover effect far beyond its borders.

A form of OxyContin that was banned in the United States last year is still showing up in distant corners of the country, according to data presented at a conference in San Diego.

The suspicion is that pills are getting in from Canada.

The claim comes as Canada weighs whether to follow the American lead in banning the older form of the opioid painkiller that's easier to crush in order to achieve an instant high.

There's pressure from the U.S. to ban the generic form of the drug and switch to the next-generation - a tamper-resistant version produced exclusively by U.S. drug-maker Purdue Pharma under a new patent.

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has concluded that there are no grounds to charge any officer with a criminal offence in the fatal shooting of a 22-year-old Oakville man last year.

The Special Investigation Unit says the incident happened in front of the man's parents' home (on Oak Springs Road) on Nov. 18.

The man, who was believed to be armed with a gun, was found sitting in a vehicle nearby.

A two-hour standoff with the man ended when he was struck by gunshots, discharged by officers from the Halton Regional Police Service.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The SIU says the man had only a pellet gun, but the officers cannot be faulted for believing it was a real handgun.

BARRIE - A trust fund has been established to help a badly injured OPP officer hurt in a crash in Barrie last month.

Provincial Constable Peter Tucker, from Niagara Detachment, remains in critical but stable condition in the critical care unit at Sunnybrook hospital. He was riding a police motorcycle south on Highway 400, just south of the Highway 11 split, June 26, when he was struck by a goose. He suffered life-altering injuries.

A trust account has been established at the OPPA Credit Union. If you would like to donate, you can do so through one of the following methods:

- Via cheque sent to the OPPA Credit Union, 123 Ferris Lane, Barrie, ON, L4M 2Y1. Cheques should be made payable to Pete Tucker Trust Account #180620. Cheques cannot be payable to Pete Tucker.
- Cash donations can be accepted at the

OPPA Credit Union.

- Transfer from an existing OPBA Credit Union account into the Trust Account #180620. Members would be required to call the credit union to facilitate this.

(Barrie Advance)

Jul 07 2014

FORT MCMURRAY, Alta. - A Mountie is recovering after being shot by another officer while responding to a weapons complaint.

RCMP say the two officers were at an apartment complex Saturday when one of them fired his weapon, hitting the other.

The wounded officer was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The RCMP say its Major Crimes Unit from Edmonton is investigating.

Police say a man at the apartment was arrested and faces charges of uttering threats, assault with a weapon and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Jul 07 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton Police plan to ask the city for \$14 million over five years to buy two new helicopters to replace the current fleet of single-engine choppers.

Police say the single-engine helicopters are no longer sufficient to travel the longer distances from the new base at the Villeneuve Airport, in Sturgeon County, northwest of St. Albert.

Police moved the Air 1 base to Villeneuve in November 2013 due to the closure of the City Centre Airport.

"Our helicopters are single engine, quite small, and it doesn't have the capacity that a larger machine does," Supt. Kevin Galvin said after police made a presentation at council's community services committee on Monday.

Police say the increased travel time is compromising their ability to respond to crime scenes.

According to figures released by Edmonton Police, the average response time was four minutes in the first three months of 2013. That time more than doubled — up to 9.4 minutes — in the same time period of 2014.

Police want to sell one helicopter next year and replace it with a twin-engine chopper that can fly higher and faster. They also want to establish a heliport location within Edmonton city limits by 2019.

Twin-engine helicopters are powerful enough to lift off from a heliport; the single-engine choppers need the space offered by a runway to get in the air.

The final stage of the helicopter plan would be to buy or lease a second twin-engine chopper in 2019.

Councillors will consider the request when the capital budget is debated this fall.

(CBC News)

**TUESDAY
JULY 08, 2014**

Jul 08 2014

Chief Rod Freeman will stay in the Woodstock Police Service's top job for six more months – but he already knows who will replace him.



The Woodstock Police Services Board announced Tuesday that Insp. Bill Renton has been promoted to chief-designate.

Renton will take over the full chief position as of Jan. 1, 2015, when Freeman's retirement comes into effect.

"I have full confidence he will provide strong and effective leadership for the professional men and women of this service, while working to ensure the continued safety of our community for many years to come," Freeman, who has been Woodstock's police chief since 2009, said in a press release.

Before joining the Woodstock organization in 2010, Renton spent 30 years between the RCMP, OPP and Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Police.

Among the cases he handled while with the OPP were the occupation at the Douglas Creek Estates in Caledonia and the 2009 abduction and murder of Tori Stafford.

