

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

July 18, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 29

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**TORONTO** - Two Toronto police officers have committed suicide over the past four months, and a former long-time sergeant says more will die because the Toronto Police Service (TPS) is "dramatically" failing officers who come forward with mental health issues.

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**WINNIPEG** - One of the first police officers on the scene of the beheading of a young man aboard a Greyhound bus on a Manitoba highway six years ago has taken his own life.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Telecomms to demand warrant for basic info



Jul 16 2014

**OTTAWA** - Two major telecommunications firms - Rogers and Telus - say they will no longer routinely give basic customer information to police and security agencies without first seeing a warrant.

The moves follow a recent landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision affirming the right to online privacy.

In the case of Rogers Communications Inc., concerns voiced by subscribers also played a role in tightening the disclosure policy, the company said Wednesday.

In June the Supreme Court ruled police need judicial authorization to get personal information about customers from Internet providers. The high court rejected arguments the federal privacy law governing companies allows providers to hand over subscriber identities voluntarily.

Rogers received almost 175,000 requests for customer information from government and police agencies last year, according to a report the firm issued in June.

At the time, the company said it had a policy of responding to name and address requests,

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which totalled 87,856 last year, so police would not issue a warrant to the wrong person.

Rogers chief privacy officer Ken Engelhart said Wednesday the Supreme Court ruling - reinforced by demands from subscribers for better privacy protection - means the practice of routine disclosure must cease.

"The Supreme Court has really made the decision. They're really the ones who have said, under the laws of Canada you have to have an order signed by a judge," he said in an interview.

"The fact that our customers were saying to us, 'Look, you should be doing more to protect us,' that was definitely the deciding factor in today's decision."

The new policy of requiring a warrant even for basic requests will be better for customers, and law enforcement will still be able to protect the public, Rogers says.

It stresses that, in keeping with the high court ruling, police would not need a warrant to get basic subscriber information in life-threatening emergencies.

In addition, if police have an Internet Protocol, or IP, address of interest and want to obtain a warrant to investigate further, Rogers will tell them which city the relevant customer lives in so they know which judge to approach, Engelhart said.

"But we won't give them any personal information - no name, no address."

Rogers has not received a "big number" of messages calling for tighter disclosure rules, he said.

"But with all of these things it's sort of like the tip of the iceberg. If a small number of people complain, there's probably a larger number that are concerned."

Telus Corp. said that in light of the Supreme Court decision, it no longer provides any customer information to law enforcement without a warrant except in emergency situations, such as when a customer calls 911 for help, or if the information is already published in a phone book.

lished in a phone book.

"Protecting our customers' privacy is vitally important to Telus, and we have a long-standing practice of only providing confidential customer information to third parties pursuant to valid court orders or other applicable law," the company said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for Bell Canada, another major provider, did not immediately respond to a query about its policies.

The announcements Wednesday follow high-profile debate over the government's cyberbullying legislation, which many critics say would make it too easy for police, spies and others to monitor the public's on-line activities.

Prior to the Supreme Court ruling, Internet service providers could give personal information to government agencies - even when investigators lacked a warrant or other judicial approval - without fear of being held liable.

The cyberbullying bill would go further, removing the requirement that a criminal offence or a breach of another federal law be under investigation in such cases. The privacy commissioner has warned that the bill would give police complete discretion to ask companies to voluntarily hand over customer data in any circumstances.

The government has said it is studying the Supreme Court decision.

Imrie was thrown from the motorcycle, which landed on top of him.

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

Imrie had most recently worked at the Vernon detachment as the civilian records manager after retiring from the RCMP two years earlier.

(CKIZ)

Jul 10 2014

### ST. LOUIS - The gun manufacturer Remington Arms Co. will replace trigger mechanisms on Model 700 bolt-action hunting rifles, or provide economic relief for purchasers, as part of a settlement of class-action lawsuits.

Remington announced the agreement Thursday.

Suits filed in Missouri and Washington state claimed the rifle has a defective trigger mechanism that can cause injury and death.

They are among several suits filed against the gun maker over the years. Remington has sold more than 5 million of the rifles since 1948.

Remington Arms says in a statement that it agreed to the settlements even though the company denies the plaintiffs' allegations of economic loss. The company declined further comment and did not provide details of how the trigger mechanisms will be replaced.



Jul 10 2014

### BELLEVILLE, Ont. - Provincial police in central Ontario say they laid more than a dozen charges after just one day of using a new licence plate recognition system.

Kawartha Lakes OPP say it's alarming that the Automated Licence Plate Recognition System would turn up so many infractions.

The system, new to the rural district east of Lake Simcoe, provides officers with information related to numerous offences, including expired validation permits, stolen plates and the status of the car's owner's licence.

Officers laid 13 charges Wednesday, including three of driving while suspended and one of driving without a licence.

Police say two of the three people who were charged with driving while under suspension were also charged with other vehicle-related offences.



Jul 11 2014

### OTTAWA - Former Ottawa hospital technician Misbahuddin Ahmed was found guilty Friday of two terrorism-related charges, but a jury acquitted him on a third more serious count.

Ahmed, 30, was convicted of conspiring to knowingly facilitate a terrorist activity and participation in the activities of a terrorist group. He was found not guilty of possession of explosives with intent to do harm.

He was taken into custody pending sentencing on Sept. 15.

