

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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COALDALE - The town of Coaldale is switching police forces, moving from the Lethbridge Regional Police to the RCMP on of January 1st, 2016. It's a move that is expected to save the town around \$500,000 a year, and provide huge economic spinoffs

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RCMP TO RETAIN NATURAL FUR HATS



Sep 30 2014

OTTAWA - A move by the Mounties to doff their fur hats in favour of more animal-friendly tuques isn't getting any muskrat love from the federal Conservatives.

Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq told the House of Commons on Tuesday that the public safety minister had directed the Mounties to reverse the decision.

The RCMP wrote to an animal-rights group last month to say it had tested a tuque that works well in normal winter conditions, and that it would supply the new hat to cadets as early as this fall.

The Mounties said the muskrat hat would continue to be issued to officers working in extreme cold, stressing that the force and its garment suppliers comply with an international agreement on humane trapping standards.

However, in its letter to the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, the

RCMP said the overall result would be a "significant reduction" in the number of fur hats worn by members.

"We have listened to the views of external interested parties and of our employees," wrote RCMP Corps Sgt. Major Darren Campbell.

"RCMP officers stationed in areas that are not considered extreme will be issued the winter tuque only. Those that will require the fur hat will have to request approval and authority from their line officers in order to obtain the fur hat."

The historic fur hats worn by the RCMP "will not be discontinued, despite the efforts of the radical animal-rights activists," said Aglukkaq, a staunch supporter of the fur industry who hails from Nunavut.

"The RCMP decision, which is causing much glee among anti-fur activists, is being fully overturned. Our government will always stand up for Canada's hunters and trappers."

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

Sep 25 2014

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The province's police watchdog says there are no grounds to charge Hamilton police officers involved in a takedown in which a stabbing suspect was Tasered multiple times, shot with rubber bullets and pepper sprayed.

The Special Investigations Unit says police were responding to reports a man had stabbed several people in various units of an apartment building on the night of March 8.

Officers surrounded the 27-year-old suspect outside a nearby pizza shop and ordered him to drop his knife, and shot him with a conducted energy weapon when he refused to comply.

The SIU says the man pulled the CEW's prongs from his body and climbed a set of stairs to a second floor patio where he continued to refuse to drop the knife.

It says that after throwing objects from the patio at the officers below, the man got onto a thin ledge, from which he fell onto the asphalt driveway below, fracturing his spine and ankle. The man - who still had the knife - was shot with a Taser again but again removed the probes from his body. The SIU says pepper spray also proved ineffective.

Emergency response officers called to the scene were finally able to disarm the man after he was shot with a Taser two more times and shot five times at close range with rubber bullets.

Sep 25 2014

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The Special Investigations Unit is seeking witnesses to a Thursday morning incident in Toronto that left a 22-year-old woman with serious injuries.

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The police watchdog says Toronto officers were interacting with the occupants of a vehicle at an intersection when the driver tried to speed away.

The SIU says the fleeing vehicle struck a female pedestrian, causing serious injuries.

Sep 25 2014

ROSEAU RIVER, Man. - RCMP have charged members of a southern Manitoba police force with credit card offences.

The case involves two members of the Dakota Ojibway Police Service, a civilian employee and two family members.

The allegations involve unauthorized use of police service credit cards for personal purposes earlier this year.

The five people charged are Sgt. Darryl Hunter, Const. Derek Smoke, detachment clerk Julie Seniuk, Robyn Hunter and a 17-year-old youth.

Sep 25 2014

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire isn't going anywhere for the next five years, ending media speculation he might be returning to Toronto.

At Thursday's Niagara Police Services Board meeting, chairman Henry D'Angela announced they have agreed to renew McGuire's contract that extends his service until June 2020.

"He has been a very dedicated and visionary chief for our region," said D'Angela. "He came in at a time that was very good for us. He stepped up and is making sure that the service is becoming more and more efficient, and also making sure that the facilities projects are moving forward as quickly as possible."

McGuire, 56, was appointed chief of the NRP on June 17, 2012, becoming the eighth chief of police in the history of the service. He was the acting deputy chief of the Toronto Police Service before coming to Niagara and was in charge of 19 specialized units.

Two months ago, after the Toronto Police Services Board announced they would not renew Chief Bill Blair's contract when it was up in April 2015, McGuire's name was floated in the media as a possible replacement.

(Sun Media)

Sep 25 2014

MONTREAL - Despite the agreement reached last week between Montreal and its police officers to resume issuing tickets at a normal rate, the city is seeking to recover what it lost.

Management with the Montreal police have informed the Montreal Police Brotherhood that a grievance will be filed seeking to have the union reimburse the amount of money that would have been generated if tickets had been issued at the usual rate.

The city claims there was a 35-per-cent decrease in the number of tickets issued during July 2014 compared with July 2013. According to La Presse, the decrease in tickets is estimated to be worth \$2.2 million in lost revenue to the city.

The city filed a complaint last week with the Quebec Labour Relations Board seeking to have police officers resume the normal amount of ticketing and alleged the slowdown was a tactic to protest against proposed changes to pension plans. But at the last minute, an agreement was reached during a conciliation hearing and the tribunal was not required to impose a decision. The grievance seeking lost revenues would be filed with the same tribunal.

