

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY  November 14, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 46

Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Calgary police ramp up mental health program



Nov 12 2014

CALGARY - Officers confronting recent traumatic homicide cases shows the need for a mental health program the Calgary Police Service has adopted, a deputy chief said Wednesday.

Difficulties in dealing with cases like the quintuple Brentwood slayings and the deaths of Nathan O'Brien and his grandparents Alvin and Kathryn Liknes earlier this year are what the *Road to Mental Readiness Program* (R2MR) is made for, said Deputy Chief Roger Chaffin.

"It's difficult to articulate that what happens later is the challenge for us, when those people go home after doing their duty, making sure they can cope and have the

courage and confidence to speak up," said Chaffin, adding it's vital to head off post-traumatic stress before it snowballs.

"It's those hidden moments when they're struggling to cope ... when post traumatic stress disorder comes up, that's when it's been going on for too long."

For the past year, the force has been using R2MR - a program first developed by the Canadian military - and is now ready to expand.

"We will always have people who require it," said Chaffin.

Calgary's is the first Canadian police force to adopt it and is helping other services do the same, said Edward Mantler of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.



THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies "Leadership as an Activity Not a Position," and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

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"There are similarities between soldiering and civilian policing," said Mantler, noting 10 other Canadian police forces are embracing R2MR.

The key to the program, he said, is for those suffering to recognize their condition and to know they can seek help without encountering stigma.

R2MR also builds mental resilience and employs a colour chart to allow an individual to assess their well-being.

Also crucial is the change in attitude toward mental health issues, said Chaffin.

"We're not far from the culture when we asked people to suck it up," he said.

"We've come a long way."

(Calgary Sun)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2014

Nov 06, 2014

THE PAS, Man - A corrections officer is dead and six inmates injured after a crash 45 kilometres south of The Pas, Man. on Highway 10, according to Manitoba RCMP.



The victim's family has identified the officer as 44-year-old Rhonda Commodore. CBC was told she was the single mother of a young son.

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RCMP say Commodore died when she was thrown from a Manitoba Corrections van she was a passenger in at around 9:45 a.m. Thursday. The van crashed into a ditch and rolled before coming to a complete stop.

The driver, a 43-year-old male officer, is in stable condition and six inmates were sent to the hospital following the crash. The inmates sustained minor injuries, according to RCMP.

Rhonda Commodore died in a crash this morning on Highway 10, south of The Pas.

The van had been transporting the six inmates to Dauphin from The Pas and was travelling southbound when the driver lost control of the vehicle.

"This just goes to show that this is extremely dangerous work ... while they're out there ensuring the safety of Manitobans they're putting their own lives at risk," said Michelle Gawronsky, president of Manitoba Government Employees Union.

"The Pas is a small town and everybody knows each other, so this is a family member with corrections officers. They are a team, they're a family together, so one fallen, they're all affected."

RCMP say winter road conditions were a factor in the crash. It is not yet known if Commodore was wearing a seatbelt.

"Seatbelts are installed in all vehicles for officers and there are no specific policies for their use beyond what's in place under Manitoba law," said a spokesperson for the provincial government.

"[Vehicles used to transport inmates] are all retrofitted with security features and inmates are restrained during transport. Inmate areas do not have seatbelts for security reasons," the spokesperson said.

Justice Minister James Allum offered his condolences on behalf of the Manitoba government on Thursday.

"Our hearts and thoughts are with the family, friends and co-workers of the officer who died in the line of duty," Allum said. "Our thoughts are also with a second officer who was injured in the accident and is now in hospital."

Nov 06 2014

BRANDON, Man. - Manitoba's high court has ruled police did not violate the rights of a child pornographer when they went through his computer based on information received from the man's girlfriend.

A conviction against the Brandon-area teen was upheld this week in a unanimous decision released by the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

The youth, who can't be named, was seeking to overturn the guilty finding on the grounds police conducted an illegal search and seizure.

Brandon police had been called by the man's girlfriend, who stumbled across nude images of children while on his computer under his user name.

