

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

September 05, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 36

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Ontario police chiefs are up in arms about a provincial plan to increase by 50% the tuition paid by cops-in-training. **Page 9**

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QUEBEC CITY - A cross made of a two-by-four and flowers laid on the ground are the only clues that cyclist Guy Blouin died after being run over by a Quebec City police cruiser yesterday. **Page 10**

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Chief finally honoured, 80 years after death

Sep 02 2014

On May 16, 1931, police officer John B. Lunt was killed in the line of duty in Baie-d'Urfé, Quebec while attempting to stop a car for speeding. As he waved for the offending female motorist to pull over, Lunt's motorcycle collided head-on with a car coming from the opposite direction. The officer's skull was fractured, which caused his death a few hours later.

Four days later, an emergency meeting was held by distraught members of Baie-d'Urfé town council, who gathered to discuss the death of their police chief, pay for the funeral costs and name a new chief. The town also voted to provide Lunt's grieving widow and young daughter with a monthly compensation of \$24.16.

That was the last anyone would hear of Lunt and his family, were it not for Ontario Provincial Police sergeant Dave Brown, who, eight decades later, teamed up with a pair of hard-nosed retired Montreal police investigators and Baie-d'Urfé Mayor Maria Tutino to honour Lunt's legacy.

On May 12, under a bright spring sunshine,

Lunt's name was officially read out during a special memorial ceremony attended by about 200 police officers, politicians and families of deceased cops. The service was held at the Nicolet Police Academy in Nicolet, Que. Lunt's name was also added to the memorial stone on the grounds of the academy as Tutino, retired Montreal police inspector Paul Dufort, Station 1 commander Richard Thouin and Lt. Pierre Houbart looked on.

"To be there, to recognize

Mr. Lunt, was both an honour and privilege for me," Tutino said.

Last month, Susan Stokley, a spokeswoman for Tutino's office, said the town would spend the next few months preparing the nomination papers to get Lunt officially recognized by the committee that oversees the national police and peace officers' memorial ceremony in Ottawa.

Lunt's story has been revived by some old-fashioned detective work conducted by three retired officers from two different



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provinces who decided to follow up on a pair of leads.

It started in 2009, when Jean-Marc De Nobile, a 32-year veteran of the Montreal police department who today volunteers as the head of the Montreal Police Museum, received an inquiry from Brown, asking him about a cop killed in the West Island in the 1930s.

"We had no name, no date, no details. We had nothing," said De Nobile, who said a search into the police museum archives yielded no results.

But Brown, who retired from Ontario's provincial police service two years ago and now lives in Mississauga, Ont., is also a relentless investigator. He hit the jackpot last October when a Smiths Falls Police officer sent him a 111-word clipping from an old Toronto newspaper. The headline read: "Motorcycle Officer Killed As He Waves Auto to Curb" and this time, the officer's name was identified as John Lunt, along with Baie-d'Urfé, and the date of the incident.

Brown forwarded his information to the Canadian Police Association, which sent it to the Sûreté du Québec before it landed on the desk of Ian Lafrenière, commander of corporate communications for the Montreal police department. By November 2013, the file reached De Nobile at the museum.

The next day, he contacted an old friend, Dufort. A Kirkland city councillor since 2005, Dufort joined the force in 1967 and retired in 1998.

Together, De Nobile and Dufort went to work on the cold case.

"Most of my career I worked in investigations," Dufort said, "and Jean-Marc and I have known each other since the 1970s, so I figured we'd work together and get to the bottom of this story."

Dufort wasted no time. The day after he received the newspaper clipping, he called Tutino, and a meeting was held to discuss

the case with senior officers from Station 1 in Kirkland, where Dufort served as director in the mid-1990s.

Tutino then made a timely discovery when she found a book at Baie-d'Urfé town hall that identified Lunt as the town's police chief. More research led to a document that detailed the special municipal council meeting of May 20, 1931, which offered more information about Lunt's death.

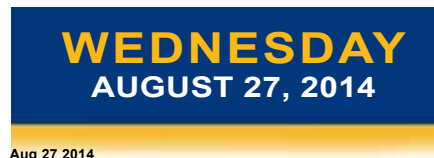
"Everything fell into place," Dufort said. "We went into this not knowing anything about (Lunt), and everyone pulled their resources together and this is the result, just like a good investigation."

The only missing pieces of the puzzle are the whereabouts of Lunt's family and the location of his burial plot, Dufort said.

Reached at his home in Mississauga last month, Brown, the man who launched the Lunt revival, said "helping to correct what the passage of time had lost, truly makes the hours of searching worth the effort."

"Officer Lunt has finally been properly remembered for his supreme sacrifice while serving the people of Baie-d'Urfé," he added. "I am humbled in having assisted in correcting this error of time. Rest in peace officer Lunt, you are not forgotten."

(Montreal Gazette)



**MONTREAL - It looks like the Montreal Police Department's adventure buying motorcycles this year was born to be wild.**

The executive committee at city hall approved the purchase of five 2015 Harley-Davidson motorcycles for the police at a meeting on Wednesday.

But the \$167,788 contract with Motos Daytona in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, will have to go the island council, made up of the city of Montreal and the island suburbs, for final approval.

The company was the only bidder, so the contract requires the additional approval, the civil service report accompanying the executive committee resolution says.

In fact, the company was the only one to pick up the call for tenders package, the report says.

The city's purchasing department, which handled the contract awarding process, opened the call for tenders from July 9 to July 28.

The purchase price is 6.1 per cent above the city's estimate of what it should pay, the civil service report says.

However, this was the third attempt by the purchasing department and the police in the past six months to buy replacement motorcycles for the department's older bikes.

In March, the city purchasing department issued an initial public tender notice to buy five motorcycles.

But no one put in a bid.

The police department wanted 2014 model BMW motorcycles, the same make it has bought in each of the last three years.

So two months later, the purchasing department issued a second call for tenders. This one stayed open 11 days longer than required by Quebec's Cities and Towns Act.