Renton is currently the chair of the Ontario Homicide Investigators Association.

(CTV Kitchener)

Jul 08 2014

Victims of crimes such as theft from vehicles and property damage can now report these to provincial police online.

Ontario Provincial Police say the new Citizen Self Reporting portal will allow the public to report select, non-emergency incidents.

An officer will not be immediately dispatched, which the force says will free up police to focus on other, more serious crime enforcement efforts.

People will only be able to report incidents that do not involve an injury, a suspect or evidence. If requested, an officer will be dispatched.

The system is meant to make reporting more convenient and police say it's hoped more crimes will be reported as a result.

The system is available at opp.ca.

Jul 08 2014

ORILLIA - More than 1,800 OPP officers will be eligible to retire between now and 2020.

"Which is a huge amount – it's almost a third of our total complement," said Insp. Dave Quigley, manager, career development bureau.

The push is on for new blood within the provincial force, as was made evident when 61 potential recruits descended on OPP General Headquarters in Orillia this week. They will spend three days learning about the OPP's history and job opportunities.

Applicants to this year's edition of 'OPP Bound' are current or past members of the Canadian military, either regular or reserve.

"We have about 5,000 military members per year across the country who are transitioning out," said Quigley. "For policing, that represents an opportunity for a good talent pool to draw upon."

The force is beginning to hire "really large numbers" of police officers to offset coming retirements, Quigley added.

Former military personnel have the experience, skills and training needed for police work, Quigley said.

"There are a lot of things we talk about when we are talking to potential candidates that the military really focuses on within their career – courage, integrity, dedication to public service."

(Orillia Today)

Jul 08 2014

A La Pêche, Quebec man who called police to complain there weren't enough officers on patrol soon found himself under arrest and charged with impaired driving.

And just for good measure, the officer nabbed another impaired driver while driving the first man to the police station.

The complaint came in Tuesday afternoon, according to Martin Fournel of the MRC des Collines de l'Outaouais. Dispatchers sent an officer to patrol the area and he promptly arrested the complainant — a 72-year-old man — as he drove away from a corner store.

Less than 30 minutes later, while driving his detainee to the station, the officer saw another car being driven erratically. It was stopped and the 53-year-old driver arrested. The officer also found open bottles of alcohol in the car, according to a media release.

Both men were taken to the police station, where they were given breathalyzer tests.

Each man faces a charge of impaired driving, police said.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Jul 08 2014

DEARBORN, Mich. - Ford motor company announced Monday night the recall of 101,000 vehicles, 92,000 in North America, which could be affected by a problem with their steering shaft.

The recall affects 2013 and 2014 models of Ford Taurus, Ford Flex, Ford Police Interceptor, Lincoln MKS and Lincoln MKT; the 2012 to 2014 models of Ford Edge; and the Lincoln MKX 2014.

Ford explained that due to an assembly

error these vehicles could roll while parked if the emergency brake is not used.

Ford will fix or replace the faulty steering shafts.

The Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker says no accident or injury has been linked to this problem.

Since the beginning of 2014 Ford has announced 19 recalls affecting about 2.94 million vehicles.

(Montreal Gazette)

WEDNESDAY JULY 09, 2014

Jul 09 2014

PORTLAND, Maine - Police here believe they have quacked the code for finding followers on social media.



The 80-officer Bangor Police Department, which serves a city of about 33,000, has attracted more than 20,000 likes on its Facebook page after humorous pictures of a stuffed duck were added. The duck, dubbed "Duck of Justice" or "DOJ," appears in pictures of police cars, department members and K-9 cops, often accompanied with some pithy text about law enforcement.

"I happen to believe that police officers are a pretty humorous bunch," said the man behind the duck, Sgt. Tim Cotton, a 17-year veteran Bangor officer with a fondness for the humour of George Carlin and Jim Gaffigan. "I want to read something that at least has some humorous undertones - I wouldn't connect to a page that I didn't want to read."

Bangor is just one of many police departments nationwide discovering that using comedy on social media can help them interact with the public. One department, in 10,000-resident Brimfield Township, Ohio, has earned more than 155,000 Facebook likes for its chief's in-your-face humour about everything from methamphetamine busts to lost dogs.

Nancy Marshall, a Maine-based social media strategist who runs a public relations firm in the Maine capital of Augusta, said Bangor's site helps residents humanize the police.

"It's definitely a new way of engaging with the public," Marshall said. "I admire the Bangor police department for being bold enough to expose their humanity."

