

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

JANUARY 1, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 1

## Executive Digest

Dec 23 2015

**EDMONTON** - Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht says his biggest concern with the federal government's plan to legalize marijuana is what happens when users get behind the wheel.

Page 4

Dec 24 2015

**VICTORIA** - The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board has hired a public relations expert as the RCMP prepares to conduct an investigation into the alleged misconduct of police chief Frank Elsner.

Page 6

Dec 28 2015

**Stung by the admission of Canada's federal police chief that his force includes racist officers, the association representing Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers says the remarks put "officers in harm's way both legally and personally."**

Page 9

Dec 29 2015

**VANCOUVER** - Vancouver's police chief and city manager say they have not yet resolved the province's attempts to download the hefty costs of DNA analysis to police.

Page 10

Dec 30 2015

**WINNIPEG** - Manitoba's attorney general says he will be pushing for more federal money to help bolster front-line First Nations policing on remote reserves amid harsh criticism from northern chiefs.

Page 10

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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*Blue Line Magazine is pleased to select the Amherstburg Police Service as the 2016 winner of Canada's Best Dressed Police Vehicle Award. The design was described by the judges as not only memorable but breathtaking.*

The Amherstburg police vehicle was selected for a look and style appropriate to the community's heritage and history, improved lighting and innovative prisoner transport – but its unique design carried the most weight.

Incorporating a line of red-coats at the ready, it clearly shows the service respects the history of its region. The area was a community of refuge for dislocated families during the troubling periods between 1790 and 1830 – loyalists fleeing retribution after the American revolution, First Nations peoples dispossessed of their lands by encroaching

settlers and runaway slaves escaping the oppression of southern landowners. They all found protection under the thin red line of British and Canadian soldiers guarding this famous frontier.

A community of refuge

Amherstburg, nestled along the shores of Lake Erie and the Detroit River, is one of the oldest settlements in South Western Ontario. Located in Essex County, the most southern region in Canada, and just 20 kilometres from the international border, Amherstburg is home to more than 20,000 people.

The town, steeped in historic charm with its waterfront setting and regional location, offers a world of opportunities for its growing population. Its century old buildings share the streetscape with modern architectural

# Happy New Year!

## 2016

# BLUE LINE MAGAZINE



structures, linking the past with the present, combining small town charm and great hospitality.

The town, dockyard and the original Fort Amherstburg, constructed in 1796, guarded the Detroit River and played a strategic role in the defense and development of Upper Canada. The fort was burned by the British when they were forced to retreat in 1813. Americans occupied it from October 1813 until July 1815 when the British regained control. Its replacement, Fort Malden, was built in 1838 and played a pivotal role in the British defense during the Upper Canada Rebellion. Today, Fort Malden is a living monument to the region and it's past.

### Design

The War of 1812 bicentennial celebrations in 2012 prompted the service to pay tribute to the past in the graphic design of its new police cruisers. The red clad, musket carrying British soldiers who regained control of the area from the Americans in 1815 are a recognizable symbol of the war and the history of the town. This symbol anchors the new design.

"We are continually trying to optimize the functionality and the appearance of our fleet," says Amherstburg police chief Tim Berthiaume. "When looking for a new design it was only natural for us to look to our past."

The service motto, "People Just Like You" is displayed on the front fender to emphasize the shared human connection. Too often police officers are viewed as just a uniform and badge, not as human beings with families just like everyone else.

Amherstburg is a small service, with only five patrol vehicles and one supervisor vehicle, so it was important to both be visible in the community while not standing out too much on the highway when doing traffic enforcement. A two-tone blue and white colour scheme was used. This was achieved by ordering blue Dodge Chargers and using



white decals on the door panels.

The blue hood, roof and A-pillar appear, from a distance, to be a common dark coloured vehicle. The colour conceals the front push bar. The roof light bar is also low profile to reduce its visibility when not in operation.

The white door panels offer a contrast to the blue, allowing a clean backdrop for the British soldier image. The bold lettering of "POLICE" makes the vehicle unmistakable for anything else.

High visibility is also a consideration. The bold "POLICE" lettering on the door panels, "AMHERSTBURG" and the police crest, "9-1-1" and the Canadian flag logos are all reflective, as are the markings on the rear bumper.

There are high intensity LED red and blue lights in the low profile light bar, front grill, rear window and taillights, and strobes in the headlights.

### Social media connection

In today's connected society, it's important to use patrol vehicles as moving billboards to inform the public to contact/follow a police service on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. 9-1-1 and Crimestoppers are also advertised on the Amherstburg patrol vehicles.

### Prisoner transport

The days of large vehicles such as the Ford Crown Victoria are coming to an end. With interior space becoming more confined, it is important to properly use the space that is available. Patrol vehicle in Amherstburg are also used to transport prisoners so a rear cage is required. Installing a cage into the rear seat reduces the interior space significantly, resulting in less useable space for the officer.

To alleviate this issue, the service has begun using a half-cage. This allows a prisoner to be isolated in a secure area of the rear seat while still allowing a full range of driver's seat adjustment. This also permits duty bags and other items to be secured in the other portion of the rear seat rather than trying to find space in a trunk already full of tools for the job.