And this time, the police specified five 2014 Harley-Davidson motorcycles, model FLHTP, the call for tenders shows.

During the tendering process, which lasted from May 14 to June 9, a city purchasing agent issued an addendum, changing the order to 2015 Harleys, model FLHTP.

The only bid came from Motos Daytona.

The company offered \$32,496 to sell the five Harleys, the bidding results show. (It's unclear whether that figure was an error.)

However, the purchasing department rejected the lone bid, saying that Motos Daytona hadn't signed the summary page of its bid.

Not signing the bid is grounds for rejection, the civil service report says.

A month later, the purchasing department issued the third call for tenders, specifying 2015 Harley-Davidsons, model FLHTP.

Motos Daytona's lone \$167,788 bid was accepted.

The Montreal Police bought five BMW motorcycles for \$148,898 from another bike shop in 2013.

(Montreal Gazette)

Aug 27 2014

**SAULT STE. MARIE - After 40 years in law enforcement, Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Deputy Chief Bob Kates will retire effective September 26.**

Kates informed Robert Keetch, Sault Police chief, of his decision Tuesday.

"The team I've worked with is part of the reason why I've stayed for 40 years," Kates told SooToday.com Wednesday.

"I could have retired after 30 years or 35 years of service, but I love coming to work everyday and I've truly enjoyed my job for 40 years, but there does come a time when it's time to take advantage of retirement, and there are certainly things I'd like to do when I retire."

Kates, 62, began his career in law enforcement in early 1974 with the Toronto Police Service.

Soon after, an opportunity arose to join the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service, and Kates began as a constable with the local department October 14, 1974.

"Technology has changed policing so much," Kates said.

"When I started as a young patrol officer I used a radar device that is now in the police museum, so it's probably time to retire when some of the equipment I used is in the museum," Kates laughed.

(Soo Today)

**BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK**  
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## THURSDAY AUGUST 28, 2014

Aug 28 2014

**TORONTO - Toronto police say they have recovered 23 stolen luxury cars worth more than \$2 million in a series of raids carried out on Thursday.**

They have also arrested eight people allegedly involved in break-ins at high-end homes across the city and the Greater Toronto Area, but say one suspect remains at large.

The operation - dubbed Project Yellowbird after the theft of a yellow Porsche Carrera last December - involved officers from several Ontario jurisdictions.

Police say four of the stolen cars were located in Europe with the help of the Canada Border Services Agency and are being shipped back.

Aug 28 2014

**CALGARY - Alberta's legal-aid lawyers are threatening to clog the courts with applications from people denied coverage to draw attention to what the lawyers say is a severely underfunded system.**

Ian Savage, president of the Criminal Defence Lawyers Association in Calgary, says the government has raised the bar so high that people living on income support or with major disabilities can't get a legal-aid lawyer.

"This is what the government is now forcing us to do - bring applications on behalf of individual clients in court to direct the government to give them coverage for legal aid or a defence lawyer," Savage said Thursday.

"They're going to have to pay in some fashion or another for these representations like they would have anyway under the legal-aid system before."

The province raised legal-aid eligibility thresholds by about 30 per cent in 2010.

Last month, Legal Aid Alberta closed six regional offices and laid off staff in Calgary, Whitecourt and Lethbridge. Lawyers threatened job action to try to pressure the government to provide an additional \$8 million a year to fund legal aid.

Justice Minister Jonathan Denis has rejected calls for increased funding and has instead asked the federal government to provide more money to Alberta. He has said he is willing to look at what can be done in next year's budget for legal aid.

Earlier this month, Alberta's assistant chief Judge Larry Anderson indicated he would stay charges in three criminal assault cases, unless legal aid provided lawyers to the defendants. Anderson pointed out the three accused were on social assistance and living below the poverty line, but their income was still too high for legal help.

Aug 28 2014

**NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. - Human remains found in the mountains near North Vancouver have been identified as those of a 20-year-old Ontario man who went missing more than a decade ago while visiting his grandmother in British Columbia.**

The BC Coroners' Service says the woman reported her grandson, Dante Ponzanetti, missing to Vancouver Police in June 2003.

Dr. Bill Inkster, acting manager of the service's Identification and Disaster Response Unit, says a hiker discovered the skeletal remains in November 2004 but they could not be identified despite comprehensive forensic analysis.

He says the bones have now been linked to Ponzanetti through a match on a database of DNA from missing persons' family members.

Inkster says the coroners' service database is the only such one in Canada and that privacy issues involving living donors have prevented the development of similar databases elsewhere in the country.

He says Ponzanetti was from Thunder Bay, Ont., and that the circumstances surrounding his death are still being investigated.

Aug 28 2014

**WINDSOR - The Windsor Police Service is set to jack up its armoury.**

Police in the southern Ontario city will take a Cougar, a light armoured vehicle donated by the Department of National Defence (DND), into service next month, CBC News reported.

Windsor police Sgt. Matt D'Asti said that the vehicle, which has never been deployed, is needed for situations such as an "active shooter," a barricaded gunman or hostages.

"It's not something that's meant to be offensive, it's not something that we're patrolling the streets with," he told the network.

The vehicle comes after the police force replaced its 12-gauge shotguns with C8 patrol carbine rifles last year, said CBC.

Police said at the time that the new rifles would only be used in dangerous situations, though eventually they would be present in all patrol cars.

DND has donated five armoured vehicles to police departments in the past seven years. Among them, the Edmonton police took a Grizzly in 2007; the RCMP in B.C. received two Cougars in 2010; and the New Glasgow Regional Police Service in Nova Scotia obtained a Cougar alongside the Windsor police in 2013, Postmedia News reported.

Police in Ottawa and Saskatoon have also purchased BearCats, armoured vehicles that are popular with the U.S. Department of Defense, according to Lenco, their Massachusetts-based manufacturer.

All the vehicles donated by the DND were de-armoured before being handed to police.

Proponents of armoured vehicles insist they are necessary. RCMP assistant commissioner Byron Boucher told Postmedia that five of them were used in the hunt for Justin Bourque after a series of shootings in

Moncton, N.B. in June.

