

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

August 01, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 31

Executive Digest

Jul 25 2014

TORONTO - An Ontario judge has agreed to hear a Charter of Rights challenge brought by telecommunication giants Telus and Rogers after police requested them to release cellphone information about 40,000 to 50,000 customers as part of an investigation in the Toronto area.

Page 3

Jul 25 2014

A new supercomputer lab in the criminology department at Simon Fraser University will analyze crime data in ways never seen before in Canada.

Page 4

Jul 28 2014

OTTAWA - A newly disclosed Finance Department memo warns that the high level of anonymity associated with Bitcoin transactions may make the virtual currency an attractive payment method for criminals.

Page 5

Jul 29 2014

WINNIPEG - The retired judge who probed the death of Phoenix Sinclair says child death reviews ought to be made public.

Page 5

Jul 30 2014

TORONTO - Chief Bill Blair will not stay on as head of the Toronto Police beyond next spring, according to a statement published by the board Wednesday.

Page 7

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100⁰⁰

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

High court narrows scope of allowable police sting evidence



Jul 31 2014

OTTAWA - Confessions extracted through so-called Mr. Big police sting operations tend to produce unreliable confessions, are open to abuses and must be regulated more carefully in order to be admissible in court, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday.

The decision by the country's highest court calls into question the convictions of Canadians behind bars across the country.

In a majority decision, the court ruled that stings like the one used to convict a

Newfoundland man of drowning his three-year-old twin daughters can be risky.

The justices ruled that Nelson Hart's confession during a sting operation more than a decade ago cannot be used against him should he face another trial. It will now be up to the Crown to determine whether Hart can be retried.

Hart was initially convicted of first-degree murder in 2002 in the drowning deaths of his daughter, Krista and Karen. At trial, court heard that Hart showed undercover officers, posing as members of the mafia, how he drowned the girls by shoving them into the

BADGE OF LIFE CANADA

Enabling individuals to have a safe place to go for direct support through positive connections with volunteer peers, trauma and PTSD survivors and/or front line professionals.

Serving active and retired police officers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, civilian support staff and families of all police service members

BadgeOfLifeCanada.com

waters of Gander Lake, Newfoundland.

But the conviction was overturned in 2007 by the province's appeal court by a 2-1 margin. The ruling questioned the reliability of his confession.

The Supreme Court ruled that Hart's Charter rights may have been violated and that Canada's legal system does not adequately protect the rights of people who are subject to Mr. Big sting operations.

"I have concluded that the April 1 confession must also be excluded," Justice Michael Moldaver wrote on behalf of the majority.

"As such, it is doubtful whether any admissible evidence remains upon which a jury, properly instructed and acting reasonably, could convict," he added. "However, the final decision on how to proceed rests with the Crown."

The Mr. Big investigative technique involves undercover police officers who recruit a suspect to a fictitious criminal organization while posing as gangsters. The aim is to obtain a confession to a crime.

But there are "significant problems" with such stings, the court said.

"To be sure, Mr. Big operations can become abusive, and they can produce confessions that are unreliable and prejudicial," said the ruling.

The court said police and lawmakers must figure out a better way to extract solid confessions from suspects in criminal cases.

"We must seek a legal framework that protects accused persons, and the justice system as a whole, against these dangers," it said.

"Mr. Big operations are a creative and sometimes useful law enforcement technique, but the courts must carefully police their boundaries lest they stray from being useful strategies into plays that allow the state to manipulate and destroy the lives of individuals who are presumed to be innocent."



ISSN 1704-3913

Copyright 2014

Blue Line Magazine Inc. & The Canadian Press

Permission to reprint may be obtained in advance from

Access Copyright

Phone 1-800-893-5777 Info@accesscopyright.ca

Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

Most information supplied in this publication is from news-wire services. As such Blue Line Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of articles as supplied.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$10500 (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.

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

ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048

12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

THURSDAY
JULY 24, 2014

Jul 24 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - The two RCMP officers in New Brunswick who were wounded in shootings last month that also killed three of their colleagues are expressing gratitude for the public's support.

The RCMP have released statements from constables Eric Dubois and Darlene Goguen, who were shot on June 4 while they were pursuing an armed suspect in Moncton.

Dubois says he appreciates the comforting notes he received from across Canada and the United States while he was recuperating.

Goguen says she continues to recover from her injuries and is grateful for the public's encouragement and prayers.

Both were treated and released from hospital after the shootings.

Jul 24 2014

MONTREAL - The 580 police officers of Laval have joined their Service de police de la Ville de Montréal brethren and are now wearing non-regulation issue pants to protest proposed changes to their pension plan.

Starting Wednesday, police officers are wearing jeans, combat pants and anything but their regulation trousers on the job.