### Supervisory backup

Versatility is the biggest advantage to the new supervisor vehicle. Policing a rural area, especially during the winter months, means accessibility can be challenging at times. In the past officers had to use unmarked vehicles to drive through deep snow or off-road areas. Marked vehicles could not drive on this terrain but the new Ford F150 4x4 pick-up truck can. Now officers can easily access rural areas and traverse deep snow while still maintaining a visible police presence in a marked vehicle equipped with full emergency lights.

The bed of the truck allows for easy transportation of seized or found property such as bicycles too large to fit in the trunk of a patrol car. The service previously had to rely on town work trucks to move larger items.

### Second Place – London Police Service

The city of London was incorporated in January 1855 and the London Police Force was formed one month later. As the city grew to its present population of 360,000, the police grew with it, expanding from an original complement of eight constables to a present staff of 593 sworn officers, 194 civilians and 22 cadets.



The design of marked police cars has changed considerably over the years. By 1992, London police moved from a traditional blue car with white doors to an all white car with a simple blue over red stripe. In the early 2000s, the service updated the design so the two colored stripes intertwined. In 2007, it added its new motto to the front – *Facta Non Verba* (Deeds, Not Words).

The design did not fit comfortably with the more aerodynamic flow of the 2011 Dodge Charger. The intertwined stripes directly over the wheel wells seemed particularly jarring. The service approached Artcal Graphics of London with the rough sketch of a possible new design and started the process. Ideas flowed back and forth until two similar packages were hammered out and presented to senior management.

With their approval, the current look was born. It has been adapted onto patrol vehicles, SUVs and large special service trucks, establishing a consistent theme for the London Police Service.

The design has elements of a bird of prey, with its "beak" exactly matching the shape of the new Dodge Charger headlights,

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Celebrating 20 Years

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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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12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1  
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sweeping backwards into a flow of striping. This gives the entire design a strong sense of directionality, one of the elements that we look for in our Best Dressed Contest. The ability to quickly discern the direction a vehicle is traveling, night or day, is an important element in officer safety. Instead of bumping in to the wheel wells like the old design, the stripes flow around them, giving an almost Italian sports car flow to the lines.

The innovative design uses the latest in 3M reflective technology to effectively mirror the natural contours of the new Dodge Charger.

## Law Enforcement Prince Edward Island Sheriff Services

The PEI Sheriff Services are responsible for providing a safe environment in and around the province's courts. Duties include court security, inmate and jury management, fine and writ collection and process work.



PEI Sheriff Services also enforce all family maintenance enforcement orders across the island, including serving papers and arrest warrants. It is tasked with seizing property, carrying out evictions and transporting people in custody.

We previously recognized the agency for its innovative design. The new 2015 layout was done in partnership with Auto Trip Design of Summerside PEI. We especially liked the distinctiveness of the "Sheriff" labeling on the previous design, and the newest version continues this with a very effective lettering outline plus a new graduated coloring to the letters. The striping again follows the natural side scoop of the Dodge Charger bodyline. PEI Sheriffs have always had a strong and proud agency identity and we were particularly impressed how a quick glance immediately shows who they are and where they are from.

## Special Service Vehicle RCMP Mission BC

The Mission BC Detachment of the RCMP is responsible for policing several forest service roads, trails and areas known as the "mudflats." Historically the Mounties used 4x4 police trucks to access these remote areas.

With the advancements in performance and durability of utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), the Mission RCMP chose the all-new law enforcement package offered for the



2015 Can-Am Commander Max XT 1000r.

In keeping with the matte black color scheme, black reflective decals were added along with a discreet emergency lighting package. This "stealth" look also makes the vehicle more attractive when interacting with youth at community events.

The 4-seater UTV allows officers to transport Fire/Paramedics and other emergency personnel quickly to remote areas inaccessible by truck or car. The Commander Max was outfitted with a secure electronic release long gun rack, off-road lights, Pro Armor doors, after market bumpers, 5,000 pound winch and police radio with a mobile repeater.

The very unique coloring and striping of the UTV allows it to blend very effectively into its environment when needed, and the integrated Whelen LED light package allows it to stand out when required. Designers even found a spot on a lower rear panel for a small stealth RCMP logo outlining a Musical Ride horse and rider, a nod to a distinctly Canadian agency with a very proud history.

## Crime Prevention/Community Relations CFSEU

Crime prevention vehicles are an important part of public relations. They serve as fun and interesting billboards for police agencies, and there is nothing that warms us more than to see once-expensive cars seized from drug dealers and repurposed into helping the community.



The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) is the provinces' integrated anti-gang police agency. The hybrid unit has approximately 400 officers and civilian staff from 14 law enforcement agencies. Its mandate is focused on gang and organized crime in BC and it's the second police agency in the province (Abbotsford was the first) to be approved for vehicle grants by the province's civil forfeiture office.

