

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | March 20, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 12

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OTTAWA - The Oct. 22 shootings on Parliament Hill jammed Ottawa's cellular and internet networks at a time when the federal government was switching from landlines to cheaper cellphone service.

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EDMONTON - An innovative centre that helps find justice for abused children is seeking to raise \$1 million, in hopes of expanding in order to deal with an ever-increasing caseload.

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## BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Insanity defence hardly a handy way to escape justice



Mar 19 2015

**TORONTO - The notion that cold-blooded killers and violent offenders take advantage feign psychiatric illness to win a verdict of not criminally responsible and avoid punishment is a myth, a new study finds.**

Only a tiny fraction - less than 0.2 per cent of criminal cases in a given year - will receive a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, the study published Thursday by the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry concludes.

"(Such) cases can conjure thoughts of violent offenders faking a mental illness to avoid prison time, shortened hospital stays

with early release into the community accompanied by fears the individual will reoffend," the article states.

However, data from the national trajectory project, which tracked 1,800 not-criminally responsible men and woman from May 2000 to April 2005 in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia, paints a much different picture.

About half of the cases involve minor assaults, property offences or other non-violent crimes, the study finds.

Repeat offences - especially involving severe violence - are extremely rare and overall recidivism is lower than that of the general prison population. In fact, people



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who had committed severe violent index offences were less likely to reoffend than those who had committed less severe offences.

The study found only 13 cases of severe violent reoffences.

Overall, according to the study, 17 per cent of NCR cases reoffended after three years of follow-up, roughly half the rate estimated for the general prison population. Re-offence rates are much higher, about 70 per cent, for mentally ill inmates in the general prison population.

The study also found about three in four NCR patients had been in hospital at least once for a mental-health condition - most commonly for a psychotic disorder compounded by substance abuse.

"This suggests that violence risk-assessment training and interventions to reduce further mental-health deterioration and criminal offending are a priority in civil psychiatric services," says study co-author, Anne Crocker, of McGill University.

In other findings:

- About three in four were on government assistance at the time of the offence;
- One in 10 was homeless;
- About half the NCR population had no prior major criminal convictions;
- Most victims are family members rather than headline-grabbing crimes against strangers.

"This emphasizes the importance of supporting family members...as both potential helpers and potential victims," the study states.

The findings also appear at odds with Bill C-14, a new federal government law that transferred responsibility for violent NCR offenders from review boards to the courts.

The ongoing national trajectory project also involves researchers from Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre and the University of British Columbia.

## THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2015

Mar 12 2015

### **A York Regional Police sergeant is among the five men arrested after a Peel police extortion plot investigation.**

Peel police began an investigation in February after Brampton real-estate salesman Dale Mundi told police that "false information that was detrimental to his personal and professional reputation" was being spread online. Mundi said he had been asked for "a large sum of money" to have the information taken down.

After investigating, police executed a search warrant at a house in Caledon and seized a number of loaded and insecure guns.

Brampton men Inderjit "Vick" Bains, 46, Zorawar Mahal, 25, Surjit Brar, 46, and Gurdeep Panaich, 39, are all facing criminal charges including extortion, criminal harassment and obstruct justice.

Caledon man Rajkanwar Mangat, 39, is facing two counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, four counts of unauthorized possession of a prohibited device or ammunition, two counts of careless storage of a firearm, four counts of breaching firearms regulations and two counts of possession of a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm.

All five are expected to appear in court on April 2.

York Regional Police, who spell Panaich's first name "Gurdip," confirmed that Panaich is a sergeant for the service and that he has been suspended. He joined the force in 2001 as a uniformed patrol officer before being assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit, the Mental Health Support Team and the Major Case Management Unit and was most recently stationed in Markham.

Panaich has won awards for his work, including one for an investigation into a forged passport lab and a Chief of Police Award for supporting of a wounded American officer. In 2013, York Regional Police awarded him an Excellence in Policing Award. (Toronto Star)

Mar 12 2015

### **EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer with more than 20 years of service has been suspended without pay for forgetting to lay charges in a historical sex assault case.**

Police began a sexual assault investigation in September 1998 following a referral from Alberta Social Services. A woman told her mother she had been molested by her father from aged five to eight years old. In April 1999, a detective concluded the investigation with no charges.

Ten years later, Edmonton city police Det. Richard Dahl with the child protection section further investigated the case, and in 2011 the Crown prosecutors office recommended the father should be charged.

Dahl was instructed to notify the Crown's office once the charges were laid. Two years later, however, he attended the Crown's office without notice, stating the charges had yet to be laid.

According to a statement of facts from the city police disciplinary hearing decision, Dahl was apologetic to the Crown and took 100 per cent responsibility for his error, but had no explanation as to why charges had not been laid.

In March 2014, Dahl submitted an involuntary statement to investigators, stating he was heavily involved with numerous other files at the time he was supposed to lay the charges, and set it aside to come back to it a short time later. The file was forgotten altogether due to personal problems Dahl was having at home. He wasn't reminded of it until February 2013 when a woman's sexual assault centre contacted him on behalf of the victim.

Still, immediate action was not taken, with another five to six months passing by. The father was finally charged in November 2013.