"It's a question of labour relations and we felt there was a process," Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said Thursday afternoon. "We think there was an agreement. There was the reality of pressure tactics and the next step is to ask the labour board to fix that."

Coderre would not reveal how much money the city is hoping to recoup, saying that would be decided before the board. "A referee will decide who is right and who is wrong."

The Brotherhood is furious with the city's latest manoeuvre and its president, Yves Francoeur, described it as a declaration of war on its members.

Francoeur said that road safety in general improved during the period when less tickets were issued. According to him, the filing of the grievance, along with the city's policy of imposing quotas on police officers to issue tickets, clearly shows the city is only interested in collecting revenue and not road safety.

(Montreal Gazette)

Sep 25 2014

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service has been recognized for its suicide-prevention training.

A co-ordinator with *Living Works*, the organization that developed Edmonton's suicide-prevention workshop, presented a certificate of recognition to Chaplain Lawrence Peck Wednesday, calling the police service a leader in the industry.

The two-day course is now mandatory for recruits and also offered to members. Since 2009, nearly 900 members and civilian staff have taken it.

Co-ordinator Devon Tayler said research shows each person trained will intervene to help three suicidal people within the following year. That suggests Edmonton's program helped 2,600 people in the last five years.

(Edmonton Journal)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

Sep 26 2014

WETASKIWIN, Alta. - A central Alberta Mountie found guilty of using excessive force during an arrest has been sentenced to two months in jail.

RCMP Const. Ron Lavallee was convicted last May of assault causing bodily harm over a confrontation in December 2011.

Lavallee, who is assigned to the Maskwacis detachment, is a seven-year veteran with the Mounties.

Lavallee, who is currently assigned to administrative duties, was also sentenced to

two years probation and a 10-year firearms ban.

Sgt. Jose Valiquette, an RCMP spokeswoman, says a criminal conviction does not automatically mean that a Mountie is discharged or suspended from the force.

She says RCMP are reviewing Lavallee's sentence and conducting an internal disciplinary review of his conduct.

(CKGY, The Canadian Press)

Sep 26 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that an Alberta court was right when it allowed statements made by an accused murderer during a police sting operation to be entered as evidence.



The unanimous ruling upholds a first-degree murder conviction against Dax Richard Mack.

In February 2008, Mack was convicted of shooting his roommate, Robert Levoir, and burning his body in a wooded area near Fort McMurray.

In a police sting known as a Mr. Big operation, Mack told undercover Mounties posing as gangsters that he'd killed Levoir and then disposed of the body on his father's land.

Mack insisted during his trial that his confession was fake and aimed at impressing the supposed gang. In a July ruling, the Supreme Court warned Canadian police forces against relying on Mr. Big operations.

That case involved Nelson Hart, a man convicted of murdering his three-year-old twin daughters after they drowned in Gander Lake, N.L., in 2002.

The top court said Mr. Big confessions should be excluded where the prejudicial effect outweighs the probative value, or where they are the product of an abuse of process.

In doing so, it ruled confessions Hart made to undercover Mounties could not be used against him. Murder charges against Hart were dropped for lack of evidence and he was released after serving nine years behind bars.

But in the Mack case, the Supreme Court said, the confessions were admissible.

"In my view, any prejudicial effect arising from the Mr. Big confessions is easily outweighed by their probative value," Justice Michael Moldaver wrote for the court.

Mack's confessions to undercover Mounties were the same he made to others, the justices found. And the fake gang offered him a relatively minimal payoff, \$5,000 over several months at a time when he was gainfully employed. There was also no violence

threatened and no improper conduct by the police, the justices said.

"Moreover, there was an abundance of evidence that was potentially confirmatory," Moldaver wrote.

The ruling suggests that not all Mr. Big operations are inherently flawed.

Kouri Keenan, a criminology PhD student at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, who has written a book analyzing Mr. Big stings in Canada, said the Hart decision was a "game-changer." But it didn't rule such stings are unconstitutional and they will likely continue to be used by police.

"The thing we have to keep in mind is that the analysis of a confession obtained by virtue of a Mr. Big sting is done on a case by case

basis," Keenan said.

The sting "has proven to be an effective investigative tool and it may very well produce reliable confessions in the future."

Other than confessions, the operations can turn up other important physical evidence, such as a murder weapon or body, he said. In Mack's case, he led undercover officers to a firepit where they found the victim's bone and teeth fragments, as well as shell casings fired from a gun in Mack's apartment.

"Mack's confessions were corroborated, whereas Hart's confessions couldn't be corroborated and were inconsistent anyway," said Timothy Moore, the chair of psychology at Toronto's York University who has done research of Mr. Big operations.

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— Chief William Blair

He said that with the Hart decision, the court basically gave lower court judges and police a "road map" on what rules Mr. Big stings need to follow.

That map has already had an impact on other cases before the courts.

Earlier this week, prosecutors in Nova Scotia withdrew first-degree murder charges against Albert Baird, accused of killing his common-law partner, Rhonda Wilson, in 2002. The judge in that case ruled the man's confession to undercover officers would not be admissible under the Supreme Court's new guidelines.

And on Monday, a Saskatoon judge ruled a murder trial against Douglas Hales would proceed. Hales confessed during a sting to strangling and beating university student Daleen Bosse in 2004. The judge said there was no need for a mistrial in the case and that both sides could re-examine evidence to apply the new standard.

