

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

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Chief reviewing policy withholding officer names



Nov 11 2015

CALGARY - Police Chief Roger Chaffin is reviewing an internal policy of withholding the names of officers who are charged with crimes while carrying out their duties, and signals he's leaning toward "heightened transparency."

The policy has long been a thorn in the side of many defence lawyers who argue it creates an unfair double standard, because their civilian clients do not enjoy the same degree of anonymity when

charged with criminal offences.

The union that represents police officers warns that Chaffin risks losing the loyalty of those who work under him if he appears to be "unnecessarily throwing them to the wolves."

The police service's written policy gives discretion to the chief on whether to name an officer charged with a criminal offence. Former Chief Rick Hanson took matters a step further by declaring officers charged while carrying out their duties would not be publicly identified unless they were convicted.



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This might change under Hanson's successor, but Chaffin cautioned he must balance the pull toward greater transparency against the impact a policy change would have on the privacy of officers involved.

"If I was to answer that bluntly, I'd probably be looking more toward heightened transparency," Chaffin said in a meeting this week with the Herald's editorial board. "But I need to think through the effect it will have on officers."

Howard Burns, president of the Calgary Police Association, said any move to identify officers charged in connection with on-duty incidents would unfairly smear them.

Burns said police routinely charge suspects with assault, but rarely announce those charges to media. A news release disclosing excessive force charges against an officer would make front-page news, he said, but convictions are rare.

The union boss said there are cases where a charged police officer should be identified, citing a case roughly 30 years ago when an officer was arrested for bank robbery, but he said they should not be subject to similar public scrutiny when "doing their job."

"The chief's job is to support his people as well, and if they feel that they don't have his support, I'm not so sure how loyal and how hard-working they're going to be for that chief," Burns said in an interview. "They're going to resent him if he appears to be unnecessarily throwing them to the wolves."

Under Hanson's policy, all officers charged with misconduct while off-duty were identified.

The Criminal Defence Lawyers Association made headlines in the fall of 2013 when it called on Calgary police to identify an officer charged with an assault on a prisoner.

The officer was accused of using excessive force when booking a prisoner at a downtown holding facility in December 2011. The prisoner, who received minor

injuries, did not file a complaint, but a routine review of the incident triggered an internal investigation that led to Crown prosecutors in Edmonton recommending an assault charge.

Burns said the charge has since been stayed or dropped, but the officer faces internal disciplinary action.

Chaffin is meeting with the editorial boards of media outlets across the city after taking the top job last month.

As he reviews the policy, he said he's concerned officers would be "vilified" before they'd have a chance to answer to charges against them, though he acknowledged civilian suspects face the very same scrutiny.

"We have to be careful about creating a standard where we're elevated above the public as well."
(Calgary Herald)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Nov 04 2015

The Waterloo Regional Police Service has won a community outreach award for excellence in law enforcement from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The award is for police involvement in the Connectivity Waterloo Region project, a consultation and referral group made up of 30 community partners designed to help at-risk individuals in an effort to keep them out of the legal system.

"We are extremely proud of the significant effort that has gone in to this program and we know the dedication, both behind the scenes and around the connectivity table, is making a difference in our community," said Police Chief Bryan Larkin in release Wednesday.

The Connectivity initiative is a community-based project that gives police some alternative approaches to about 80 per cent of calls that are not criminal in nature, such as calls about missing people and mental health concerns.

The group meets weekly in Kitchener and Cambridge to discuss cases where involvement from community support services could help an individual who is otherwise at risk.

"The belief all partners hold in common is that early intervention can help people and impact the broader community," police said in the release.

The 2015 IACP/Motorola Solutions Webber Seavey Award was given to Waterloo Regional Police Service in partnership with Langs Health and Wellness Centre in Cambridge and Carizon Family and Community Services in Kitchener, the two agencies that host the round tables.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Nov 05 2015

MONTREAL - Four teens from western Quebec charged over threats against schools in their area now are accused in connection with a spate of bomb threats against schools in Quebec and Ontario earlier this week.

Quebec provincial police Capt. Guy Lapointe said Thursday that each of the teens now faces charges of uttering threats, conspiracy and conveying false messages.

Lapointe says no explosive devices were found in the search of nearly 80 primary and secondary schools and junior colleges after threatening emails were sent Tuesday.

Quebec's acting Public Security Minister, Pierre Moreau, identified the group as "Red Sceptre", unknown to authorities.

Emails were sent to each institution and some school boards.

They all contained similar messages suggesting that bombs were being set to go off at specific times, implying the complicity of school employees.

"Among all the searches that were conducted in all the different establishments, no device, no suspicious elements found," Lapointe said.

The teens - three boys and a girl aged 16 and 17 years old - were arrested Wednesday on mischief charges in connection with threats that took place one week ago in schools in the Gatineau and Ottawa area.

Lapointe says provincial police now are linking the four teens to the larger threat this week.

Schools were subjected to searches in various cities in Quebec as well as Toronto and North Bay, Ont.

Nov 05 2015


HALIFAX - Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil says Environment Minister Andrew Younger has been relieved of his duties and kicked out of the governing Liberal caucus.

Thursday night's announcement came after Younger didn't show up to testify at a trial for a woman who was accused of assaulting him.

Younger says he didn't appear in court because of a law that states sitting members of the legislature cannot be called to testify in civil and criminal matters without being asked to waive the exemption.

The judge dropped the charge against Tara Gault, who pleaded not guilty to the charge stemming from an alleged assault on or about Oct. 22, 2013, the day the Liberal government took power after the last provincial election.

McNeil says Younger did not give him accurate information about the situation and he wanted to make sure Nova Scotians have not been misled.