Dahl pleaded guilty to one count of misconduct under the Police Act and was suspended without pay for 80 hours. Prior to the incident, he had an unblemished policing career. (Edmonton Sun)

Mar 12 2015

### **ABBOTSFORD - Deputy Chief Rick Lucy has announced his retirement from the Abbotsford Police Department (APD) after 33 years.**



Lucy began his policing career with the APD in 1982 and held a variety of assignments within the organization, including seven years with the tactical team and as a critical incident commander and officer in charge of the emergency response team.

Lucy is looking forward to new challenges as the adviser on policing and public safety with the City of Windhoek, Windhoek City Police (WCP) and Namibian Police.

The APD and WCP have engaged in many exchanges that have created close ties between the Canadian and Namibian cities and police departments.

APD spokesman Const. Ian MacDonald said that over the course of his career, Lucy has embodied both community and police leadership.

"He has been a coach, a neighbour, a friend, a colleague and a Deputy Chief of Police simultaneously. He will be missed by all of us at the APD," MacDonald said. (Abbotsford News)

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Mar 12 2015

**A truck stuffed with 17 people was pulled over by Saskatchewan RCMP this week.**

An officer travelling northbound on Highway 2, about seven kilometres north of Prince Albert, spotted the newer-model pickup truck speeding southbound at 136 km/h just after 3 p.m. Tuesday.

RCMP said in a media release the officer initiated a traffic stop and the truck pulled to the side of the highway.

Three kids were in the truck's box and 14 people — three adults and 11 children — were packed inside the main cab.

The children ranged in age from 10 months to 15 years old, police said.

Three taxis and one tow truck were required to transport the occupants.

The truck was impounded for 30 days and charges are pending, RCMP said.

(CTV Saskatoon)



Mar 13 2015

**TORONTO - An allegedly defective guardrail widely used across Canada and the United States has passed a series of crash tests.**

U.S. authorities say the ET Plus, which is subject of a \$500-million proposed Canadian class-action lawsuit, meets applicable crash criteria.

The tests were ordered after an American jury found Texas-based Trinity Industries guilty last year of fraud in a civil action.

Trinity modified the guardrail unit about 10 years ago without notifying appropriate authorities.

Critics say the altered ET Plus end unit can end up impaling occupants of a vehicle rather than protecting them.

Many states and provinces have stopped using them pending the outcome of all the testing and analysis.

Mar 13 2015

**MONTREAL - A pig's head found outside the office of the federation that represents Montreal police officers could be linked to a weekend protest against perceived police brutality, authorities said Friday.**

Cmdr. Ian Lafreniere noted that incidents often occur in the days preceding and following the oft-violent annual March 15 protest.

"We're talking about vehicles that were burned (and) damages to vehicles and property of the Montreal police," he said in an interview.

He added that several symbols were found along with the pig's head.

"It looked like people who were looking for publicity - and it did work, in fact," Lafreniere said.

The macabre discovery was made by an employee who was arriving for work Friday

morning.

The head was placed on top of a pentagram that was scrawled on the ground.

Several wooden branches in the shape of what appeared to a human form were also attached to the main doors.

Lafreniere said the note mentioned people who were missing.

Police investigators hope video surveillance will help them find the person behind the incident.

Mar 13 2015

**WINNIPEG - Two men are in jail and one suspect remains at large following a major weapons and drug-trafficking investigation that targeted organized crime in Winnipeg.**

Members of the Winnipeg Police Service and the RCMP assisted in the seven-month-long investigation known as Project DARE.

RCMP Supt. Len Delpino says the seizure of large quantities of drugs and guns has dealt the alleged crime ring a major blow.

The drugs seized include cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy and marijuana.

Six guns were also found, including three handguns and an assault rifle.

About \$100,000 in cash and a 2006 Lexus were also recovered.

Police searched two houses in Winnipeg on Thursday. One suspect was arrested at Stony Mountain Institution.

Zack Rorie Zarichney and Chris Steven Karalash, both 23, face numerous drug and weapons charges.

Police are still looking for 32-year-old Suong Gueck Khau.

(CJOB, CTV Winnipeg)

Mar 13 2015

**VICTORIA - A police complaint adjudicator has ruled against a Vancouver police officer who was accused of corrupt practice and improper disclosure of information.**

Adjudicator Wally Oppal says Const. Stephen Todd of the Vancouver police wrongfully accessed a database and then disclosed information to his cousin, who was the subject of a homicide investigation.

The allegations arose after the 2001 death in Oak Bay, B.C., of Owen Padmore and the subsequent police investigation.

But Oppal says allegations of deceit, discreditable conduct and neglect of duty were not proven.

In fact, he lambastes police officers who interviewed Todd in March 2011, calling their conduct and use of deceptive tactics "beyond the pale."

He also says investigators "flagrantly denied" Todd's right to seek legal or union advice during questioning, and he called for lawyers to make further submissions about how to deal with that.

Mar 13 2015

**TABER, Alta. - Insp. Graham Abela is an angry man.**

Not yell, swear or spit-on-the-sidewalk angry but angry just the same over the public ridicule Taber, Alta., has been subjected to since the town of 8,104 enacted a bylaw to clamp down on bad behaviour.

The bylaw levels a \$75 fine for spitting in public and a \$150 penalty for yelling, screaming or swearing in a public place. There are also limits on noise from bars, noting the town's "quiet hours" are between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., and police are allowed to order groups of three people or more to disperse.

