

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | March 27, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 13

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Officer convicted of perjury

Mar 20 2015

**VANCOUVER** - A former Mountie who was involved in Robert Dziekanski's death and was later held up by the force as an example of a bad apple within its ranks was convicted Friday of perjury for his testimony at a public inquiry.



Former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson was charged along with three other officers for their testimony at hearings that examined what happened when Dziekanski was stunned with a Taser at Vancouver's airport and died in October 2007.

He is the second of the officers to be convicted of perjury. One officer was acquitted and another is awaiting a verdict.

While each officer faced the same charge, Robinson's case had the most notoriety. He was the senior officer on the scene at the airport and was later convicted of obstruction of justice in an unrelated case involving a fatal vehicle accident.

The four officers were summoned to Vancouver's airport in the early morning of Oct. 14, 2007, after Dziekanski, a Polish immigrant who spoke no English, started throwing furniture in the international terminal. Within seconds of the officers' arrival, one of them stunned Dziekanski repeatedly with a Taser.

The Crown alleged the four officers colluded on a story to tell homicide investigators and then lied again at the public inquiry.

B.C. Supreme Court Judge Nathan Smith said the officers all made similar mistakes when their statements are compared with the video, notably their incorrect assertion that Dziekanski had to be wrestled to the ground.

Smith said Robinson had a motive to lie and must have known what he told homicide investigators was incorrect.

"I simply do not believe that a police officer of his experience could make such a crucial mistake in these circumstances," Smith said as Robinson listened from the prisoner's dock.

"I agree with the Crown that he had a direct motive to exaggerate the threat posed by Mr. Dziekanski and to justify the response to

that threat."

Smith said it's clear the officers talked about what happened before speaking to homicide investigators, which Robinson denied while on the stand at the inquiry.

Much of the Crown's case was circumstantial.

Prosecutors argued the officers' statements and notes all contained similar errors when compared with an amateur

video of the confrontation, proving they worked together. The Crown did not produce any evidence that the officers actually collaborated on the night of Dziekanski's death, such as a witness who might have seen them huddled together at the airport.

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The Crown further alleged the officers met in the Vancouver area in the days or weeks before testifying at the inquiry in early 2009 to plan their testimony. A witness, whose ex-husband is Bentley's cousin, told the court the officers met at her home, but the defence presented telephone records, credit card receipts and other evidence to cast doubt on her testimony.

The Crown has not explained how the public should reconcile the differing verdicts, especially since prosecutors' theory was that all four officers worked together to tell the same lies.

Robinson, who is in his mid-40s, left the RCMP in 2012.

Earlier that year, he was convicted of obstruction of justice in an unrelated case.

Robinson was behind the wheel in October 2008 when his vehicle struck and killed a 21-year-old motorcyclist in Delta, south of Vancouver. He told his trial that immediately after the crash he went home and drank two shots of vodka to "calm his nerves."

A judge concluded Robinson had used his RCMP training in an attempt to fend off accusations of impaired driving. He was given a conditional sentence of 12 months.

Around the time of Robinson's obstruction conviction, the RCMP's top officer in B.C., Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens, held up the case as an example of the challenges facing the force when it wants to deal with problem officers. Callens said he was "outraged" with Robinson's conviction and said it demonstrated the need to change the law that governs how Mounties can be disciplined or fired.

Cst. Bill Bentley was acquitted of the perjury charge in 2013, though the Crown is appealing the verdict. Cst. Kwesi Millington was convicted last month and is awaiting a sentencing hearing. Cst. Gerry Rundel's trial has finished and he is waiting for a verdict.

## THURSDAY MARCH 19, 2015

Mar 19 2015

### ESSEX, Ont. - Ontario Provincial Police say a 55-year-old man has been charged after reporting himself for impaired driving.

Police say they got a call from a driver on Tuesday morning who told the dispatcher he was too drunk to drive.

OPP say the man told the dispatcher that he'd pulled onto the shoulder of Highway 3 in southwestern Ontario and would leave his four-way flashers on.

Police located the vehicle a short time later and discovered the driver still on the phone with OPP dispatch.

Officers allege an open liquor bottle was found in the vehicle.

The man is charged with impaired care and control of a motor vehicle and is to appear in court next month in Windsor, Ont.

Mar 19 2015

### TERRACE - Police officers, City of Terrace officials and family and friends came together to honour a police officer killed 30 years ago today.



A large plaque with a photo and writeup about Cst. Mike Buday was unveiled at a ceremony at the newly-named Constable Michael Buday Park.

Buday, 27 at the time of his death, was shot on the shores of Teslin Lake by Michael Oros, a 33-year-old recluse who lived alone in the bush.

Oros was being sought for a number of crimes, including break and enter and Buday was part of a RCMP emergency response team sent up to find him.

Oros was himself then shot and killed by another member of the RCMP team.

Buday's two brothers and sister were at the dedication as were RCMP officers who trained with him.

"We're delighted you're honouring our brother," said Bob Buday, adding it gave the family peace and comfort.