"We've had 41 officers killed since 1961 and 83 per cent of them have been killed by rifle or shotgun," he said.

"The fact is we still face these kinds of threats — we just faced it in Codiac — and it isn't going to go away."

(Huffington Post)

## FRIDAY AUGUST 29, 2014

Aug 29 2014

**MERRITT, B.C. - The Mounties say a dashboard camera from a tractor-trailer captured a tour bus rollover that injured dozens of people on a B.C. highway and it appears speed is not a factor.**

RCMP Sgt. Brian Nightingale says that leaves mechanical problems or human error as possible causes.

The bus, which was operated by a Chinese tour company, rolled over about 30 kilometres south of Merritt, B.C., on Thursday afternoon, sending 43 people to hospital.

Nightingale says a tractor-trailer was travelling behind the bus when the accident happened and police have reviewed the dash-cam footage.

He says tire marks show the bus drifted into the grassy centre median of the highway, and he says the bus apparently veered out of control as the driver tried to correct its course.

Fifty-six people were aboard and Interior Health says five are critically injured, 10 have serious injuries and 28 have been treated at its facilities for non-life-threatening injuries such as cuts and bruises.

(CHNL)

Aug 29 2014

**PORT HOPE - Port Hope Deputy Police Chief Bryant Wood will be appointed Acting Police Chief as of Monday, Sept. 1, the Port Hope Police Services Board announced.**

Wood will become police chief when current Chief Kevin McAlpine retires on April 13, 2015.

Wood started his policing career in 1993 with the Ontario Provincial Police. He transferred to the Port Hope Police one year later and has been there since.

According to a Board release, McAlpine has made a "substantial contribution to the success that the Port Hope Police Service has enjoyed during his tenure."

McAlpine is being credited for introducing a "comprehensive management plan" and "encouraged career development" within the service during his time as police chief.

The Board stated McAlpine will act as a "resource" for Acting Chief Wood until his tenure ends with the service.

Wood stated, "when you're a young

officer, you're not really thinking of what's ahead, but over time your career becomes more focused."

Since becoming Deputy Chief, Wood has pushed to modernize with doubling the size of the Criminal Investigations Branch.

"If we want to remain the PHPS, we have to remain relevant and modern with issues like Cybercrime," he said.

"At the same time officers must have a high level of skills to respond to the communities needs."

"I am very thankful to have been given the opportunity to lead the PHPS as Chief and look forward to providing stability and leadership for both this community and our professional police officers and staff."

(Northumberland Today)

Aug 29 2014

**MONTREAL - Montreal's police chief says 44 people will face criminal charges in connection with a rowdy pension protest inside city hall earlier this month.**

Marc Parent says the charges will include participating in an illegal gathering, mischief and assault.

Around 250 unionized municipal workers stormed into city hall on Aug. 18, where they tossed paper all over the main chamber and plastered the building with protest stickers.

The demonstrators also unfurled a sign calling the mayor a thief, while one councillor alleges he was struck while others said they were sprayed with water.

Municipal employees have held protests throughout Quebec to oppose a proposal by the provincial government to overhaul pension plans.

The police chief says the investigation is ongoing and the force is also trying to determine whether any of its own officers turned a blind eye during the demonstration.

The incident took place as police officers, who are not in charge of security inside city hall, stood by.

No one was arrested and the workers left city hall of their own accord.

Aug 29 2014

**OTTAWA - A Calgary imam says Canada's security agencies have failed utterly in their efforts to deal with the radicalization of young people in the Muslim community.**

The statement from Imam Syed Soharwardy comes after a CBC report identified Calgary brothers Collin and Gregory Gordon as the latest young men to leave Canada to join Islamic fighters in Syria.

Soharwardy, who represents the groups Muslims Against Terrorism and the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada, says the federal government is asleep at the switch while radicals recruit young people.

He says the government will have to take the blame if some of these recruits are able to return home and stage terrorist attacks on Canadian soil.

Soharwardy says the heads of Canada's various security agencies should be fired for failing to uphold their responsibilities.

He says his organizations are doing everything they can to highlight the terrorist nature of Islamic groups such as al-Qaida and its latest heir apparent, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Aug 29 2014

**WHITECOURT, Alta. - One of two men convicted in the shooting deaths of four Alberta Mounties in 2005 has been arrested and charged with a crime.**

Dennis Cheeseman was released from prison last November after serving two-thirds of his sentence for manslaughter.

RCMP say he was arrested in Whitecourt, Alta., on Friday and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Police say he was being held in custody and the Parole Board of Canada has been notified.

When Cheeseman was released from prison, it was on conditions that he abstain

from drugs and alcohol and not associate with criminals until his entire sentence expires on April 13, 2016.

He and his brother-in-law, Shawn Hennessey, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for giving James Roszko a rifle and a ride to a farm near Mayerthorpe where the Mounties were gunned down.

Aug 29 2014

**OTTAWA - An Ottawa OPP officer charged with child luring in 2013 is facing two new charges of sexual exploitation.**

Const. Michel Janho, 32, was arrested June 19, 2013 for alleged incidents "via telecommunications" between late September and early December 2012 after a girl's family came to police, according to OPP.

Janho was arrested again on Friday and charged with two more counts of sexual exploitation, police said. He was off duty at the time of the alleged incidents, according to an OPP news release.

OPP said he's been a member of the OPP for six years in Ottawa and is suspended with pay.

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He has been released on a promise to appear in court on Sept. 9 in Ottawa.  
(CBC News)

Aug 29 2014

### The RCMP is developing a program to stop Canadians from becoming radicalized by violent ideologies, a new report reveals.

As of early 2014, about 130 people with Canadian connections were believed to be in countries such as Syria, Somalia and Afghanistan participating in terrorism-related activities, the Public Safety Canada report said.

Another 80 have returned to Canada, according to the 2014 Public Report on the Terrorist Threat to Canada.

The RCMP is putting in place the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program to stop Canadians at risk of being radicalized. The police force says it aims to have the program in place by year's end.

It's not entirely clear how the program will work.