Ahmed faces a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison on the conspiracy charge and 10 years on the participation charge.

He and two alleged co-conspirators were charged following a top-secret RCMP security operation dubbed Project Samossa.

The Crown contended the three men agreed to raise money to support a violent jihad and to make and use explosives against targets in Canada.

During a seven-month operation, RCMP anti-terrorist officers collected thousands of intercepts through surveillance of the homes, cars, phones and computer communications of the three men.

One of the co-accused, Khurram Syed Sher, was tried by a judge earlier this year on one conspiracy count.

Sher was an anatomical pathologist in St. Thomas, Ont., south of London, before

**BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK**  
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ISSN 1704-3913  
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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his arrest in August 2010.

A publication ban was imposed on the identity of the third alleged co-conspirator.

Crown prosecutor Jason Wakely said Friday's verdict is a significant conviction under Canada's terror laws.

Jul 11 2014

### **An Ontario court has upheld a human rights tribunal ruling that the firing of a First Nations police chief without a hearing by then-OPP commissioner Julian Fantino had nothing to do with the man's aboriginal status.**

A three-judge panel from the Ontario Divisional Court in Toronto last week dismissed an application by Lawrence Hay, former chief of police of the Tyendinaga Mohawk First Nation, to quash a previous Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario ruling and order a new hearing.

"I am pleased that Mr. Hay's allegations have not been sustained by a second judicial body," Fantino, now Conservative MP for Vaughan and Minister of Veterans Affairs, wrote in an email to yorkregion.com. "I have felt all along that Mr. Hay failed to take responsibility for his inappropriate conduct, about which, as OPP Commissioner at the time, I had a duty to address."

Hay's lawyers in April had set out to prove, in part, that "the (human rights tribunal) took a compartmentalized approach to the evidence that avoided consideration of whether, based on the totality of the evidence, race was a factor (in his dismissal)," according to the factum.

The court rejected that argument, ruling the tribunal's decision was correct and there's no evidence anything Fantino did was motivated by racism.

Hay and his legal team have not yet decided whether they will appeal the court's decision, lawyer Peter Rosenthal said.

The longtime police officer was hoping his legal battle would ultimately end with him getting his old job back, according to Rosenthal.

Hay spent 19 years with the RCMP before leaving to take up a post as chief of police of the Tyendinaga First Nation in eastern Ontario in 1998.

As required under provincial law, the OPP commissioner first appointed him as a First Nations constable.

During a protest in April 2007, Hay complained about police racism in an article published in a student newspaper.

In light of the comments, Fantino suspended then revoked Hay's appointment as a First Nations constable in October 2007, effectively ending his position as chief.

Normally, police officers in Ontario charged with misconduct have a right to a full hearing along with extensive rights of appeal under the Police Services Act, but that's not the case for First Nations officers.

Hay argued unsuccessfully before the human rights tribunal that the different rules for aboriginal and non-aboriginal officers are discriminatory.

The court last week agreed with the tribunal's ruling.

Hay had also argued his assertions of police racism were protected under the human rights code and Fantino's actions were retaliatory.

The tribunal dismissed those arguments as well and the court upheld that decision.

(Vaughan Citizen)

**SUNDAY  
JULY 13, 2014**

Jul 13 2014

### **ORILLIA - OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes says his provincial force faces a number of daunting issues — from increased cyber crime to home-grown terrorism — but number one is how to best deal with people who have mental health issues.**



"The training of police officers to understand one mental illness versus another mental illness and how do you deal with some of those challenges and understanding that component of mental health, that's huge," Hawkes said in an hour-long interview with the Star.

High-profile cases of police coming into contact with people who have mental-health issues with deadly consequences have resulted in forces across the country focusing on training officers to identify different mental illnesses and use that knowledge to de-escalate situations.

Hawkes — a 30-year veteran who was named commissioner in February, replacing Chris Lewis — said training the 6,500 officers is by no means an easy task given the diverse nature of a force patrolling a very large province.

"The Toronto police have a crisis intervention model where they bring in expertise in the car," Hawkes said.

In Toronto, mental health workers are on call if police need to access them, and they can also ride along with officers in their cars. "But that's not going to work in Kenora so we are going to have a different solution in Kenora for that," Hawkes said.

"Could we do a better job at training? Yes . . . we are trying to do more."

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police earlier this year also identified mental health as the most pressing issue facing police forces across the country.

While mostly anecdotal, OPP officers

report coming into contact with a greater number of people who have mental health issues in large part because institutional facilities have closed their doors.

In 2012, the OPP responded to over 27,000 occurrences involving 7,192 people identified in the OPP's Niche Records Management System (RMS) as "mentally disordered." According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 20 per cent of Canadians will personally experience a mental illness in their lifetime.

"If the greatest priority item is mental health, then the question is what do we do from that perspective?" Hawkes said.

Sgt. Judy Alton, vulnerable persons coordinator for the OPP, said the goal is to ensure that at least one officer on every shift at all 165 detachments has taken the voluntary 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training. The course is based on a model developed in Memphis, Tenn.

"It is a provincial police academy course now . . . it is an accredited (course) now," she said.

Alton said for the first two or three days, officers go over different signs and symptoms for different mental illnesses — psychosis, schizophrenia, and dementia.

"We are not trying to make them psychiatrists in blue. We are just trying to give them some more information so that they will be able to identify somebody if they are in a mental health crisis. In this training, we really stress the de-escalation portion of it," she said, noting the program includes scenarios.