He added that he was pleased that this park was chosen to be named after his brother, who used to run with his dog there.

(Terrace Standard)

## FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2015



Mar 20 2015

### A snapshot of a lone Mountie, donned in his full red serge, playing shinny on a frozen glacial lake in B.C.'s Purcell mountain range is being called the "most Canadian picture ever."

RCMP Cpl. Shaun Begg, the central figure in the image, isn't in a hurry to disagree with the assessment.

The photo, which has been shared thousands of times on social media after the B.C. RCMP tweeted it out Friday, was taken by old-timers hockey teammate Rick Wiltse Wednesday on Shamrock Lake, 2,500 metres up Mount Hammond, near Invermere.

"I had no idea the photo would go viral like this. It was supposed to be something just for myself," said Begg, RCMP detachment commander in the West Kootenay village of Kaslo. "It's a proud Mountie and proud Canadian playing hockey 9,000 feet up on a glacier-fed lake. I can't see anything more Canadian than that ... unless I was chugging a bottle of maple syrup."

It was the road trip (air trip?) of a lifetime for Begg and his teammates on the Kaslo Afterburners old-timers club.

Afterburners teammate Eric Matthews, a pilot for Coldstream Helicopters, flew the team up on Wednesday.

The past few weeks, Matthews has been busy transporting film crews up the mountain to shoot Molson beer commercials.

"When we landed ... it was like something out of a movie," said Begg, who received permission from his supervisors to don the serge on his day off on the mountain.

He only planned on wearing the uniform for a photo for his office or a Christmas card.

"The guys told me I had to do a couple of shifts in the serge," said Begg, who reports that playing hockey in it was actually quite uncomfortable. "I had to play without the cross strap."

Despite being constrained in his regimental tunic, Begg still had game.

"I scored on our goalie Mike Guttensohn. Now, he'll say he let me score, but I actually scored."

(Vancouver Sun)

**BLUE LINE NEWS WEEK** Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913  
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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Mar 20 2015

**TORONTO - A judge has ordered an Ontario police force to pay \$345,000 to a woman who was found to have been repeatedly harassed after an officer released her identity as a confidential informant.**

The civil case, which began almost 13 years ago, pitted a former resident of Whitby, Ont., against the Durham Region Police Service.

Ontario Superior Court justice Douglas Gray found that an officer with the force, James Liepsig, promised Margaret Stack her identity would not be disclosed if she came to a police station and provided information about suspected criminal activity.

“He did not qualify that promise in any way. Thus, both expressly and by implication Ms. Stack became entitled to informer privilege, that is, she was entitled to have her anonymity preserved,” Gray wrote in his decision.

But Stack’s identity was not kept confidential, Gray found, and was in fact revealed to the family that was the subject of her tip, triggering weeks of harassment.

“The effect on Ms. Stack has been severe. Her life has been irretrievably altered,” Gray wrote. “On a balance of probabilities, I am satisfied ... that it is unlikely that she will ever be the same as she was before these incidents.”

Stack’s lawyer said Gray’s decision was thought to be the first civil case in which the court condemned police for not protecting an informant and found a force liable for the harm that ensued.

“The case is important because it does show that the courts will protect individuals that are given promises by the police in the course of doing their public duties such as providing information,” said Margaret Hoy.

“Central to the justice system is people assisting police by providing information, because without them we would not have information to investigate and prosecute crimes.”

A spokesman for Durham police said a notice of appeal has been filed as a result of the decision.

Mar 20 2015

**EDMONTON - By using their words, Edmonton police are using less force, due in part to training to deal with mental health act complaints.**

A report presented to the Edmonton Police Commission on police control tactics shows the number of use-of-force incidents went up by 1.1 per cent from 2013 to 2014. In that time, the total number of calls climbed by 1.9 per cent to 242,481, where force was used in 2,047 events in the 40,776 arrests.

Insp. David Christoffel, officer in charge of professional development branch, said in the past couple of years there has been a focus on mental health training to de-escalate the situation.

“There’s a real focus on engagement, creating a dialogue and de-escalating the situation,” Christoffel said.

Christoffel said cutbacks have led to more

people in the community with psychological issues.

He said verbal communication is most used in mental health situations.

“If you use your wits, you can usually reason with people,” he said.

“When I say the best weapon you have is your mouth and your ability to interact with people and de-escalate the situation, just calm it down.”

The most common occurrence where force is used are mental health act complaints with 141 occurrences, followed by assault on police with 130 occurrences.

Chemical spray as a method of control taking the biggest leap, due in part to events where multiple people were fighting.

Coun. Scott McKeen said given the increase in population, the stability in the use of force shows discipline.

(Sun Media)

Mar 20 2015

**SASKATOON - Three years ago, 84 per cent of the people arrested for public intoxication in Saskatoon landed in a police detention cell.**

Today, that proportion has dipped to 60 per cent, thanks in part to the opening of a special unit at The Lighthouse Supported Living, a downtown homeless shelter.