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GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
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He says he has lost confidence in Younger. "There's a level of trust, if your employer was asking questions, they would expect you to give forthright (answers)," McNeil told a hastily called Thursday evening news conference. "Unfortunately that wasn't the case."

Nov 05 2015

REGINA - Canada's new public safety minister says he wasn't expecting the post, but Ralph Goodale says he's pretty excited about getting it.



The Regina MP says it's a portfolio of huge importance to Canadians.

He says it is the equivalent of Homeland Security in the United States.

Goodale says the first thing on his plate is C-51, which gives expanded powers to police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

He must tackle the reversal of some of the more contentious anti-terrorism provisions contained in the law, and oversee a promise from the Liberals to have more parliamentary oversight of Canada's national security agencies.

The Liberal government announced Thursday the return of the long-form census, and Goodale says it's the first of many campaign promises the new government will roll out.

"There's more to come on the inquiry into missing and murdered women for example, dealing with the major issue of climate change, getting our new infrastructure program up and launched; there will be a lot of important delivery to be provided here very quickly," Goodale said Thursday from Ottawa. (CKRM)

Nov 05 2015

EDMONTON - Native friendship centres in Alberta are launching a program to help men and boys understand what they can do to end violence against aboriginal women and girls.

The program called "I Am a Kind Man" aims to raise awareness and to teach men to understand their responsibilities.

Merle White of the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association says the program is an important step toward the goal of a future with no violence against aboriginal females.

White says the project will be based on native traditional teachings such as the Seven Sacred Rights.

The program is to be offered at Friendship Centres in Edmonton, Calgary, Cold Lake, Grande Prairie, Hinton, Red Deer, Pincher Creek, Peace River and Slave Lake.

Earlier this year the RCMP said 70 per cent of aboriginal females killed in Canada - in cases solved by police - died at the hands of other aboriginals.

Nov 05 2015

REGINA - The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and the city's police force have launched a joint new program.

The Police and Crisis Team Partnership pairs a mental health professional with a police officer to provide support to residents facing a mental health crisis.

Michael Redenbach of the health region says the team will help to make sure residents aren't just sent to a holding cell or the ER.

PACT began in June, became fully operational in September and runs Monday through Friday.

Police Chief Troy Hagen says the program was long overdue with all the advances and awareness brought to mental health.

He says the team will help people receive better and more immediate access to the services they need. (CKRM)

Nov 05 2015

CALGARY - Calgary's police chief says the city is still a very safe place to live but says there's no doubt there are more guns and gang violence than ever before.



He says it's an effect that all big cities go through and he wants citizens to know the Calgary police are taking the situation seriously.

The force is currently involved in five major operations regarding guns and gangs, with several others in the queue along with more than 85 other violence-related investigations.

From the beginning of the year until Oct. 31, there have been 85 shootings - 12 of them fatal and 73 involving either property damage or non-fatal injuries.

During the same period in 2014 there were only 51 shootings. (CFRR)

Nov 05 2015

WATERLOO REGION - Following a recent rash a fatalities on the region's roads, Waterloo Regional Police Chief Bryan Larkin is unapologetically calling for a return of enforcement tools including photo radar and more red light cameras.

The community may think of photo radar as a "dirty word", but Ontario police chiefs want to reignite a discussion around electronic speed enforcement, maintains Larkin.

"We know it's a non-starter, we know that people in our community are upset about these things," acknowledged the chief, "but when you look at it, we do not have the resources to respond to the number of complaints we get about road safety."

It's impossible for police to attend each of the region's 475 signalized crossroads at every moment, said Larkin in addressing the media attending Wednesday's (Nov. 4) police board meeting.

"It's time to have an honest discussion around digital enforcement, which creates a ton of controversy, but we can't be at every intersection, we can't be on every roadway," he said. "We need to do more."

Larkin's comments came in response to multiple fatal crashes that have transpired during the past month. (Cambridge Times)

Nov 05 2015

MONTREAL - While its official opening date is still up in the air, North America's first centre devoted to the prevention of radicalization has already intervened in more than 80 cases, VICE News has learned. Of these, a handful have been transferred to police.

The creation of Info-Radical, or the centre for the prevention of radicalization leading to violence, was announced by Montreal mayor Denis Coderre last March. The project was launched following a series of much-publicized cases of radicalized Quebec youth allegedly leaving - or attempting to leave - to join the Islamic State.

Law enforcement is only enlisted when cases present an element of danger to oneself or to others, according to the centre's communications adviser Marie-Christine Vanier. The rest of the interventions, led by the centre's social workers and mental health professionals, are confidential and deal with "worrisome situations of radicalization."

At the helm is Herman Deparice-Okomba, a longtime civilian member of the Montreal police who advised on issues of race and radicalization. Vanier said that between 12 to 17 employees work (or will work) at the centre.

Yet while the organization has been operational since March, the formal launch of the services and website is now more than a month overdue. Vanier said staff have nevertheless been busy visiting local community centres and schools to offer workshops and presentations.

"Radicalization is really a spectrum, and in the media we often only see a sliver of this spectrum," she said, adding that the centre is interested in the entire gamut of radical thought. "What we're concerned about is radicalization that leads to violence. You can be radical in your opinions, but that can be ok."

(Vice News)

Nov 05 2015

CALGARY - Calgary's police chief is reorganizing the service because of reckless gun violence committed by "evil" criminals.

The guns and gangs unit has identified 50 to 100 people who are considered a high-risk to society.

Chief Roger Chaffin says organized crime is a high priority.

"We can't afford to get it wrong," said Chaffin at a press conference addressing the recent escalation in gang-related gun violence.