Alton said once the situation is dealt with, the officer will "tap into the community resources that are available because a lot of time these people are reaching out . . ."

Alton logs a lot of kilometres travelling around the province, accompanied by Sarah Burtenshaw, a mental-health worker in Hamilton, where she also works with Hamilton's 24-hour mobile team, the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), paired with an officer.

She said so far the team has trained about 540 officers, many of them who have a "keen interest in mental health." Alton, who graduated from Brock University with a double major in psychology and sociology, shares that interest.

Inspector Scott Smith of the South Bruce Detachment, who also has a university degree in psychology and 30 years on the job, has put off his retirement so he can make sure that dealing appropriately with mental illness is a priority.

"We are coming into more and more contact with those who have some sort of mental health issues," he said, adding that a vast majority of officers feel confident dealing with people with mental health issues.

"This has really caused me to focus in on how I can help our people before I leave the organization and retire . . . how can I help our people respond empathetically toward those with mental illness."

(Toronto Star)

# MONDAY JULY 14, 2014

Jul 14 2014

**SMITHS FALLS, Ont. - OPP Supt. Daniel Redmond has been promoted to chief superintendent and regional commander for the east region.**

Redmond, formerly the superintendent of operations for the OPP's west region, will fill the vacancy left when former regional commander Gary Couture was promoted to deputy commissioner in May.

Redmond has been a member of the provincial police force for 28 years, serving across the province as a criminal investigator and directing various departments including drug enforcement, behavioural forensics and organized crime enforcement.

Redmond's new position oversees more than 1,200 members across eastern Ontario.

July 14 2014

**Deputy Chief Dan McDonald, a 35-year veteran of the Peel Regional Police, will retire August 15, 2014, says Emil Kolb, chair of the Peel Police Services Board.**



McDonald was appointed acting deputy chief as of June 2006, and confirmed in that position in April 2008.

"Deputy Chief McDonald has been a voice of experience and professionalism in his role as deputy chief," says Mr. Kolb. "Throughout his career, regardless of rank or responsibilities, he has exemplified the qualities that have made the Peel Regional Police a leader in policing in Canada."

Chief Jennifer Evans says "Dan has been a strong and effective leader as Deputy Chief. He has been consistently supportive of our members, and deserves recognition for the difference he has made in the police service and in our community."

"It has been a real pleasure working with the men and women of this great organization for the past 35 years," says McDonald.

Kolb says the board recently met to discuss the process to select a successor. It has determined that the search will be among internal candidates only and it anticipates naming a new deputy chief by the end of September 2014.

(News Release)

Jul 14 2014

**VANCOUVER - An alleged gang leader already accused in a high-profile murder case in B.C. is facing new charges related to an alleged murder plot against a former gang member.**

Jamie Bacon is awaiting trial on charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy for the mass shooting that killed six people, including two innocent bystanders, in Surrey, B.C., in October 2007.

Bacon has appeared in court on three new charges, including counselling another person to commit murder.

The Crown confirms the alleged target of the plot is a man known in the Surrey murder case as Person X, and the charges relate to allegations between Nov. 30, 2008 and Jan. 2, 2009.

Person X pleaded guilty to three counts of second-degree murder in April 2009 and was expected to testify against Cody Haevischer and Matthew Johnston, whose trial related to the Surrey murders is expected to wrap up today.

The judge in the Haevischer and Johnston trial ruled last year that Person X's evidence was inadmissible for reasons that have never been made public.

# TUESDAY JULY 15, 2014

Jul 15 2014

**CALGARY - A man who has been under investigation in the disappearance of a Calgary boy and his grandparents has been formally charged with their murders.**



Calgary police said today that Douglas Garland, 54, was charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Alvin and Kathryn

Liknes, and second-degree murder in the death of five-year-old Nathan O'Brien.

With his hands handcuffed behind his back, Garland walked with his head down and showed little emotion as he was surrounded by cameras and reporters during the walk to the police department's arrest processing unit late Monday night.

He did not respond to a barrage of questions.

Garland lives on an acreage near Airdrie, just north of Calgary, where much of the search by police has been concentrated since the trio vanished from the Likness home on June 29.

The couple had held an estate sale at their home that weekend and their grandon stayed for a sleepover, but when his mother came to get him the next morning, no one was home.

So far, no bodies have been found.

Jul 15 2014

**OTTAWA - New amendments to the government's prostitution bill will give it a better chance of withstanding a constitutional court challenge, says a leading Conservative on the House of Commons justice committee.**



"Every clarification makes it more supportable under the charter," said Conservative MP Bob Dechert, parliamentary secretary to Justice Minister Peter MacKay. "It will reduce the likelihood that it will be challenged, and it will make what the bill means much clearer."

Dechert was commenting on the final day of committee hearings, which involved a painstaking, clause-by-clause review of the bill after it was the subject of four full days of testimony last week.

The committee, on which the governing Conservatives hold a majority, voted Tuesday to amend the bill, which was tabled in response to the Supreme Court of Canada's



decision last December to strike down the old law as unconstitutional.

The amendment, which the Conservatives themselves drafted, will now criminalize prostitutes if they communicate for the purpose of selling sex next to a school, playground or daycare centre.