The other 40 per cent go there or to the health region’s Brief Detoxification Unit.

Saskatoon’s police chief Clive Weighill is pleased with the results, but not content.

“I wouldn’t be content until there’s nobody housed in the police detention centre for a non-criminal activity. It’s there to host criminals that need to be held for the public safety,” Weighill told reporters this morning after the latest figures were released.

The move to divert intoxicated people from the so-called police “drunk tank” came after a series of deaths there.

“They had ingested things before we arrested them, unknown to us,” Weighill explained.

The total number of arrests for public intoxication has also declined — by 14 per cent over a two-year period — from 2,019 in 2012 to 1,742 in 2014.

And, thanks to the stabilization centre at the Lighthouse, the brief detox unit has seen a dramatic decrease in the number of people it has to turn away for lack of space — from 1,263 in 2012 to 420 in 2014.

One figure that has shot up is the number of people passing through the Lighthouse’s stabilization centre — 6,603 in 2014, compared with 1,948 in 2013 when it opened (in July).

Weighill said to keep even fewer intoxicated people in police lockup, more facilities like the one at The Lighthouse are needed, “and probably a more secure centre than The Lighthouse has” for those who are violent.

He said it’s in the works, but money for it has not yet been found.

(CBC News)

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 21, 2015**

Mar 21 2015

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Two police officers have been released from hospital after a shooting and stabbing incident that left a 30-year-old man dead in Mississauga, Ont. Friday.**

Both officers were taken to hospital with serious knife wounds on Friday night and released Saturday, a spokesman for the Peel Regional Police Association union said.

The union added that one of the officers was shot during the incident, but his body armour stopped the bullet.

The incident happened at an apartment building at about 10:40 p.m. on Friday, the




**THE ENGAGED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE**

Former OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis will be presenting a one-day seminar in conjunction with *Blue Line EXPO Training*. This session will be of particular interest to those involved in the management levels of police, security and governmental law enforcement.



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province's police watchdog, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), said in a statement.

The SIU's statement said they are investigating the "interaction," during which a man was shot multiple times and pronounced dead at the scene.

An unidentified civilian also suffered non-life threatening injuries during the incident, but the SIU said it is not investigating those injuries.

Five investigators and three forensic investigators have been assigned by the SIU to probe the circumstances of the incident.

Peel Regional Police Const. George Tudos said at least 40 officers responded to the incident.

Police said there are no outstanding suspects in connection with the incident.  
(CTV News)

Mar 21 2015

### CALGARY - Police in Calgary say a man was shot during an altercation with officers moments after he caused a disruption at an anti-racism rally.

Witnesses told a number of Calgary media outlets say the man shouted "white power" when he appeared at the rally in the downtown on Saturday.

Police say in a news release that officers followed the man, but he fled.

They say the officers caught up to him but there was a physical struggle when one officer approached him.

They say the man produced a metal pipe, and that within seconds, a police firearm was discharged.

The man was taken to hospital where he remains in critical condition, while the officer suffered injuries and was treated at the scene.

## SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2015

Mar 22 2015

### CALGARY - RCMP say the man fatally shot near the U.S.-Canada border on Thursday was wanted for the murder of 18-year-old Brando Walker on an Alberta reserve.

Mounties say they were in the process of obtaining a first-degree murder warrant for 20-year-old Jamison Childress when he was killed by a U.S. Border Patrol agent near the Sumas, Washington, crossing.

Three other individuals, including a 15 year old male, have been charged in connection with Walker's death to date.

Walker's partially burned body was found on the Tsuu T'ina Nation reserve near Calgary on March 7, although RCMP say he was killed in a Calgary home.

U.S. authorities said Childress triggered a border sensor Thursday afternoon and behaved erratically when agents responded.

They said he was shot by an killed by an agent after he sprayed the official with an unknown chemical.

Childress is originally from Prince George,

B.C. and has faced several charges in the province including theft, mischief and assault.

Mar 22 2015

### MATHESON, Ont. - The OPP has found its stolen police cruiser.

The South Porcupine detachment in Matheson realized on Saturday that one of its black-and-white Ford Crown Victoria squad cars was missing.

Police say they spotted the cruiser around 3:30 a.m. Sunday and began following it.

They set up a spike belt that the police car drove over and then came to a stop.

Travis Plant, 30, of Black River-Matheson Township, has been charged with several counts including theft, break and enter, resisting an officer and driving while suspended.

He is set to appear in court Monday.

Mar 22 2015

### ORILLIA, Ont. - Provincial police say data compiled over the last 10 years suggests men aged 25 to 34 are the most common victims in the fatal collisions they investigate.

OPP say they are releasing the figures in order to shed light on the victims and factors involved in more than 3,500 deaths on provincially patrolled roads between 2005 and 2014.

Young adult males are the hardest hit, police say, with the 10-year data revealing that twice as many males (2,358) have died in collisions as females (1,146).