In an email, the RCMP says it will work with families of "vulnerable individuals" who are experiencing behavioural changes. It also says the program "will include educating Canadians on the role of law enforcement and the responsibilities that they, in turn, have in safeguarding Canada."

Public Safety Minister Stephen Blaney says radicalized Canadians represent a "small number of individuals" who are "putting lives at risk and tarnishing Canada's reputation."

He cites the example of Xristos Katsiroubas and Ali Medlej of London, Ont., who were killed while staging a bloody attack on an Algerian gas refinery in 2013.

The government points to its 2012 counter-terrorism strategy as a means of dealing with potential threats. The strategy aims to prevent, detect, deny and respond to terrorism.

It also cites a law passed in 2013 that made it illegal to leave or attempt to leave the country to commit certain terrorism-related offences. The legislation was criticized by some because it also allows preventative detention of some suspects.

The Public Safety Canada report says there is also concern about what happens when so-called "extremist travellers" leave the countries in which they are fighting.

"Some extremist travellers returning to the West may pose a threat. The much greater number of experienced extremist travellers returning to the Middle East, Africa and Asia magnifies the threat to those regions," it said.

As to why there have not been more arrests of Canadians who have returned from fighting overseas, a spokesman from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said in an email to CBC News the agency is aware of such cases and that investigations are under way.  
(CBC News)

Aug 29 2014

### OTTAWA - The federal government has put new restrictions on the ability of the RCMP to reclassify firearms.

Under the new rules, the RCMP will have

a limit of one year to change its mind about whether to classify a firearm as non-restricted, restricted or prohibited.

The government came under a barrage of criticism earlier this year after the RCMP firearms program quietly changed the status of Swiss Arms-brand rifles and certain Czech-made CZ-858 rifles from restricted or non-restricted to prohibited. The guns had been legal in Canada for years.

In an effort to quell the backlash, Public Safety Minister Stephen Blaney admonished the "unelected bureaucrats" who ordered the reclassifications and swiftly introduced a two-year amnesty that would shield owners of those two lines of rifles from criminal prosecution for possessing them.

In late July, the amnesty was expanded to allow owners of those rifles to use them at a shooting range and to transport them for that purpose.

Now, under new firearms classification rules posted this month in the Canada Gazette, the RCMP will no longer be able to alter the classification of a firearm after one year.

"Those who are in lawful possession of firearms no longer need to worry that they will become criminals overnight by the stroke of a pen," Blaney said in a statement when the rules took effect.

The RCMP refused Friday to comment on the reclassification restrictions.

According to the RCMP website, officials may change their opinions about a firearms' status if they determine that information initially provided by the importer was wrong or incomplete or if they feel a firearm can too easily be modified, say from a semi-automatic to full-automatic.  
(Postmedia News)

Aug 29 2014

### OTTAWA - A secure online portal that will let police share and receive real-time information with partner agencies in the National Capital Region should be operational by 2016.

Known as the Intersect Situational Awareness Network, the new portal is a project of Operation Intersect, established in 2006 to promote information sharing among the region's first responders and emergency management agencies.

Participation has grown to 28 agencies, including local, provincial and national police services in the NCR, municipal governments, fire departments, paramedics, emergency measures organizations and federal departments such as Public Safety and Health Canada.

Funded by an \$800,000 investment from the Canadian Safety and Security Program, the project — led by Ottawa police — will allow participants to access and share "situational awareness information" about such things as demonstrations, marches, accidents, road closures and active crime scenes.

The posted information will be unclassified — much of it available on the Internet or social media — but some could be sensitive, said Kevin Logue, Operation Intersect's program manager.

Currently, Operation Intersect agencies share information by email or phone with Logue, who passes it on to other partners.

"The communication between agencies is very good at the moment," Logue said. "But it will only get better with this."

Officers on the scene of an event will be able to provide live updates to the web portal from their mobile devices, a capability that Logue said "is going to be huge. It's going to be a very big win for all the partners in the NCR."

Agencies will receive an alert when new information is posted. Some will simply be subscribers, but other agencies will be able to share new developments with users.

The portal may or may not improve response times, Logue said, but it will definitely improve response co-ordination. That should enhance public confidence in the police and other participating agencies, he said.

While Logue said the threat posed by hackers "is something we have to keep in mind," he said the portal will be hosted within a "high-resilience environment that's strong and secure."

Project team members — who include the Ottawa Police Service, the RCMP, the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, and ESRI Canada, a company that specializes in GIS mapping programs — are in the process of deciding which technology platform to use.

Logue said they hope to have a "testing environment" available to core agencies before the end of this year and test the model during Canada Day next summer.

Police officers are "very excited" about the development of the new portal, Logue said. "They can really see the value of having this at their fingertips."  
(Ottawa Citizen)



Aug 31 2014

### There is an increasing Canadian presence in the Australian drug scene, where traffickers brave harsh enforcement for large profits in a "high-risk, high-reward" market, authorities say.

The Australian Crime Commission reports that most of the cocaine brought into the country comes from Chile, with Canada second, climbing three spots since 2010.

The numbers accompany a spate of Canadian-linked drug incidents during the past year, including the conviction in June of a Canadian man who tricked an elderly Australian couple into becoming drug mules.

"Even though it may be logistically complex to get illicit drugs to Australia, (traffickers) feel the expense is worth it because of the high prices they can obtain if successful," Australian Federal Police said in a statement.

Estimates of the street value of the drug vary between police jurisdictions within Canada, but Australian authorities say a kilogram of cocaine there can fetch up to \$250,000, which could be up to five times higher than

the price in Canada.

A spokesman for a British Columbia multi-agency initiative said Canadian criminals do not produce cocaine, much of which comes from South America.

"They'll try to buy or barter for a kilo or however many kilos of cocaine, and then, because it's all about making money, they look to see where they can make the most," said Sgt. Lindsey Houghton of the Combined Special Forces Enforcement Unit.

"Smuggle it into Australia... they can get three, four, five times the price."