Cotton took over in April as the department's public information officer, a job that makes him responsible for the department's Facebook page. Since he started, the page's number of "likes" has shot up by more than 8,000.

The wooden duck - stuffed by a taxidermist

and rescued by Cotton from a trash compactor at a district attorney's office - is a light way for the department to get residents' attention about sometimes serious matters in a crowded social media landscape, he said.

The duck has made the rounds in Bangor, appearing in a photo at Bangor Raceway with a caption that said it was "whistling 'More Than A Feeling'" because the band Boston was playing nearby. It also propped up a copy of the voluminous 2013-14 Maine criminal statutes book, reminding residents that it "will be in the office all weekend if you have any questions."

The duck also has a more serious side, appearing in profiles of new officers and a post about a lost dog.

Other departments' social media efforts have stumbled, such as the New York Police Department's April request for followers to post pictures of themselves with NYPD officers on Twitter with the #myNYPD hashtag. Many users instead used the hashtag to post pictures of aggressive police behaviour.

Online:

Bangor Police Department: <http://on.fb.me/11Dnt6i>

Jul 09 2014

ORO-MEDONTE TOWNSHIP, Ont. - Police say the charred remains found in a burned-out car north of Toronto last week belong to a previously missing Mississauga, Ont., and two boys, aged 10 and four.

Samuel Masih, 36, and his sons were reported missing early last Friday by the children's mother after they failed to return from a movie.

Hours later, police were called to a car fire in Oro-Medonte Township, near Barrie, Ont., and discovered the vehicle contained the remains of three people.

Provincial police say post mortem exams conducted on Tuesday confirmed the identities of the bodies, but investigators say they are not releasing the names of the children.

The case remains under investigation and police say they are not releasing how the three died.

The OPP is asking anyone who saw any unusual activity in the area of Holick Road on July 3 or 4, 2014, to contact investigators.

Jul 09 2014

SASKATOON - A 25-year-old man is facing several new charges in a police chase in Saskatoon.

Timothy Gunn is accused of being the man behind the wheel of a stolen truck that left a trail of destruction in a nearly hour-long police chase on June 25.

Gunn was already facing seven charges related to the incident, which damaged four police cruisers and three civilian vehicles.

At one point, a plainclothes police officer fired eight shots at the driver of the truck after he allegedly tried to run him down.

In court Wednesday, prosecutors added eight new charges, including two charges of dangerous driving causing bodily harm, for injuries to civilians when the stolen truck rammed into their vehicles.

Gunn was also charged with wearing a disguise while committing an offence and five counts of failing to stop.

(CKOM)

Jul 09 2014

SYDNEY, N.S. - An 11-year member of the Cape Breton Regional Police has resigned after being convicted of breach of trust and obstruction of justice.

Ron Williams was convicted in November and was sentenced in June to serve a three-month conditional sentence.

A spokeswoman for the police service says the 39-year-old former constable tendered his resignation before an internal review could start.

Williams had been on an unpaid suspension from the force since he was charged in 2011.

The charges relate to an incident in May 2011 in which police received a complaint concerning an impaired driver leaving the Royal Canadian Legion in Whitney Pier.

Williams was instructed by his staff sergeant to investigate.

Court heard that Williams asked a colleague to call the suspect and advise him that police would be coming to his home and not to answer the door.

(Cape Breton Post)

THURSDAY JULY 10, 2014

Jul 10 2014

VERNON, B.C. - A recently retired RCMP officer from B.C.'s north Okanagan region has been killed in a motorcycle crash in northern California.

Sixty-two-year-old Blair Imrie died after losing control of his Kawasaki motorcycle on a curve.

A report from the California Highway Patrol says the Coldstream, B.C., man was travelling too fast for the conditions, veered into a drainage ditch and hit a rock embankment.

Imrie was thrown from the motorcycle and the machine landed on top of him.

Passing motorists and friends travelling with Imrie performed CPR, but he could not be revived.

Imrie had most recently served at the Vernon detachment and retired from the RCMP just one year ago.

(CKIZ)

Jul 10 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax police say an officer suffered minor injuries Thursday after being dragged about nine metres by a truck during a traffic stop.

Police say the officer was beside a pickup truck he had stopped at about 12:15 a.m. Thursday for allegedly speeding on Portland Avenue.

Police allege that the driver was not licensed or insured.

They say the man started to drive away and the officer tried to stop him, but got caught and was dragged.

The officer pursued the driver, who was arrested a short time later and was facing several charges including assaulting a police officer and fleeing police.