"Rest assured, the service's intent in this is to identify the people involved and arrest them," said Chaffin. "These people need to be behind bars."

The violence is the focus of five major police operations and about 85 smaller ones, according to the chief.

Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31 there were 85 shootings in the city. In the same time period in 2014, there were 51.

One of the few defining characteristics of what is described as a "fluid" group is their use of firearms.

This year, police expect to seize 80 per cent more weapons than last year.

"It's just a matter of time before some innocent person gets hit," said Staff Sgt. Quinn Jacques with the guns and gangs unit.

The organized crime situation in Calgary right now is not acceptable, said Chaffin, who characterized the situation as "wanton and reckless acts of violence."

Just two-and-a-half weeks into his tenure, Chaffin says he's looking at a service-wide reorganization to ensure the violent situation is properly resourced.

"This is our reality," said Chaffin. "We need to adapt and I intend to adapt very quickly."

The guns and gangs unit includes 18 detectives, six constables and a sergeant but it's the hundreds of frontline officers who face dangerous situations daily.

"These are dangerous times for them as well," said Chaffin.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2015

Nov 06 2015

HALIFAX - An independent review of the police involvement in the death of a 19-year-old man linked to an alleged mass-murder plot in Halifax says officers acted reasonably when they tried to speak with him.

Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team released the finding today into the incident on Feb. 12.

The team says police went to the home after receiving information that a man and woman were allegedly planning a mass shooting at a Halifax mall on Valentine's Day.

The report says police told investigators they spoke to the man's parents as they left the home and rejected their offer to go back and speak to their son, saying it may be too risky.

At the time, the report says police planned to meet and talk to the young man outside the home, but he remained inside where it says he fatally shot himself in the head.

Nov 06 2015

BRANDON, Man. - A terrorism-related charge has been laid against a 16-year-old western Manitoba boy who is accused of using social media to encourage violence on behalf of the Islamic State.

The charge follows an investigation by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the RCMP's National Security Enforcement Section.

The teen, who can't be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, remains in custody after a Thursday court appearance in Brandon.

He's charged under the Criminal Code with counselling assault causing bodily harm at the direction of, or in association with, a terrorist group.

The count does not outline who was to be the target, but the Crown says under the law that does not have to be specified.

The Crown also says books, a notebook and a computer were seized from the boy's home on Wednesday, and that further charges may be laid.

(Brandon Sun)

Nov 06 2015

NEW YORK - An aging mobster lived a long life of crime highlighted by the \$6 million heist in 1978 that was retold in the classic Mafia movie "Goodfellas," a prosecutor said Friday in closing arguments at a federal racketeering trial.

Vincent Asaro, whose grandfather and

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father were members of the Bonanno organized crime family, “was born into that life and he fully embraced it,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicyn Cooley told a jury in Brooklyn. “The defendant was a rare breed in the Mafia - a third-generation wiseguy.”

The 80-year-old defendant’s devotion to the crime family “was as permanent as the ‘death before dishonour’ tattoo on his arm,” Cooley added at a trial that’s given jurors a lesson in the lifestyle of gangsters from a bygone era.

The prosecutor described how Asaro rose through the ranks and developed an “unbreakable bond” with the notorious James “Jimmy the Gent” Burke, the late Lucchese crime family associate who orchestrated the armed robbery of a Lufthansa cargo terminal at Kennedy Airport. According to trial testimony, Burke - played by Robert de Niro in the film - and Asaro also teamed up to kill a suspected informant with a dog chain.

Asaro showed that “when necessary, he’d kill to enforce La Cosa Nostra’s code of silence,” Cooley said.

Asaro has pleaded not guilty to murder, extortion and other charges. His lawyer was to give her closing later Friday.

Until his arrest in 2014, Asaro was an obscure mobster who had only been convicted of lesser crimes. He survived a bloodbath portrayed in “Goodfellas,” with De Niro’s character going ballistic over fellow mobsters’ purchases of flashy cars and furs and, fearing they would attract law enforcement attention, having them whacked.

But that changed in 2008, when Asaro’s cousin, mob associate Gaspare Valenti, became a co-operator and implicated him in the holdup and other old crimes. Taking the witness stand last month, Valenti testified that Asaro ordered him to join the robbery crew, telling him, “Jimmy Burke has a big score at the airport coming up, and you’re invited to go.”

Asaro was “very happy, really euphoric” when he learned about the mountain of \$100 bills and jewels scored in the heist, Valenti testified.

“We thought there was going to be \$2 million in cash and there was \$6 million,” the witness said.

Prosecutors say Asaro ended up with a \$750,000 cut that he gambled away at the racetrack.

Nov 06 2015

EDMONTON - More than 400 charges have been laid against 78 people in connection with an investigation into street-level drug trafficking, according to the Edmonton Police Service.

Following up on reports of trafficking in the Alberta Avenue area, community beat officers from the northwest division conducted the operation, including undercover work, between Sept. 8 and Oct 2.

“The beat officers basically planned every aspect of this investigation,” acting Insp. Jonathan Coughlan told a news conference at Edmonton Police Headquarters on Thursday, crediting a group of seven officers who stood

with him during the announcement.

He said the officers received some assistance from specialized units, such as the tactical unit, and relied on tips from the public and investigations they did themselves.

Police arrested 78 people, carried out four search warrants and laid 435 charges, including 107 drug-trafficking charges, 93 weapons charges, 66 breach charges and 169 charges for other offences.

Police say they seized more than \$50,000 worth of illegal drugs during the operation. Officers recovered 1.1 litres of GHB, 395 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 80 grams of marijuana, 100 codeine pills and 200 Dialudid pills. The seized items were on display Thursday.