Court was told there was some question about whether many of the images would meet

the legal definition of child pornography or be classified as teen "modelling" pictures of youths in lingerie.

The young woman got her friend to also view the pictures before going to authorities. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Nov 06 2014

REGINA - Twelve people have been charged after RCMP, the Regina police and the Saskatchewan Combined Forces special unit executed search warrants in a drug trafficking investigation.

Mounties say the investigation took eight months and uncovered two organized crime groups dealing cocaine and cannabis.

Police say they seized both drugs along with magic mushrooms, more than \$73,000 in cash, 11 vehicles and various weapons including firearms, batons, bear spray and knives.

More than 80 investigators, 24 SWAT members and three analysts were involved.

In all, the dozen accused - all from Regina - face a total of 61 charges.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2014

Nov 07 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police Chief Bill Blair is recommending the police service have its budget frozen in 2015 and the number of uniform officers reduced by 43.

If the board approves the freeze, it will be the first time in 10 years the police budget has been flat-lined.

The civilian oversight board will consider Blair's request next week. He's asking the board to approve the force's 2015 net operating request of \$957.76 million.

The chief is also asking the board to approve a reduction of 43 uniform officers to 5,462 officers while increasing civilian staff by 56 to 2,218.

The board released the figures Thursday in the agenda for next week's meeting — at the same time taking the unusual step of launching a bargaining website• just days before contract talks are set to begin.

The current contract expires Dec. 31. Labor negotiations are scheduled to begin next week. Almost 90 per cent of Toronto's police budget is needed to fulfill salary obligations.

The association is "deeply disappointed"• about the website and the "opportunistic grandstanding"• of board chairman Alok Mukherjee, said TPA president Mike McCormack.

"This is nothing more than a politically motivated move, one which can only be detrimental to the collective bargaining process, the public and the police service,"• McCormack said in a statement sent to police divisions across the city. (Toronto Star)

SAN FRANCISCO - No sooner had authorities announced the shuttering of an alleged illegal online drug bazaar than another popped up claiming to take its place.

Welcome to the “dark Web,” an increasingly popular corner of the Internet where thousands of computer users from around the globe interact anonymously - and, in many cases, illegally.

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Justice charged a 26-year-old San Francisco man with operating Silk Road 2.0, an anonymous website that authorities say rang up \$8 million in monthly drug sales.

On Friday, an underground website calling itself Silk Road 3.0 Reloaded claimed to be open for business on the TOR network, which is linked globally through special browsers that encrypt Internet traffic. Several other websites on the TOR network also claimed to be open for drug transactions.

The dark Web poses new and formidable challenges for law enforcement agencies around the world that have been dealing for decades with more conventional international drug trafficking. The reach and anonymity of these 21st century Internet operations is difficult to penetrate. Silk Road and copycats on the TOR network are not readily visible through popular Internet search sites. The buyers and sellers don't exchange cash, dealing instead in often untraceable digital currencies, usually Bitcoin. So there are no banking records for investigators to subpoena.

“As long as the dark Web exists, there will always be people who set up places to engage in wrongdoing,” said Joseph DeMarco, a defence attorney and former federal prosecutor who headed the computer crimes section of the U.S. attorney's office in New York.

DeMarco said he was skeptical that a single “global solution” would be found to stop illegal activity on the TOR network.

“There will always be an arms race between the bad guys and law enforcement,” DeMarco said.

Those who created and support the TOR network say it's a way to protect online users' privacy in the digital age. TOR boasts that none of its websites will appear in Google search.

In addition to the Silk Road site, authorities say they have seized or shut down other virtual marketplaces with names such as Hydra, Cloud Nine, Pandora and Blue Sky. Police in Europe seized \$1 million in digital currency and \$225,000 worth of cash, drugs, gold and silver.

VANCOUVER – A shift in RCMP policy means cities won't be able to use auxiliary officers as freely or easily when it comes to supervising festivals, parades and other large events you might attend.

Effective immediately, the unarmed volunteers now need to be directly supervised by a full-time, paid officer.