This 2009 BMW X5, seized from a drug

dealer by the RCMP and ultimately forfeited, was received in 2014 and has been used for media events, community presentations and as a tool to connect with youth and communities across British Columbia. As an integral part of the agency's End Gang Life gang prevention and education initiative ([www.endganglife.ca](http://www.endganglife.ca)), the vehicle has been taken to more than 100 events in dozens of communities across the province. It was featured in both the 2014 Vancouver Pride and Surrey Vaisakhi parades which, combined, attracted more than 1,000,000 spectators. It is considered a critical component of ongoing efforts to connect with youth and communities. In early 2015 the vehicle was outfitted with a full complement of emergency equipment, including LED lighting and sirens, making it the first, and only, BMW "police car" in British Columbia. It has also been outfitted with in-grill, under mounted and interior display LED lighting. A solar panel on the roof powers a second battery, allowing the LED lighting to be left running when the vehicle is not.

The overall design exactly appeals to its target audience, with a modern look that is still professional without any hint of "ransom note." It basically reminds viewers that police are still the world's biggest street gang. It's fun to imagine the look on the face of the previous owner when he sees it drive past his jail cell!

## Canada's Best Dressed Police Vehicles

**Blue Line Magazine has been recognizing creativity, visibility and community identity in the design of Canadian police vehicles since 2005 through our annual Best Dressed contest.**

Police vehicles are not just transportation; they are the calling cards of a police service to the community. They must be both highly visible and instantly recognizable.

Graphic designs are ever evolving but one area we focus on every year is officer safety. As police cars get smaller and light-bars more aerodynamic, we especially look for essentials such as clear identification, graphic designs that enhance visibility, design elements that show directionality of travel and effective integration of equipment and controls.

Submit nominations to [bestdressed@blueline.ca](mailto:bestdressed@blueline.ca) by October 31.

Finalists are selected by a panel of editors at *Blue Line Magazine* and recognized vehicle enthusiasts. They are judged on a scale that awards points for creativity, visibility, readability, ergonomics, equipment integration and community identity.

We announce the winners each January in conjunction with our police vehicles issue. There are four different best dressed categories: Police vehicle, law enforcement vehicle, crime prevention/community relations vehicle and special service vehicle.

Winners reflect the incredible diversity



and resourcefulness of Canadian police and law enforcement agencies and the creativity of civilians and companies who support them.

## JUDGES

Dave Brown - Chief Judge - Automotive Columnist - *Blue Line Magazine*  
Morley Lymburner - Group Publisher - *Blue Line Magazine*  
Cam Woolley - CTV News & Crime Reporter  
Dave Wilson - Investigator - Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council  
Mark Reesor - Senior Editor - *Blue Line Magazine*



"So do we want somebody out there who's highly impaired by marijuana? Absolutely not. I don't think anybody wants that."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau campaigned on a pledge to legalize and regulate marijuana for recreational use, and the government has said it will act on the promise.

In its campaign platform, the Liberal government said it plans to decriminalize marijuana use and possession, while creating stronger laws to punish more severely those who drive while high or sell to minors or outside a regulatory framework.

"Do we need something similar to a breathalyzer or intoxilyzer so we know, OK this is what the level is of marijuana that you can ingest and still drive a vehicle safely? We're not there right now," said Knecht.

"So I would just caution that we don't want to put the cart before the horse here. We want to maintain everybody's safety."

Knecht said he is also concerned about the health risks of pot-smoking, pointing out as restrictions are increasingly placed on

cigarette-smoking "now we're introducing something else into that dynamic."

He said legalizing marijuana will "absolutely" see a "big increase" and then it will probably level off.

"There's some people that just won't do certain things because it's illegal," Knecht said. "And so when you say something's legal, they're saying the state, the system is saying that's OK."

"So you will get people that will do it because it's now legal" who otherwise wouldn't do it, he added.

(CBC News)

Dec 23 2015

**VANCOUVER - Vancouver police say they suspect the drug fentanyl has contributed to the deaths of three people and an outbreak of non-fatal overdoses in recent days.**

Police say two men, aged 24 and 35, and a woman in her 20s died from suspected overdoses between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Seventeen overdoses, mostly on the Downtown Eastside, also occurred between Saturday and Tuesday morning.

Police say Health Canada will analyze drugs recovered from the scenes of the deaths but officers already suspect that fentanyl will be found.

Last last week, police issued a warning after fentanyl was stolen during the robbery of a local pharmacy.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2015**

Dec 23 2015

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht says his biggest concern with the federal government's plan to legalize marijuana is what happens when users get behind the wheel.**

While a breathalyzer can be used to detect impairment from alcohol, there is still no effective technology for detecting levels of pot usage, Knecht says.

"We don't have very good mechanisms right now that we can use on a broad scale to detect somebody being under the influence of marijuana," said Knecht in a year-end interview with CBC news.

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**PENTICTON, B.C. - A British Columbia woman who claims she was attacked by a Mountie during a traffic stop was acquitted Wednesday in provincial court of assaulting the same officer.**

The trial heard that Fiona Galt Munro, 34, was pulled over after driving away from a pub in Osoyoos, B.C., around 2 a.m. on Sept. 28, 2013.

Const. Ian MacNeil testified Munro was combative and tried to walk away from him, so he grabbed her arms and wrists to put her in handcuffs and during the struggle was punched, kicked and elbowed by her.

Munro testified that she distrusted MacNeil because of past dealings with him and his former partner. She claimed he pulled her by her ankles from her car, then dragged her across the pavement to his cruiser.