He said drug supply is short in Australia because of strong enforcement and the country's location - it is far from where cocaine is predominantly produced.

"The Australian police have been really successful in disrupting, suppressing criminal groups," Houghton said.

Canadian traffickers affiliate themselves with local gangs, but sometimes rope in Canadian expatriates, Houghton said. Canadian drug runners have "significant connections" with Australian outlaw biker gangs and other criminal organizations, the Australian Crime Commission said.

To combat their operations, the RCMP said it holds joint investigations with Asian and Australian police. The Mounties also have a liaison based in Australia's capital of Canberra and an intelligence analyst "out-posted" to Australian Federal Police, the Australian agency said.

Houghton's unit, which comprises RCMP and provincial and municipal police, was involved last year in dismantling what they called a major Canada-Australia drug network.

Dan Werb, director of the B.C.-based International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, said legalization of marijuana in some American states last year could have sparked an increase in Canadian drug activity elsewhere. Canadian-produced illegal marijuana is now facing intense competition from legal marijuana in those states, so dealers in Canada may be looking toward harsher drugs and other export markets, Werb said.

## MONDAY SEPTEMBER 01, 2014

Sep 01 2014

**EDMONTON – It's been three years since the Alberta government introduced distracted driving legislation, but police are still handing out plenty of tickets to drivers not adhering to the law.**

RCMP Cpl. Chris Little says the legislation hasn't improved driving habits.

"After three years we've seen the incidents actually rising, so it's getting worse. I noticed when the legislation was first introduced that there was a drop off but I've found that it's worse than ever."

The cause is driver apathy, according to

Cpl. Little, and he doesn't believe more education will solve the problem.

"I think the legislation itself, although very good, there's not enough deterrence with it. I think we need demerit points associated to the legislation. We also need higher fines."

Distracted driving was among several violations RCMP officers were consistently catching drivers break during the Labour Day long weekend; driving at an excessive speed was another infringement, which Little says has been a recent unwanted trend.

"The amount of speed and the range of speed is certainly up. Higher speeds are on the rise."

Little says one driver was pulled over by police for driving at 184 km/h in a 110 km/h zone. The driver said he was speeding because he had to use the bathroom. The explanation didn't get him off receiving a ticket.

Drivers in Edmonton are being reminded of the new school zone legislation that begins Tuesday outside elementary grade schools across the city, which will see the speed limit drop from 50 km/h to 30 km/h.

(Shaw Media)

## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 02, 2014

Sep 02 2014

**TAMWORTH, Ont. - The province's police watchdog says there are no reasonable grounds to charge a Napanee OPP officer in relation with the February death of a 59-year-old man.**

The Special Investigations Unit says police were searching for the man, who was reported to have killed another man and shot a firefighter in the town of Tamworth before fleeing in a pickup truck.

The SIU says the officer at the centre of their investigation eventually found the pickup in the centre of a road, at which point he approached it while armed with a rifle.

It says the officer found the vehicle was empty and was halfway between his cruiser and the pickup when he heard a single gun shot that sounded like it came from east of the truck.

The SIU says the officer took cover behind the door of his cruiser and other officers arrived. Police eventually found the man's body in bushes east of the pickup later that evening.

The SIU's director says the man was found lying on top of two rifles with a wound that a pathologist found could have been self-inflicted.

He also says several witnesses saw the man going into the bushes alone holding a gun case and a rifle before hearing a single gunshot.

"It is clear on this evidence that neither the subject officer nor any of the OPP officers involved in the search for the man had anything to do with his death," said

SIU Director Tony Loparco. "On the contrary, the available evidence indicates that the man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound."

Sep 02 2014

**GRAND JUNCTION - After 37 years in law enforcement, Greg Morrison was ready for something new. So the former police chief of Vail, Silverthorne and Grand Junction turned to selling brownies — faux pot brownies.**



Morrison opened Totally High Country Brownies, Inc. recently and has taken to the road to hawk his brownies in a retro VW camper van he has named "Bud."

"It's a total spoof," said Morrison, who is not kidding about making a profit from his brownies.

Morrison got the idea for his retirement job while he was traveling the country as a representative for a police radio manufacturer after he retired from law enforcement. He said everywhere he went people wanted to talk about Colorado's legalization of recreational marijuana. He saw an opportunity.

His Totally High Country Brownies are "100 percent cannabis-free," even with names like Mary Jane Plain, Cheeba Creme Brulee, Acapulco Gold Almond and Alice B. Toklas Toffee.

Morrison hired a baker to make the brownies in a commercial kitchen, and he packages them in boxes featuring the "Baked in Colorado" motto.

He said one of his first customers last week was a prison warden who bought a case of the brownies. He plans to take them to an out-of-state event to hand out as a joke.

(Denver Post)

Sep 02 2014

**The Quebec provincial prosecutor's office said the officers who fatally shot Alain Magloire last February will not face charges.**

Magloire, 41, was shot dead on Feb. 3 by Montreal police officers outside the Berri bus station in downtown Montreal.

Officers had said he was wielding a hammer in a threatening manner and refused to co-operate.

The prosecutor's office said it reviewed the Sûreté du Québec investigation and found no grounds to lay charges against the officers involved in the intervention.

Magloire, who was known at Montreal's Old Brewery, suffered from a mental illness.

The Quebec coroner's office has called

for a public inquiry to look into police interventions involving people struggling with mental health problems.

(CBC News)

Sep 02 2014

**Following recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, where protests and riots broke out after an 18-year-old was shot and killed by a police officer on Aug. 9, there's been considerable talk in the United States and Canada about requiring police officers to wear cameras when attending to police matters.**

New Westminster's Chief Const. Dave Jones says body cameras are an inevitability that are likely to come down the pipe sooner rather than later.

"It is going to come issues of privacy, retention, storage, disclosure of these items," Jones tells The Record. "I think it's an inevitable reality and those are the questions and issues that are being fleshed out at this point in time."

Jones says the idea is nothing new and has already been tested in police departments across Canada, but before the cameras are rolled out there needs to be a thorough consultation process where police officials can address the privacy implications of these recording devices.