Still absorbing the news, Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart says it adds responsibility for paid officers who are already stretched thin.

“This kind of unilateral change has the potential to reduce safety in our community because the auxiliaries perform a valuable service both in engagement and outreach on all kinds of crime-prevention issues but also do bike and foot patrols. They assist with community crime-awareness programs and they do crime-reduction patrols in hot spots.”

Making up that difference with full-time members isn't feasible, Stewart adds.

“In recent years, we've had 10,000 (volunteer auxiliary) hours... That's the equivalent of five or six full-time police members. Ten thousand hours is irreplaceable. It would be extremely expensive,” says Stewart.

The RCMP says the move comes down to safety when having a large number of uniformed yet unarmed officers together.

“This isn't about money,” says Chief Superintendent Dan Malo. “This is about making sure our heroic volunteers — people that come out free of charge and support the community — go home safe at night after they've worn a uniform without a gun.”

He admits the policy change was, at least in part, in response to the Ottawa shooting. (News1130)



Nov 07 2014

CALGARY - Calgary's finest are set to commemorate Canada's bravest.

The uniform worn by Calgary's police officers will now include a newly-designed hat badge to honour both the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War as well as the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Calgary police officers will wear the new hat badge for four years until Nov. 11 2018, the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the First World War.

Unveiled at a press conference Friday, the ‘Vimy Salute’ badge features a red maple leaf inset with an embossed ‘V’ and ‘100,’ the same design featured on a smaller lapel pin for non-uniform and civilian use.

In light of October's terror attacks and

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continued threats by ISIS against those in uniform, chief Rick Hanson is asking officers whose dress uniforms don't permit the wearing of their sidearm to instead wear their field uniforms.

"We have always had a significant presence at Remembrance Day ceremonies," he said.

"We want our officers in uniform to acknowledge the sacrifice by veterans, but also to ensure that people understand we're there to fulfil our jobs as police officers."

Concerns raised by residents, rather than acting on any specific threat, was behind the request officers show up to Remembrance Day ceremonies armed, the chief said.

Hanson said the need to acknowledge those who served is what prompted the hat badge redesign, citing the 26 Calgary police officers who fought at Vimy Ridge,

"It's important to wear a poppy, but poppies are only worn for a certain period of time," he said.

"The sacrifice that went on during First World War was over four years — the Calgary Police Service wants to acknowledge those four years of sacrifice."

(Sun Media)

Nov 07 2014

OTTAWA - An Ottawa police tactical officer is disappointed over a public letter suggesting poor leadership was to blame for a June explosion that injured five first responders.

The officer told the Sun Friday that several of his colleagues do not share the viewpoint of the scathing letter and are not happy about it.

"It's just not true," said the officer of the allegations, adding the unit "is all about supporting each other."

"It's very disappointing."

Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau echoed that sentiment Friday morning in a statement saying, he has "full confidence" in the leadership of the two officers named.

"What I can say is that as Chief of Police, I have full confidence in the leadership role that Insp. Mark Ford and Acting Staff Sgt. Marty Rukavina have with the Ottawa Police Service."

The force is "always ready to hear and deal with concerns raised by members," he added.

The chief's comments come after a letter, which claimed it was from "the constables of the Ottawa police tactical unit," implied there was a disregard for their safety that led to two police officers and three paramedics being injured during a June 18 training exercise in Kanata.

The letter alleges police and paramedics were put too close to the explosives being used and named names of those involved.

A meeting was held Thursday night with about 20 of the tactical officers and senior officials, said Bordeleau, who said "the comments neither represented their viewpoints nor did they sign the letter."

The letter was sent to SIU, Ottawa police and CBC.

Due to ongoing investigations by the SIU, Ministry of Labour and professional standards, Bordeleau said he could not comment further.

(Ottawa Sun)



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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Nov 08 2014

REGINA - Police say they're not giving up in the decade-old search for a missing Saskatchewan girl, even though a search related to a hand-drawn map posted on a social media website didn't pan out.