Men aged 25 to 34 accounted for 397 of

The poster features a dark blue background with a yellow oval at the top containing the text "BLUE LINE expo". Below this, the words "AWARDS GALA" are written in large, bold, yellow letters. The event details are listed in white text: "Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015", "Cocktails - 4:30pm Dinner & Program - 5:30pm", and "Ajax Convention Centre, 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax ON". A line of text reads "An evening honouring recipients of". Three award logos are displayed: "CANADA'S BEST DRESSED POLICE VEHICLE AWARD", "Prix de leadership de la police BLUE LINE Police Leadership Award" (with the motto "Une activité, pas une fonction" and "An activity, not a position"), and "MedicAlert FOUNDATION LEGENDS OF THE CALL AWARD". At the bottom, it says "RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!" and "Further Details and Tickets at blueline.ca/expo or 905-640-3048". Sponsors are listed as "COMMISSIONAIRES GALA EVENT SPONSOR" and "HUMBER SPONSOR Police Leadership Award".

the deaths and of those, 310 of them were drivers and 60 were passengers.

Drivers accounted for about 69 per cent of the deaths, while about 23 per cent of those killed were passengers and 7.7 per cent were pedestrians.

Over the 10-year period, 856 people died in crashes in which lack of seat belt use was a factor in their deaths - 611 of them drivers and 245 passengers.

And a total of 696 people died in collisions involving large commercial transport trucks, with 604 of those killed being occupants of the other vehicles involved.

Among the 92 truck drivers who died, 70 of them were reported as not driving properly at the time of the collision.

A total of 279 motorcyclists died during the 10 years, with 190 of them reported as not driving properly at the time.

Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair says people should think about the "big picture" when someone dies in a road crash, such as the cost of pain, grief and suffering on the surviving families, as well as the emotional trauma experienced by police officers and other emergency responders.

"By personifying our collision data, the public can better grasp the magnitude of loss and the impact poor driving behaviour has had on thousands of lives in Ontario these past 10 years," said Blair.

"A fatal road crash happens in a split second, but its consequences are far reaching and last for months, years and for some surviving family members, the rest of their lives."

Mar 22 2015

**CALGARY - Calgary's interim top cop expressed regret over how police handled the aftermath of an officer shooting and killing a man last week.**



Anthony Heffernan's family wasn't notified for 11 hours after the 27-year-old died after being fatally shot in a northeast Calgary hotel room the afternoon of March 16.

"I do have regret on that," Chief Paul Cook said at a press conference Saturday night regarding the shooting of another individual by police earlier that day.

"We probably should have notified that family earlier."

Heffernan was hit with a Taser when police confronted him in what they have called a "high-risk situation," and then ultimately gunned down by an officer with 15 years of experience.

Heffernan is said to have been acting strangely, and to have had a lighter and a syringe in his hand at the time of his death.

(Sun Media)

## MONDAY MARCH 23, 2015

Mar 23 2015

**OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada says it will rule Friday on Quebec's effort to preserve part of the defunct long-gun registry.**

The Harper government's law to end the registry ordered the destruction of all records of long guns, but Quebec objected, saying it wanted to set up its own registry, using the federal data as a starting point.

The province went to court to preserve the records on Quebec-owned rifles and shotguns.

A Quebec Superior Court ruling in September 2012 sided with the province, but the Court of Appeal reversed that decision.

In November 2013, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Quebec's appeal and ordered that the records be preserved pending its decision. The records from the rest of the country have already been destroyed.

Mar 23 2015

**EDMONTON - Fort McMurray's latest homicide victim is a 26-year-old man, but his name, hometown and details of his life are not publicly known, because of what Alberta RCMP say is a policy not to identify homicide victims without the consent of their families.**

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Privacy experts say the practice is “dramatically at odds” with other police agencies in Canada, and could have a negative impact on both public safety and police accountability in homicide investigations.

The man was found injured on Fort McMurray’s Mustang Road on 8 a.m. on Tuesday. The RCMP have also refused to name the victims in several other recent cases.

RCMP spokeswoman Sgt. Josee Valiquette has said she believes the policy of identifying a homicide victim “only after the immediate family has no objection” has been in place for several years, but it does not appear to have been an issue often in Alberta. The Journal couldn’t find any instances in 2014 where names of homicide victims weren’t released by RCMP.

Valiquette said the policy is in place because of privacy laws, and that if someone is charged, the victim’s name will appear in court documents and become public at that time.

Under privacy laws, a public institution can release personal information if the public interest is greater than an individual’s privacy rights. The legislation gives discretion to agencies such as the RCMP to determine whether the benefit of releasing the information outweighs the breach of an individual’s privacy.

(Edmonton Journal)

Mar 23 2015

### **HALIFAX - Nova Scotia’s police watchdog agency is investigating an arrest where a 23-year-old man suffered head injuries when Halifax police used a conducted energy weapon to subdue him.**

The Serious Incident Response Team says police responded to a call Monday from a downtown restaurant alleging a man had entered their premises and stolen items from a woman’s purse.