The pants issue it meant to remind the provincial government and Laval mayor Marc Demers that the officers are not happy with the proposed Bill 3, which would unilaterally alter their work conditions by changing the amounts the officers will have to contribute to their pension plan.

In a statement, the officers object to having to pay for the mistakes made by elected officials that caused the crisis in the budget.

While Montreal police have often taken the jeans-and-cargo-pants route in the past, this is the first time Laval has joined in.

(Montreal Gazette)

Jul 24 2014

Quebec's police ethics committee has sanctioned three Montreal police officers in connection to their behaviour in a 2005 incident involving Anne-Marie Peladeau, sister of media-mogul-turned-politician Pierre Karl Peladeau.

Nearly nine years after the fact, the tribunal deemed the behavior of officers Roberto Sforza, Mike Mezzacappa and Lo Dico "de-rogatory" in reference to the violent arrest of Peladeau and Eric Kennedy. The pair was apprehended after allegedly stealing cigarettes and initiating a police chase.

The arrest was caught on camera by a TVA camera. TVA is owned by Quebecor, which in turn is run by the Peladeau family.

Sforza was found to have broken the code of ethics for aggressively shoving Peladeau while trying to get her to climb into the police car after she was arrested.

Peladeau hit her head on the door frame. The committee called that measure "useless and excessive" and said it "constituted an abuse of authority."

Sforza, Mezzacapa and Lo Dico were also admonished for not checking on the occupants of a truck involved in an accident during the chase needed help.

However, the committee considers that Sforza had reason to draw his weapon in a first attempt to arrest Peladeau because she allegedly threatened him with a syringe.

A citation against a fourth agent, Fabio Nicola Cavaliere, was withdrawn "for reasons of health and humanitarian consideration."

The officers will be sentenced at a later date. Judge Martin Vaclair of the Court of Quebec acquitted officers Sforza and Cavaliere of assault charges in May 2008.

Vaclair concluded that the police force used against Ms. Peladeau was vigorous, but deemed it necessary and not excessive.

Jul 24 2014

OTTAWA - Ottawa Police have collected more than 60,000 traffic stop entries a year after the launch of a program to promote bias free policing.

A new report on the Race Based Data Collection, released Thursday to the Ottawa Police Services Board, counts the program a success.

Insp. Pat Flanagan, who is responsible for the project, said the collection means Ottawa police "can continue its commitment to bias free policing and have meaningful dialogue about racial profiling concerns."

Since June 2013, officers at traffic stops have recorded their perception of the driver's race. They also collect age and gender along with stop details like the date and location, reason for stop and its outcome. More than 81 per cent of all recorded traffic stops have all eight fields filled out, the report said.

The two-year project came out of an agreement between the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Ottawa Police Services Board.

"It's about building a project that will produce accurate, meaningful and measurable data, and more importantly, have the confidence of our members and the communities we serve," said Flanagan in a news release.

The report calls it the largest study of its kind in Canada, and the data will be made public in 2015 when the two-year project is over.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Jul 24 2014

CALGARY - A group of convicted offenders are serving their time while serving the community as part of a partnership between the Calgary Police Service, Alberta Corrections and the Kiwanis Club of Calgary.

The inmates are repairing old bicycles while developing skills which will help with their reintegration into society as part of a program which has been in place since 2000.

The Calgary Police Service supplies unclaimed bikes to the prison where inmates

provide the necessary repairs.

The fruits of their labour are provided to children in need in the Calgary area. The Kiwanis Club of Calgary Chinook has donated 5,000 bicycles to deserving children through various local agencies since 1997, the majority of which were repaired by inmates through the partnership which started in 2000.

"It started off with 15 bikes and it grew to 30 that year, and now, 17 years later, we're on bike 5,000," said Darlene Kerr, a representative of the Kiwanis Club of Calgary Chinook. "To be able to help that many families and kids in the city, it just overwhelms us."

"If it was possible, I think we could give away 10,000 bikes a year in this city," adds Kerr. "We get so many requests and we just can't keep up with the demand."

The reaction of the children receiving the bicycles and helmets can be a heartwarming moment for everyone involved.

"It's such a source of joy for the children," said Louise Bursa, a healthy families home visitor with Pathways, an organization which supports local children and their families. "Quite often (the families) can't afford bikes for their children at all. They can't get new ones or used ones, and it's just like a miracle for them to have these bikes."

Alberta's Justice Minister says the program is beneficial for the children, the offenders, and the environment.

"Children in need benefit by getting recreational equipment, bicycles are kept out of landfills and offenders are put to work while being accountable for their actions," said Minister Jonathan Denis, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

(CTV Calgary)

Jul 24 2014

Niagara Regional Police are ready for any emergency — and now their data will be too.

The police will back up all their information technology in a new data centre being added onto Niagara Region's headquarters in Thorold.

The police board reported Thursday it had approved spending \$1.28 million for equipment for the Disaster Recovery Centre.