Tamra Keepness was five when she disappeared from her family's Regina home in July 2004.

A map surfaced earlier this week on Reddit that claimed to show where her body was located.

It suggested police check wells in the area.

A team of Regina city police officers, Mounties and three of the girl's relatives searched 15 wells in the area that were indicated on the map, plus six more.

A camera and special equipment were used to look down to the bottom of each well but nothing was found.

Police spokeswoman Elizabeth Popowich says investigators don't believe the map is authentic.

They haven't been able to find the person who posted the map online.

Nov 08 2014

HALIFAX - Police have apprehended a 22-year-old man facing charges including attempted murder who was mistakenly released from custody Friday.

They say Eliahs Knudsen Kent was taken back into custody at about 2 p.m. Saturday.

Kent was arrested following a short foot chase after being found at an address in the Spryfield area.

Kent was wrongly released from the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility while being held on remand and awaiting trial for charges including home invasion and robbery.

Correctional services say an internal investigation is underway to find out what happened.

Five people have been released from the facility by mistake since December 2007.

In all cases, the inmates were returned or turned themselves in.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2014

Nov 10 2014

MONTREAL - The city of Montreal may have to put up with its police officers wearing jeans and brightly coloured camouflaged pants as part of protests over pension reform, but it is fed up with officers not issuing enough tickets to jaywalkers, speeders and scofflaws.

The city sent a letter to the Montreal police brotherhood, telling the union it is on the

hook for \$12.8 million, the estimated value of tickets that have not been issued over the past several months.

The city notified La Fraternité des policiers et policières that it will file a grievance with the Quebec Labour Relations Board. It wants the tribunal to order the union to tell its members to issue tickets at the normal rate.

Brotherhood spokesperson Martin Desrochers denied that the union has told police officers to cut down on the number of tickets they issue. He said the union would contest the grievance vigorously.

"We never gave an order to reduce the number of tickets," Desrochers told The Montreal Gazette on Monday. "In fact, we did the opposite. We reminded them they should work as normally as possible."

In September, the city filed a complaint with the Quebec Labour Relations Board seeking to have police officers resume the normal amount of ticketing and alleged the slowdown was a pressure tactic to protest against proposed changes to their pension plans. But an agreement was reached between both sides during a conciliation hearing so the labour relations board wasn't required to issue a ruling.

However, seven weeks after the agreement, the city says the situation hasn't changed and the number of tickets issued continues to drop. The city says it hasn't seen a significant reduction in number of tickets issued between Sept. 22 and Nov. 2.

(Montreal Gazette)

Nov 10 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police have partnered up with the Missing Children

Society of Canada to launch a new digital child abduction tool as part of its rapid response network.

In collaboration with Blackberry, the public can now download a BBM Channel app which allows user to get instant information once a child has been reported missing or abducted.

The new tool will work alongside Missing Children Society of Canada's Milk Carton 2.0" program.

The website, which started operation in 2012, enlists the help of the public to donate their Facebook and Twitter newsfeeds, as well as Foursquare accounts, in order for police to notify them if a child is missing or abducted.

Milk Carton 2.0 was inspired by the U.S. campaign in the mid-1980s to have photographs of missing children on milk cartons across the country.

Every second counts when a child goes missing, said Toronto police Chief Bill Blair in a media release. By embracing these new technological advances we are expanding our search capacity significantly.

The Missing Children Society of Canada says up to 50,000 children are reported missing in Canada every year.

The BBM app is available for both Android and iPhone devices.

(Global News)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Nov 11 2014

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service has apologized for a security breach that saw personal information of some staff and volunteers sent to a man in the United States.

David Henderson, a former CBS News correspondent who now works as a crisis and strategic communications advisor, says he's been getting the emails even though he has no connection to Edmonton.

Henderson says he's received emails from the EPS Victim Services Unit containing personal information of some staff and volunteers for several months and he's been trying to get them to stop.

EPS says it's thanking Henderson for bringing up the issue and says they're looking into it.