She said when she got to her feet the officer slammed her head against the hood of his car three times.

Photos entered as exhibits showed Munro with two black eyes and bruising on her arms, wrists and neck.

Judge Roy Dickey said in his reasons for judgment that the woman's bruising and facial injuries show her story was more consistent with the evidence.

"I do believe that much more occurred here than is acknowledged by the officer," he said.

However, he dismissed Munro's claim she was pulled from her vehicle by her ankles.

"This simply makes no sense. For the officer to do this, he would have had to have placed himself at significant risk with Ms. Munro. I do not believe this occurred."

Dickey noted that both Munro and another officer at the scene testified she had asked that night that video footage from MacNeil's cruiser be preserved as evidence, although there wasn't actually a camera in the car.

The judge said her request demonstrated she "clearly believed this camera would assist her in what occurred that evening."

MacNeil and his former partner, Const. Amit Goyal, were the subjects of numerous complaints several years ago that alleged they mistreated some members of the public. Munro was among those who complained.

Goyal has since been suspended and faces a code of conduct hearing in an unrelated matter, while MacNeil is still on the job in Osoyoos.

Dec 23 2015

**CALGARY - Five police cars and a couple of civilian vehicles were damaged after a driver in a stolen truck went on a rampage through northwest Calgary.**

Police say they were notified about the truck at about 5:20 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Investigators were able to find it by using a GPS unit installed inside the vehicle and monitoring the actions of the driver through the use of the police helicopter.

The driver was seen driving at a high rate of speed with no care to public safety, even

before ground vehicles attended the call - crashing over sidewalks, running red lights, driving through bike lanes, and into oncoming traffic at different occasions.

Police eventually were forced to stop the vehicle by pinning it against a light standard and a parked civilian vehicle.

No one was injured in the incident but the driver was arrested and charges are pending. (CTV Calgary)

Dec 23 2015

**CALGARY - The lives of at least five Calgaryers have been saved since July due to a naloxone antidote program for fentanyl overdoses, says Calgary's top doctor.**

"We expect that there have been many more than five kits used in Calgary of the 371 we have given out, and many more than five lives saved is a win," said Dr. Nick Etches, the Alberta Health Services medical officer of health for Calgary.

Naloxone reverses overdoses by blocking receptors in the brain where fentanyl works and brings the person back to a state where they can breathe on their own, he said.

Calgary police said in the fall deaths in the province could reach 300 by the end of this year.

There have been 371 naloxone kits handed out since July in the Calgary region.

The kits are distributed by prescription and come with training on their use.

Etches says the kits are part of a broader strategy with other partners including law enforcement, because fentanyl has become such a big problem.

"Obviously we can do more, we need to do more," Etches said.

"This issue with fentanyl isn't going away any time soon, we know that and to that end we are going to be expanding naloxone distribution at AHS in the near future."

(CBC News)

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 24, 2015**

Dec 24 2015

**VANCOUVER - When Stanley Cup rioters rained chaos onto Vancouver's downtown core in June 2011, holes were exposed in the capabilities of police trying to stop looting and arsons.**

Communication between police was so bad that teams deploying tear gas accidentally dispersed crowds into streets being cleared by other squads. Radios were so faint that many officers relayed messages on foot.

It took police over four hours to curb the destruction, which spurred more than three years of investigations and prompted about 1,260 criminal charges. Detectives collected 5,000 hours of digital video that was examined by 50 forensic analysts over two weeks at an Indianapolis laboratory.

All the effort, cost and injuries could

have been minimized had a high-tech solution been available.

A technology startup based in Vancouver gathered the findings from police as it pioneered cutting-edge software to address crises.

The CommandWear Systems' platform has been piloted and used by several police and paramedics agencies across Canada since the company was launched in June 2013.

"These organizations spend thousands of person-hours and millions of dollars investigating and trying to stitch together what happened. We record everything," said CEO Mike Morrow, who has worked with emergency responders for 26 years.

"What the situation looked like at any time, it's all there. They can play it back like a movie."

Instant replay is just one feature of the system that pairs a mobile app with a smartphone or smartwatch to receive vibrating text messages and keep track of each emergency responder.

Back at the command centre, the officer in charge can watch team members moving as colour-coded dots over a map on a tablet or laptop.

The system also records pictures and videos that can be posted to a timeline in real time.

In British Columbia, the RCMP has acquired CommandWear for their emergency response teams.

Morrow said the RCMP connected with his company because of two critical incidents: the shooting rampage through Moncton, N.B., in June 2014 that killed three police constables, and the fatal shooting of a Canadian soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa in October 2014.

"Now they're able to know where their team members are to communicate with them to keep them safe," Morrow said.

The system has been used by Vancouver police during summertime fireworks competitions, a tradition that draws 400,000 people to the city's beaches.

Ontario Provincial Police and the Toronto Police Service used it to co-ordinate and track their teams during the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Dec 24 2015

**MONTREAL - Border services officers say they have seized more than 1,300 kilograms of hashish at the Port of Montreal.**

The Canada Border Services Agency says the drugs were found Dec. 10 in a marine container filled with boards of floating floor and wooden handcrafted furniture.