Sep 26 2014

VANCOUVER - A British Columbia provincial court judge has stayed charges against an accused drug kingpin because for more than nine years Canadian officials made no move to have him extradited from India to face trial.

An arrest warrant was issued for Arpinder Singh Gill on July 23, 2004, for conspiracy to import cocaine between B.C., Ontario, Quebec and the United States.

Gill left Vancouver for India in September 2003, and court heard that Canadian police knew where he lived in that country but did not ask for his extradition.

He was not arrested until he returned to Canada on Aug. 1, 2013, to attend his son's engagement celebration in Ontario.

Gill petitioned the court for a stay of proceedings, arguing that the delay was a violation of his charter rights and prejudiced his ability to defend himself.

In a decision posted this week on the court website, Judge Gregory Rideout agreed, saying the allegations against 47-year-old Gill are extremely serious but the delay was "extraordinary" and the Crown offered no explanation.

Superior court judge Andre Vincent says Turcotte doesn't represent a danger to society and is entitled to the presumption of innocence as he awaits the new proceedings.

Turcotte is accused in the stabbing deaths of his five-year-old son and three-year-old daughter at a rented family home north of Montreal in early 2009.

A jury found him not criminally responsible in 2011 and he was released from a psychiatric institution the following year.

The appeals court overturned that verdict last November and ordered a new trial.

Sep 27 2014

QUEBEC CITY - Canada's only respite centre for first responders is expanding so it can provide more psychiatric support to those who are usually the ones giving help in times of crisis.

Last week La Vigile officially inaugurated its new therapy centre in Quebec City, creating another place where firefighters, police, paramedics, nurses and military can reach out for help if they need it.

Nadia Gagnon has been a provincial police officer for 19 years and calls La Vigile her second home.

She says people chuckle when she tells them everyone could benefit from counselling, even if they're not in crisis.

"I recommend everyone goes to therapy," said Gagnon.

Audrey Gauthier says that in general, people in her line of work do not seek help.

"It's very sad to say, but it takes a lot of desperation," said Gauthier.

La Vigile is the only place in the country for first responders who need counselling, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, group workshops or just some rest.

Gauthier says they need their own centre so they don't risk running into their clients.

"When you go back to your workplace, do you want to arrest a member of your group," she says.

Since the centre opened, counsellors have helped more than 300 people, most of them police and members of the military.

(CBC News)

Sep 27 2014

The Alberta government has for the first time awarded official commissions to police chiefs of municipalities and First Nations communities.

Ten chiefs, including Edmonton's Rod Knecht and Calgary's Rick Hanson, were at Government House on Saturday afternoon to receive the honour in a formal ceremony.

A commission is a symbolic honour signifying the state's acknowledgment of a person's rank. Commissions are already granted to senior members of the military and RCMP.

"It's a very high honour and it's going to be given on a routine basis to our officers who achieve a very high rank," said Jonathan Denis, the province's justice minister and solicitor general.

Denis said legislation was passed last year to allow for the awarding of commissions to police chiefs, which is already done in some other provinces.

Along with the 10 chiefs, the province plans to give commissions to 96 other officers of a sufficiently high rank, such as deputy chiefs, superintendents and inspectors. Commissions will also be bestowed on an ongoing basis when there is a change in command, he said.

"I frankly think it's long overdue that we respect our officers with this honour," Denis said. "I think it's only customary to honour the sacrifices they and their families make."

Besides Knecht and Hanson, others awarded commissions on Saturday were: Tsuu T'ina police Chief Keith Blake, Blood Tribe police Chief Lee Boyd, Dale Cox of the Lakeshore Regional Police Service, Darrell Kambeitz of Camrose, Andy McGrogan of Medicine Hat, Tom McKenzie of Lethbridge, Alf Rudd of Taber and Steven Murray of Lacombe.

"I think this shows the support of the government for its chiefs of police," Knecht said. "It's a recognition of your duty ... not just the last year or couple of years you have been a chief, but your entire career in public service. It's a recognition of that lifelong commitment to keep the community safe." (Edmonton Journal)

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

Sep 27 2014

MONTREAL - Quebec's highest court will be asked to review a decision to grant bail to a former doctor facing murder charges in the killing of his two children.

The Crown is challenging a lower court's decision to grant bail two weeks ago to Guy Turcotte, who is awaiting a new trial on two counts of first-degree murder.

That trial is scheduled to take place next September.



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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Sep 28 2014

OTTAWA - A booming two-gun salute thundered over Parliament Hill on Sunday as three Mounties killed in a shooting rampage in New Brunswick were remembered, along with a Toronto police constable and a Saskatchewan conservation officer who also died in the line of duty last year.

Hundreds of police and peace officers from across Canada and as far away the U.K., along with pipe and drum bands, marched onto the hill to honour the five slain officers.

"There's nothing we can say and there's nothing we can do that will ease the pain of your loss," said an emotional Dennis Brock, president of the Canadian Peace Officers' Memorial Association, as he spoke to the family and friends of those killed.

"All of us in the law enforcement family share your sorrow."

Constables Douglas Larche, Dave Ross and Fabrice Gevaudan were killed and two other RCMP officers were injured on June 4 in Moncton.