"We're focusing right now on systems that are mission critical," Akram Askoul, the NRP's director of information and communications technology said later. "For systems we can do without for a month or three weeks, we haven't justified spending any capital on it because we can work around it."

Askoul said there are multiple computer rooms holding data at the St. Catharines Church St. detachment, which will be moved to Niagara Falls when the new NRP headquarters opens there.

But if anything happened to the primary site due to a fire or gas leak or other event, Askoul said those systems, like dispatch, records management, criminal records and Crown briefs, would fail. While the service can still operate in manual mode with pen and paper, it's not ideal or efficient.

By mirroring its data at the Region —

which will break ground on the centre next year — the NRP will be able to access data remotely if the systems at headquarters go down.

The \$1.28 million for the capital project will be used to buy NRP equipment, software, licences, security systems and fibre lines to put in the Region's data centre space.

(Sun Media)

Jul 24 2014

PEEL - Peel Regional Police will be looking for two new deputy chiefs after a second deputy has announced he will retire.

On the heels of the retirement announcement of Deputy Chief Dan McDonald, Deputy Chief Frank Roselli has announced he will retire effective Oct. 6.

Roselli, a Peel Regional Police officer for 34 years, was put in the role of one of Peel's three deputies in December 2012, at the same time Chris McCord was also sworn in as a deputy chief.

McDonald, a 35-year police veteran, was appointed acting deputy chief in 2006, and the title was made official in 2008. He announced his retirement last week.

Peel Police Services Board Chair Emil Kolb said a search for a new deputy chief to replace McDonald would focus on candidates among current Peel Regional Police employees, and that search will now look for two deputies instead of just one. The process is expected to conclude at the end of September.

Kolb praised Roselli for his contributions to the service.

"He is a true professional in every sense of the word," Kolb said.

Chief Jennifer Evans said Roselli exemplifies the qualities the service values and fosters.

For his part, Roselli expressed admiration for his co-workers and soon-to-be-former employer.

"This is a great organization and it's been an honour to work with so many truly outstanding individuals," he said

(Mississauga News)



Jul 25 2014

CALGARY - Calgary police have received help from the Grande Prairie company, Vieworx, in the continued search for five-year-old Nathan O'Brien and his grandparents, Alvin and Kathryn Liknes, who have been missing since June 30.

Over two days last weekend, a Vieworx helicopter equipped with advanced technology that has the ability to detect small ground disturbances, scanned the Airdrie acreage police suspect the bodies of the missing may be located.

This week the company has been assisting the police in reading all of the data collected.

"What's unique about their technology is it can detect ground disturbances at a very,

very high degree of accuracy...they use this technology called LIDAR, which has been around for a longtime but the accuracy they have is a step-change compared to, say, even what the military would have," said Greg Head, the company president's brother.

The helicopters also took high-resolution images of the search site.

Vieworx equipment is typically used to inspect pipelines, pipeline settlement, and other needs of the oil and gas industry, said Greg.

"To make it simple to understand, if you went in your backyard and dug a hole a foot-by-a-foot and you filled it back in and they flew over that area with the helicopter, they would find that," he said.

If the bodies are on the acreage, Greg says the technology will find them

Police have arrested and charged 54-year-old Douglas Garland with three counts of murder — two first degree and one second degree — in relation to the missing family.

(Sun Media)

Jul 25 2014

HALIFAX - A review into the Halifax police investigation of a blind woman found lying beneath a bridge has reaffirmed the force's position that her death was accidental.

Quebec City police were asked in February to conduct the review after Holly Bartlett's family contacted the Halifax police chief to say they had concerns about the investigation.

Bartlett was discovered unconscious under the MacKay Bridge on March 27, 2010, and died in hospital the next day.

The Halifax police investigation at the time concluded the 31-year-old woman had become disoriented after leaving a taxi in the early morning hours and fell 10 metres off a concrete abutment.

While the Quebec City police review says Bartlett's death was accidental, it took issue with what it said was a lack of thorough investigative steps.

The Halifax police says it is concerned that the Quebec City police did not interview each officer involved in the file, but it is determining how to best implement the review's recommendations.

Jul 25 2014

TORONTO - An Ontario judge has agreed to hear a Charter of Rights challenge brought by telecommunication giants Telus and Rogers after police requested them to release cell-phone information about 40,000 to 50,000 customers as part of an investigation in the Toronto area.

Justice John Sproat says that the case has highlighted important issues about privacy and law enforcement that should be challenged in open court, even though Peel regional police attempted to withdraw their original requests.

His ruling was dated July 16 but released Friday.

Lawyers for Telus and Rogers said the companies have responded to thousands of court orders requiring cell records but said that the “tower dumps” requested by Peel regional police force in this situation were too broad.