It passed over the objections of opposition Liberal and NDP members, who are in the minority on the committee. Dechert told the committee the change was necessary because the bill, as drafted, was too vague, because it referred simply to places where children were expected to be.

The ability of the bill to withstand a future challenge under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has become the core issue in this unusual summer sideshow on an otherwise politically dormant Parliament Hill.

MacKay said last week he fully expects another challenge to the law, but he wouldn't say where it might be vulnerable.

Jul 15 2014

### **EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer has been charged with using excessive force during an arrest.**

The criminal charge was laid after an investigation by the Edmonton Police Service professional standards branch that was then reviewed by Alberta Justice.

It stemmed from a complaint that the officer allegedly used excessive and unlawful force on someone during an arrest on Nov. 19, 2013.

Police did not say if the person arrested was a man or woman, what the person was arrested for, or the circumstances of the arrest.

Const. Kelly Stel, a 13-year member, has been charged with assault.

He has been assigned to the operational support division.

Jul 15 2014

### **HALIFAX - A woman will stand trial next year on charges of embezzling more than \$600,000 from a trust fund that provides insurance benefits for active and retired Halifax police officers.**

Mary Louise MacDonald is a former administrator of the Halifax Regional Police Benefit Trust Fund.

The 47-year-old faces two counts of fraud over \$5,000 and single counts of theft over \$5,000, forgery and uttering forged documents.

Lawyer David Bright entered not guilty pleas Tuesday in Dartmouth provincial court on behalf of MacDonald, who was not present.

Judge Flora Buchan scheduled the trial for four days in September 2015.

The offences are alleged to have been committed between November 2009 and June 2013.

Last fall, trustees of the fund filed a lawsuit in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in an effort to recoup some of the money.

The lawsuit alleged that MacDonald forged signatures, set up an unapproved bank account and siphoned off more than \$600,000 from the fund.

MacDonald did not file a defence to the suit, so a civil judgment was entered against her for \$619,346, plus \$1,484 in costs.

(Halifax Chronicle Herald)

Jul 15 2014

### **SASKATOON - Saskatoon's chief of police locked the door behind him at the city's old police station Wednesday morning before joining a parade to their new headquarters.**



Chief Clive Weighill and police officers marched down Saskatoon streets, from 4th Avenue North, for the grand opening of their new building, on 25th Street East.

People were invited to watch the parade and ceremonies. Public tours were to be announced for a later date.

(CBC News)

Jul 15 2014

### **HAMILTON - Amid ballooning security costs for the Pan Am Games, a group of law enforcement agencies are already working behind the scenes gathering intelligence and monitor for any threats.**

Fans heading to the games here should expect a very visible security presence that will include a tight cordon around the stadium with metal detectors and the likelihood of video surveillance.

The games will be a huge undertaking for southern Ontario. In past games, soccer has grabbed about 30 per cent of the game's spectators, says police superintendent Dan Kinsella, the city's Pan Am security lead. "Traditionally, it has a pretty huge fan base," he said.

While Kinsella stresses security planning is still in the planning stages, Hamilton police is part of a team that is "intelligence monitoring" to search for threats, he says. As it stands, there isn't anything to be alarmed about. "There's nothing right now occurring which would indicate we're facing a threat down the road," he said.

Ontario Provincial Police are also "monitoring channels" for any dangers, says acting OPP Sgt. Chrystal Jones. "We've been continually assessing the threat level of the games," Jones told CBC Hamilton. She's also quick to add that right now, any "threat levels are low."

The OPP is heading up the "integrated security unit" – a collection of police services who will oversee security for the games province-wide alongside contracted guards. But when it comes to pre-games intelligence monitoring, these organizations are (perhaps

somewhat predictably) shy to share details about who exactly is involved and where they're listening in.

Prep work for the games has been ongoing for years. Kinsella visited the 2011 Pan Am games in Guadalajara to work for three weeks to learn how they prepped for an influx of athletes and spectators. Considering Mexico was (and is) embroiled in a drug war, it gave Kinsella a different perspective on how security for an event like that is organized.

"It gave me that experience firsthand," he said. "You want to create an environment where security is there, but not overt."

Even a year away, the price of security is driving costs up for the game's organizers. The most recent security price tag estimate is \$239 million — which is \$33 million more than the last estimate, and more than double the original budget estimate.

(CBC News)



Jul 16 2014

### **WATERLOO, Ont. - Waterloo regional police have named former Guelph police chief Brian Larkin to the top role in the force.**



Larkin, 43, began his career with the Waterloo force in 1991.

He became Guelph's deputy chief in 2010 and was named chief in 2012.

In Waterloo Region, he replaces Matt Torigian, who retired in April to become Ontario's deputy minister of community safety.

Guelph police will begin seeking a replacement for Larkin on Thursday.

(CKGL)

Jul 16 2014

### **WINNIPEG - An audit by a consulting firm has found that a project to convert a former Canada Post building in downtown Winnipeg into the new police headquarters was badly managed by city officials.**

KPMG says administrators failed to report to council about problems with the \$210 million conversion and did not appear to understand policies created to ensure construction contracts were awarded in a fair and open manner.

The project has been marred by \$74 million in cost overruns since the conversion was approved in 2009.

A separate value-for-money review conducted by consulting firm Turner and

Townsend says the money spent on construction costs is comparable to costs incurred by other cities for their own police headquarters.