"If I'm walking into your home because you're the victim of a break-and-enter, should my camera be rolling? Should I be filming that? How's the public going to react?" Jones asks. "When you put a camera in a police car, the police car never drives into your home, never drives into your business. The police car records, generally, what's happening in public areas, but a camera worn on a police officer is going to go into other areas."

The main idea behind body cameras comes from a desire to reduce excessive force complaints against police officers, however Jones says officers should behave professionally all the time, no matter if they're on camera or not.

"There has been shown, in different places in states where putting them on has reduced the number of complaints against officers, maybe because officers know it's on so they're aware to be very professional in their approach," he says. "But I think training can do that as well."

Plus Jones doesn't believe body cameras would drastically change the way police officers behave or do their jobs. "It will change the way things happen but at the same time I don't think it will change how (we do our jobs)," he says.

(Royal City Record)

Sep 02 2014

**LONDON - London's cash-strapped police force put its New Scotland Yard headquarters up for sale on Tuesday with a £250-million (\$415-million U.S.) guide price, as part of plans to reinvest in front-line policing and cut costs.**

The 1960s-era complex, home to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) since 1967, is

known for its revolving triangular name sign, which has served as a backdrop to thousands of TV crime reports over the years.

It had kept the name of Scotland Yard, the original headquarters of the London police force near the Houses of Parliament after it was founded in 1829.

The MPS plans to move its head office to a smaller former police station which has been empty for the last three years. The Curtis Green site on Victoria Embankment along the River Thames will become the force's head office in 2016 and will be known simply as Scotland Yard.

The relocation is designed to help the MPS save £6-million a year in running costs and avoid the £50-million expense needed to refurbish the current head office, it said.

Curtis Green will have desk space for 1,000 officers, less than half the number in the current building, using mobile technology to enable officers to work more flexibly. The revolving triangle will be moved to the new site.

"Londoners have backed our drive to put bobbies before buildings," London Mayor Boris Johnson said. "By turning dilapidated and under-used buildings into high-tech kit we are giving the Met the tools they need."

Originally bought from Land Securities in 2008 for £123.5-million (\$205-million), the building's guide price of £250-million is well above initial estimates of £150-million to £200-million, thanks to soaring London property prices.

In 2012, the MPS announced it was aiming to reduce the force's 900,000-square-metre (9.7 million square feet) estate by a third by 2016 as part of Home Office efforts to cut spending.

The force completed the sale of more than 30 properties in the last financial year, raising more than £125-million, and hopes to raise another £125-million this year with the sale of smaller sites, it said.

(Reuters)



Sep 03 2014

**VANCOUVER - Allegations of torture at the hands of prison staff and targeted attacks by the Ku Klux Klan are among the claims fuelling a black inmate's lawsuit against the province of British Columbia.**

Fifty-six-year-old Oneil Parchment alleges in court documents he was beaten after a jailhouse faction of the KKK arranged to have two men attack him in a Vancouver Island facility in 2009.

He also alleges on October 2010, a sheriff and a corrections officer tortured and violently assaulted him while en route from a jail in the Lower Mainland to an institution in Prince George.

Parchment is seeking unspecified financial damages for the alleged assaults and denial of access to health care, as well as for

mental anguish and stress.

Sep 03 2014

**WINNIPEG - Scores of Winnipeg drivers have learned a hard lesson about easing off the gas after getting ticketed during a police crackdown on speeding in school zones.**

Since Monday, officers have issued 128 tickets for going over the limit, while another 173 have received warnings.

A new bylaw requires drivers to slow to 30 kilometres an hour between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, from September until June at 171 schools around the city.

Fines start at \$181.50 for going 10 kilometres an hour over the posted limit, while drivers nabbed at 20 kilometres over are fined \$312.25.

School zones in other areas of the province, such as Brandon, Winkler and Portage la Prairie, have already adopted restricted speeds.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Sep 03 2014

**FREDERICTON - A New Brunswick Mountie who complained he wasn't allowed to smoke medicinal marijuana for post-traumatic stress disorder while in uniform has pleaded guilty to assaulting four RCMP officers.**

Cpl. Ron Francis had previously pleaded not guilty to assaulting two officers during an incident in Fredericton on Dec. 6 and not guilty to assaulting two other officers in Oromocto on Jan. 12 of this year.

Francis, who is on leave from the RCMP, was to have stood trial today on the December charges but entered the guilty pleas to both incidents instead.

He has also pleaded guilty to a charge of breaching a judge's order not to consume or possess alcohol or non-prescription illicit drugs.

Sentencing is set for Nov. 3.

Sep 03 2014

**ORILLIA - An on duty OPP officer suffered serious but non-life threatening injuries in a two vehicle crash Wednesday morning.**

The collision happened around 8:30 a.m. in Orillia.

Police say the officer was in an unmarked OPP van and was on his way to work at Central region headquarters in Orillia when the minivan collided with the ¾ ton flatbed landscaping truck at the intersection.

The police officer was originally taken to an Orillia hospital before being transferred to a Toronto hospital.

The driver of the landscaping truck suffered minor injuries.

The investigation continues and charges are pending

(CTV News)

Sep 03 2014

**OTTAWA - Nunavut wants to deal with its alcohol problem by opening the territory's first beer and wine store.**

Soon Iqaluit residents will have their say and,



if there's enough support for the idea, the government plans to open up a store on a trial basis.

How long it stays open depends on how well the experiment goes.

"I think that we'll probably give it a good year - but it depends on the severity, as well," said Chris D'Arcy, deputy minister of Nunavut's Finance Department.

"Anecdotally, if the police are seeing more people staggering around and creating a mess, we'll shut it down and say, 'OK, that was a good try. Maybe we'll try again some other time.'

"We're kind of not expecting that. We're hoping that the gains will outweigh any of the short-term losses."

The booze rules differ across the territory. Some communities ban all liquor. Some let elected committees decide who can bring alcohol into the community, and how much. Some put limits on the amount of alcohol people can buy. And some have no rules besides the territory's general liquor laws.