The Crown countered that the Charter challenge should be dropped because police had withdrawn their original request for information from 21 cell towers and were willing to ask for information from fewer towers.

But the judge agreed to hear arguments, saying privacy is of obvious importance to Canadians and noting that lawyers for Rogers and Telus are in a position to argue Charter issues that may not be evident to the general public.

Sproat said he would set dates for hearings at a later time.

Jul 25 2014

A new supercomputer lab in the criminology department at Simon Fraser University will analyze crime data in ways never seen before in Canada.

The new lab will use high performance computing — clusters of interconnected computers with power massively larger than an individual computer — and the computer system will be locked away inside a metal cage in an underground building. Anyone entering will have to have an RCMP security clearance, and the system won’t be connected to the Internet or any outside computers.

The only thing police are not providing to the new lab is the names of offenders — those are replaced by numbers.

This combination of high performance computing and use of police data is “absolutely unique at a research institution in Canada and very unusual in other parts of the world,” says computer scientist Uwe Glässer, who is setting up the lab.

Glässer will work with SFU criminologists Patricia Brantingham and Martin Andresen. Brantingham is the director of the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies at SFU.

The new lab will focus on two main areas: urban crime and maritime security.

Brantingham says high performance computing is typically used in the study of complex networks like those found in cosmology and genomics, or in such things as the prediction of tsunamis and hurricanes, “where you have massive amounts of data in which to find patterns.”

But she says there are complex, predictable networks in criminology too, namely the geographical pathways along which people (criminals and non-criminals) move, gather, work, play and live their lives.

According to the new sciences of computational criminology and environmental criminology, both of which Brantingham helped to invent, understanding those societal networks can predict and prevent criminal activity. It has led to new ways of looking at urban planning, for example, where planners and architects avoid creating specific kinds of environments where crime tends to occur.

Now, police data and a bigger computer

will give Brantingham a new universe to explore. She says the new lab will be able to take the large amount of data available across the whole province and allow a deeper look at how, where and why crimes occur.

The RCMP’s Tonia Enger, who is coordinating the exchange of information between the RCMP and SFU, says the RCMP does its own computerized crime analysis but the new SFU capability will give it more big-picture information and provide independent analysis when they need it.

It will also help the RCMP with policy and communications, she says, in a time when policing is getting increasingly complex.

(Vancouver Sun)



For the second time in two days, a police chase in Quebec has ended in tragedy.

Around 8:30 p.m. Friday, Surete du Quebec officers were chasing a truck with three occupants in Mont Laurier, about 243 kilometres northwest of Montreal.

At the intersection of Highways 117 and 309, the truck veered and collided with a car travelling in the opposite direction.

A male passenger was killed on impact. A female passenger is in critical condition in hospital.

Police arrested the three occupants of the truck. They are comprised of two adults and a juvenile, who will be questioned on Saturday.

The investigation into the crash has been transferred to the Montreal police.

In another police chase, a 20-year-old man died Thursday when he lost control of his car and crashed into a tree in St. Blaise sur Richelieu on the South Shore

Jul 26 2014

The dispute over Quebec’s proposed pension reform legislation took a new twist overnight Friday when more than 100 Montreal officers simultaneously called in sick.

The situation sparked a 2 a.m. emergency

meeting between Quebec’s labour board and the police union — the Montreal Police Brotherhood — that lasted until 6 a.m Saturday.

The meeting concluded with the labour board ordering all officers back to work.

A police department spokesman said police services were not compromised by the move and those already on duty filled in by working four hours of overtime.

Other officers came in four hours early.

It is not clear how much the overtime will cost the city.

The Police Brotherhood denied encouraging its members to call in sick.

Officers and other municipal workers have been using pressure tactics in recent weeks as they protest proposed pension reform legislation.

The Quebec government has introduced legislation known as Bill 3 that would increase the share of pension contributions paid by municipal workers to 50 per cent.

(CBC News)



Jul 27 2014

ALEXIS CREEK, B.C. - One man is in custody following a confrontation resulting in shots fired at RCMP near a small town west of Williams Lake.

Police say an Alexis Creek officer saw two men allegedly attempting to start a stolen pickup truck.

The passenger left but the driver was taken into custody.

Police say while the officer was dealing with the man in custody, two other men - one who had a knife - approached and threatened the officer.

Other officers were called to help, and the suspects who threatened the officer left.

Police say several shots were fired at officers during a search for the suspects that followed, but no injuries were reported.



Jul 28 2014

HALIFAX - A top judge in Nova Scotia says he is surprised at the positive impact live-tweeting inside the courtroom has had after the province's judiciary recently relaxed the rules on the use of Twitter in the courts.

Chief Justice Joseph Kennedy of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court allowed reporters to live-tweet proceedings during the trial of Lyle Howe, a Halifax lawyer convicted of sexual assault.