The mocking has included a group of guys from Edmonton who called it the "Foot-loose bylaw" and suggested a Kickstarter campaign to pay for Kevin Bacon, the star of the 1984 movie, to attend a dance party outside of town.

More serious critics suggested it could be a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

After a one-hour information session with 35 town residents Friday night, Abela told reporters he's very disappointed in the black eye that the community has been "improperly" given.

"We had a bunch of good people trying their best to make good decisions for this community," said Abela, who is operational commander of the Taber police force.

"The way the public has reacted in our community has been very positive. But external to this community - the way that others have laughed and joked and made fun of this community - it's absolutely inappropriate and it's unwarranted and that's what I'm mad at."

He said many of the aspects criticized in the bylaw were already in the books or borrowed from other communities.

He noted transit police in Calgary give out seven tickets a month for spitting with no backlash at all. And he said the rules allow officers to give tickets instead of going one level higher and clogging the town's courts with criminal charges.

"What was the catalyst that caused all this sensational nonsense?" he asked. "The first is the misdirected, self-interested, driven and misinformed so-called legal experts. The second is opinion-based, non-researched sensationalized reporting."

Abela received a positive response from the audience.

Mayor Henk De Vlioger is disappointed with the misinformation that has come out about his community.

"I think a lot of people like to see sensation these days and I think that is the big part of the problem," he said.

## SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2015

Mar 14 2015

**CALGARY - Calgary's former police chief has officially become the newest candidate for the Alberta Tories.**



Premier Jim Prentice announced in Calgary on Saturday that Rick Hanson will represent the Progressive Conservatives in the riding of Calgary-Cross.

Hanson announced last month that he was retiring after seven years as police chief. Friday was his last day with the force.

Prentice is expected to drop the writ as early as the end of this month.

Hanson joined the Calgary force in 1975 and spent virtually his entire career in the city.

Mar 14 2015

**SURREY, B.C. - A dramatic video showing police chasing a motorcyclist through a Vancouver-area mall is going viral on YouTube.**

The video shot on Feb. 20 cuts between police footage taken by a helicopter and a cruiser, as well as surveillance video from inside Guildford Town Centre in Surrey, B.C.

The motorcyclist can be seen speeding through the streets of Surrey before entering the mall, hurtling down an escalator and through a set of sliding doors, forcing people to dodge out of the way.

Helicopter video shows the motorcyclist leaving the mall and riding across a pedestrian overpass, and the video ends with a close-

up of the bike's Hells Angels stickers.

Surrey RCMP put out a news release at the time about a reckless motorcyclist who had reportedly driven through a mall, and they described him as a white male in his 40s.

Mounties say they are looking into how the video was posted on Friday to video-sharing sites LiveLeak and YouTube, where it has been viewed tens of thousands of times.

Mar 14 2015

**TORONTO - Toronto Police say they've arrested a suspect in connection with an attack on an officer in the lobby of a divisional headquarters.**

Police say on Friday afternoon a man entered the front lobby of 31 Division in the city's northwest with a hammer and a knife.

Police allege the man approached an officer and swung at her with the hammer.

The officer was able to avoid the full impact but suffered a glancing blow to the head.

The injuries to the officer are considered minor and she was treated in hospital and released along with a second officer who suffered minor injuries while trying to subdue the assailant.

The suspect, 41-year-old Norman Badria of Brampton faces charges that include attempted murder, assaulting a peace officer and a number of weapons offences.

Badria is due to appear in court on Thursday to face the allegations.

Mar 14 2015

**The town of Mercier, near Châteauguay, could face a legal battle if it goes ahead with plans to start its own police force.**

The Fédération des policiers et policières municipaux du Québec has sent a demand letter on Friday because the municipality has begun a process to start its own police force. The federation said Mercier has been acting against the law governing police protection services, and that the town is too small for its own force. Mercier Mayor Lise Michaud, however, has said her citizens have been asking for the town to have its own force.

Michaud claims she can save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars with the new force.

The town's police protection is currently provided by the city of Châteauguay's force.

(Montreal Gazette)

## MONDAY MARCH 16, 2015

Mar 16 2015

**OTTAWA - The Parole Board of Canada says it can no longer dedicate its resources to clearing a backlog of old pardon applications, leaving thousands of former offenders in legal limbo.**

The board maintains that some 5,800 remaining pardon applications received before the rules were changed in 2012 will be processed as

time and money permit - but some applicants have been told their files, and their \$150 application fee, are effectively dead.

The board says it has shuffled about \$3 million from internal savings over the past two years to help process thousands of old pardon applications related to summary offences, a backlog it says will be cleared by the end of this month.

However almost 6,000 old applications dealing with more serious indictable offences remain in the queue, and a Parole Board spokeswoman says it can no longer dedicate scarce resources to the backlog.

Mar 16 2015

**HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's police watchdog says a Halifax police officer used reasonable force in attempting to control a woman whose arm was broken as she waited for a psychiatric assessment.**

A report by the Serious Incident Response Team says the incident occurred at a Halifax hospital following an arrest in August, 2014.

The 51-year-old woman was taken into custody under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act after she was found yelling and screaming in the parking lot of a store in the Dartmouth Crossing shopping area.