Coun. Russ Wyatt is demanding the province call a judicial inquiry into dealings at city hall, given the findings of the latest audit.

Wyatt says there are too many similarities with the KPMG report and two previous reviews that looked into 33 real estate transactions and last fall's review into the fire-paramedic station replacement program.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Jul 16 2014

**TORONTO - Two men charged in the death of a Hamilton man, who disappeared after taking a pair of prospective buyers on a test drive, are headed straight to trial on first-degree murder charges.**

Dellen Millard and Mark Smich are accused of killing Tim Bosma, whose remains were found about a week after he vanished on May 6, 2013, burned beyond recognition at a southwestern Ontario farm belonging to Millard.

Ravin Pillay, one of Millard's lawyers, says that the Crown is proceeding by direct indictment in the case, a rare move that means there will be no preliminary inquiry.

Preliminary hearings are held to test evidence and determine whether there is enough to commit the case to trial.

Millard and Smich are also charged in Toronto with first-degree murder in the death of Laura Babcock, with whom Millard was romantically linked, and Millard is also charged with first-degree murder in the death of his father.

Pillay wouldn't say if the direct indictment in the Bosma case affects the Toronto cases.

The defence feels the direct indictment is unfortunate because without a preliminary hearing they can't cross-examine witnesses or set up issues to be fought at trial.

"It's a significant departure from the normal process," Pillay said. "It's unusual. It's extraordinary...It's a very important procedural step in a criminal case and in almost all serious criminal charges the accused are afforded the benefit of a preliminary hearing."

Millard is also charged with forcible confinement and theft of a vehicle in Bosma's death.

Police believe Bosma, 32, was killed the same night he went missing, but haven't said where it happened.

Jul 16 2014

**HALIFAX - Aboriginal leaders are renewing calls for a national public inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women as hundreds of First Nations leaders gather in Halifax.**

Cheryl Maloney of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association says she has lost almost all hope for an inquiry from the federal government and is starting to pursue other avenues.

Maloney says aboriginal leaders will be reaching out to the opposition ahead of next year's election and is gathering a team of experts to look at possible legal action against

Ottawa, although she did not elaborate.

Using the annual Assembly of First Nations meeting in Halifax as a backdrop, she urged chiefs to continue pushing the government for answers on the more than 1,100 cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada.

Their calls for an inquiry have been repeatedly rejected by Ottawa.

Jul 16 2014

**SHERBROOKE, Que. - A stoned, naked man wandering a city street touched off a series of events that led officers to a magic mushroom grow operation, police say.**

Citizens in this town two hours east of Montreal called 911 to report a man walking around in his birthday suit early Monday morning.

Officers stopped the man and escorted him to his home where they found magic mushrooms growing inside, police said.

Police spokesman Rene Dubreuil said the man was likely high on his own supply.

"The man was naked and he told us he was floating above the city," Dubreuil said.

Officers seized drugs and growing equipment, he said.

(QMI Agency)

Jul 16 2014

**BURK'S FALLS, Ont. - The province's police watchdog is investigating the death of a man in cottage country, north of Huntsville, Ont.**

The Special Investigations Unit says provincial police were contacted Wednesday morning about a man in Burk's Falls with a firearm.

They say the 54-year-old suffered a firearm injury and was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Jul 16 2014

**MONCTON, N.B. - The RCMP in New Brunswick says it has completed door-to-door canvassing in the Moncton neighbourhood where they were investigating the fatal shootings of three fellow Mounties last month.**

Marlene Snowman, the superintendent of the Codiac Regional RCMP detachment, provided an update Wednesday six weeks after constables Douglas Larche, Fabrice Gevaudan and Dave Ross were shot dead.

Snowman says a number of people have provided the RCMP with videos and photos to help with their investigation.

She says some RCMP employees at the Codiac Regional detachment who were granted temporary leave from work as a result of the shooting deaths have begun resuming duties.

Snowman also says the two officers injured in the shootings - Const. Eric Dubois and Const. Darlene Goguen - are faring well.

Justin Bourque was arrested and charged with three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder following a 30-hour manhunt.

He is scheduled to return to provincial court July 31 following a psychiatric assessment.

An internal review is also underway into the circumstances surrounding the shootings.

Jul 16 2014

**TORONTO - People who have had contact with police in Ontario that did not end in a conviction should no longer fear release of the potentially sensitive information during standard record checks under updated guidelines released Wednesday.**

Civil liberties, mental-health and other advocacy groups praised the updated approach urged by the Ontario Association of Police Chiefs as a significant step toward protecting innocent people from the harm such disclosure can cause, but said legislation is needed to force compliance.

"We know that thousands of people are being impacted by the disclosure of non-conviction records, and we know that people are being discriminated against when employers and volunteer agencies receive these types of records on police checks," said Abby Deshman, program director with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

"These guidelines ... will provide a great level of protection to many people across Ontario if implemented."

The revised guidelines call on police to no longer disclose apprehensions under mental-health laws or related information - such as suicide attempts - under any circumstances. In addition, police contacts with members of the public that do not lead to criminal convictions will no longer be routinely disclosed.

An exceptional disclosure mechanism applies to those working or volunteering with children or others considered to be vulnerable. For example, non-conviction records could be disclosed in cases where someone has faced multiple accusations of fraud against the elderly or sexual abuse of children, under the new guidelines.