The hashish was concealed inside laminated floor pieces and was detected by River, a seven-year-old Labrador retriever trained to find drugs and firearms.

There were 3,046 packets of the drug.

The container had come from Malawi.

No arrests have been made as of yet.

Dec 24 2015

**EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Service is looking for public feedback as it makes cuts to its service.**



"We have the philosophy no call is too small - not anymore," said Chief Rod Knecht in a year-end interview with CBC News.

"We're a big city now, and we have our challenges and we have finite resources. So we're going to have to decide what calls can we go to and what calls can we not go to."

To help with that decision, Knecht said in the first few months of 2016 police will seek public feedback through town hall meetings and online surveys.

"I think that's important that the community inform us on which calls they want to see us go on, where they want to see the investment of finite resources," he said.

Earlier in December city council rejected a proposed \$48.6-million increase to the police budget over three years, agreeing to hike the budget by only \$9 million.

At the time Knecht warned the money would not go far and cuts were likely on the horizon.

He said police have committed to a seven-minute response time for priority calls, but right now that's only being met 65 per cent of the time.

(CBC News)

Dec 24 2015

**HAMILTON - The union representing Hamilton's rank-and-file police officers says it hopes a new chief will come from inside the force and improve morale through a more flexible approach to his or her employees.**



Chief Glenn De Caire announced late last week he was leaving the job as of Jan. 17 to take on a new position as head of security and parking at McMaster University. He'll take two weeks of vacation, which means he's effectively done on Dec. 31.

Those he clashed with most openly - the police union and members of visible minority communities - say the service needs to hire a leader who can mend fences and break with some of the defining characteristics of De Caire's regime.

"I believe that they (the membership) would like to stay internal. We have the talent here to be able to do that," said Clint Twolan, president of the Hamilton Police Association.

"I think that it is really important at this time - this is kind of the feedback I'm getting from the members - stay inside, stay with someone who knows the people, who knows the community, who knows the problems, who knows the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and the community we're policing."

The union recently published a survey

showing almost three quarters of those who responded did not want his contract renewed. Many in the survey spoke of a "culture of fear."

(CBC News)

Dec 24 2015

**LONGUEUIL - Getting pulled over by police is rarely a joyous occasion, but Longueuil police managed to spread a little joy Christmas Eve by doing just that.**

The men and women in blue filled in for Santa and handed out \$100 to 25 people.

It was all made possible by an anonymous donation of \$2,500 the service received.

Police officer Mathieu Beaulieu said people are amazed when they find out they're not getting a ticket.

"It's always fun to be generous with our

clientele," he said.

One person asked if she could give the police officer who handed her the bill a big hug and kiss.

The officers say it's fun to not be intimidating during this time of year and rather show their community that they want to help out.

Last year they gave out \$2,000.

(CTV Montreal)

Dec 24 2015

**VICTORIA - The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board has hired a public relations expert as the RCMP prepares to conduct an investigation into the alleged misconduct of police chief Frank Elsner.**

The board said it usually relies on the

## 2016 POLICE LEADERSHIP AWARD



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

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

The 2016 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2016 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at a presentation held in conjunction with Blue Line Awards Gala, April 27, 2016.



Applications for 2016 must be received by February 10, 2016 at:  
[Leadership@BlueLine.ca](mailto:Leadership@BlueLine.ca)

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Victoria Police Department's public affairs office for communications, but because the investigation involves the force, the board has temporarily hired someone to handle "the increased volume of media requests and the high public interest" in the case.

Kathi Springer from Pace Group Communications will be paid \$125 an hour and will be called upon as needed, the board said in a statement Thursday.

An Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner report ordered RCMP and Vancouver Police members to investigate Elsner's conduct, after the chief admitted to sending "inappropriate" messages on social media to the wife of one of his subordinate officers.

The report contained allegations Elsner provided misleading information and contacted a witness during a previous investigation into his conduct.

Elsner has voluntarily stepped aside from his duties while the investigation continues and is currently on paid leave.

RCMP will also probe allegations of workplace harassment made by four employees against Elsner.

The board, which is co-chaired by Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps and Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins, had disciplinary authority removed by the OPCC. Two retired judges will now oversee disciplinary action in the matter.

(CTV News)

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 25, 2015

Dec 25 2015

**MONTREAL - Two constables with the Montreal Police Department have been ordered suspended without pay for two days by the Quebec Police Ethics Committee for failing to properly respond to a father's report of his daughter's sudden disappearance on Jan. 1, 2013.**

Léonard Jean phoned 911 on that date to report that his 27-year-old daughter, Pamela Jean, had gone missing since the afternoon of Dec. 29, 2012. On Jan. 4, 2013, Pamela Jean was found dead in the basement of a Montreal North duplex, and her spouse was later accused of murdering her.

However, neither Léonard Jean nor police were aware of her death at the time her father reported that she was missing.

The ethics committee found that constables Sandra Baichoo and Yannick Montambault disregarded police protocol in handling the report of Pamela Jean's disappearance. Rather than visit the father to take down a report, they spoke to him over the phone and concluded there was no need to report her disappearance and that everything was in order.

Frustrated that he was getting nowhere with the Montreal police, Léonard Jean turned up at a police station in Longueuil (near where he lived on the South Shore) to

report his daughter's disappearance. It was only at that point that police launched a missing-person investigation.