The agency says police chased the man through the city and used the conducted energy weapon after catching him.

The man fell to the ground, struck his head and lost consciousness.

Paramedics were called and the man was taken to hospital, where he has been diagnosed with serious head injuries.

**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 24, 2015**

Mar 24 2015

### **OTTAWA - Ottawa police have been given the go-ahead to purchase 100 new Tasers.**

The measure was approved by the Ottawa Police Services Board on Monday evening as part of a plan from last year to better equip front line officers.

The service already owns 130 but there are often only five to 15 on the street at any one time.

Supt. Uday Jaswal says it’s hoped the new

purchase will increase the number of Tasers available at any time to 15 to 39.

With the approval, Ottawa police will have a \$196,000 contract with M.D. Charlton Co. Ltd. to purchase the X2 model Taser.

This model uses laser sighting technology that allows officers to see where the probes will hit before the weapon is fired and to judge whether the target is in range.

(CFRA)

Mar 24 2015

### **WETASKIWIN, Alta. - A Mountie has shot a suspect in a community south of Edmonton.**

RCMP say the officer was not injured in the early-morning shooting in Wetaskiwin.

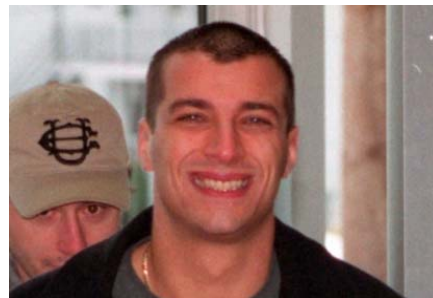
Police say Mounties were responding to a call at a home when an officer fired at a man and wounded him.

An air ambulance official says the man, who is 40, was flown to an Edmonton hospital and is in serious condition with potentially life-threatening injuries.

Members of the Alberta government’s serious incident response team are investigating along with RCMP major crimes officers.

Mar 24 2015

### **MONTREAL - A Quebec prison guard was suspended Tuesday as police tried to solve the mystery of how the son of former Hells Angels boss Maurice (Mom) Boucher walked out of jail two months before the end of his sentence.**



Francis Boucher left Montreal’s Bordeaux institution just before noon on Monday, prompting different views among authorities as to the events behind the headline-grabbing escape.

One theory was that he benefited from an “administrative error,” while another pointed to Boucher using a “trick” to gain his freedom.

On Tuesday, a visibly upset public security minister leaned more toward the latter, saying “there appears to have been a stratagem.”

“When people go into detention centres, we expect them to get out only when their sentence is up,” Lise Theriault said in Quebec City.

“The fact there’s been an error or a stratagem for Mr. Boucher to walk is inexcusable.”

Thierry Lariviere, a spokesman for the labour federation that represents prison guards, confirmed the paid suspension but wouldn’t elaborate.

Various reports Tuesday suggested Boucher posed as an inmate with the same family name. Authorities would not comment on them.

Boucher, 39, was serving a 117-day sentence for having uttered death threats against police officers - a sentence due to be completed at the end of May.

He was previously sentenced to 10 years for gangsterism, conspiracy to commit murder and drug-trafficking.

Boucher was a member of the Rockers, a Hells affiliate, but wasn’t in the same league as his infamous father in terms of holding sway.

Mar 24 2015

### **WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg police officer who came into contact with a missing teen days before her body was found in a river has been suspended without pay.**

Tina Fontaine, 15, was in a vehicle pulled over by two officers more than a week after she was reported missing last summer, but she was not taken into custody. Her body was found nine days later in a bag in the Red River.

No arrests have been made in her death.

Both officers were put on administrative leave in October. The force says the other officer will remain on administrative leave pending the outcome of disciplinary proceedings.

Police have not said if their investigation determined whether the officers knew Tina’s identity at the time, or whether they were aware she had been reported missing.

“At this time no further details will be provided as it is inappropriate to provide details of the regulatory investigation,” police said in a release Tuesday.

Police Chief Devon Clunis ordered an internal investigation into the officers’ actions and it was forwarded to Manitoba Justice, which said it would not proceed with charges under either Criminal Code or the Child and Family Services Act.

Mar 24 2015

### **FIFE, Wash. - A Washington State Patrol trooper says it’s by far the best carpool scam he’s seen, but it didn’t work.**

As KOMO-TV put it, “Troopers don’t always stop people in the HOV lanes, but when they do, they prefer ‘dos’ passengers.”

A motorcycle trooper parked along Interstate 5 near Tacoma on Monday afternoon spotted a driver and a rather unusual “passenger” pass by him in the carpool lane. When the trooper stopped the car, he discovered the “passenger” was a cardboard cutout of the actor who portrays “The Most Interesting Man in the World” in Dos Equis beer ads.

The driver’s response? “He’s my best friend.”

The Most Interesting Man was not confiscated, but the driver was told not to use him again. Channeling the cardboard cutout, the State Patrol tweeted: “I don’t always violate the HOV lane law ... but when I do, I get a \$124 ticket.”