"I think it's going to be a handful of times," said Paul Cormier, co-chairman of the association's law enforcement and records managers network.

"We're trying to make sure police agencies understand that this is exceptional."

The changes reflect years of concern by human-rights, privacy, prisoner and mental-health advocates.

The civil liberties association said it had heard from more than 100 people over the past year who had phoned 911 for help with mental-health crises and then lost their jobs, were forced out of school or barred from volunteering when police disclosed that information as a result of record checks.

Deshman called it "huge" that the vast majority of people with non-conviction records should no longer have to worry about their police-contact information being disclosed.

However, a major concern is that it is up to individual police forces to decide on implementing the guidelines. Some may simply refuse to do so.

As a result, the police chiefs association and others are calling on the province to legislate the rules around record checks and disclosure.

Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi welcomed the guidelines but was non-committal about any legislation.

"We will continue to work with our partners to review the issue of police background checks and are committed to exploring all avenues to find the right balance in this area," Naqvi said in a statement.

This is the third incarnation of the guidelines the police chiefs began working on in 2007. Every police service in the province was given an opportunity to provide input, Cormier said.

The Toronto Police Service - which has come under criticism for releasing sensitive information unrelated to criminal convictions - said it was studying the document and had no immediate comment.

Jul 16 2014

**TORONTO - Two Toronto police officers have committed suicide over the past four months, and a former long-time sergeant says more will die because the Toronto Police Service (TPS) is "dramatically" failing officers who come forward with mental health issues.**



In the first of a three-part CityNews investigation, former Toronto police Sgt. Simon Fraser tells The Inside Story's Avery Haines he became a virtual outcast after being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, eventually quitting the force after 28 years on the job.

"If somebody doesn't say something more police officers are going to keep dying," Fraser said.

"Two police officers have hung themselves in less than five months. Nobody knows."

Fraser was diagnosed with PTSD in 2012 after responding to a series of traumatic calls. He underwent treatment and was cleared to return to full duties by his family doctor.

When he returned to work, he says he approached his staff sergeant so he could submit an Injured on Duty form for PTSD.

Fraser says it was the beginning of the end of his long, successful career.

According to Fraser, the staff sergeant said: "Are you sure you want to do that Simon? There's going to be ramifications, man."

Fraser said those ramifications were not only humiliating and degrading, but unhinged his recovery.

"I got transferred off of my platoon and

assigned to an empty desk in the basement of my station, no computer, no phone, no duties. And my desk was right at the bottom of the stairs, where every constable has to pass that door," the heavily-muscled 51 year old explained.

Before coming forward with his diagnosis, Fraser says he was a "high-level" sergeant who ran city-wide squads and task forces.

Now he was alone in a basement — a virtual outcast among the people he once considered family.

"I'm proud to wear this uniform...and now I'm realizing I have an issue that's been caused by the horrible things I've had to see and do. You guys are abandoning me? And not just abandoning me and washing your hands with me, you are making me worse?"

"I don't think the Toronto Police Service give a damn about officers with PTSD," he boldly states.

Police Chief Bill Blair disagrees.

Blair says the force has taken significant steps in recent years to address mental health concerns among officers, including hiring two full-time psychologists.

"We've done a lot of work within the Toronto Police Service on the psychological well-being of our members," Blair told Haines. "We are very concerned and have been reaching out to our people and making sure they are aware of the services available to them."

Blair stresses that the TPS has 8,000 members and that mental health "can touch any individual."

"If you are experiencing mental health issues...we are here to help," he insists.

But Fraser insists the force has failed him and the officers who took their own lives.

He's filed a labour grievance and Human Rights Commission complaint saying he was pressured to keep his PTSD diagnosis hidden, and was assigned to humiliating and degrading work conditions. He also claims he was "harassed, berated and disciplined" and alleges his confidential medical condition was disclosed to other officers.

The TPS has an "institutional pattern of bias and discrimination against those with PTSD," his complaints read.

"Guys are afraid to speak," he maintains. "They've seen what happens to other people (who come forward)."

"We are big tough coppers, we are guys who work out. We carry guns. We help people, we protect people. Who is protecting us?"

"It's a ticking time bomb..."

(City News)

Jul 16 2014

**ST. ALBERT - St. Albert city council has accepted a request by the local RCMP detachment to apply for more officers.**

Every year the RCMP requires a formal resolution to be passed by council, allowing the local detachment to request more RCMP positions. Detachment commander Insp. Kevin Murray appeared before council on Monday to request five additional officers, which

would bring the force's total to 66 approved positions.

The detachment currently has 56 officers but 61 approved positions. Murray said he likes to have some extra approved positions available so he can work on filling them in anticipation of officer departures, since it takes time to approve staff positions on a federal level, obtain new officers and transfer existing ones to St. Albert.

Historically, the detachment has always played catch up to fill positions. By "over asking," Murray said he can more easily fill vacancies from sick leave, maternity leave and transfers out, while waiting for new positions to get approved.

"Often times we were at least 10 per cent behind the authorized figure. (The decision) allows me to continue to be looking for additional people in anticipation of vacancies or parental leave," he said.

The request is to "strengthen the organization chart number." The number of RCMP officers that would actually be working in St. Albert is determined in the budget.

The actual number of RCMP members the city hopes to obtain is 56 for 2014.