The ethics committee ruled that Baichoo and Montambault failed to heed the concerns of Pamela Jean's father and they should have opened an investigation immediately.

(Montreal Gazette)

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 26 2015

Dec 26 2015

**RED DEER, Alta. - The agency that investigates police shootings in Alberta says a front-end loader kept running with the driver slumped in the seat after officers fired on the machine.**

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says in a news release that police, who were pursuing a suspect in a sex assault and attempted murder in the Red Deer area, fired shots at the loader after it hit a police vehicle on Christmas Day.

The release says the loader kept rolling forward into a field, then began moving in circles.

"Other RCMP members who followed the front-end loader into the field were able to get close enough to see the man slumped over in the seat and no longer controlling the front-end loader," the release says.

"The front-end loader continued into a wooded area and travelled for approximately 800 metres until it became lodged against a tree."

RCMP members then climbed into the loader and turned it off, the release continues. It says the 37-year-old man was unresponsive and bleeding in the driver's seat and EMS later pronounced him dead at the scene.

RCMP Insp. Gibson Glavin told reporters in Edmonton on Saturday the loader did a lot of damage in the Red Deer area before it was finally stopped.

Police say no officers or members of the public were hurt during the crashes.

The man, who ASIRT says was known to police, was a suspect in the sexual assault of a 47-year-old woman and the attempted murder of a 20-year-old man in the Red Deer area on Christmas morning.

ASIRT says officers spotted the suspect before noon in a stolen vehicle in the community of Sylvan Lake and tried to stop him, but that he reversed as hit a police vehicle and got away.

An hour-and-a-half later, officers spotted the vehicle in an industrial area and saw a man near a front-end loader. He got in and drove it through a fence and onto a highway, smashing several vehicles along the way.

Police followed and at some point, ASIRT says, the loader hit one of the police vehicles. The officer got out and fired, and another officer opened fire, too.

Both officers fired "several shots" the ASIRT release says.

Police say the man knew the victims of the alleged sex assault and attempted murder,

and police say they won't release the identity of the man who was shot in order to protect their privacy.

"The man had been trying to protect the female from the original assault," Glavin explained.

ASIRT has taken over the investigation into the death.

RCMP are still investigating the other events that led to the final confrontation including the sex assault, attempted murder and theft of the loader.

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 27, 2015

Dec 27 2015

**SAINT-CONSTANT, Que. - Quebec provincial police say a 17-year-old youth is dead after being shot by local police Saturday night following what appears to be a family dispute in Saint-Constant, Quebec.**

Provincial police, who are handling the investigation, say local police were called to a residence where the teen had attacked an older male family member.

Police say the teen was carrying a knife when he confronted the local officers and was shot around 1 a.m. Sunday.

The youth died of his injuries. The older victim remains in hospital in critical condition.

Quebec's Public Security Ministry has asked provincial police to investigate since they were not involved in the incident.

Dec 27 2015

**VICTORIA - The BC Coroners Service says drugs are likely the cause of eight deaths in Greater Victoria over the past week.**



Coroner Barb McClintock says five men and three women have died of suspected overdoses in several communities, including Saanich, Langford and Sooke, between Dec. 20 and 26.

The only confirmed overdose is a man who died in a downtown Victoria parkade last Saturday, and was found to have morphine, heroine, fentanyl and methamphetamine.

The other seven deaths are suspected to be drug overdoses and McClintock says all of the dead appear to have been experienced drug users, but the Coroners Service is waiting toxicology reports.

Other agencies such as police have also



reported seeing a number of overdoses where people survived.

McClintock says eight is a significant number of overdoses for Greater Victoria, and that the Coroners Service is working with police, public health and other agencies to warn drug users to be extra cautious.

Dec 27 2015

### **EDMONTON - Police in Edmonton have shot and wounded a man they say was armed and approached officers who were responding to a 911 call.**

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, which investigates police shootings, is now handling the case.

The agency says in a news release that police were called to the scene early Sunday in the city's west end in response to a man who was threatening to shoot himself.

When officers arrived, the release says a 50-year-old man emerged from a home carrying what appeared to be a long-barrelled weapon and confronted the police.

It says one officer fired his service weapon and the man was hit.

Police say the man suffered serious injuries but is expected to survive.

ASIRT says a long-barrelled weapon was recovered from the scene.

## **MONDAY DECEMBER 28, 2015**

Dec 28 2015

### **TORONTO - Toronto police have charged a 13-year old girl with attempted murder in connection with a Christmas Day stabbing incident.**

Police said a teenage girl suffered a serious wound to her upper thigh during a confrontation Friday evening in the city's Flemington park.

She was rushed to hospital in critical condition, but was listed as stable after undergoing surgery.

The suspect, who cannot be named due to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, weapon dangerous, carrying a concealed weapon and assault.

She is scheduled to appear in court Monday morning.

(680 News)

Dec 28 2015

### **MINNEAPOLIS - An appeals court has reversed the conviction of a Minnesota man for trying to encourage an 18-year-old Carleton University student to kill herself.**

The Minnesota Court of Appeals says there wasn't enough evidence to convict William Melchert-Dinkel of attempting to assist the suicide of Nadia Kajouji, of Brampton, Ont., who jumped into the freezing Rideau River in 2008.