Liquor hasn't been sold in stores in Iqaluit since the 1970s.

People can either drink at one of the city's bars or order alcohol from a warehouse and have it shipped in from Rankin Inlet. Residents of Rankin Inlet have to order their liquor from a warehouse in Iqaluit. Everyone else in the territory can order their alcohol from either warehouse.

The thinking behind the warehouse system is to create a delay between the time alcohol is ordered and when it is consumed.

But a recent change to Nunavut's liquor laws would let people get their booze straight from a storefront at their local warehouse.

It may sound counterintuitive or perhaps even misguided to make it easier to buy wine and beer in a territory plagued by rising alcohol consumption, heavy binge drinking and a growing number of babies born with fetal alcohol syndrome.

But what Nunavut's government is hoping is that people will change their drinking habits once the store opens.

Right now, D'Arcy says, people tend to binge-drink hard liquor they've bought from bootleggers. But they may not drink as much alcohol if they're only allowed to buy limited quantities of beer or wine.

"We're hoping that people will change," D'Arcy said, "that their paradigm will shift from buying a 60-ounce of vodka from a bootlegger at \$180-a-bottle to buying a flat of beer or some wine from the beer and wine store."

The change won't happen overnight. Both D'Arcy and the local RCMP detachment are bracing for more alcohol-related problems than usual once beer and wine go on sale at the warehouse.

Earlier this year, Staff Sgt. Monty Leconte told Iqaluit's city council he expects the Mounties will receive more calls than usual at first before things eventually return to normal.

The hope is that this short-term pain will put an end once and for all to the territory's long-standing problem with bootlegging.

When the Nunavut government struck a

task force a few years ago to review the territory's liquor laws, bootlegging was identified as one of the biggest concerns.

The Nunavut Liquor Commission estimates that half the spirits it sells are resold illegally. That's about 33,500 bottles of hard liquor - which, at an average bootleg price of \$300 a bottle, works out to around \$10 million a year.

The store isn't expected to be a big money-maker for the government, D'Arcy said. But what it will hopefully do is cut into the bootleggers' business.

Greenland took a similar approach years ago to deal with its own alcohol problem, which has been largely successful. Now Nunavut hopes to replicate the success of its neighbour.

"I personally think that it's worth a shot," D'Arcy said. "It is not good to have people getting a 60-ounce of vodka, regardless of the price, and consuming so much in one fell swoop."

Sep 03 2014

**CALGARY - The 2015 Calgary Police Service Canine Unit calendars went on sale on Wednesday and those hoping to pick up a planner need to act quickly as they sold out in less than 48 hours last year.**

The calendars feature most of the unit's 21 dogs over 13 months.

It is the second year for the calendars and proceeds from the sales go to support the Calgary Police Foundation.

The 2015 version has even more photos, including a special nine-picture centerfold insert, and details about the unit's canine members and is larger in size than the 2014 calendar.

CPS dogs attend more than 8,000 police-related calls every year and this year alone, they have responded to roughly 4,300 calls.

Police say that at least 175 arrests can be attributed directly to the unit since January.

"They are parts of the family, there's no doubt about it, these handlers have these dogs 24/7. They go home with the handlers every night," said Sgt. Todd McNutt of the Canine Unit.

8,000 of the 2015 calendars, priced at \$10 each, were printed.

The initiative raised more than \$30,000 for the Foundation's funded program Youth-Link Calgary last year. (CTV News)

Sep 03 2014

**Ontario police chiefs are up in arms about a provincial plan to increase by 50% the tuition paid by cops-in-training.**

"This is going to have an impact on our recruiting efforts," said Peel Regional Chief Jennifer Evans, who heads the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. "Some good potential recruits might not have the financial means to pay the increased tuition."

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services has quietly announced

fees for the 60-day course at Ontario Police College near Alymer will increase to \$11,065, from the current \$7,500.

Because most recruits will still be dealing with recent debt from college or university, some prospective police officers may avoid applying in order to avoid incurring additional debt, Evans said.

There is no direct admission to the college; rather, recruits must first qualify, then be hired on by a municipal force, after which they can gain entrance.

The college trains an average of 1,020 recruits each year. There are 340 entrants this September.

The tuition increase takes effect Jan. 1, 2015, and is in line with other provinces' fees, said ministry spokesperson Andrew Morrison. Even with the increase, the cost doesn't represent 100% cost recovery, he said.

The additional money will allow for "enhanced training programs for constables, resulting in better trained officers," he said.

Recruits are usually eligible for recruitment training loans through their police association's credit unions, Morrison said.

At the same time as this tuition increase, the province is continuing to offer university and college undergrads a 30% break on their tuitions if their families earn less than \$160,000 a year.

The move costs the province more than \$400 million a year.

(QMI Agency)

Sep 03 2014

**Add mooning and prank calls to the list of back-to-school expenses university students should plan for.**

A Toronto-area police force is warning students about the hidden cost of some questionable fresh-week rituals such as streaking and putting cement in a public washing machine - both of which carry fines of up to \$5,000.

York Regional Police say forcing a pet to smoke marijuana, for example, could cost thousands in fines and involve jail time, while the price of "dropping excessive bass at 4 a.m." depends on "how excessive" it is.

Among the most affordable offences are hiding in a Walmart after closing time and "climbing onto the roof of the math wing," both punishable by a \$65 fine.

Others - including mooning, defacing faculty portraits and urinating in a neighbour's yard - carry much heftier price tags of up to \$5,000.

And a few, such as buying beer for underage siblings or starting a bonfire with a dorm-room sofa, could land students behind bars.

Sep 03 2014

**VANCOUVER - Lyle Richardson was a frustrating case for police officers. By his count, they were called to deal with him on "about a dozen" occasions between 1996 and 2008.**

Most of those interactions were non-confrontational, Richardson told the Georgia Straight during a drive near his home in New

Westminster. But one of them almost killed him.

"I went on the SkyTrain with a crazy costume on, including carrying a toy gun," he recounted. "The police thought I was attempting suicide by cop. In fact, I was just being playful."