"This is straight politics on the RCMP level," commented Mayor Nolan Crouse. "Ask for 50, get 40. Ask for 70, get 60. There are just not enough RCMP members across Canada."

"This is a way to get more boots on the street. Currently with 61 ask, we have 56," said Chris Jardine, the city's general manager of community and protective services. "We need to be slightly ahead of the curve, not shooting a rocket into the sky."

Under the Municipal Policing Agreement, the RCMP can legally fill RCMP members to the "authorized" number and if that occurs, the city would be legally responsible for the policing costs, stated information provided to council.

The likelihood of that happening is low, noted city administration.

If the RCMP sticks with the same timelines used in the past, it would end up waiting up to two years to get any requests filled, stated the information.

(St. Albert Gazette)



Jul 17 2014

**TORONTO - The chief of police has asked the Toronto Police Services Board to deny a \$424,790 claim for the legal expenses of a former officer who had all charges against him thrown out in a high-profile corruption prosecution against members of a now disbanded drug squad.**

Chief Bill Blair states in documents sent to the police board that if Rick Benoit had not resigned from the Toronto police in 2007, the force would have gone ahead with disciplinary charges under the Police Services Act.

"If the allegations against the former po-

lice constable were proven, there may have been a basis to conclude that his conduct and activities were not done in the lawful execution of his duties," writes Chief Blair, in advance of the board's meeting on Thursday.

The request, which has already raised the ire of the Toronto Police Association, has been made despite provisions in the collective agreement that normally cover costs for officers who are charged, but not convicted, of a criminal or disciplinary offence. It also comes at a time when there is some criticism about the ever-increasing police budget, and the chief must disclose soon if he is seeking an extension to his contract, which expires next spring.

The president of the police association says the chief is not applying the collective agreement correctly.

"Our position is that this legal claim should be fully indemnified," said Mike McCormack. "If it is not, we will grieve. There was no finding of wrongdoing [against Mr. Benoit]," he added.

Mr. Benoit was one of six Toronto drug squad officers in a unit led by John Schertzer who were charged with a number of corruption-related offences in 2004. They were alleged to have beaten and stolen from drug dealers in the late 1990s.

Charges against all the defendants were initially stayed by a Superior Court judge in 2008 because of unreasonable delay in bringing the case to trial. By this point, Mr. Benoit was facing charges of assault causing bodily harm and extortion, after the preliminary hearing judge threw out other charges for lack of evidence.

The Ontario Court of Appeal ruled in the fall of 2009 that the case should still go ahead against the other officers, but upheld the stay for Mr. Benoit, who was represented by prominent defence lawyer Alan Gold.

The Court of Appeal was critical of the Crown's decision that Mr. Benoit would not go on trial until after the longer, more complicated proceeding involving his former colleagues, saying "Benoit should not have been held hostage to the trial of the long indictment."

In his bid to quash the payment of Mr. Benoit's legal bill, Chief Blair is relying on another section within the collective agreement, which permits the Board to refuse to cover legal costs if the conduct of an officer amounted to a "gross dereliction of duty" or abuse of power.

Chief Blair says in the request to the Board that he has reviewed the issue with the city's legal department and if proven, the conduct of Mr. Benoit would have been abusive and a gross dereliction of duty.

Toronto police declined to comment beyond what is in the chief's written request to the board.

The oversight agency was also provided with information in a confidential attachment, which is unlikely to be made public.

The attempt by the chief to have the police association cover the legal bill is the latest chapter in the long-running and still on-

going court proceeding involving the former drug squad.

The five former colleagues of Mr. Benoit were convicted by a jury in 2012 of obstruction of justice. Three of the defendants were also convicted of perjury, although all of the former officers were acquitted of other charges, including ones related to the incident where Mr. Benoit had been charged.

Justice Gladys Pardu sentenced the five officers to 45 days of house arrest. An appeal has been filed by the Crown and is scheduled to be heard by the Court of Appeal this fall.

(Globe and Mail)

Jul 17 2014

### **WINNIPEG - For the second time in a week, Manitoba Justice has been asked to look at an audit of operations involving the City of Winnipeg.**

The latest one involves a KPMG review of a project to convert a former downtown Canada Post building into new headquarters for city police.

The audit found civic officials failed to follow city procedures to manage the design, procurement and construction of major projects, and that the city lacked many essential policies and procedures to govern administrative handling of such projects.

Council voted 11-5 Wednesday to have the province review the KPMG findings, with Coun. Paula Havixbeck saying the report is of concern because not all questions have been answered.

Council asked Justice last week to look at a separate audit of 33 other real estate transactions involving the city.

Coun. Russ Wyatt, who repeated his call for the province to launch a judicial inquiry, said the RCMP should be sent in to seize files and subpoena people to find out what's going on.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Jul 17 2014

### **WINNIPEG - One of the first police officers on the scene of the beheading of a young man aboard a Greyhound bus on a Manitoba highway six years ago has taken his own life.**

Ken Barker, a recently retired RCMP corporal who was a dog handler, killed himself last weekend after struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder for years.

Family and former colleagues say the 51-year-old had already seen almost two decades of horrific crimes when he witnessed the grisly scene on the Trans-Canada Highway west of Winnipeg in 2008.

Tim McLean was stabbed, mutilated and beheaded by Vince Li, who was later found not criminally responsible because of mental illness.

Barker's family say they're speaking out about the suicide in the hope more Mounties will seek help.