Toronto police Const. John Zivicic died last November after his cruiser was involved in a collision. Saskatchewan conservation officer Justin Knackstedt was killed after being hit by an SUV while he was directing traffic at the scene of a crash in May 2013 near Saskatoon.

With their families seated on the Parliament Hill lawn, the five were honoured in a memorial held annually for those killed while keeping the country and Canadians safe.

The remembrance is held on the last Sunday of every September and was established in 1998 by the federal government to give Canadians the opportunity to express their appreciation for the work of police and peace officers.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney told the memorial the officers represented all of those who protect Canada's citizens and communities from people who threaten them.

"As police and peace officers do in Canada every day, these fallen officers stood for us against elements that threaten the safety and security of our communities," said Blaney.

"They stood for us against those who would do harm to our country, our communities and our families."

Justin Bourque, 24, has pleaded guilty of three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder in connection with the Moncton shootings. He has yet to be sentenced.

The first Canadian police officers memorial in 1978 honoured 14 officers. There are now more than 840 names of fallen officers on the list, which has been expanded over the years to include all officers killed in the line of duty.

The names of the five honoured Sunday will be added to a granite stone that stretches along the base of a police memorial pavilion which was erected behind Parliament's Centre Block in 1994.

Sep 28 2014

OTTAWA - There will be difficult days ahead as the Ottawa Police Service mourns the loss of a well-known officer and 22-year veteran who took his own life Sunday, Chief Charles Bordeleau told reporters.



Staff Sgt. Kal Ghaban, 43, was found dead in his office Sunday shortly after 1 p.m. at the city police headquarters on Elgin Street. Police believe he used his service-issued firearm to end his life.

"He was a dedicated police officer, committed to his community," Bordeleau said in the lobby of the Elgin station on Sunday night, flanked by deputy chiefs Ed Keeley and Jill Skinner and director general Debra Frazer. "The media and the community know him very well. He spoke passionately about policing and he was loyal to the Ottawa Police Service and we mourn his loss.

"It's important that as a police service and a community that we come together to support Kal's family and his colleagues."

Ontario's civilian police watchdog, the Special Investigations Unit, which investigates incidents of death, serious injury or sexual assault involving officers, is now investigating, and beginning to piece together answers to questions that plague Ghaban's family, friends and colleagues.

Ghaban's death came the same day as the Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial was being held on Parliament Hill. The national memorial is held annually to honour officers killed in the line of duty.

As officers began to turn their attention to the week ahead after days of memorial events, news of Ghaban's death began to ripple through police circles -- a reality that Bordeleau said was nothing less than tragic.

"This is difficult, it's not a day that you want as a chief," Bordeleau said. "It shows the fragility of life."

Officers are being supported while they continue to work and those who need to talk are encouraged to speak out. Supervisors, the victim crisis unit and a stress management team have all been tasked to assist other members of the service.

"We're 2,000 men and women, sworn and civilian, who care passionately about our community and Kal was one of those individuals who touched many of us in this

police service," Bordeleau said.

Ghaban was most recently the officer in charge of the break and enter, street crime and human-trafficking units for the Ottawa service.

He had a significant public profile -- thanks in large part to his outreaching Twitter account and having been the pointman for media and the public on several prominent investigations.

"Kal had a way of dealing with people," Bordeleau said. "He got his message across. He was very direct with people. He was compassionate. He was professional."

Ghaban is survived by his wife, two sons and daughter.
(Ottawa Citizen)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2014

Sep 29 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax Regional Police have been cleared of wrongdoing in the death of a man who accidentally shot himself in the head during a foot chase with officers.

The death was reviewed by Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team.

The team's report says the three officers had reasonable grounds to attempt to detain the 25-year-old man in the early morning hours of Feb. 9 after responding to a report of a gunshot fired in the city's downtown core.

The report says the man was under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and took off when he and two others were approached by the officers.

While running away, the report says the man reached into his waistband to grab his .45-calibre revolver, which discharged a shot into his right ear.

The man was pronounced dead in hospital and the medical examiner later determined the fatal shot to be accidental.

The report says a video of the incident shows the officers did not make contact with the man before he was shot and fell to the ground.

Sep 29 2014

MONTREAL - The lawyer for Luka Magnotta says his client is schizophrenic and was not criminally responsible when he killed and dismembered Chinese student Jun Lin in 2012.

Luc Leclair told jurors that Magnotta has been diagnosed with borderline personality disorder and there is a history of schizophrenia in his family.

His comments capped a stunning morning in the courtroom on the first day of Magnotta's highly publicized first-degree murder trial.

Leclair says a large number of medical files will be presented and he hopes that Magnotta's relatives will testify as well.

The trial began with the 32-year-old

Magnotta entering fresh not-guilty pleas to five charges, including first-degree murder.

Quebec Superior Court Justice Guy Cournoyer then advised the jurors that Magnotta had admitted to committing the crimes and that their task over the next six to eight weeks would be to determine his state of mind at the time.

Crown prosecutor Louis Bouthillier told jurors he expects to show them the crimes were premeditated.

The jury is expected to hear testimony from some 60 witnesses, including some from France and Germany who were interviewed by Canadian authorities.