Investigators say the officer stayed with the woman, who became upset while waiting for medical attention at the hospital.

The report says a hospital video surveillance camera captured the struggle as the officer attempted to control the woman by placing handcuffs on her.

The report says while force was applied, the video confirms the officer's actions were reasonable and there are no grounds to consider charges.

Mar 16 2015

**TORONTO - The Ontario Provincial Police has suspended three officers who are under investigation by the RCMP.**

The suspension follows an RCMP investigation that alleges the top leaders of the police force's union set up a sophisticated network of schemes involving secretly owned companies and offshore investments to defraud union members.

OPP Commissioner Vince Hawkes has suspended Det. Sgt. Jim Christie, Const. Martin Bain and Const. Karl Walsh indefinitely with pay pending the outcome of the investigation.

On the weekend, the Ontario Provincial Police Association dismissed Walsh, who was the chief administrative officer of the union.

The allegations against, which are not tested in court, are laid out in police documents filed with the Ontario Superior Court to obtain search warrants and production orders for a March 6 raid on union offices and other locations.

Court documents released Friday show that among the warrants' targets were the union's offices in Barrie, Ont., three vehicles registered in its name and a Toronto travel company.

The production orders sought copies and backups of union email accounts belonging to Christie, Bain and Walsh.

No charges have been laid and an RCMP spokesman said Friday the investigation is ongoing and declined to comment further.

Mar 16 2015

**The RCMP response to the fatal shooting of three Mounties last June in Moncton, N.B., cost the police force nearly \$3 million, CTV News has learned.**

An access to information request revealed the cost of the operation as of Feb. 23, 2015.

In total, 435 RCMP officers from across the country joined Moncton's Codiac detachment during the 30-hour manhunt for the shooter, Justin Bourque. Out-of-town officers also replaced Codiac members to give them time off the job in the weeks and months following Bourque's capture.

The cost of overtime pay for the officers made up the bulk of the RCMP's spending during the crisis -- nearly \$2 million.

And a sizeable portion of the funds -- almost \$1 million -- was devoted to bringing the Mounties to New Brunswick. Hospitality, other expenses and salaries were also listed by the RCMP.

The figures do not include the regular salaries of the officers.

(CTV News)

Mar 16 2015

**TORONTO - Ontario's highest court has dismissed an appeal from a man who argued his gun offence conviction was the result of racial profiling.**

Richard Steel's lawyers had argued that the judge at the man's trial had erred in failing to properly consider evidence of racial profiling in finding him guilty.

The Ontario Court of Appeal found there was no basis to interfere with the trial judge's conclusion that Steel's stop and search were not racially motivated, and also found that Steele's charter rights were not infringed.

The appeal court also found that Steele's convictions were "supported by the evidence and were not unreasonable."

An Ontario Superior Court justice convicted Steele in 2010 of concealing a loaded handgun under the front passenger seat of his mother's car after being pulled over in Hamilton, Ont.

There were four black men in the car and Steele alleged he was a victim of driving while black.

Mar 16 2015

**TORONTO - Toronto police Chief Bill Blair has been asked to conduct a review after the force released its annual "sunshine list" that shows more than half of its officers made over \$100,000 last year.**

The list, which details the earnings of police and civilian employees who made more than \$100,000 in 2014, was released on Monday.

The Toronto Police Services Board says it is the first time earnings officers receive for off-duty work have been included in their salaries.

They say that the majority of paid duty assignments are paid for by the private sector and not taxpayers, but critics claim officers often have to work overtime to cover for their colleagues who are on paid duty.

The board says it has asked Blair to provide more information on the paid duty program and expects the chief to report back in May with an action plan.

The board also wants an explanation from Blair about the "phenomenon" of the number of officers who earn more than 50 per cent of their base salary in overtime.

Last year, 4,125 employees made more than \$100,000, which includes 1,940 whose base salary is less than that threshold, but make the list with the addition of paid duty, overtime and premium pay.

Mar 16 2015

**MONTREAL - Eighteen Hells Angels biker gang members and sympathizers arrested during a massive police sweep in 2009 pleaded guilty to reduced charges today.**

They have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder resulting in the Crown staying premeditated murder charges against the accused.

Another five are expected to plead guilty



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in the coming days.

A spokesman for the Crown's office says the sentences are actually between 10 and 12 years, but most of the accused have little time left to serve on account of the time spent in detention awaiting trial.

Most have been jailed since their arrest during the SharQc operation in April 2009 and sentences doled out today range between one day and nine months.

In total, 156 people were arrested and this week's guilty pleas mean that only 27 cases are pending.

Mar 16 2015

### **Reports on more than 250 unidentified human remains are not in an RCMP-managed database created to help link the missing with the anonymous dead – a substantial gap the federal police agency refuses to acknowledge.**

In response to questions about the database gap, the RCMP said it does not confirm The Globe's figures. The police force also did not address why the discrepancy exists or whether it is concerned files are missing from the database, which is fed by reports submitted to the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) – also managed by the Mounties.

RCMP spokesman Sergeant Greg Cox said the police agency's National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR) works with primary investigators to ensure relevant information about missing persons and unidentified remains are entered into CPIC and thereby into the relevant database.

Although coroners and medical examiners are responsible for identifying the anonymous dead, it is police who have access to CPIC and upload data.