Shari Barker, the former officer's estranged wife, said Wednesday her husband was a sensitive man who did not want to be known as the Greyhound guy.

Barker, who had two adult children, retired

last month and had been on medical leave since October.

Shari and Barker's sister, Wendy Walder, said he did get psychiatric help while with the RCMP and during his short retirement, but they both said the force has to do more to address the stigma attached to its members battling mental illness.

Shari also said his illness didn't just force him to retire - it also cost him his marriage. "Today (Wednesday) would have been our 26th anniversary," she said. "Ken and I separated three years ago. PTSD did it. It cost him on many levels."

Walder said her brother's treatment was coming along - and while he was still a dog handler, he was stationed at the airport and bus depots instead of responding to slayings - but last fall things began changing.

"With Vince Li getting in the paper about his walks, he started getting flashbacks," she said.

"It was a very rapid decline in the last six months. He sent text messages like 'I think I'm too broken to ever be fixed' and he would also say 'I wish I had cancer because then people would understand.'"

The two women rescued Barker from a suicide attempt in May, but no one got to him in time this past weekend.

"He would say the front door will be open and don't go into the basement. Shari went there and the front door was open and she called for him and he didn't respond. She knew not to go to the basement. She called the paramedics," said Walder.

RCMP Assist. Commissioner Gilles Moreau said the force offers its condolences to Barker's family. He said the force already offers help to its members and a five-year mental-health strategy, announced in May, will provide more.

Its objectives include improving employee understanding in the intervention of psychological problems, reducing the presence and effects of psychological risks and measuring the force's psychological health-and-safety performance annually.

A recent audit found 38 per cent of RCMP members who are on long-term sick leave said mental-health problems are to blame.

Lori Wilson, founder of the Friends of the RCMP for PTSD Awareness, said not a week goes by that she doesn't hear about a current or former RCMP member facing a mental-health crisis.

"They are trained to be in control and control their emotions when in chaos," said Wilson, whose husband was diagnosed with PTSD.

"But what happens after that? Let us give them the tools. Let us do six-month checkups. Let us have a list of where they were before and are now. And let us talk to families."

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Jul 17 2014

### **MONTREAL - Authorities in Quebec have broken up a ring they allege shipped stolen luxury vehicles to Africa.**

Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP began a joint investigation after



customs agents discovered vehicles inside shipping containers at the Port of Montreal about one year ago.

Police say they've arrested four people today and been able to recover about \$1 million worth of stolen property over the course of their year-long investigation.

Police allege a sophisticated network was behind a rash of car thefts in Montreal, Quebec City and Ontario.

An RCMP spokesman says the network went to lengths to mask the stolen vehicles by altering their serial numbers and using forged paperwork with the names of real import/export firms.

The four accused are expected to appear in a Montreal courtroom this afternoon.

They face a wide range of charges that include conspiracy, trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime, identity theft, car theft, possession of break-in instruments, forgery and uttering forged documents.

In all, 44 stolen vehicles were identified, with 29 of them recovered, mainly at the Port of Montreal. Police also found a stolen boat.

The vehicles were believed bound for Africa, particularly Angola, Guinea and Burundi.

Jul 17 2014

**LONDON, Ont. - Two people have been sent to hospital after a collision involving an SUV and a London police cruiser on its way to a call at a locked-down Walmart store.**

The two people in the SUV were taken to hospital with "non-life threatening" injuries.

Authorities say the Walmart was placed under lockdown Thursday after someone spotted a teenage boy in the parking lot carrying an air gun that looked like a rifle.

The lockdown was lifted five minutes later, and the teen was let off with a warning.

This is the second collision involving a London police cruiser this week.

On Sunday, a 56-year-old man was charged with impaired driving after a cruiser was rear-ended.

(CFPL)

Jul 17 2014

**KENORA - Municipalities across northwestern Ontario have complained for years about the high cost of policing.**

Kenora was the last community in the region to move from a municipal police force to the OPP, back in 2009. As part of the agreement, the city of Kenora leases the former Kenora Police Service detachment to the province.

But, it comes at a cost.

Kenora city Coun. Ron Lunny said the city continues to lose money on its contract with the OPP.

"It's costing us somewhere around \$85,000 a year. I believe we're even cleaning the bathrooms for them," he said.

Lunny said something needs to be done by the province to reign in the cost of policing.

"Over \$920 per year per household, whereas down east and other places it's

somewhere around a hundred and anywhere in between that and 900. Policing is very expensive here."

One community on another side of the province has a possible solution.

Carling Township, along with several rural townships near Parry Sound, is looking into establishing its own police force.

Gord Harrison, the mayor of Carling Township, said estimates prepared by a consultant show a local force would be half the price the OPP is currently charging the municipality.

"We're prepared to move in that direction. We're looking at it because of cost, and that's the only reason we're looking at it," said Harrison.

"We've always been served by the OPP. And the only reason we're looking at it is that for the early cost estimates that we've had, we'd be looking at cutting the number in half."

Back in Kenora, Lunny said re-establishing the Kenora Police Service would not be easy.

"We just couldn't possibly do that here. We could not afford that here to go back," he said. "It would cost us a fortune to get all of the equipment back and everything."

Lunny said he hopes the province will move forward with its new costing formula for policing, to bring down the cost of providing emergency services to the taxpayer.

(CBC News)

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