Sep 29 2014

MONTREAL - The city of Trois-Rivieres has agreed to an out-of-court settlement with a man whose roughhouse arrest by municipal police last year made headlines.

Alexis Vadeboncoeur had threatened to sue the town and four police officers for \$2.3 million after the arrest in February 2013.

Yvan Toutant, a spokesman for the town, says the municipal government sought to work out a deal to avoid a lengthy and expensive court case.

It settled with Vadeboncoeur for \$25,000.

Toutant added that the city has not admitted any responsibility in the case.

Vadeboncoeur was intercepted by several police officers after a break-in at a Trois-Rivieres pharmacy.

The incident made headlines after security video of the arrest showed Vadeboncoeur being kicked and punched by officers several times after he surrendered and lay spread-eagled on the ground.

A gun was also aimed at his head as he was roughed up.

Police reported the suspect had resisted arrest.

Four police officers were charged with assault causing bodily harm, negligent use of a firearm and obstruction of justice.

Toutant said the city had deplored Vadeboncoeur's treatment by officers right from the start.

"We acted immediately by suspending the four officers with pay," he said. Two were part-time employees and were eventually fired.

"If the remaining officers are convicted, they will also be fired."

Vadeboncoeur's case was nearly derailed because his lawyer had missed a filing deadline for a key component. However, Toutant said Monday the city realized he could re-file the case and the result would be the same.

"It was to save costs, lawyers' fees," said Toutant, explaining that the process for a civil suit can take a long time to resolve.

"It was believed this could cost more than \$100,000," he said. "We preferred to put a lid on it."

While the city did not admit responsibility, Toutant acknowledged the images on the video

"speak loudly."

"However, we are frustrated to have to make out a \$25,000 cheque to someone who committed an armed robbery."

The civil suit against the police officers will continue.

Vadeboncoeur pleaded guilty in the robbery and several other charges. He was sentenced to 54 months.

His lawyer, Rene Duval, was unavailable for comment on the settlement.

Sep 29 2014

OTTAWA - As the debate on the militarization of police continues in the United States, new data reveals surplus military equipment in Canada is more likely to land in a museum than with a municipality.



Data compiled by the Department of National Defence shows about a third of surplus military transfers over the last four years have gone to museums.

A smaller proportion of surplus equipment made it to local and national police forces according to the data, released to the Toronto Star under access to information laws.

The largest beneficiaries of DND's surplus gear since the wind-down of Canada's mission in Afghanistan, according to the data, have been two museums in the National Capital Region -- the Canada War Museum and the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum.

In all, DND transferred \$8.2 million in surplus equipment between 2010 and 2014. Most of that was given free of charge, through DND's "gratuitous transfer" program. The department recouped around \$204,000 in sales to other government departments, including the RCMP.

While DND is not outfitting municipal forces at nearly the same scale as their U.S. counterparts, there are ways for local police to get their hands on military-grade hardware. Police in Windsor, one of the two police forces to receive the Cougar LAV from DND, are purchasing C8 carbine rifles to replace older shotguns.

Sgt. Matt D'Asti, a spokesperson for the Windsor force, said the rifles are more accurate and pose less of a threat to bystanders when police are forced to use them.

As for the Cougar, a truck strong enough to withstand improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan, D'Asti said the force has not deployed it since they received it in 2013.

"We're not trying to be offensive with it," D'Asti told the Star Friday. "We're not using

it as an offensive police vehicle where we're actively patrolling with it or using it in that regard. It's simply to have with us at our disposal in the event that we require it."

(The Record)

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Sep 30 2014

OTTAWA - The federal government is three months late on delivering a tracking system it continues to tout as a means of stopping homegrown terrorists from joining overseas conflicts.

Under the Canada-U.S. perimeter security pact, the government pledged to begin collecting records as of last June 30 on people leaving Canada on international flights.

However, it missed that deadline because legislative and regulatory changes are needed before the plan can take effect.

Canada Border Services Agency spokeswoman Esme Bailey would not reveal a new deadline for the project, saying only that information on proposed changes would be provided in due course.

In an interview broadcast last weekend, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said it was important to know when people leave the country and where they are going.

He said the government is working on tools, but made no reference to the missed deadline.

A recent federal report said the government knew of more than 130 individuals with Canadian connections who were abroad and suspected of supporting terror-related activities.

A border services briefing note says information from the new border tracking system could be provided to the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. "This is of particular interest given the recent media attention on Canadians travelling abroad to engage in terrorist activities."

For now, the system involves exchanging entry information collected from people at the Canada-U.S. land border - so that data on entry to one country serves as a record of exit from the other.

The first two phases of the program have been limited to foreign nationals and permanent residents of Canada and the United States, but not citizens of either country.

The program was to be expanded by June 30, 2014, to include information sharing on all travellers crossing the land border.

In addition, Canada hoped to begin collecting information on people exiting by air - something the United States already does - by requiring airlines to submit passenger manifest data for outbound international flights.

Sep 30 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A provincial court in Kamloops, B.C., has heard that a

man who called a police officer a pig after being arrested was Grouchy.

Dewayne Grouchy, 40, pleaded guilty on Monday to one count of theft and two counts of breach of probation stemming from an incident at a liquor store earlier in the summer.

Provincial court Judge Stella Frame heard that Grouchy was placed on a one-year probation term last February, with a specific clause banning him from entering any liquor store.