EPS says it appears that when a staff member went to email a volunteer with a similar name, the computer autofilled the address to Henderson's contact information.

It says Henderson's contact information was removed from the account after he initially contacted EPS, but the computer still autocorrected to his email address so he was sent some information again.

Officials say the emails were found to contain on-call crisis response shifts and contact information for staff and volunteers with the specialized unit.

They will continue to investigate the situation.

(CTV Edmonton)

Nov 11 2014

VANCOUVER - Canada's attorney general is suing a transport truck driver involved in a crash that killed a Surrey, B.C. Mountie who was working in the line of the duty.



Const. Adrian Oliver died in November 2012 when his unmarked police cruiser slammed into a semi-tractor at an intersection in the city southeast of Vancouver.

The civil suit filed in B.C. Supreme Court claims driver Harjit Lotay made a negligent driving move that caused his vehicle to cross directly into the path of the oncoming RCMP vehicle.

RCMP said at the time the 28-year-old officer was attempting to locate a stolen pickup just before the early-morning crash and did not have his emergency lights on.

The suit seeks special damages from Lotay and his employer Heaven Transport for loss



of the police car, as well as expenses relating to fitting up a replacement vehicle for policing purposes.

Allegations include that Lotay drove without due care, failed to yield the right of way to the RCMP vehicle and was driving while in some way impaired, but no claims have been proven in court.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Nov 12 2014

TORONTO - A former Toronto police officer has pleaded guilty to a number of charges related to child pornography.



Dariusz Kisielewski is expected to be sentenced in Brampton on Nov. 25.

He originally faced 36 charges but pleaded guilty to eight, including four counts of making child pornography.

He resigned from his post as a Toronto police officer in March.

Police say none of the allegations made against Kisielewski were related to his work or committed on work time.

(CFRB)

Nov 12 2014

ST. PAUL, Alta. - RCMP are thanking a 75-year-old man who helped an officer after he was attacked during a traffic stop near St. Paul, Alta., last weekend.

Marshall Dulaba says when he saw a man staggering toward his home, he was covered in so much snow you couldn't see his uniform underneath.

The constable had been punched in the head and dragged behind his vehicle after pulling over a suspect in a domestic incident on the Whitefish Lake First Nation.

Dulaba says at first he thought the man was drunk, but when he opened the door he saw blood running down the officer's forehead.

The constable asked to use the senior's phone and called for help.

Dulaba says because the officer couldn't seem to remember what had happened, he became concerned the man might have a concussion so he kept the officer talking.

"We start talking about him and his family," says Dulaba. "He told me his dad was 76, you know. They are from Quebec."

Dulaba says RCMP officers arrived within minutes and asked if the injured officer could stay until an ambulance arrived.

"I kept talking to him as much as I could. And then he kept answering sensibly but he asked me at least four times, 'How long have I been here?' So I knew that he wasn't right."

Dulaba says the ambulance arrived about 45 minutes later. The officer was taken to the St. Paul hospital, treated and released later Saturday night.

He is now back at work on light duties, which means he is not being dispatched to calls in the community.

Const. Allan Watt is commending Dulaba and other community members for helping the officer and assisting RCMP in finding a suspect within about 90 minutes of the attack.

Dominic Timothy Jackson faces seven charges including assault on a police officer causing bodily harm and attempting to disarm a police officer.

"The apprehension of this individual would not have been possible in such a short amount of time without the help of several community members who came to his assistance, including the man who let the officer into his house," Watt said.

Dulaba smiles when asked how he feels about being considered a Good Samaritan.

"Well, I always try to be. Never was in trouble with the law yet for 75 years!"

(Global Edmonton)

Nov 12 2014

REGINA - The Saskatchewan government is spending \$200,000 to keep the doors open at a residence for drug-addicted women in trouble with the law.

Kate's Place in Regina is an alternative to jail for women who are in treatment while serving community sentences for drug convictions.

Funding for the two-year federal pilot

project wasn't renewed last spring.

The province offered transitional financing to keep the residence open through the summer and fall, but it faced closure this month.