"The information contained in CPIC is added, maintained, modified and removed by each contributing police agency," Sgt. Cox said in an e-mail.

Creating the database was a key goal of NCMPUR, established in 2011. The Conservative government said the centre would be an important investigative tool for police, coroners and medical examiners. The government said it could also help address the "disturbing number" of unsolved cases of murdered and missing aboriginal women. (Globe and Mail)

Mar 16 2015

### **WINNIPEG - Justice officials have stayed charges against a Winnipeg man accused of a deadly 2011 shooting outside a hotel.**

Abdul (Ziggy) Bangura, 28, began his jury trial three weeks ago by pleading not guilty to second-degree murder and attempted murder.

On Monday, the Crown announced the charges were being stayed.

The move came after the Crown's star witness, Kevin Cook, took the stand earlier in the trial and lashed out at Winnipeg police, saying they had forced him to lie about parts of his story.

Cook told police that Bangura, his friend, confessed to him hours after Mohamed Ali Omar was killed and another man shot in the face outside the Lincoln Motor Hotel.

But on the witness stand, the 22-year-old said officers arrested him for selling stolen Winnipeg Jets tickets and made him "tell them what they wanted to hear" or they would lower the boom on him.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Mar 16 2015

### **BRUNSWICK, N.Y. - It may have been the easiest driving while intoxicated arrest ever made by the New York State Police.**

Authorities say a trooper was driving a marked patrol car Saturday night when he stopped to fill his gas tank at a convenience store in Brunswick, near Albany.

While the trooper was gassing up, state police say, a 50-year-old man from nearby Troy pulled in and parked next to the trooper's car. Police say the man got out of his vehicle and walked directly into the trooper's car.

Officials say the man showed obvious signs of intoxication and was questioned by the trooper. Police say the man failed field sobriety tests and was arrested for DWI. Trooper say his blood-alcohol content was 0.18 percent, more than twice the legal limit. (Associated Press)

Mar 16 2015

### **One of the longest serving members of the RCMP — who also happens to be one of only two livestock investigators in Alberta — is retiring.**

After serving 45 years and 192 days, Cpl. Dave Heaslip will hang up his Red Serge on April 2.

He says he was 7 years old when he decided to join the force.

A family friend who worked for the Campbell River detachment gave him an RCMP forage cap, which he wore one day while his dad was driving.

"Had this hat on, and my dad noticed there was almost 45 cars behind us going really slow. I thought, gee whiz, just putting a hat on, look at the results you get!" said Heaslip.

He's also recovered \$350,000 worth of stolen farm machinery and tracked down many cattle thieves.

As a livestock investigator, Heaslip was up at 3 a.m. on Monday helping an auction market round up three young bison who had escaped.

"If there's grass, you're going to find a snake in it," said Heaslip.

"When there's a commodity that's worth something and of course, right now they're worth a lot of money, you're going to have somebody who wants to take them away from you," he said.

Heaslip says he'll miss his colleagues — who he calls family — but is looking forward to mowing the lawn, enjoying his morning coffee and working his horse.

(CBC News)

Mar 16 2015

### **HALIFAX - A Halifax judge has ruled that a man accused of threatening police with a dangerous chemical won't be released on bail until a suitable guarantor can be found.**

Judge Alanna Murphy says the estranged wife of Christopher Phillips is not a suitable choice to provide surety for his bail.

Gosia Phillips told provincial court last week that she was offering to put up \$10,000 bail in order to have him released from custody.

She testified that even though they are separated and she has a legal agreement prohibiting him from entering her home, she was willing to act as his guarantor.

Christopher Phillips was arrested Jan. 21 at an Ottawa hotel and brought back to Halifax to face charges of uttering threats and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Police have alleged that chemicals found at a cottage and shed in the Halifax area were in various states of degradation.

**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 17, 2015**

Mar 17 2015

### **EDMONTON - A portion of West Edmonton Mall was closed to shoppers today as police investigated a suspicious package.**

Officers say they determined after an hour that a mysterious box left on a bench outside a sports store was a DVD player.

Another case of aging technology caused alarm last week in Vancouver.

Metro Vancouver's SeaBus was shut down for nearly four hours after an item was found under one of the ferry's seats.

It turned out to be a Walkman.

There were security concerns about Edmonton's mega-mall after a video was released last month from a terrorist group threatening an attack on the shopping centre and others around the world.

Police have said there is no evidence of an imminent threat and the mall is safe.

Mar 17 2015

### **CALGARY - An agency that investigates police says Calgary officers first fired a Taser at an agitated man before fatally shooting him at a motel.**

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating the incident Monday at a northeast Super 8.

It says officers found the man in medical distress in a room but a security chain was on the door and he would not let officers inside.

Officers were concerned for his well-being and broke into the room.

The agency says a confrontation followed so police fired a Taser but it had little impact on the man.

An officer then shot the 27-year-old and he died at the scene.

No officers were injured.

A statement from ASIRT said it's believed the man was from Calgary. His name

has not been released.

“ASIRT’s investigation will focus on the circumstances surrounding the confrontation that resulted in the shooting of the individual,” it said.