(Edmonton Journal)

Nov 06 2015

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg’s police chief says officers did everything right in handling the case of a woman who was killed last week after repeatedly calling police with complaints about her estranged husband.



Chief Devon Clunis says that doesn’t make the death of Camille Runke, 49, any easier to handle.

But he says huge changes can’t be made to the legal system based on one case, though he says he would be open to meeting with provincial lawmakers to discuss things like protection orders.

The woman’s husband, Kevin Runke, killed himself earlier this week after being pursued by officers.

Camille Runke had a protection order against him due to alleged stalking and harassment, but contacted police 22 times to report violations of the protection order.

Police have said they followed up on her concerns and were building a case for a criminal harassment charge, though they noted there was no history that suggested Kevin Runke was violent and therefore they had no grounds to arrest him.

(CJOB)

Nov 06 2015

A Durham Regional Police officer has been charged with assaulting a man under arrest on Wednesday.

Const. Jeremiah Johnson, 40, allegedly slapped an Oshawa man on the head after he was already on the ground and in handcuffs, according to witnesses. The man was arrested on Nonquon Rd. “regarding a disturbance,” said a press release from the police service on Friday.

The force’s professional standards unit investigated and charged Johnson. He was released on an undertaking that he remain away from the victim and his residence, said police spokesman Dave Selby.

His next court date is Nov. 27 and he has been reassigned to administrative duties.

(Toronto Star)

Nov 06 2015

While many are eager to learn if Trudeau’s government will make good on its promise to legalize marijuana, Halifax’s deputy chief of police says everything from enforcing impaired driving to smoking regulations is about to get a whole lot more complicated.



“Just because it’s legal, doesn’t make it safe,” said Bill Moore.

“I don’t think the discussion has meant decriminalization is a free for all. I don’t think that’s where we’re going. Hopefully not.”

During the election, Justin Trudeau promised legalization would keep pot out of the hands of children and profits out of the hands of criminals.

Moore shares those concerns and also worries more people will be smoking a joint while driving.

“Do people understand what their level of impairment is, ‘how much can I smoke before I become impaired?’” said Moore.

“When it was illegal, we wouldn’t have this discussion because people wouldn’t want to have it.”

He says officers are trained to look for behavioural signs of impairment. But there is no THC breathalyzer used in Canada, nor has a legal limit been established for THC - the active ingredient in pot.

Moore has as many scenarios as he does questions.

“I come out for my smoke break, light up my cigarette and you light up a doobie. So are we going to have marijuana smoking areas and tobacco smoking areas? I don’t have the answers. These are the practical pieces that come around.”

With a Liberal majority, Moore says he hopes the government will take its time introducing the new law.

“Even with regulated supply in tobacco and alcohol, we still have illegal tobacco and illegal alcohol. So, I fully expect there will still be an illegal marijuana trade,” he said.

“We’re not going to lay off our drug section. We’re still going to have some work to do.”

(CBC News)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Nov 07 2015

TORONTO - A \$200,000 consultant's report aimed at radically "transforming" Toronto policing and cutting its soaring costs has been buried by the board tasked with oversight, critics say - kept secret from the public who paid for it.

The report, commissioned by former Toronto Police Services Board chair Alok Mukherjee, was meant to be a "roadmap" to reforming a costly policing model that has changed little in the past 50 years.

The KPMG report, submitted a year ago this month, includes contentious recommendations such as closing all 17 police divisions across the city and replacing them with "storefront" operations, sources told the Star. The service estimates it will spend about \$20 million in 2016 on operations, custodial and utility costs in the city-owned facilities.

The report also recommends reducing platoon sizes, shrinking middle-management and increasing civilian positions in areas such as forensics or court officers - assigning more work that doesn't require police training or skills to lower-paid civilian employees, and outsourcing some functions to private security firms.

Current board chair Andy Pringle told the Star the KPMG report hasn't been released publicly because it was meant to be "an internal think" document. "Random suggestions aren't necessarily something that we report back on," he said.

Mukherjee, who stepped down this summer, declined to comment on the report, except to say he intended it to be made public. (Toronto Star)

Nov 07 2015

Liberal Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister Ralph Goodale says his government is committed to federal workplaces free of harassment or sexual violence and will review cases of women with claims against the RCMP.

The announcement comes as four female RCMP employees have asked the new prime minister to stop the force from firing them before their lawsuits alleging harassment are heard in court.

Cpl. Catherine Galliford, Cpl. Susan Gastaldo, Const. Alice Fox and Atoya Montague, a civilian employee, are all off-duty, suffering from post-traumatic stress.

In a letter sent to all Liberal MPs and senators, they outline their struggles in the RCMP and ask the Liberal government to step in.

The RCMP have served notice of dismissal to Montague and Galliford, and the other two women fear they're next, even though their lawsuits have not been heard in court.

Fox worries she will face repercussions for speaking out about her case without permission from the force and that others may be deterred from coming forward with their stories.

Now though, it appears as if the Liberal government wants those like Fox to know things will change. (CBC News)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Nov 08 2015

A wave of fentanyl deaths across Alberta is creating a public health crisis, according to health authorities and police officers, who say they have never encountered a drug as deadly as the fast-acting opioid.

In the first half of 2015, 145 Albertans died from fentanyl, far outpacing the number of deaths in previous years. According to police in Calgary and Edmonton, the rate at which officers have responded to overdoses since then has only accelerated and shows no sign of abating.

Staff Sergeant Martin Schiavetta, the head of the Calgary police drug unit, said that over the past year, his officers have responded to overdose victims across Calgary - from the inner city to the outer suburbs. The youngest victim so far was 15 years old. In the past month alone, the city's police force has responded to 26 overdoses.