On July 14, Grouchy went into the McCracken Station Liquor Store in Valleyview, tucked a bottle of Fireball whisky down his pants and left, court heard.

The clerk called police, who found Grouchy outside a half-way house across the street.

Court heard that Grouchy told police he had sold the booze. The officer arrested Grouchy, who swore and called the Mountie "a pig."

After Grouchy's guilty plea, he was sentenced to 60 days in custody - or 22 days on top of the nearly one month that he's already spent behind bars.

(Kamloops This Week)

Sep 30 2014

BRANDON, Man. - A longtime Manitoba RCMP officer has been charged with sexually assaulting a nine-year-old child.

Brandon police are handling the investigation into allegations stemming from an incident last week in a central Manitoba community.

The officer involved is 55 years old and has been on the force for more than 25 years.

He was not on duty at the time.

The man, whose name isn't being released, is also charged with sexual interference.

He's been released from custody under strict conditions and on a promise to appear in court in November.

(CJOB)

Sep 30 2014

CALGARY - Police brass say they're on course to bring an extra set of eyes to hundreds of frontline officers by the end of the year.



Chief Rick Hanson told the Calgary Police Commission Tuesday the force is reviewing three separate camera solutions over the next 30 days before deciding on a body-worn cam that will adorn rank and file officers.

Hanson told the civilian board that administers the force a summer of violence sparked by police incidents south of the border has made the cameras even more essential.

"The speed of the change now is incredibly rapid," he told commission members. "A number of agencies have announced a full rollout because of the events of the summer." •

"I don't think there's any way to avoid this." •

Police Supt. Kevan Stuart said the cameras — likely about 550 of them — will be used primarily by uniformed officers, including those patrolling districts, traffic cops and the Gang Suppression Team.

With the cams set to go live by December 2014, Stuart said once they decide on the technology, the next step will be determining a policy around their use.

"A lot of people think you put a camera on a police officer and they go out and do their job," Stuart said, noting privacy issues will be paramount.

"There are a lot of logistical and legal challenges around body worn cameras." •

He added any data is expected to be stored for around 13 months.

The price tag will range between \$275,000 to \$550,000, depending on the technology.

All 550 cams are slated to be on the street by the first quarter of 2015, Stuart said.

(Calgary Sun)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1, 2014

Oct 01 2014

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia is going to increase fines and add four demerit points for people convicted of using cellphones while driving as of Feb. 1.

Currently, fines range from just over \$176 for a first offence to about \$350 for a third or subsequent offence.

Under amendments proclaimed by the Liberal government, fines will increase to about \$234 for a first offence to \$579 for a third or subsequent offence.

There are exemptions for using a cellphone to report an emergency.

Oct 01 2014

RICHMOND - Richmond mayor Malcolm Brodie cannot complain about the RCMP in his city. According to Brodie, citizens are happy with the service Mounties provide.

But that doesn't mean Richmond is wedded to the idea of having the RCMP around through the 20-year policing contract that the municipality signed with the federal government in 2012.

"We're pleased with the work of the local detachment, but there are larger issues that we have to take into consideration when we think about the long-term future," Brodie told the Georgia Straight in a phone interview.

That future may see Richmond establishing its own police force, like those in Vancouver, West Vancouver, New Westminster, Delta, and Port Moody.

According to Brodie, there's a lot of frustration about the lack of control over policing costs in municipalities serviced by the RCMP.

"We still have the problem that there are these surprises in terms of finances; costs get passed to the cities that we don't agree with, and we don't have any notice of it, either," • the mayor said.

Then there's the unsettled issue of how the RCMP's new and almost \$1-billion provincial headquarters in Surrey's Green Timbers area will be paid for.

"I mean, how many organizations would build a building and have no real idea of how it was going to be paid for and what the partners—being the cities—would have to pay?" Brodie asked. "But they went ahead and they did it. And it just has been a very unsatisfactory situation, a real bone of contention." •

Regular bulletins prepared by the Union of B.C. Municipalities provide a glimpse of the financial issues related to RCMP policing. These include: the absence of local-government representatives in the body that sets salaries, benefits, and working conditions for RCMP officers; rising pension contributions by municipalities; and how local governments will meet their obligations for the severance payments of RCMP officers.

A June 18, 2014, UBCM update stated that "alternate dispute resolution provisions" may be utilized to resolve the arguments over costs associated with the new RCMP provincial headquarters in Surrey.

According to the UBCM, municipalities have been advised by the RCMP to allocate \$1,200 for each officer in their local detachments as part of their share for the RCMP's headquarters for fiscal year 2014-15. For every local officer serving on a combined unit like the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), the rate is \$20,000 for the same year. Additional payments will have to be made in the years ahead, for the life of the building.

In Richmond, replacing the RCMP is a "major consideration", according to Mayor Brodie.

"There is no magic bullet here," Brodie said. "There's no answer that is going to be universal, that everything is going to be better if you do this or that. There's advantages and disadvantages of any particular arrangement. But yes, as a council, we thought we should look at the possibility of an independent force buttressed by our involvement and membership in the various integrated units like IHIT."

Brodie indicated that Richmond has no hard time line for deciding if it's going to tell the RCMP to leave town.