"I couldn't get over how well it had worked," Kennedy said in an interview, describing it as the closest thing to gavel-to-gavel coverage he has seen.

"I didn't think it was going to be as accurate as it turned out to be. I have to say that I was very impressed.

"I'd come back (to my office) occasionally and go on the computer after I'd been to the courtroom - I'd tell my colleagues that I used to have to come back here to find out what happened," he said, kidding.

New guidelines governing the use of electronic devices in the courtroom came into effect in Nova Scotia on May 15, allowing communication such as tweeting and texting for any purpose, including publication, in most courts, unless otherwise banned by the presiding judge.

Jul 28 2014

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Police in Newfoundland and Labrador say they're going to use decibel meters to crack down on noisy motorcycles.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has notified the city of St. John's that tickets may be issued for violations under the Highway Traffic Act.

The Canadian standard for the maximum noise a motorcycle can make is 82 decibels.

Police say knowing when a bike, car or truck reaches that point has become a problem, and proving a noise violation in court is difficult without a decibel meter.

The province said last month that it didn't see the need for any additional legislation to address modified exhaust systems and it has left the responsibility to municipalities.

Other cities across the country like Edmonton and Winnipeg have adopted bylaws. (VOCM)

Jul 28 2014

ROLEAU, Sask. - The backdrop for the former television show and soon-to-be movie "Corner Gas" has played a role in the long-range police pursuit of a vehicle across southern Saskatchewan.

Weyburn city police tried Saturday to stop a pickup truck reported stolen from Calgary and tagged with a stolen Manitoba licence plate, but both city and RCMP officers

gave up the chase because of potentially dangerous speeds.

Mounties say the truck later hit a recreational vehicle near Milestone and another driver reported seeing the pickup being driven erratically near Wilcox as it was heading west.

By this point, Regina police and the RCMP in a number of smaller communities had been alerted to the fleeing driver and officers in Moose Jaw were set to deploy a spike belt if the truck was sighted.

After an extensive search of a highway and several side roads, the pickup was found abandoned next to the "The Ruby" cafe at the Corner Gas set in Roleau (ROH²-loh), where a 27-year-old woman from Okotoks, Alta., was arrested nearby.

Stephanie Martens was to appear in a Regina courtroom on charges that include impaired driving and flight from police.

Jul 28 2014

VANCOUVER - About 40 dog handlers from various police departments in the Lower Mainland spent part of the weekend learning how to better protect their four-legged partners in the field.

They spent the day mastering canine first aid, everything from finding a pulse to bandaging an animal with fur.

Experts say even a few minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

"Out in the street we do a lot of stuff that's quick and dynamic," said Const. Darrin McDougall with the Vancouver Police. "Whether it's going through buildings or chasing after guys you don't know if they're armed or what they have.

"And we've had dogs like Teak who was stabbed while he was apprehending someone. And so what we did today was learn how we can enhance their survival."

(Global News)

Jul 28 2014

OTTAWA - A newly disclosed Finance Department memo warns that the high level of anonymity associated with Bitcoin transactions may make the virtual currency an attractive payment method for criminals.

The internal memo, prepared for former finance minister Jim Flaherty, says while the degree of criminal activity involving Bitcoin is unclear, some have raised flags about its potential to fund illicit activity.

Bitcoin is a digital currency exchanged through computer transactions without the oversight of a central bank.

The May 2013 memo to Flaherty, who died last April, was released under the Access to Information Act.

In his final budget in February, Flaherty announced measures to bring Bitcoin transactions within the scope of Canada's anti-money laundering law.

The memo is among several internal notes - including an RCMP analysis - that reveal the concern among federal officials about Bitcoin and other virtual currencies.

Jul 29 2014

WINNIPEG - The retired judge who probed the death of Phoenix Sinclair says child death reviews ought to be made public.

Ted Hughes says he worries the Manitoba government may never act on one of his biggest recommendations - the creation of a powerful new child welfare watchdog.

Hughes says there needs to be child advocate's office that's truly independent of government and able to speak more freely about its investigations.

But he says the recent decision to renew the term of the current Children's Advocate, Darlene MacDonald, for three years means the province is not following his recommendation.

Hughes conducted a public inquiry into the death of five-year-old Phoenix, who was beaten to death in 2006 by her mother and her mother's boyfriend.

His report concluded that the province's child-welfare system did not protect the aboriginal girl.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Jul 29 2014

OSHAWA, Ont. - Eighteen people are facing numerous drug-related charges after early-morning raids in several central Ontario communities.

Durham regional police say officers executed 22 search warrants Tuesday - including 16 in Durham Region, two in Toronto and two in York Region - following a four-month investigation dubbed Project Bermuda.

The other raids were in Bancroft, northeast of Peterborough, and the Kawartha Lakes area.