Mar 17 2015

**OTTAWA - The Oct. 22 shootings on Parliament Hill jammed Ottawa’s cellular and internet networks at a time when the federal government was switching from landlines to cheaper cellphone service.**

Newly disclosed documents show severe communications problems hit emergency personnel as thousands of nervous public servants tried to contact families and others when police locked down core buildings in the capital for hours.

Warning messages were issued that day by the Treasury Board, Industry Canada and Shared Services Canada, among others, as it became clear the local wireless network was clogged, potentially impeding police and others.

“Our mobile service providers are experiencing network congestion and therefore ask that you inform your employees to refrain from using their mobile devices unless for emergency situations,” said one urgent email widely distributed in the afternoon.

“We also would ask that you seek your employees’ collaboration in avoiding use of the internet and email for non-essential work.”

Another widely disseminated email from Shared Services Canada, flagged Wireless Network Congestion, said “At this time, there is no estimated time for resolution. Industry Canada strongly recommends to federal employees to avoid all non-essential wireless calls during the emergency event unfolding in Ottawa.”

The issue was significant enough that officials with Public Safety and Shared Services Canada met twice in the weeks following the shootings “to discuss the resiliency of current communications especially as it pertains to such incidents similar to Oct. 22.”

“The purpose of the discussions was to highlight how the planned transition from Centrex (landlines) to VoIP (or to mobile devices) [several words blanked out] between the federal operations centres during a crisis.”

Heavily censored documents, including an after-action analysis for the Government Operations Centre, were obtained by CBC News under the Access to Information Act.

Minutes of a Nov. 13 post-incident meeting refer repeatedly to communications overload.

“Alternate forms of communicating need to be explored, e.g., BBMs, Pop up msgs, Tele-source, etc.,” says one comment. “Text messaging caused as much saturation as voice communications.”

Shared Services Canada is currently ditching thousands of federal landlines, or Centrex lines, in favour of cellular phones and VoIP lines that rely on the internet for transmission. As of December 2014, some 11,301 cellphones had replaced desk phones, while another 37,719 landlines were converted to VoIP. Both cell service and VoIP can be

vulnerable to sudden spikes in network usage, often triggered by an emergency.

Annual savings from the migration away from landlines are expected to hit about \$29 million this year.

A spokeswoman for Shared Services Canada said the department is working with its service providers to avoid congestion problems in the future.

“Our suppliers are aware of the situation,” Stephanie Richardson said in an email.

She added that emergency officials can still use other communication methods if cell or VoIP systems become clogged.

CBC News previously reported that the Government Operations Centre issued a series of situation reports on Oct. 22 that were

out of touch with police statements. Ottawa city police told the public that no threat existed in the downtown core, for example, just as the centre issued an update saying as many as five assailants remained on the loose.

(CBC News)

Mar 17 2015

**KENTVILLE - An RCMP dog handler living in Kentville has his canine companion to thank for an early morning wakeup call that may have saved his home.**

Sgt. Rick Bushey takes his police dog, Ammo, wherever he goes. They’re pretty well together 24/7 — at work and at home. They’re a team.

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"He covers my back, I cover his back," said Bushey, who is based in Lunenburg but covers all of Nova Scotia when necessary.

No matter where Bushey is – out in the field or at home in bed – Ammo is watching out for his handler.

This came in handy when an electrical fire suddenly broke out at the Bushey home a few weeks ago. Bushey's wife heard a suspicious noise and jostled her husband awake sometime around 5:30 a.m.

"I sat up, listened and then I heard what appeared to me at the time to be someone pulling the card table or the pool table across the ceramic floor," said Bushey.

He might not have thought anything of it if the noise stopped, but then Ammo started to growl and bark.

"I knew something was wrong and I actually was thinking someone was breaking in," said Bushey.

He ran downstairs and tried to flick on the lights, but nothing happened. He grabbed a flashlight and spotted some smoke trickling out of the doors to the electrical panel box.

"When I opened up the box the fire was right there."

The couple were able to get all three of their animals, - Ammo, as well as a retired police dog now living with them as a pet and a husky - out of the house. Local firefighters quickly arrived on the scene.

On the job, Ammo specializes in finding explosives. The seven-year-old German shepherd is also used for tracking, searching and criminal apprehension.

Mar 17 2015

**Halton police announced today that after 31 years with the Halton Regional Police Service Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher will be transferring to the South Simcoe Police effective June 1.**



A press release issued by Halton police said Fletcher was leaving to take on new challenges and opportunities and would also serve as a deputy chief in Simcoe.

"Andrew has enjoyed and deserved an extremely successful career with the Halton Regional Police Service. He has had the opportunity to work, supervise, or command virtually every aspect of our police Service," said Halton Police Chief Steve Tanner.

Fletcher began his policing career with the Halton police as a cadet in 1984.

He became a constable and was promoted through the ranks to sergeant, staff sergeant and inspector, performing in a variety of patrol, investigative, support and supervisory roles prior to becoming a deputy chief on Jan. 1, 2007.

The Burlington resident's policing experience included time spent in uniform patrol, criminal investigations, drugs and intelligence, major crimes and the Tactical Rescue Unit.

He currently serves as an executive of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), where he champions the idea of community mobilization.

Fletcher is also chair of the OACP Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee.

In a press release issued on Monday by the South Simcoe Police Service Fletcher said he was honoured and humbled to be appointed to that police service.