"This is the worst drug I've seen in my career," said Staff Sgt. Schiavetta, who can't

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mask the frustration in his voice when he talks about fentanyl. "This is absolutely the worst drug I've ever seen because of how toxic it is. The equivalent of two grains of sand will kill you, quickly."

Fentanyl is a cheap and powerful drug, 50 times more potent than heroin. It's easy to manufacture and is toxic in small doses - two milligrams are enough to kill the average person in less than 15 minutes. The drug's spread across Western Canada has coincided with a slowdown in the oil and gas sector that has seen thousands of people lose their jobs.

"The graph for deaths related to fentanyl just goes straight up, it's just a huge rise," said Edmonton Police Detective Guy Pilon. "I don't think we've come anywhere near the peak of this yet."

(Globe and Mail)

Assistant Commissioner Gilles Michaud. "It is a sobering reminder of the unexpected danger our members and employees can face in law enforcement."

Nov 09 2015

SAVANNAH, Ga. - A Savannah-Chatham Metro Police officer has earned the spotlight after helping a runner cross the finish line at Saturday's Rock 'N' Roll Marathon in Savannah.

When Sgt. John Cain saw runner Robert McCoy fall approximately 200 yards from the finish line, he - along with other officers and paramedics - rushed to his side.

According to the police department, McCoy - who had cuts on his face and legs

- finished the half marathon with Cain's help while a paramedic followed behind on a bicycle.

"I could feel in my heart that he needed to finish," Cain said. "There was a purpose for him doing so and he wanted to accomplish the goal."

A photo of Sgt. Cain and McCoy was posted on the SCMPD Facebook page and as of this writing, it's been shared more than 1,900 times.

"I am just glad I was in a position to help him do that," the veteran said. "He is an inspiration to me, he is the hero in this story."

(Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2015

Nov 09 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP will give awards to 20 Mounties and former House of Commons security officers in recognition of their bravery when a gunman stormed Parliament Hill last year.



The national police force will make the presentations during a private Nov. 23 ceremony at RCMP headquarters.

The RCMP says the awards are intended to recognize the "bravery, dedication and quick thinking" of those who were directly involved in the events of Oct. 22, 2014.

On that day, Michael Zehaf Bibeau fatally shot honour guard Cpl. Nathan Cirillo at the National War Memorial before rushing into Parliament's Hall of Honour, where he was killed in a flurry of bullets.

Former House of Commons sergeant-at-arms Kevin Vickers, now Canada's ambassador to Ireland, was lauded for his role in subduing Zehaf Bibeau, but there has been no formal recognition of others.

The RCMP was responsible for the grounds of the parliamentary precinct during the attack, while House of Commons and Senate security forces had jurisdiction inside the Parliament Buildings.

A now-merged parliamentary protective service manages day-to-day security on Parliament Hill, a direct consequence of Oct. 22 intended to avoid confusion.

Those who will receive awards prevented harm from occurring to others, said RCMP

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Nov 09 2015

REGINA - A safety blitz announced three weeks ago has nabbed hundreds of drivers who were speeding past emergency vehicles in Saskatchewan.

In all, 478 drivers were caught zipping past police cars, fire trucks, ambulances and tow-truck operators working on highway right of ways.

It is the law in Saskatchewan to reduce speeds to 60 km/h when passing working emergency vehicles with their lights flashing.

The Highways Ministry transport patrol teamed up with RCMP and other agencies to enforce the law and educate drivers.

Nov 09 2015

Ontario's police watchdog is investigating the possibility that Toronto-area police accidentally shot an old man while putting down a deer Monday.

As rush hour was dying down Monday morning, police in Thornhill, north of Toronto, received a report of a "seriously injured deer" on the side of a road.

Officers cordoned off a nearby intersection and then, using an undisclosed number of shots fired from an undisclosed firearm, they "put down" the animal.

"Shortly after that, a 78-year-old man was found injured nearby," read a Monday statement by the Special Investigations Unit, which is now leading a probe into the shooting.

The man, whose identity is not known, was not seriously injured. According to investigators, he was taken to a nearby hospital, treated and quickly released.

Three SIU investigators, including one forensics officer, have been assigned to the case.

But the agency did say they were investigating a "firearms incident," which seems to imply the victim suffered some kind of bullet wound.

"The investigation is in the earliest stages and is ongoing. Investigators are determining what exactly transpired," said an SIU spokesman.

York Regional Police also would not comment Monday.

(National Post)

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Nov 10 2015

OTTAWA - A Federal Court justice who once asked a sexual assault complainant why she couldn't keep her knees together is under review by the Canadian Judicial Council.

The council says it will review a 2014 decision made by Justice Robin Camp when he was a provincial court judge in Alberta.

Camp acquitted a man of sexual assault of a 19-year-old woman after deciding that the accused man's version of the events was more credible.

Camp's verdict was overturned on appeal

and a new trial ordered.

Alice Woolley, one of three legal academics who filed the complaint, says she's pleased with the decision of the judicial council.

Court transcripts show that Camp questioned the morals of the complainant and asked her why she just couldn't keep her knees together, saying her efforts to fight off an attack were ineffectual.

A statement from Federal Court says Camp won't hear any cases involving sexual conduct during the investigation.

Camp is also taking gender sensitivity training on his own time and at his own expense and has released a statement apologizing to the complainant and to all women who might hesitate before reporting a sexual assault.

Nov 10 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP believes it has "come to a dead end" in its probe of where Parliament Hill shooter Michael Zehaf Bibeau got his gun - one of the most vexing questions about the events of Oct. 22, 2014.