However, the court upheld his conviction

on the higher charge of assisting the suicide of a British man.

The appeals court says Melchert-Dinkel gave Mark Drybrough, of Coventry, England, detailed instructions on how to hang himself, but didn't give specific instructions to Kajouji.

Melchert-Dinkel, obsessed with suicide and death, trolled chat rooms dedicated to suicide methods posing as a female.

The case has been the subject of a long legal fight that narrowed Minnesota's law against assisting suicides.

Dec 28 2015

### **TORONTO - Tremors are still being felt throughout Toronto's underworld after massive drug busts against the Mafia, Hells Angels and street gangs in Montreal, a GTA organized crime expert says.**

Toronto-area criminals were amazed by the scope of Projects Magot and Mastiffs - joint raids led by the Quebec provincial police last month, Antonio Nicaso said in an interview.

Nicaso noted that two lawyers are among the 48 people arrested or sought on warrants in the operations.

"No one thought the police could put bugs in a law office," Nicaso said.

"That shocked many, many many people."

Among those arrested were lawyer Leonardo Rizzuto, 46, the son of former Mafia boss Vito Rizzuto, who died suddenly two years ago of reportedly natural causes. Leonardo Rizzuto's boss, lawyer Loris Cavaliere, was also arrested.

Cavaliere is charged with "participating or contributing to the activity of a criminal organization" to facilitate its crimes.

He also faces charges of cocaine trafficking with nine other men between Jan. 1, 2013 and Nov. 16, 2015.

He was released on bail earlier this month after agreeing to put his practice on hold and not to associate with his clients or anyone with a criminal record.

He's also not allowed to attend his own law firm, Cavaliere et Associés on St-Laurent Blvd. in Montreal.

At the time of the arrests, police identified Leonardo Rizzuto and Stefano Sollecito, 48, as joint heads of the Montreal Mafia after the death of Vito.

Sollecito is the son of Rocco (Sauce) Sollecito, a longtime Rizzuto associate.

Stefano Sollecito was identified in 2003 as part of Vito Rizzuto's effort to expand into Toronto.

After the arrests last month, police said Cavaliere acted as a facilitator and moderator for the criminal alliance.

"All the crucial decisions were made in his office," Sûreté du Québec Chief Inspector Patrick Bélanger told the press.

Nicaso said GTA criminals must be feeling "shock and disbelief" that the police operation took them into lawyers' offices.

The arrests came as a war between Vito Rizzuto and underworld rivals - including

## **DISPATCHES**

**Mike Serr** is the new deputy chief constable for the Abbotsford Police Department. He was sworn in November 2015 and will be responsible for the administration division of the APD. Serr began his policing career in 1990 with the Vancouver Police Department. Over the



past 25 years, Serr's assignments with the VPD have included Strike Force, the Major Crime Section, the Integrated Gang Task Force and the BC Municipal Undercover Program. Serr is the recipient of Chief Constable Commendations from both the VPD and APD.

**John Bates** has been formally welcomed as



new police chief for the Saint John Police Force during its official change of command ceremony. Bates was previously the chief of police in Stratford, Ont. and replaces former Chief Bill Reid. He began his policing career with the Brantford Police Service in 1985 where he served for 21 years prior to being appointed as deputy chief of the Stratford Police Service in 2006. He served as both deputy chief and then as the chief in Stratford for nine years. Bates' policing experience includes uniform patrol, traffic enforcement, collision investigation and reconstruction, major crime investigation and tactical response.

**Scott Tod** is the new deputy chief at the



North Bay Police Service. Most recently he was the deputy commissioner with the Ontario Provincial Police and has spent over 30 years in law enforcement. He has been with the OPP since 1982 and served in a variety of leadership capacities. Deputy Commissioner Tod served as a major case manager in the OPP criminal investigations branch for five years and he was designated as a multi-jurisdictional major case investigator by the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. An Officer of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces, he is also the recipient of the Police Officer Exemplary Service Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

## **PROMOTIONS RETIREMENTS RECOGNITION**

If you have a senior officer in your agency recently promoted or retiring or an individual you wish to have recognized (major award or recently deceased) you can let *Blue Line Magazine* know by email to:

***Dispatches@blueline.ca***



some in the GTA - remained unresolved.

"You cannot avoid that," Nicaso said. "There was a war in Montreal. The war isn't settled yet. There are people still with a desire for revenge."

Nicaso noted that some key members of the Rizzuto organization are due to be released from prison over the next few months.

That makes things particularly volatile in 2016 for mobsters in Toronto and Montreal, Nicaso said.

"This is a studying phase," Nicaso said. "A phase in which they are all looking at each other."

(Toronto Star)

Dec 28 2015

### **TORONTO - Toronto police are looking for a Lamborghini driver who crashed his \$260,000 vehicle and fled the scene in a BMW early Monday.**

The game of musical luxury cars took place shortly after 2:30 a.m. Monday, when the driver of the Italian sports car was picked up by someone in a BMW after a two-car collision on the Gardiner Expressway.