Mar 25 2015

**HALIFAX - A Halifax man accused of threatening police with dangerous chemicals has been committed to stand trial.**

Defence lawyer Mike Taylor waived the right to a preliminary inquiry for his client Christopher Phillips, who appeared briefly in the Nova Scotia Supreme Court today and was remanded into custody.

Phillips, who is charged with uttering threats and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, is due to return to court on Thursday to set trial dates.

He has elected to be tried by judge alone.

Police have alleged that a cottage and a shed that the 42-year-old man owned in the Halifax area were filled with chemicals in various states of degradation.

The discovery prompted evacuations in Halifax and the Ottawa hotel where Phillips was arrested in January.

The Crown says it estimates the trial will take five days and it is trying to accommodate having it soon.

Mar 25 2015

**WINNIPEG - Canada's First Nations national chief says Winnipeg police should have done their job and kept a 15-year-old girl safe in the hours before she was last seen alive.**

Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations says police failed to protect Tina Fontaine when they came into contact with the missing teen days before her body was pulled from the Red River.

Fontaine was in a vehicle pulled over by two officers more than a week after she was reported missing last summer, but she was not taken into custody.

The Winnipeg Police Service says neither of the officers will face criminal charges.

Bellegarde says frustration is growing with how the justice system handles missing and murdered aboriginal women.

He says there needs to be a strong message that the lives of aboriginal women are just as important as everybody else's.

Mar 25 2015

**VANCOUVER - A man who spent most of the last three decades in prison for murdering a Delta, B.C., police officer has been granted full parole.**

This is the second time 69-year-old Elery Long has been granted full parole.

Long killed Staff Sgt. Ron McKay in 1974, claiming the sawed-off shotgun he was carrying accidentally went off when he put the weapon to the officer's chest.

Parole Board documents show that in the 15 years since he was first released, Long has abused drugs, mispent a student loan, stalked a woman, and lied to his parole officers.

Now the board has ruled that Long's sustained period of sobriety, lack of violence and his success while on day parole makes him eligible to live in an undisclosed community on Vancouver Island.

Long actually asked the board to delay his full parole because he couldn't get subsidized housing, but the board rejected the request and freed him with several conditions including to stay away from drugs and alcohol.

Mar 25 2015

**EDMONTON - Police say organized crime groups have been sending a potentially deadly drug through British Columbia to Alberta and Saskatchewan using hidden compartments in vehicles.**

Insp. Darcy Strang says a recent bust by police in the Edmonton area nabbed more than 2,000 fentanyl pills disguised to look like OxyContin.

Strang, who is a member of a unit made up of Edmonton police and RCMP known as ALERT, says fentanyl can be much more powerful than OxyContin and kill anyone taking it.

The powerful painkiller has been linked to more than 100 deaths in Alberta since 2014.

"We do not want any more deaths" Strang said Wednesday.

"We also want to make sure that the organized crime groups realize that (if) you sell this stuff, we are targeting you."

Strang declined to say which organized crime groups may be involved.

Police arrested five people in the Edmonton area earlier this month and in February on more than 30 drug-related charges.

Officers seized fentanyl pills, methamphetamine and other drugs, along with three SUVs with custom-made hidden compartments.

Strang said police believe the fentanyl is coming from China or possibly Mexico in powdered or liquid form and is pressed into pills.

"We believe that there are probably pill presses in Edmonton and area."

Police and Alberta health officials are trying to raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl, noting more than 88,000 pills have been seized throughout the province in the last year.

Calgary police say they have made 13 fentanyl seizures since January and believe the drug was a contributing factor in 29 deaths in the region last year.

Police charged three people Monday on the Blood reserve in southern Alberta in two drug overdose deaths that have been linked to fentanyl.

The Blood Tribe has posted a warning about the drug on its community website and is starting an emergency phone hotline.

"Fentanyl in fake Oxy80s is what is causing the deaths in our community. All Oxy80s are fake," reads the message.

"Don't be the next victim. Using fake

Oxy80s is like playing Russian roulette."

Mar 25 2015

**EDMONTON - Edmonton's city councillors spent their lunch hour staring up at the sky Tuesday, where they were getting a sample of the decibels that could potentially be put out by a new police helicopter.**



Councillors, staff, and police officials compared the noisiness of the current Air-1 model to the RCMP's larger helicopter, by circling the two circled overhead.

Council is in the process of approving a new police chopper to replace the aging Air-1. They set aside \$3.5 million to make the purchase after a contentious seven to six vote.

One of the concerns with replacing the older chopper was noise.

Deputy police chief Brian Simpson said he wanted council to hear first-hand what a bigger more powerful helicopter sounds like from the ground.

"You read things on a piece of paper, it's a number," he said.

"But when you hear it in life, it means something that's relative to everyone."

In December, Mayor Don Iveson, who voted in favour of the new chopper, said the proposed model might be too noisy.