Investigators say drugs including cocaine, hashish and marijuana were seized, along with \$100,000 in cash, a number of weapons, nine vehicles, a trailer and a boat.

Durham police say the investigation began in February after weapons and drugs were found at a home in Oshawa, east of Toronto.

It grew to involve 11 other law enforcement agencies and targeted street-level drug sellers in the region.

The 18 people arrested face a total of 73 charges and police say one other person has been identified but has not yet been arrested.

Jul 29 2014

Codiac RCMP are installing new high-tech sirens in some of their vehicles that will not only be heard, but also felt.

The Rumbler intersection-clearing system emits low frequency tones that penetrate solid materials, allowing motorists and nearby pedestrians to feel the sound waves as far away as 50 metres or more, Const. Damien Thériault said in a release.

"The decision to go to this technology was made with officer and public safety in mind," said Thériault.

"We do have cases where people say they didn't hear the siren until we're immediately behind them. This piece of equipment could save lives and prevent serious injuries."

Two of Codiac RCMP's vehicles in the Greater Moncton area are already equipped with the Rumbler system and new vehicles will also be equipped with it as they are put into service, said Thériault.

It's a first for New Brunswick, he said.

The system, which can be paired with most emergency sirens, has been used by other police forces across North America for several years, he said.

It consists of an amplifier, with a built-in timer and two subwoofers. The built-in timer allows the tone to sound for eight seconds and then automatically shut off, Thériault said.

"Basically you feel vibration like you would from a bass, like a very low bass from a sound system," he said.

The lower pitched rumbling siren accompanies the higher pitched siren most people are accustomed to hearing.

Thériault says RCMP will only use the new sirens occasionally.

(CBC News)



Jul 30 2014

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer is facing an additional charge in relation to the shooting death of a teenager on a streetcar last summer, as his lawyers hope for a trial late next year.

Const. James Forcillo already faces a second-degree murder charge in the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim.

Now the Crown has filed a new indictment and Forcillo has also been charged with attempted murder "by shooting (Yatim) with a firearm and thereby wounding him."

The reasons for the additional charge may be related to evidence from the preliminary inquiry, which is covered by a publication ban.

One of Forcillo's lawyers, Lawrence Gridin, appeared in court Wednesday on Forcillo's behalf and set Sept. 22 as a date for a judicial pre-trial.

Yatim was shot and killed on an empty streetcar on July 27, 2013 - an incident captured on surveillance and cellphone video on which nine shots can be heard following shouted commands to drop a knife.

Gridin said he is hoping to set a trial date for as soon as possible, but it likely won't take place until the fall of 2015 at the earliest.

Jul 30 2014

TORONTO - Police have released a new video re-enactment of the disappearance of an eight-year-old girl who vanished from a Toronto apartment building in 1985.

The search for Nicole Morin has been one of the largest investigations ever conducted

by Toronto police, who say they have been receiving tips from the public regularly for three decades, including as recently as this year.

A Twitter hashtag (#FindNicole), and a "Find Nicole" Facebook page have also been created in order to spread the word about the continuing investigation.

Police say they are still hopeful that Morin is alive, and that these new initiatives will encourage people to come forward with information.

Det. Sgt. Madelaine Tretter says there have been cases in the United States where someone has been found alive decades after disappearing, and said this is still a possibility in Morin's case.

The one-minute video recreating the girl's July 30, 1985 disappearance can be viewed online on YouTube and will also be played at Mac's Convenience Stores across Ontario.

Jul 30 2014

WINNIPEG - More than 2,000 speeding tickets in Winnipeg are being cancelled or refunded due to an administrative error.

The tickets are being tossed because they cite the wrong section of a recently changed provincial law on speeding in construction zones.

Police say a computer used for photo radar had not been updated to cite the new section of the law.

Police say 2,574 photo radar tickets are affected

They were issued between June 27 and July 1.

The fines would have brought in roughly \$1 million.

Jul 30 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - One of the two RCMP officers in New Brunswick wounded in shootings last month in Moncton says he has returned to work.

Const. Eric Dubois spoke to the media Wednesday for the first time since the June 4 shootings while he was participating at a golf tournament at Royal Oaks Golf Club in Moncton.

The tournament was organized in memory of the three other Mounties who were killed in the shootings.

Dubois said he is recovering from his injuries faster than he expected and was happy to participate in the tournament, which featured a moment of remembrance for constables Fabrice Gevaudan, Dave Ross and Doug Larche.

"Everybody was praying for me and I can tell you that it did work because my healing went so fast. Everyone around me says it's incredible how fast everything went back to normal," said Dubois.

"I'm not superhuman. It's because people were praying and wishing me good stuff and it works."

Dubois added that he's happy to be back at work.

"That's what I want to do - be on the street and fight crime every day and make

sure that when you go to work or you go to a restaurant, you can have a safe environment," he said.