Richardson was eventually diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder and treated accordingly. Today, he works with police. Richardson participates on panels at the Justice Institute of B.C. He talks to new recruits about mental health, and he offers advice on how to de-escalate situations that involve an individual with a mental illness.

Those sessions are part of a mandatory mental-health component attended by every police trainee in the province. (RCMP recruits go through a similar program.)

B.C. law-enforcement agencies prepare their staff for work with the mentally ill. At the same time, the Vancouver Police Department has made it abundantly clear that it does not want its officers used as a frontline for mental-health care.

On September 13, one year will have passed since VPD chief Jim Chu stood alongside Mayor Gregor Robertson and called attention to the increasing frequency with which police are the first point of contact for people with mental-health challenges.

"The answer for someone suffering a mental-health crisis is not a cop with a gun," Chu said then. "We need a shift from dealing with the crisis to preventing the crisis from occurring in the first place."

Since then, the problem has gotten worse.

During the first six months of 2014, police made 1,470 apprehensions under Section 28 of the Mental Health Act, which permits officers to detain individuals deemed to have a mental disorder and to pose a threat to themselves or others. That number represents a five-year high, up from 1,145 in 2010.

Interviewed at VPD headquarters, spokesperson Const. Brian Montague said an average of eight arrests per day is a lot but is actually only a fraction of the time VPD officers spend responding to people with mental-health challenges. Many exchanges do not require a Section 28 apprehension, and a minority are elevated to criminal charges, he explained.

According to Montague, it is estimated that between 20 and 30 percent of all VPD interactions have some mental-health component to them. "That means about 100 to 150 incidents every day," he said.

That translates to 18,000 to 27,000 VPD interactions with the mentally ill in just the first six months of 2014.

At an August 25 police conference in Victoria, Chu reiterated his call for assistance from the province. "People with mental-health issues need the health system, not the justice system," he said.

At the same meeting, Terry Coleman, a 28-year veteran of the Calgary Police Service and an adjunct professor at the University of Regina, presented a national report on police interactions with the mentally ill.

In a telephone interview, Coleman told

the Straight that the VPD's Section 28 numbers are "much higher" than those of most jurisdictions. But he also praised B.C. police departments for acknowledging and responding to the fact that mental-health care has become a large part of an officer's job.

Part of the reason that is the case, Coleman said, is the adoption of recommendations made by the Braidwood Commission of Inquiry, which investigated the 2007 in-custody death of Robert Dziekanski. Among adopted proposals is a requirement that new recruits receive lessons on mental health. Today, those sessions account for 20 hours of a trainee's 13 weeks of basic training. Topics emphasized include crisis intervention and de-escalation.

Coleman, however, argued that there is still room for improvement. For example, whereas police officers attend a "refresher" on mental health every three years, Coleman said he would like to see that program redefined as a "requalification", similar to police requirements for firearms training.

He also noted that some departments allot more than 20 hours to mental-health training. The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary on the east coast, for example, includes "about 40 hours" in its basic-training program, Coleman said.

Richardson similarly suggested that if as many as 30 percent of VPD calls involve a mental-health component, 20 hours on the topic might not be enough. "If that's the case, I think they could use a little bit more training," he said.

(Georgia Straight)



Sep 04 2014

**QUEBEC CITY - A cross made of a two-by-four and flowers laid on the ground are the only clues that cyclist Guy Blouin died after being run over by a Quebec City police cruiser yesterday.**



The 48-year-old man was hit around 1 p.m. ET Wednesday and died in hospital several hours later.

Witnesses to the incident said Blouin was biking the wrong way down the street when a police car moved to intercept him. They said they saw the cruiser back up over the cyclist.

"They ran over the guy, the guy ended up under the car. For an entire 15 seconds; he was under the tire in a fetal position," Alexandre Beaulieu told Radio-Canada.

Because the case involves local police, the provincial police, Sûreté du Québec, was called in to investigate.

The Quebec City police department issued a statement late Thursday morning saying the force and the officers involved are cooperating with the SQ's investigation.

Beaulieu said he saw the officers get out of the car, saw the man caught under the wheels, then get back into the patrol car and roll over the victim a second time. Other witnesses corroborated his account.

Another witness, who gave his name as Daniel, said he heard police tell the cyclist that he was under arrest. "He was spitting blood," the witness said.

Another witness said officers helped Blouin to his feet and put him in the ambulance without putting him on a stretcher first.

Paramedic supervisor Jean-François Roy said the man's condition worsened during the ride to l'Enfant Jésus Hospital.

Sgt. Ann Mathieu of the SQ would not confirm the witness accounts, but said that investigators are considering them as possible hypotheses.

Provincial police will also look into the fact that the patrol car and the bicycle were moved from the scene.

The officers under investigation picked up the bike and put it in the trunk of their car, and later put it back at the scene.

Mathieu said the officers involved and as many witnesses as possible will be interviewed by investigators.

Sep 03 2014

**EDMONTON - An ages-old feud had Edmonton police on the case when they responded Wednesday to a call of a body in a north-side yard.**

At least eight police cars and a medical examiner responded to a report of human remains at a house in the city Wednesday.

"At the point in time where we first arrived, it was extremely difficult to determine whether that was in fact what we had," said Insp. Regan James.

"It actually turned out through some intelligence-gathering in the neighbourhood that it was a family pet that had been buried."

The remains were discovered in a front yard undergoing landscaping, and when the bag was cut open, the people who made the call to police encountered "quite a horrendous smell and what appeared to be a scalp," said James.

The medical examiner was called, and he too was unsure about what was in the bag until the remains (which turned out to be a cat) were cut fully out of the bag.

At least a dozen officers were on scene, and some could be seen standing with the medical examiner looking at a tarp in the yard.

"Obviously, there's a question about the response and the number of members that you have here, (but) we always treat things as if it was real," said James.

There are no suspects and the death is not considered suspicious.

"Not unless it's the murder of the cat, which actually it was — the neighbour's dog killed the neighbour's cat," James said.

(Edmonton Journal)