On Tuesday, he said he was glad the police thought to stage the demonstration.

"It's always been a question for the public, the trade off between the sound of the helicopter and the value that it provides to the community," he said.

Iveson said noise levels will be one of the things council considers when they approve the purchase of a new chopper.

(CBC News)

Mar 25 2015

**CHARLOTTETOWN - The RCMP released few details Wednesday in the case of a 20-year-old man from Prince Edward Island who was arrested under a rarely used provision of the Criminal Code amid allegations that police feared he would commit a terrorism offence.**

The RCMP issued a brief statement saying only that Amir Raisolsadat was arrested after a peace bond was ordered under Section 810.01 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Information sworn in court in Charlottetown on Tuesday states that Raisolsadat, a student from Stratford, was released on conditions and must return to provincial court on April 20.

The court document indicates that RCMP member Alexis Triantafillou "fears on rea-

sonable grounds” that Raisolsadat will commit a terrorism offence.

Raisolsadat signed the recognizance acknowledging the allegation, while also agreeing to remain in the province, notify the RCMP if he changes his address, employment or occupation. He agreed to pay \$500 if he fails to appear in court.

He must also not possess a firearm and report to police once a week.

The RCMP refused to release any information about him or the specific nature of the alleged threat, citing an ongoing criminal investigation.

The statement said police may pursue an application for an order requiring someone to keep the peace and be of good behaviour under the Criminal Code if they believe that person may commit a terrorism offence.

This is the second time in the last month that the RCMP has sought a peace bond against someone over a suspicion they might commit a terror offence.

A summons was issued in February for Merouane Ghalmi to appear before a Quebec Court judge in Montreal to sign a peace bond after the RCMP said it feared he would commit a terrorism offence.

No document was signed in the case on Feb. 26 and the case was postponed to give Ghalmi’s lawyers time to review the evidence.

Ghalmi has not been charged with any offence. It is not known why the Mounties say they are concerned about him because the contents of a sworn affidavit have been sealed.

Mar 25 2015

### **CALGARY - The Alberta government has announced plans to have young offenders in the Calgary area serve their time in Edmonton to save money.**

Right now, children under 18 in Calgary and area who are convicted of crimes and sentenced to serve time do it in the Calgary Young Offender Centre, and there is a similar centre in Edmonton.

Justice Minister Jonathan Denis said in a statement Wednesday that changes are being made because both offices were “underused or significantly under capacity,” and “every effort will be made to find new positions for affected staff.”

Part of the Calgary centre will stay open and continue to be used for “arrest processing and for release and reintegration programs for youth returning to communities in southern Alberta and Calgary,” Denis said.

“In Alberta, as across Canada, the number of young offenders has declined over the past several years and it did not make sense to continue to operate two young offender centres that were almost half empty,” Denis said. (Global Calgary)

Mar 25 2015

### **VICTORIA - No charges will be laid against a Vancouver police officer involved in a crash with a motorcyclist last August.**

The man on the motorcycle broke his arm when his bike ran into the side of the police car. A statement on the crash says the officer’s marked cruiser turned left in front of the motorcycle as it travelled in the opposite direction.

The statement said there was conflicting evidence about the status of the traffic light and the speed the motorcyclist was travelling.

B.C.’s police watchdog investigated and determined that the officer may have committed an offence, but it didn’t make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved.

The Criminal Justice Branch has now decided that, based on the available evidence, there isn’t a substantial likelihood that the officer would be convicted.

Mar 25 2015

### **SASKATOON - Saskatoon’s police plane is an indispensable crime-fighting tool to some, but to others it’s a noisy, expensive invasion of their privacy.**



Last week, Saskatoon resident Dez Reed created an online petition to ground the Cessna 182, and so far, he’s gotten 217 signatures.

Reed says the police plane infringes on people’s right to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure by virtue of the fact it patrols the skies for up to 12 hours at a time.

Brandon Snowsell says he signed the petition because the plane costs taxpayers \$212,000 each year, and he thinks the money would be better used to put more police officers on the ground to prevent crime.

Sgt. Wade Bourassa, the plane’s pilot, says it has proven its worth, having spotted 231 occasions of suspicious activity in 2014, many of which turned out to be cases of criminal activity.

Bourassa says the police plane in Saskatoon is less invasive than other Canadian cities where police use helicopters. (CKOM)

Mar 25 2015

### **VANCOUVER — The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has ruled Vancouver police must find better ways to deal with transgender people after officers called a trans woman by male pronouns and failed to provide post-surgery care in jail.**

A decision released Tuesday ordered the Vancouver Police Board to pay Angela Dawson \$15,000 for injuries to her dignity,

feelings and self-respect.

Tribunal member Catherine McCreary also said the force committed “systemic discrimination” over how it identified transgender people and must now adopt new policies within a year.

“Ms. Dawson testified that, when the police refer to her as (her legal name) Jeffrey or use male gender pronouns, it makes her feel embarrassed and humiliated,” wrote McCreary.