Gevaudan, Ross and Larche were shot dead and a manhunt spanning 30 hours ensued until a suspect was arrested.

Const. Darlene Goguen was also injured in the shootings and has been treated and released from hospital.

Justin Bourque is charged with three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder. He is scheduled to return to provincial court Thursday in Moncton following a psychiatric assessment.

(News 91.9)

Jul 30 2014

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver police officer could face dismissal after an adjudicator concluded he used his vehicle to ram a stolen SUV during a high-speed chase while lying about what was happening over his radio.

Retired B.C. Court of Appeal judge Bill Smart delivered a ruling Wednesday that upheld allegations of deceit and neglect of duty against Const. Christopher Charters, who is currently suspended without pay. His punishment, which could include dismissal from the force, will be decided in the fall.

Charters appeared before a public hearing ordered by the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner earlier this year.

The allegations stem from an incident in the early morning of Dec. 26, 2011, when a stolen Jeep Cherokee was spotted speeding through Vancouver's east side.

A supervisor broadcast an order over the police radio that the suspect should not be pursued, the adjudicator's decision says.

Minutes later, Charters, a member of the police dog unit who was driving an unmarked Chevrolet Tahoe SUV, began following the Cherokee and broadcasting updates over the radio. His emergency lights weren't activated and he said over the radio that he wasn't engaged in a "pursuit."

At one point, Charters hit the Cherokee as the officer was attempting to use his Tahoe to box in the stolen SUV, the decision says.

The chase resumed, and shortly after Charters said over his radio: "He's trying to get close to me, he's trying to ram me, so I'm trying to stay away from him." He also repeated his insistence that he wasn't engaged in a formal pursuit.

The person who was driving the stolen vehicle, David Davidson, alleged the officer used his SUV's push bars to ram the back of the Cherokee.

Charters later denied ramming the Cherokee, and instead insisted he was more than a block behind the suspect and that Davidson repeatedly slammed on the brakes in an apparent attempt to cause the officer to back off.

In a written ruling, Smart concluded that Charters acted reasonably until the chase resumed after the first collision.

But Smart's decision says Charters did ram the back of the Cherokee and then falsely claimed over his radio that the Cherokee was attempting to ram him.

"Whatever the reason, I find he intentionally struck the rear bumper of the Cherokee, once or twice, with the push bar attached to the front of the Tahoe in an unsuccessful effort to stop the Cherokee and apprehend the

driver," wrote Smart.

"I find he then broadcast a false or misleading statement about what had occurred."

Smart also concluded that after the first collision, Charters was "knowingly and deliberately engaged in a pursuit," despite what the officer said over the radio.

Smart said there was enough evidence to prove allegations of deceit and of neglect of duty for what Charters said over his radio during the chase. Another allegation of deceit for what Charters wrote in subsequent reports wasn't proved, Smart said.

An internal Vancouver Police Department review proposed firing Charters, though it will be up to Smart to decide what will ultimately happen to the officer.

A hearing is scheduled for late September to determine his punishment.

Charters' lawyer declined to comment following Wednesday's ruling.

Jul 30 2014

TORONTO - Chief Bill Blair will not stay on as head of the Toronto Police beyond next spring, according to a statement published by the board Wednesday.

The Toronto Police Services Board has decided not to renew Blair's employment contract. He had applied for a renewal of his contract last Friday, but the board voted not to keep him on for a third term. His last day in office will be April 25, 2015.

"Chief Blair has had a long and distinguished policing career with the Toronto Police Service. He is widely viewed as a champion of community policing and a leader in law enforcement around the world," the TPSB said in a statement thanking Blair for his service.

Speaking to media from the Toronto Police headquarters, TPSB Chair Alok Mukherjee said the decision was sensitive and difficult to make.

"The board took into account a variety of factors: the needs of the city, the challenges that the organization faces at this time, the priorities that must be addressed," Mukherjee said.

"We decided that it was time, after 10 years of very distinguished service by Chief Blair, for us to appoint a new chief," he said. "It was not an easy decision, and there was a great deal of consideration given before the board reached a decision."

Wednesday's decision surprised the head of the Toronto Police Association, who described Blair's influence on the force as mostly positive.

"I think that a lot of the stuff that he did around community-based policing and bringing policing into the 21st century will be his legacy," Mike McCormack told CTV Toronto.

In the nearly 10 years that Blair has been head of the Toronto Police, he has been credited for improving relationships with the community and for making human rights a top priority for the force. But Blair's tenure at the top has not been without controversy.

Under his watch, Blair helped guide the Toronto police force through a number of turbulent times, including the G20 Summit, the shooting of Sammy Yatim aboard a TTC streetcar last summer and the so-called Rob Ford "crack video" probe.

Despite those controversies, however,

Mukherjee told reporters that the board's decision to not renew Blair's contract was not based on his performance.