"And if we think that we would, you know, seriously consider a change," Brodie said, "we would certainly want a lot of public input on what that might look like." •

(straight.com)

Oct 01 2014

EDMONTON - City cops have released a second comic book, this one sharing the story of the first aircraft used by Canadian police in a criminal pursuit.

Legacy of Heroes: Flight into Danger, is second issue in the series.

In August 1919, Edmonton police Const. William Nixon was shot while on patrol duty. Before he died, Nixon identified his killer, a petty criminal named John Larson. Larson fled Edmonton and headed southwest for Mountain Park, a remote coal mining town near Jasper.

The Edmonton police chief at the time knew speed was critical to catch up with Larson, and approached ace pilot Wilfred "Wop" May and his brother.

On Sept. 1, 1919, Edmonton police Det. James Campbell boarded May's fragile Curtiss Jenny bi-plane, an aircraft made of wood and cloth, and took off in pursuit of Nixon's killer.

"It was a daring move on the part of the police," says Legacy of Heroes writer Jeff Awid, with the city police digital media unit. "Airplanes were relatively new, and as far as we know, had never been used in Canada to go after a criminal."

The first Legacy of Heroes issue was distributed to schools in Edmonton and the surrounding area.

Officers taking part in Read-In Week, Oct. 6 to Oct. 10, will hand out copies of the comic to students. Copies will also be distributed by the city police school resource officers. (Edmonton Sun)

Oct 01 2014

TORONTO - The longest serving inmate in Canada to have a murder conviction thrown out faces a potential new obstacle in his bid to sue those involved in his prosecution.



Ottawa police and the province of Ontario are asking the Supreme Court of Canada to block Romeo Phillion, who spent 31 years in prison protesting his innocence, from pursuing his lawsuit for negligence and prosecutorial wrongdoing.

"They're ragging the puck," his lawyer, David Robins, said Wednesday.

"(They're) hoping that he's going to get old and pass away while they appeal."

While it is far from certain the country's top court will agree to hear the appeal, Phillion's supporters are unhappy at having to fight anew simply to have his lawsuit considered on its merits.

The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted planned a news conference for Thursday - on the first International Wrongful Conviction Day - to draw attention to the case.

Now in his mid-70s, Phillion was convicted of second-degree murder in 1972 in the death of Ottawa firefighter Leopold Roy based on a confession he recanted almost immediately. He was jailed for life but always refused to seek parole, saying it would amount to an admission of guilt.

The federal government ultimately referred the case to the Ontario Court of Appeal, which quashed his conviction and ordered a new trial in 2009. The Crown then withdrew the charge, arguing too much time had passed to try him again.

In quashing the conviction, the Appeal Court found that police had initially verified an alibi showing Phillion's innocence but never told the defence about it, apparently because investigators subsequently found it to be untrue.

Phillion sued for \$14 million, alleging negligence and wrongdoing by prosecutors and two Ottawa police officers.

In April last year, an Ontario Superior Court justice decided the suit would be an abuse of process because 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, the Court of Appeal ruled in July that Phillion should at least have a chance to put his case to a jury.

"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," the Appeal Court ruled.

Lawyer Kirk Boggs, who represents the Ottawa police service and two officers involved, said the Appeal Court made mistakes in overturning the lower court ruling and allowing the lawsuit to proceed.

"The approach that they took raised significant issues with respect to the doctrine of abuse of process and how it should be applied," Boggs said Wednesday.

"It warrants the Supreme Court of Canada taking a significant look at it."

Boggs said he also wants the top court to take a look at the scope of a police officer's duty of care in relation to investigations.

Oct 01 2014

WINNIPEG - Nunavut RCMP Sgt. Yvonne Niogo, the first Inuk woman from Nunavut to be promoted to Corporal then Sergeant, received the Community Service Award at a luncheon gathering of the International Association of Women Police in Winnipeg today.



"She had many career options growing up but chose to follow her childhood interest in policing," says IAWP president Jane Townsley in a news release.

"She embodies what every police officer should be, unselfish, determined and willing to do whatever it takes to make a positive change."•

Niogo was first recruited to the RCMP in 1989 as a summer student, following in the footsteps of a great uncle who had been an RCMP Special Constable.

She went to the RCMP training academy in 1991, becoming the first female Inuk from Nunavut to become a full regular member. She began her career in Iqaluit and spent several years on the job in Baker Lake.

She also spent some time away from the force, holding several positions with both the territorial and municipal governments.

Niogo was eventually recruited to the Community and Aboriginal Policing Directorate at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa.

Upon her return to Iqaluit, she was promoted to her current role as non-commissioned officer in charge of community policing for Nunavut.

She now oversees all community policing initiatives, including firearms safety. She's also an accomplished crisis negotiator and is active in other local organizations, including suicide prevention and youth groups. (CBC News)

Oct 01 2014

COALDALE - The town of Coaldale is switching police forces, moving from the Lethbridge Regional Police to the RCMP on of January 1st, 2016.

It's a move that is expected to save the town around \$500,000 a year, and provide huge economic spinoffs

"It will be one of the larger employers in Coaldale and the more jobs the more reason for people to shop and move to Coaldale,"• says Kalen Hastings, Director of Municipal Relations

Mayor Kim Craig says the town is working to secure land for a regional facility. That's where the bonus comes in for the town of approximately 7,500 people. It will accommodate resources currently in Lethbridge, as well as an integrated traffic unit, a police dog unit and a forensics unit.