"I look forward to building on the service's past achievements in community safety, while encouraging high standards of performance and continuous improvement to meet the demands of the future," he said.

(Burlington Police)

Mar 17 2015

**EDMONTON - An innovative centre that helps find justice for abused children is seeking to raise \$1 million, in hopes of expanding in order to deal with an ever-increasing caseload.**

The rooms in Edmonton's Zebra Child Protection Centre, filled with stuffed toys and kids' furniture, soften its real purpose. Here is where police, child protection workers and other agencies investigate allegations of child abuse and provide services to the young victims.

"The child is much more able to communicate better ... coming here and they can play and interact and just be a kid," said RCMP Const. Mara Peterson, who joined the centre in May.

The Zebra Centre, which started in 2002, is the first of its kind in Canada. It brings together different agencies to deal effectively with child abuse allegations.

Since its opening, the centre has seen a massive influx of new cases. In the past five years alone, they've seen an 85 per cent increase in new investigations.

Bob Hassel, the retired police officer who now runs the centre, said there is a desperate need for more space to handle the new cases.

"If that's the type of trending that we're doing, we're probably going to run out of space pretty quick here," he said.

Part of the money the centre is seeking would also go towards a fund to help pay for continued psychological support for victims.

Before it opened 13 years ago, the process of investigating child abuse allegations was an intimidating and traumatic experience for the victims.

Interviews would be done at a police station or RCMP detachment, usually by a uniformed police officer. Many of the people working with the children were not fully trained in how to deal with child abuse allegations, and various protection agencies didn't always communicate with one another.

"We weren't sure if we were doing it right," he said. "And that wasn't really working."

The centre's approach has paid off. Before the centre, the conviction rate for child abuse allegations hovered around 20 per cent.

Now, that rate had more than tripled.

More importantly, Hassel points out that the majority of those convictions come from guilty pleas, which eliminates the risk of re-traumatizing the child during a trial.

He wants to provide more service to children, especially those outside of Alberta's major centres. But to do that, they'll need more room.

"Edmonton police service or the Edmonton area children and family services, they would love to give us [more] people. but we just don't have anywhere to put them right now."

(CBC News)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**MARCH 18, 2015**

Mar 18 2015

**METRO VANCOUVER - B.C.'s anti-gang police unit says it has busted a major drug pipeline in connection with a Chilliwack-based crime group.**

The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit says its seven-months long investigation hauled in a massive quantity of narcotics connected with the illegal drug trade in the province's central and northern regions.

Police say they seized cocaine, crystal meth and fentanyl worth millions of dollars.

Earlier this month, police in Vancouver launched a campaign to warn drug users about fentanyl, a synthetic narcotic up to 100 times more powerful than morphine that's frequently mixed with street drugs.

Fentanyl was linked to a quarter of the province's illicit drug overdose deaths last year, most often because casual drug users didn't know they were taking it.

Vancouver police said they now find fentanyl in almost every street drug.

Mar 18 2015

**EDMONTON - RCMP and health officials are raising the alarm about a painkilling drug linked to more than 100 deaths last year in Alberta.**

Illegally made fentanyl can be many times more powerful than morphine and can be mixed into other street drugs and sold to unsuspecting buyers.

Police say they have been seizing record amounts of fentanyl in communities across the province, including more than 88,000 tablets since last April.

RCMP Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan says organized crime is a driving force behind the making and marketing of the drug known as "greenies."

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse said last month that it has been receiving reports across the country of fatal and non-fatal overdoses linked to non-pharmaceutical fentanyl.

Earlier this month the British Columbia Coroners Service said fentanyl was detected in about a quarter of 330 overdose deaths last year, compared with five per cent in 2012.



Mar 18 2015

**SASKATOON - Saskatoon police officers are involved in more car chases than ever, but new data shows most police pursuits are aborted before anyone is caught.**

In 2014, officers were involved in 61 vehicle pursuits, compared to 49 in 2013, and 38 were aborted before the suspect was arrested, according to new data released by the police force.

The number of chases police are involved in has more than doubled compared to 2012; while no one was hurt, the chases continue to leave a trail of destruction.

Last year, 19 vehicles were damaged during pursuits, including three police vehicles.

Deputy Chief Mark Chatterbok said while the majority of chases were called off because of public safety concerns, the force is reviewing its policy and hopes to make changes to the way pursuits are conducted.

Last year, 13 officers were "counselled regarding minor policy violations," according to a new report.

The most recent data shows that the majority of the police pursuits - 31 in total - involved stolen vehicles.

The police chase data also shows that many of the people involved in chases are young offenders. Officers caught 11 young offenders during police chases in 2014. Chatterbok said given the fact that not everyone was caught, more young people were likely involved.

(Star Phoenix)

Mar 18 2015

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Suggestions that Canada is on the road to an American-style system of gun ownership or that the Conservative government condones vigilante justice are absurd, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Wednesday.**

Speaking at a campaign-style event, Harper said Canadians across the country have owned guns for years for security and other purposes without resorting to vigilantism.

"That's just not the reality of this situation," the prime minister said at a factory just west of Toronto.

"Gun owners in Canada are not allowed to take the law into their own hands. Nobody here is suggesting they should be able to do that."

The prime minister's comments came after Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair and other critics pounced on remarks he made recently in Saskatchewan in which he talked about gun ownership in rural areas.