"You're trying to get me to say if there's a particular failure on the part of the chief and my answer is no," he said. "(Our) decision was not a decision against Chief Bill Blair. It was a decision on what's the best way to go forward for this organization and this city."

Ford, who has had a rocky relationship with the police chief, also had kind words for him on Wednesday.

"I want to thank Chief Bill Blair for his service to the people of this great city for the last 10 years," Ford told reporters outside his office at city hall. "I look forward to working with the new chief in April."

In response to Wednesday's decision, Blair -- who has held the top spot at the TPS since April 2005 -- released a simple statement.

"I want to thank the board their consideration."
(CTV News)



Jul 31 2014

BOUCHERVILLE, Que. - It's unclear if it was his special day of the year but a Quebec driver was in his birthday suit when police arrested him today following a brief chase.

Police say the driver was stark naked when they finally stopped him south of Montreal for allegedly running a stop sign and ramming a cop cruiser.

Longueuil police spokesman Mark David says the 23-year-old man could face charges, but for now is in hospital undergoing tests.

They're trying to get a blood sample as the intercepting officers suspect he might have been under the influence of either alcohol or drugs.

David says the man allegedly tried to ram the police car on three occasions but made impact only once, with hardly any damage to the cruiser.

Nobody was injured.

Jul 31 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - A New Brunswick man charged with fatally shooting three RCMP officers and wounding two others last month in Moncton has been found fit to stand trial.

Justin Bourque faces three charges of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

A provincial court judge read today from a psychiatric assessment that concluded Bourque is competent and mentally fit for trial.

Bourque has elected to be tried by judge and jury and his case was adjourned until Aug. 8 in the Court of Queen's Bench.

Constables Dave Ross, Fabrice Gevaudan and Douglas Larche were gunned down after responding to a report of a man with firearms in a residential neighbourhood on June 4.

Constables Eric Dubois and Darlene Goguen were wounded and later released from hospital.

Bourque was arrested following a 30-hour manhunt.

The 24-year-old man has not entered pleas to the charges.

Jul 31 2014

TORONTO - The longest-serving inmate in Canada to have a murder conviction quashed can sue those involved in his prosecution, Ontario's top court ruled Thursday.

In its ruling, the Ontario Court of Appeal said it would be wrong to deny Romeo Phillion, who spent 31 years behind bars protesting his innocence, a chance at a civil lawsuit.

In essence, the court found, the issues Phillion wants to litigate are different from what the Appeal Court looked at when it overturned his conviction in 2009 and ordered a new trial on the grounds that police and Crown had failed to disclose a crucial piece of evidence.

"The stakes, purpose and process were entirely different from this civil action," the Appeal Court said.

"In any event, the findings made on the reference with respect to the conduct of the Crown and police did not consider any issues of negligence or a common law duty of care as alleged in the statement of claim."

Phillion was convicted of second-degree murder in 1972 in the death of Ottawa firefighter Leopold Roy five years earlier based on a confession he recanted almost immediately. He was jailed for life and unsuccessfully appealed all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. He always refused to seek parole, saying it would amount to an admission of guilt.

However, he was ultimately able to persuade the federal government to refer the case to the Ontario Court of Appeal, which quashed his conviction and ordered a new trial in 2009. The court found that police had initially verified an alibi showing Phillion's innocence but never told the defence about it, apparently because investigators subsequently debunked the alibi.

The Crown withdrew the charge, arguing too much time had passed to pursue a new trial.

Phillion, now in his mid-70s, then sued for \$14 million, alleging negligence and wrongdoing by prosecutors and two Ottawa police officers. In April last year, Ontario Superior Court Justice Eva Frank decided the suit would be an abuse of process and should not proceed.

In her ruling, Frank said the Appeal Court had already rejected suggestions of wrongdoing by police or Crown and that too much time had passed to try Phillion's claim now.

However, Thursday's decision found several problems with Frank's reasoning.

Phillion should not be blamed that so much time has passed, Appeal Court Justice Kathryn Feldman wrote in the unanimous judgment.

"Whether wrongfully or not, it was the respondents who had the knowledge of the information that led to the (Appeal Court) reference, to the setting aside of the verdict, and to the eventual withdrawal of the charge," Feldman said.

"To in effect punish the appellant for the passage of time in these circumstances by staying his action strikes me as manifestly unfair."

Phillion will now have to impugn the integrity of police and prosecution, something that was not required when he sought to have his guilty verdict set aside, Feldman said.

"It would further bring the administration of justice into disrepute to grant a stay in these circumstances and deprive the appellant of any opportunity to seek financial redress for his conviction when he did not have the opportunity to present a full defence at his trial."

Phillion's lawyer, David Robins, said from Windsor, Ont., on Thursday that his client was "pleased" with the decision and the lawsuit would now proceed.