“She thinks that, when the police treat her as a male, it gives other people the right to treat her as a male, to pick on her, and to humiliate her.”

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, who is chair of the police board, said in a statement that he will be reviewing the decision with the department.

“The City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department have the highest level of respect and appreciation for our city’s remarkable diversity, and a firm commitment to protect the rights and freedoms of the LGBTTTQ community and all Vancouver residents,” he said.

Dawson filed the complaint after several run-ins with police in Vancouver, where she is known as “Rollergirl,” as she likes to direct traffic while wearing rollerblades.

While McCreary dismissed several of her complaints, she found that police engaged in discrimination twice in 2010.

In March 2010, Dawson spent a night in jail shortly after she had completed her sex reassignment surgery. Even though she told jail nurses she needed to do certain post-surgery procedures, she was not given the appropriate equipment or taken to hospital, wrote McCreary.

In another incident in June 2010, an arrest report referred to Dawson as “he” and “him” and by her legal name, Jeffrey, even though she gave her name as Angela at the scene.

The arresting officer testified that he used her legal name on the form because that was how she was identified in a police database. However, on other citations, Dawson was referred to as Angela.

The police board argued it was Dawson’s responsibility to legally change her name, but she testified she didn’t think she could afford it.

McCreary found the board has no clear policy on how it identifies trans people and ordered it to create such a policy within a year.

Vancouver police Const. Brian Montague said the department will carefully review the decision to ensure the safety of anyone in custody remains a top priority. He said being sensitive to how transgender people identify is very important.

“Our officers are hired and trained based on some fundamental core values,” he said. “One of those core values is respect, and we expect our officers to be respectful of each and every one of the hundreds of people they encounter on a daily basis.”



**Montreal police are investigating how the Kativik Regional Police Force and the Surêté du Québec handled a hostage situation in Inukjuak, Que., that ended in the death of one man.**

A 24-year-old man had been holding his mother and nine-month-old twins hostage in Inukjuak since just before midnight Monday night.

Jean-Pierre Brabant with the Montreal police says the Kativik Regional Police Force established a perimeter and got in contact with the man. After Surêté du Québec officers arrived Wednesday morning, the man released the hostages.

He said police later heard gunshots inside the apartment and found the man had shot himself.

“Investigators are on their way now to go analyze the scene and to meet with the police officers who are implicated in the event,” he said.

“Because there was a death involving a police intervention the investigation is transferred to another police force.”

Police say the hostages are safe.

(CBC News)



Mar 26 2015

**BATHURST, N.B. - The Nova Scotia RCMP says it has followed up on a number of calls from the public in their investigation of a fatal shooting in January involving the Bathurst City Police in northern New Brunswick.**

Sgt. Al LeBlanc says the Mounties have heard from a number of people following their public appeal for witnesses.

On Jan. 12, Bathurst police shot 51-year-old Michel Vienneau of Tracadie-Sheila near the train station in Bathurst.

He was later pronounced dead at the Chaleur Regional Hospital.

The RCMP from Nova Scotia were brought in to investigate.

LeBlanc says there’s no indication how long their investigation will take.

Mar 26 2015

**TORONTO - Ontario is launching a review of the solitary confinement policy in provincial jails.**

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services review will look at how segregation practices interact with other mental-health policies. Consultations with mental health experts, civil liberty groups, correctional staff and others are set to begin this summer.

Minister Yasir Naqvi said he hopes the process will be complete within a year. He said the several months it will take before a consultation process is started is for “preparatory work.”

“In order for us to do proper consultation we need to make sure that we do important

background work,” he said.

On any given day about 7,700 people are in custody in Ontario’s 26 institutions and about five per cent are in segregation, the ministry said. All inmates placed in segregation have their placement reviewed after 24 hours and every five days thereafter, Naqvi said.

“We will obviously continue to follow those important guidelines, but we wanted to make sure that as part of ... making sure that we are providing the right supports for inmates with mental health challenges, to ensure safety of our staff and inmates that we do a comprehensive review of our segregation policy,” he said.

A coroner’s inquest last year into the death of Ashley Smith in an Ontario women’s prison recommended that the Correctional Service of Canada abolish indefinite solitary confinement and prohibit placement of women in segregation for longer than 15 days.

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Mar 26 2015

**BRADFORD, Ont. - A York Regional Police officer has pleaded guilty in an insurance fraud case.**

Police say Const. Stuart Coleman pleaded guilty to a charge of knowingly making a false or misleading statement or representation to an insurer under the Insurance Act.

A Bradford, Ont., judge ordered Coleman to pay a \$3,000 fine and \$21,547 restitution to the Regional Municipality of York.

Coleman and two others were charged in July 2014 following alleged misuse of company insurance benefits.

Criminal charges laid by the York Regional Police Professional Standards Bureau were dismissed, as were all charges against the two co-accused, Ruth Coleman and Michael McCleary.

Coleman remains suspended with pay and is now the subject of a Police Services Act investigation.