People who don't live close to police stations or immediate assistance from officers keep guns for a "certain level of security," Harper said.

Mar 18 2015

**WINDSOR - A suspended Windsor police officer is facing a dozen charges under the Police Act.**

David Bshouty is facing 12 charges relating to four separate cases. The charges range

from discreditable conduct to deceit and insubordination.

The charges under the Police Act were made public in a teleconference in Windsor Wednesday morning and include:

six discreditable conduct charges three neglect of duty charges one corrupt practice charge one insubordination charge one deceit charge

The suspended constable is also facing a drug possession charge dating back to April 2014.

In that same month, Bshouty was arrested for drug possession in the US when he was allegedly caught smuggling cocaine across the border from Windsor to Detroit.

That charge was later dropped in June of last year.

Bshouty was charged with drug trafficking

earlier this month in an unrelated incident. An inspector with the Windsor Police Professional Standards branch said more Police Act charges could come as a result.

Bshouty has been a member of the Windsor Police Service since 2009.

(CBC News)

Mar 18 2015

**TORONTO - Toronto Police Chief William Blair and President Jennifer Evans of Peel Regional Police said in an interview the police are powerless online.**

Blair said crime that happens online does not happen in environments the police can patrol. The police need the public's help so that they can be given a chance to step in.



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**Active Shooter Intervention**

Presenter: Nir Maman  
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Presenter: Phil Devine  
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**Dealing with Deception**

Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne Vanderlaan (ret) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret)  
Cost: \$100



Day 2: April 29th, 9am – 4pm  
**The Engaged & Healthy Workforce**

Presenter: Commissioner Chris Lewis (ret)  
Cost: \$150

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“We need them to be willing to come forward to report to city authorities,” Blair said. “Not only to protect them, but to protect every other citizen who could be a victim of the crime on the Internet.”

The President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Jennifer Evans, also suggested that people have to be so vigilant in not giving out personal identification to anyone online.

“Often people get emails and respond to emails and they provide information that they should never provide.” Evans said in an interview.

Blair said that individuals need to be well informed on how to keep themselves safe in an Internet environment. The police recognize that it’s critical to prevent crime, which is why they have gathered their partners from across the province and the country to promote community safety at this event.

“The fewer number of victims, the safer our communities are,” Chief Blair said. “That’s how we should measure our success.” (Toronto Observer)



Mar 19 2015

**Superintendent Kevin Thaler has been named the new deputy chief of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.**



He is taking over from deputy chief Stephen Beckett, who is retiring after 35 years of service.

Thaler joined the WRPS in 1988 as a cadet, and became a front-line patrol officer in 1990.

He will take on his new role starting April 1. (CBC News)

Mar 19 2015

**TORONTO - A Toronto jury has decided the fate of one of two men accused in an alleged terror plot to derail a passenger train, but will continue deliberating today on some of the charges against his co-accused.**

The 12-member panel didn’t reveal yesterday which of the two men they were disagreeing on, nor did they hint at which of the nine terror-related charges was causing their deadlock.

Raed Jaser and Chiheb Esseghaier were arrested in 2013 following an extensive investigation into the alleged plot to kill scores of people by derailing a train travelling between Canada and the U.S.

Both men are charged with two counts

of conspiracy and two counts of participating in or contributing to a terrorist group. Esseghaier is also facing a fifth terror-related charge.

Justice Michael Code, who has been presiding over the trial, asked jurors yesterday to continue their deliberations and attempt to reach a unanimous decision on all charges in the case.

The panel said it had found unanimous verdicts for one accused on each count he faced, but had only agreed on verdicts for two counts faced by the other accused.

“On the remaining counts we are unable to reach an agreement,” the jury wrote. “There seems to be no path to consensus.”

Mar 19 2015

**TORONTO - The Toronto Police Services Board and the union representing its members have reached a tentative deal on a new contract for officers.**

Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack says the deal was reached in the early morning hours Thursday after a marathon session that spilled over from Wednesday.

“We’re supporting this deal and we think it’s a fair deal for the members and a fair deal for the city,” McCormack told the Star.

The details of the deal are secret, with a blackout in effect until the TPA’s members can ratify the contract.

McCormack said he expects that will happen within the next week.

Though outgoing Chief Bill Blair presented what he called a zero increase budget to the city — who just finalized each line item at a meeting last month — it was expected the union would be asking for salary increases. With the majority of the police budget spent on salary, it’s anticipated that budget will now increase with the new deal. By just how much is still unclear.

Police board chair Alok Mukherjee said he wanted to wait until the deal was ratified to say whether he thought it was fair for taxpayers.

“If you want to know, am I personally happy? Yes, I’m personally happy,” Mukherjee said, remarking that “all negotiations are tough.”

He acknowledged that the public is ready to see a change in police spending, but said he will wait until ratification to comment further.

McCormack, who would not discuss the content of the tentative contract, said their bargaining team would not be taking the arrangement to its members if it wasn’t a deal they could accept.

“We support the deal,” he said.

Blair refused to comment on the agreement.

“Of course I have some thoughts, but quite frankly it’s a matter between the board and the association and I don’t think its appropriate to comment until they have concluded their business,” he said. “I want the matter resolved, because we’ve got work to do.” (Toronto Star)

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