The Mounties continue to investigate several threads of what happened that day, including whether Zehaf Bibeau had accomplices, but have not gathered evidence sufficient for criminal charges.

A source with direct knowledge of the police investigation provided the update to on condition of anonymity due to the ongoing sensitivity of the file.

The RCMP had already devoted more than 130 full-time investigators and staff to the case, interviewing several hundred people across the country.

The lever-action, single-shot rifle was more suited to old Hollywood westerns than modern-day shooting sprees. But Zehaf Bibeau, who had a criminal record, would have been barred from buying a gun, and perhaps the Winchester was the only one he could get his hands on.

The Mounties suspect Zehaf Bibeau got his rifle "from a stash" he had at his aunt's place. "We've been unable to conclusively establish this and we believe we've come to a dead end," said the source familiar with the investigation.

It does not appear an accomplice, in the traditional sense, helped procure the gun for Zehaf Bibeau. RCMP investigators are pursuing "a number of threads of suspicious acquaintances and relationships" he had leading up to the attack, but the police force has not been able to conclude the ties amounted to "criminal liability" that could lead to charges, the source said.

Nov 10 2015

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia RCMP say an internal investigation is underway after an officer accidentally discharged a weapon inside a police detachment just outside Halifax.

Police say the officer was conducting a mechanical check on a patrol carbine Mon-

day evening at the Tantallon detachment when he accidentally fired one round.

Investigators say the incident happened in an enclosed armoury and no one was injured.

Police say the officer is a trained carbine operator.

They say an internal investigation will be conducted to determine what happened.

Nov 10 2015

SURREY, B.C. - Mounties in Surrey, B.C., say a would-be carjacker is in jail after picking the worst-possible vehicle to try and steal.

Police say a man approached a car at a city intersection Monday evening and tried to pull the driver out of his seat with a goal of stealing the vehicle.

But the man's plans went awry - the vehicle was an unmarked police car and the two occupants were undercover officers, who identified themselves and then arrested the man.

Surrey RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scotty Schumann says the officers are both big, burly men and don't look like the kind of guys anyone would want to pick a fight with.

Schumann says the suspect got the ride he wanted, but probably not to the location he was planning.

Twenty-five-year-old Kyle Blair, of Pen-ticton, B.C., is in custody and faces possible charges of robbery and breach of probation.

Nov 10 2015

MEDICINE HAT, Alta. - A police officer in southeastern Alberta has been given a conditional discharge for assaulting a man at a hotel in 2012.

It means Constable Robert Angstadt of the Medicine Hat police will not have a criminal record if he meets the conditions.

The 42-year-old will be on probation for a year, he has to take anger management counselling and do a report on the role and responsibilities of police officers.

Angstadt was convicted for assaulting James Halcro, who is now 37, during an arrest at the Cecil Hotel in August 2012.

Victim statements from both Halcro and his sister outlined his struggles since the assault, including depression, anxiety, job loss, and medical issues.

Angstadt's lawyer, Willie de Wit, says his client's comments seemed to affect the judge's decision.

The constable expressed remorse and sympathy for Halcro and also spoke about how it affected his life and career.

"He believed he was following the training he was given and I think he followed that to the best of his abilities at the time," de Wit said outside court.

"Certainly he indicated he would do things differently in the future and that he's learned from the situation."

(CJCV)

Nov 10 2015

TORONTO - Almost 25 years to the day that a man from India was slain at a Toronto gas station, police say they

have used state-of-the-art investigative techniques to identify a suspect in the long-cold case.

Rupert Richards, 61, of Toronto, was arrested Monday and charged with first-degree murder in the death of Surinder Singh Parmar, Det.-Sgt. Stacy Gallant told a news conference this morning.

Gallant said Richards was “surprised” when homicide detectives arrived at his west-end home yesterday morning.

The victim’s family was also shocked by an arrest in the case after so many years.

Parmar, 38, was found stabbed to death in the washroom of Penny Gas Bar at 1039 Danforth Rd. on Nov. 19, 1990 around 1:15 a.m.

A customer who found the gas station unattended discovered Parmar’s lifeless body in the men’s washroom. Gallant said the stabbing occurred during the robbery of a “small amount of cash.”

Parmar died of stab wounds to the neck and abdomen.

Gallant said the forensics unit cracked the case by using “new testing technology” that was unavailable in 1990 to examine DNA and fingerprints on crime-scene items that were “sitting in case boxes on shelves for years.”

(Toronto Star)

Nov 10 2015

Someone in the FBI’s own IT department is probably having a very bad week.

Hackers earlier this month were able to access a US law enforcement arrest database, and posted screenshots to Twitter – including some high-profile arrestees, like hacker Jeremy Hammond, convicted for his part in the Stratfor leak. It wasn’t just that arrest database. The hackers, according to Wired, also gained access to a police file transfer service, an instant messaging service for police and a real-time intelligence-sharing platform, among others.

The one-stop shop law enforcement gateway, known as LEEP (Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal), is accessible from the web and, indeed, from any computer or network.

So easy is it to access, in fact, that the government has its own domain name: LEO.gov.

The FBI says on its website that it’s “located in one centralized location,” and accessible by “a single sign-on process – using one username and one password for many different resources and services.”

It’s not clear how many authorized users there are, but the number is likely to be in the many hundreds of thousands.

Exactly how the hackers got access to the database remains a mystery. When asked by Wired, the hackers did not respond.

According to NextGov, getting access to the system “does not require multifactor authentication, such as using a password and another form of ID like a smart card.”