"With that building obsolete, it was just a natural fit to put the building in place that was going to be policed by RCMP," adds Craig.

The change will mean seven full-time officers for Coaldale, as well as two clerical staff. The positions will be in addition to staff from other regional based services.

"Having a federally funded building is going to be huge for Coaldale. It will be a show piece building and it will show something substantial about Coaldale moving forward," says Craig.

The RCMP will work out of a storefront in Coaldale as of January first, 2016 until the new regional detachment is built, with an estimated opening of 2018.

(Global News)

Oct 02 2014

EDMONTON - The Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team says it has made a massive steroid bust in Edmonton.

Spokesman Mike Tucker says multiple search warrants were executed and more than \$10 million in drugs seized.

He says the bust involved more than 350,000 pills, 10,000 vials and three dozen types of chemical precursors and additives.

The seizure occurred at residences and storage facilities last week.

Tucker says the bust targeted a major distributor.

(CHED)

Oct 02 2014

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg man found carrying two concealed weapons - a knife and a baton - has been cleared of criminal wrongdoing on the grounds police violated his rights.

Ksamil Kaltornyk was arrested in March 2013 outside of an apartment building after police had received a call from an unknown male who suggested he was "Public Enemy Number One."

Arriving officers spotted Kaltornyk standing outside digging in the snow and concluded he was the caller because he was behaving in a way "somewhat reflective of possible mental instability."

During a search they found a knife and a baton stuffed inside the pouch of his hooded sweatshirt, and charged him with carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon.

But provincial court Judge Brian Corrin has ruled the police had no right to stop and search the accused.

He said the two officers' explanation that they thought Kaltornyk was the 911 caller had no basis in law and was a "serious" Charter breach.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Oct 02 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that British Columbia has the right to charge administrative court fees, but they can't be so high as to prevent litigants from accessing the legal system.

The justices say the effect of the B.C. fee scheme would be to deny some people access to the courts, so they struck it down as unconstitutional by a 6-1 margin.

It is a landmark ruling on the issue of public access to the courts.

The case stems from a child-custody dispute in which a woman said she could not afford the \$3,600 she was charged for a 10-day trial.

B.C.'s superior court originally ruled the

fees unconstitutional, because, while the very poorest are exempt, they still apply to other people of modest means and prevent them from pursuing their legal claims.

The B.C. Appeal Court agreed but widened the exemption to include other people in need.

Oct 02 2014

MONTREAL - The City of Montreal has fired six firefighters for participating in a protest that saw municipal council chambers get trashed.

Executive committee chairman Pierre Desrochers says there will also be sanctions against 57 other employees.

The suspensions will range from one week to six months and will be unpaid.

The workers, who also included white- and blue-collar city employees, were angry about a proposed provincial government plan to change their pensions.

The changes would see all public-sector workers contribute a higher percentage to their plans.

About 100 public-sector workers took part in the demonstration that saw a large group burst into city hall on Aug. 18.

Local politicians were forced to flee from their regular session as protesters threw documents and other objects from their desks as they rampaged through the chamber.

Montreal police, who were present for the demonstration, were criticized for not intervening.

Oct 02 2014

MONTREAL - Police on the North Shore have broken up a far-reaching drug network that was supplying all the region, particularly the Manicouagan Regional County, Baie Comeau and the Gaspé.

In raids that began early Tuesday morning and continued through Thursday, 40 officers with the Surete du Quebec, helped by the public security team from Pessanet, carried out 15 search warrants and arrested 31 people. A man in his 40s was arrested Thursday.

The investigation was dubbed *Projet Marotte* and began two-and-a-half years ago. The SQ seized an impressive amount of drugs, weapons and property including cash during

the length of the investigation:

- close to 5,000 tablets of methamphetamines
- 2,200 grams of cocaine
- 1,550 grams of lidocaine, a white powder used to cut cocaine
- more than 800 grams of marijuana
- more than 20 live marijuana plants
- 17 firearms
- more than \$63,000 in cash, Canadian funds
- three vehicles used for the drug business
- \$2.7 million worth of property: mortgage on the home, pontoon boat, all-terrain-vehicle, motorcycles, speed boats, camping trailer and outboard motor.

(Montreal Gazette)

Sep 02 2014

VANCOUVER - Two men accused in the gang slayings of six people in a Surrey, B.C., apartment have been found guilty of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the deaths.



B.C. Supreme Court Judge Catherine Wedge says Cody Haevischer and Matthew Johnston were played key roles in the execution-style killings of defenceless victims.

Families and friends of the victims applauded when the verdicts were announced.

On Oct. 19, 2007, Haevischer, Johnston and an associate who can only be identified as Person X entered the suite of Corey Lal.

The trial heard they'd been sent there by their gang leadership to kill a rival drug dealer. Lal's brother, Michael, and associates Eddie Narong and Ryan Bartolomeo were caught in the crossfire.

Ed Schellenberg, a 55-year-old father of two, was in the building to service fireplaces and Chris Mohan, a 22-year-old student who lived next door with his mother, were also killed in the suite by the assassins. Like the others, hoods were placed over their heads before they were shot execution-style.



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