Kate's Place was started by the Salvation Army in 2012.

Justice Minister Gordon Wyant says keeping the facility open is beneficial for everyone in the community.

(CKRM, The Canadian Press)

Nov 12 2014

OTTAWA - Inflight undercover RCMP officers who guard commercial airliners are watching for a new threat: extremist Canadians travelling to and from foreign conflicts.

The concern is the unpredictable nature of so-called "high-risk travellers (HRTs)" and the potential of an attack. Martin Couture Rouleau, who used his car to run down and kill Canadian Forces Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent Oct. 20, was considered an "HRT" suspect. RCMP had arrested him when he tried to fly to Turkey and seized his passport. He was one of 93 individuals under active RCMP surveillance.

"HRTs are part of our daily job," RCMP Supt. Serge Lalonde, in charge of the Canadian Air Carrier Protective Program, said Wednesday. "As part of our behavioural observation analysis training, we've told them to pay particular attention to (watching for) them."

"We don't know their state of mind, the last two weeks gave us an example of people who become radical. The fact that they act as lone wolves, there's no control over that and it wasn't predicted. So we have to be ready for those types of events."

The air carrier protection program was established in 2002 to prevent a repeat of the Sept. 11, 2001, airline hijackings in the United States. It places covert, armed Mounties, known as inflight security officers, aboard select Canadian commercial flights around the world.

As the last line of defence at 30,000 feet, they're experts in marksmanship, close-quarters combat, hostage negotiation, bomb disposal, behavioural observation analysis and more.

A steady daily flow of intelligence reporting by Canadian and allied agencies helps determine their flight deployments. The officers, whose U.S. federal counterparts are known as air marshals, follow targets around the globe, mostly potential terrorists suspected as dangers to aviation.

(Ottawa Citizen)

Nov 12 2014

HAMILTON - RCMP officers are still dismantling a drug lab found in a Hamilton home that was so large it will take several days to remove.

The “factory-sized” lab in a three-storey brick house was full of dozens of burners, beakers and buckets of toxic and dangerous chemicals used to make drugs.

“This is amongst the biggest labs that we’ve come across,” said Sgt. Brent Hill of the RCMP’s Chemical Diversion Unit. “This is top shelf – it’s a large, sophisticated, factory-sized operation.”

The RCMP first executed a search warrant in the house Monday, removing supplies and chemicals. Officers wearing protective gear carefully started taking the place apart, piece-by-piece.

Police say nobody lived in the home. Instead, it was outfitted from top to bottom as a drug factory – likely for the production of crystal meth and MDMA.

“From the basement, to the main floor, up to the second floor right into the attic – the entire place has been retrofitted for the purpose of production of illicit drugs,” Hill said.

Police say the house wasn’t well ventilated and the chemicals being used were explosive.

Investigators aren’t releasing many details, but say they were watching the house for some time before the raid. The RCMP says the lab was worth over \$1 million.

One man was arrested at the scene. No information about him or the charges he is facing have been released as of Wednesday morning.

The lab is so large that removing it is going to take some time. Investigators worked all Tuesday collecting evidence and removing hazardous chemicals from the home, and they say they could still be on site as late as Thursday.

(CBC News)

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2014**

Nov 13 2014

HALIFAX - A Halifax Regional Police officer is recovering after he was injured while attempting to arrest a man Wednesday morning.

Police say an officer on beat patrol spotted an unattended vehicle parked in a bus stop around 10:40 a.m.

As the officer was writing a parking ticket,

the owner of the vehicle exited a nearby building and became irate. Police say the man started yelling and refused to cooperate and the officer radioed for backup.

Several officers responded to the scene but the man still refused to cooperate and was advised he would be arrested for causing a disturbance.

Police say he resisted the officers’ attempts to arrest him and a 37-year-old officer sustained a broken forearm in the struggle.

He was taken to hospital for treatment. He has since been released from hospital and is recovering at home.

A 37-year-old Halifax man faces charges of resisting arrest and causing a disturbance.



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