One theory is that they may have accessed the FBI-run law enforcement portal like any other user would have done: with a username and password.

The hackers first hit the public scene

when they gained access to the personal AOL email account of CIA director John Brennan. A number of documents were later acquired by whistleblowing site WikiLeaks and posted online.

The hackers didn’t stop there, either. CNN reports that the hackers were able to access the email account of FBI deputy director Mark Giuliano. Email accounts are often the final port of call for password reset messages, making it a prime target for anyone who wants to get access to other systems.

But even most email accounts and social networking sites have two-factor authentication, a system whereby the user gets a notification on a trusted device – like a phone – to add an extra layer of security on top of a username and password. And without that code, you can’t log in.

What’s more surprising is that the FBI trumpets two-factor authentication as one of the prime ways of keeping data safe.

“Cyber criminals...obtain passwords more often than you think. Which is why it’s important to add another level of protection between the cyber criminal and you,” says the FBI’s own website.

What isn’t surprising is that the FBI didn’t follow its own advice, and it doesn’t follow standard industry advice.

An FBI spokesperson said they had no comment beyond the Friday statement, which was:

“We have no comment on specific claims of hacktivism, but those who engage in such activities are breaking the law. The FBI takes

these matters very seriously. We will work with our public and private sector partners to identify and hold accountable those who engage in illegal activities in cyberspace.”

(Zero Day)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Nov 11 2015

LOS ANGELES - Shootings involving Los Angeles Police Department officers have doubled this year, a statistic that the new head of the agency’s civilian oversight board said was alarming.

So far this year, there have been 45 officer-involved shootings in Los Angeles, compared to 23 through the same time period last year, Matthew Johnson, president of the Los Angeles Police Commission, said Tuesday.

Nineteen of this year’s shootings have been fatal, compared to 18 last year and 14 the year before. In 2012, there were 17 fatal officer-involved shootings, and 26 in 2011.

Johnson’s comments come as a report (<http://bit.ly/1Y2qj5K>) by KPCC found that officers in departments throughout sprawling Los Angeles County, including the LAPD, shot at least 375 people, 187 fatally, between 2010 and 2014.

Of the 148 people shot after they dropped their hands out of sight or “reached for” their waistbands, 47 turned out to be unarmed,



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according to the report, based on district attorney records, other public documents and interviews.

In all, 97 unarmed people were shot. Black people were shot at triple the rate of whites and Latinos.

Of 279 people shot because police said they had ignored their commands, 120 showed signs of mental illness or impairment from drugs or alcohol, the report said.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell told KPCC that while troubling, his agency's shootings involving unarmed people were unavoidable.

"You have to do what you have to do to be able to protect your own life and the lives of others," McDonnell said.

Nov 11 2015

Halifax Regional Police Chief Jean-Michel Blais says he owed it to the officers that serve under him to reveal his diagnosis of PTSD.



Recently, Blais shared that he was diagnosed with PTSD in January 2012. The diagnosis came two years after his third trip to Haiti with the United Nations.

Blais worked in the Caribbean country, first in 1995 with the United Nations and returned again in 2008.

During those tours, he witnessed violent rioting and numerous hurricanes.

Most difficult was the collapse of a school. As commander of the operations, he had to order the body of a victim be cut in half so a young girl could be pulled alive from the rubble.

His third trip, in 2010, was to help with the devastating outcome of the earthquake that destroyed much of the capital city, Port-au-Prince.

In that earthquake, more than 230,000 people died. Blais helped search rubble for missing officers and people he worked alongside when he was stationed in the city.

The earthquake in Haiti continued to haunt Blais after his return to Canada.

(CBC News)

Nov 11 2015

AURORA, Ont. - York Regional Police say a 65-year-old former officer with the force is charged in a sexual assault investigation involving a young girl.

Police say they began an investigation on Nov. 3 after receiving a report that a child had been sexually assaulted on Oct. 30.

Donald Clark is charged with sexual assault and sexual interference, and was to appear in court Wednesday in Newmarket, Ont.

Clark was a York Regional Police officer

between 1974 and 2006, and since 2007 was employed part time on a retiree contract as a fleet assistant.

The force says his employment contract has been terminated.

Investigators are asking anyone with information related to the case to call police.

Nov 11 2015

TORONTO - Tim Saunders has a solution to lowering escalating policing costs: allow private security guards to perform certain duties now carried out by highly trained and paid officers.

"It's not about the displacement of front-line policing," insists Saunders, chief business development officer with G4S, the world's largest provider of security services.

"It can be an extraordinarily complementary strategy, putting highly trained resources in complex environments where they need to be, versus other areas."

The role private security firms might potentially play in traditional public policing is drawing increasing interest as cash-strapped municipalities struggle to pay their rising law enforcement tabs, at a time of dropping crime rates.

On Thursday, Toronto Police budget planners will tell the civilian oversight board the force's funding for 2016 must rise, once again, to cover the most recent collective-agreement payroll increase.

While Mayor John Tory and board chair Andy Pringle have talked about looking for efficiencies in policing, Saunders' cost-cut-

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ting message, so far, appears to have fallen on deaf ears at city hall, where there is no stomach for blowback from the powerful and change-resistant police union.

Saunders is diplomatic and says he and the lobbyists hired by G4S have had some "very interesting and productive conversations with both provincial and municipal levels."

He also stresses it takes time to establish relationships, while acknowledging the difficulty of pushing an expanded role for private security. "As soon as you have the conversation, it seems to create this defensive stance, and that's not what it's about from my perspective," he says.

(Toronto Star)

Nov 11 2015

CALGARY - City council has voted to leave the enforcement of community traffic issues to police.

Earlier this year councillors had considered whether other agencies could help out police in residential traffic enforcement. Chief Roger Chaffin says its best left to police.

"We do somewhere in the neighbourhood of 75,000 of these a year and our trending on this shows certainly an increase in the opportunity of these otherwise routine traffic stops turn into difficult situations. We're surprised to see just how many of these traffic calls turn into calls for big assistance for HAWCS and for canine and different things. Having that break in communication would not be in service to the community or the officers and we'd certainly be concerned about harm to anybody."

Chaffin admits police can't be everywhere all the time but says there can be have programs that would help better meet the needs of the community.

(News Talk 770)

Nov 11 2015

EDMONTON - It's not a brew that will be available at every liquor store, but word is spreading quickly about an Edmonton-produced craft beer being made in memory of a fallen police officer.

Two Sergeant's Brewing Co. says the launch of Patrolman's English-Style Bitter in honour of Const. Daniel Woodall has been so successful, staff have had to work extra hard to keep up with demand.

Woodall, 35, was fatally shot on June 8 after he and other officers responded to a hate crimes-related call in the city's west end.

More than a week later, he was laid to rest in a regimental funeral and after that, a few of his friends went to the nearby Craft Beer Market and hoisted a pint in his memory - a tradition from his home country of England.

That moment got local beer makers thinking about a way to honour him, and it was decided a beer seemed like a perfect tribute.

Two Sergeant's Brewing, run by a pair of former military men, jumped at the chance to pay tribute to the fallen officer.

Usually, it can take up to a year to get the recipe for a new beer right, but this particular

recipe came together in six weeks with input from Woodall's widow, Claire, on what the man himself would have liked in a beer.

"That meant a lot to me and that's why we worked so hard on it," said Kevin Moore, a 23-year military veteran and brewmaster with Two Sergeants Brewing.

Three months after Woodall's death, the dark ale was launched.

"You certainly hold onto those moments that give you comfort, and for me that was what I didn't know I needed," Dave Ainsworth, a close friend of Woodall, said about the beer. "In that time, I could look up and give him a little nod and say: 'You know what? You've got your own beer, mate.'"

The product has become very popular at Craft Beer Market, the only location where it is currently available from the tap.

"We've been moving at least a keg a week," said market spokesman Matt Salucop.

Patrolman's ESB was also only supposed to be available for another month, but its popularity has led the brewery to make it a permanent product.

"It's such a popular brew, we've made it one of our staple beers now," Moore said.

The beer is also available at select liquor stores by the bottle, and a number of Edmonton restaurants plan to offer the beer permanently.

Ten per cent of the profits from Patrolman's ESB goes to the Woodall family.

(CTV Edmonton)

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

Nov 12 2015

OTTAWA - Federal security agencies risk being overwhelmed by threats - or failing to even foresee them - unless they embrace the digital-age phenomenon of big-data crunching, warns an internal Public Safety Canada presentation.

With billions of people using mobile phones and surfing the Internet, security officials are preoccupied with getting timely access to valuable information. But the recent past is littered with challenges related to information sharing and privacy - including controversy over the Conservative omnibus bill known as C-51, the presentation notes.

Officials acknowledge the public might not trust government to respect privacy in the process, pointing to revelations by former U.S. spy contractor Edward Snowden about widespread surveillance of communications.

"Canadians are increasingly concerned about issues of crime and terrorism, but in the post-Snowden era, public concerns about government data use may stand as a barrier to the effective use of innovative data analytics by law enforcement and security organizations," the presentation says.

Big data analytics generally refers to the process of gathering and systematically sifting through millions or even billions of pieces of data - numbers, text, graphics, videos

and sensor information - to glean insights that can't be detected through standard methods.

Given the pace of technological advancement and the exponential increase in the amount of data produced worldwide, there may be opportunities to do things more efficiently and identify patterns through innovative techniques, the presentation says.

"In other words, once we have the information, how can we ensure that we are in a position to use it effectively?"

The May 2015 presentation, Big Data Analytics in the World of Safety and Security, was prepared for Public Safety Canada's internal policy committee. The Canadian Press obtained a declassified version of the secret draft presentation under the Access to Information Act. Small portions were withheld due to their sensitivity.

The presenters cite examples of using big data analysis to create efficiencies, find a needle in a haystack and fill data gaps. For instance:

- Philadelphia police mined data to predict a parolee's risk of reoffending to determine the necessary level of supervision;
- U.S. researchers found that a genetic variant related to schizophrenia was not detectable when reviewing 3,500 cases but were able to pinpoint a trend by looking at 35,000 cases;
- In Guatemala, a pilot project revealed how mobile phone movement patterns could be used to predict socioeconomic status.

More than two years ago, Jennifer Stoddart, the federal privacy commissioner at the time, cautioned that big data had not simply increased the risk to privacy - it had changed the very nature of that risk.

The Public Safety presentation allows that privacy considerations and building public confidence must be taken into account.

"Privacy does not need to be a barrier to innovative data analytics," it says. "We need to think strategically about what we want to accomplish with data and then design in appropriate privacy protections."

The officials also stress the importance of finding the right partners to pursue "promising practices" as well as ensuring agencies have the technology, policies and people to make the most of the techniques.

Other federal departments and provincial security partners are exploring the potential of big data analytics, they note, but "innovation is limited and often done in silos."

The risk of not harnessing big data is a "reduced capacity to respond to - or even understand - the changing threat environment," the presentation warns.

Ultimately, the presenters ask whether officials should explore big data opportunities in more depth and, if so, which ones would be most useful to the portfolio?

Public Safety had no immediate comment on the department's plans.

(Toronto Star)