Photos taken by CBC show a light-blue Lamborghini with its front-end completely torn off. There were no injuries reported in the two-car crash, despite the massive property damage.

Mike Gallo, service manager at Lamborghini Uptown Toronto, said the car is a Gallardo LP560-4, likely a 2013 or 2014 since the model was discontinued this year. The base retail price is \$260,000 for the coupe.

It's not a car the mechanic recognizes from around Toronto. He jokes that he'd love to try and repair it - though the extent of the damage suggests that might not be possible.

"If there's frame damage, there's no use in fixing that car," he said.

Despite the sticker shock, a Toronto police spokeswoman said the case is being treated as any other "failure to remain" at the scene of an accident would. Police say it's an unfortunately common crime in Toronto - it just doesn't usually draw such attention.

(CBC News)

Dec 28 2015

### **Stung by the admission of Canada's federal police chief that his force includes racist officers, the association representing Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers says the remarks put "officers in harm's way both legally and personally."**



RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson made the remarks while responding to pointed questions about systemic abuse of Canada's indigenous people after addressing members of the Assembly of First Nations, one of the main groups representing the country's indigenous groups.

The RCMP is responsible for the policing of about 600 indigenous communities across Canada.

"I understand that there are racists in my police force, I don't want them to be in my police force," Commissioner Paulson told the AFN's annual meeting in Quebec on Dec. 9.

"I would encourage you all, though, to have confidence in the [discipline] processes that exist, up to and including calling me if you're having a problem with a racist in your jurisdiction or any other problems."

Rob Creasser, a retired RCMP officer and spokesperson for Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada (MPPAC), said Paulson's "sweeping generalizations" painted the force with "pretty broad brush" and undermined public trust in the force.

"I believe like any other occupational group, whether it be doctors, lawyers, journalists, police officers, there are a minority of members out there that may hold racist views," said Rob Creasser, a retired RCMP officer and spokesperson for Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada (MPPAC).

"How is the public supposed to respect officers now, after their own Commissioner throws them under the bus?"

The association is also concerned about the Paulson's invitation to signal racist behavior by RCMP officers by calling him personally, Creasser said.

"He's asking people to believe in the system that he says works and at the same time he's offering - almost as if the system doesn't work - to call him," Creasser said.

If Paulson were serious about uprooting racism among certain members of the force, the RCMP Enhanced Accountability Act gives him "unprecedented powers" to sanction officers.

"The tools are there if the commissioner wants to use them," Creasser said.

RCI was unable to reach a spokesman for the RCMP on Monday. However, in a statement to the National Post newspaper three weeks ago the force maintained that "those who don't live up to our core values will be dealt with swiftly and justly."

(Radio Canada International)

**TUESDAY**  
**DECEMBER 29, 2015**

Dec 29 2015

### **TORONTO - An Ontario provincial police officer has been charged with assault after an incident in Toronto that left a 19-year-old Oshawa, Ont., man with a concussion.**

The province's police watchdog says the

man was driving just after midnight on July 1 when he experienced car trouble and pulled over on the shoulder of Highway 401.

The Special Investigations Unit says two officers were called to the scene and the man was hurt during the interaction.

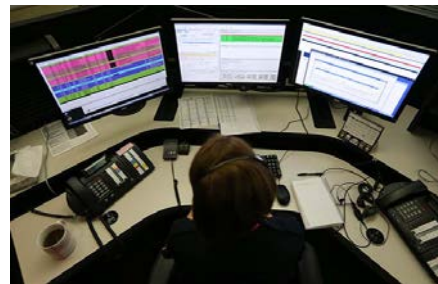
The SIU says he was later diagnosed with a concussion.

The agency says it has reasonable grounds to believe one of the officers assaulted the man.

OPP Const. Scott Hearnden is charged with assault causing bodily harm and is due in court on Feb. 10.

Dec 29 2015

### **VANCOUVER - British Columbia's largest emergency dispatch and 911 call centre has put together a top 10 list for 2015.**



E-Comm, which handles emergency calls for 24 B.C. cities, towns and districts while dispatching 33 police and fire departments, has released the 10 most outrageous calls received by staff this year.

These ranged from requests to fish a basketball out of a tree to complaints of one roommate using another's toothbrush.

An exasperated parent even called to report her son would not put on his seatbelt.

But E-Comm spokesperson Jody Robertson says the most frivolous 911 call came from a man who wanted the phone number for a local tire dealership.

Almost 3,400 calls flow through E-Comm every day and Robertson hopes this year's top 10 list of bad calls spreads the message that 911 dispatchers must focus on emergencies and can't take time to manage situations that don't immediately threaten lives or property.

Dec 29 2015

### **HAMILTON - Police in Hamilton say the snow storm that hit southern Ontario aided officers in arresting an alleged car thief.**

Investigators say a man went to a Hamilton car dealer late on Monday afternoon and took off with a Mercedes, leaving behind the car he arrived in - a Toyota that had been reported stolen.

Police say officers spotted the Mercedes early Tuesday but called off a pursuit due to weather conditions.

An officer later saw the vehicle leave a gas station - allegedly without paying - and then become stuck in the thick snow.

As the driver struggled to get out of the

snow, other officers in the area blocked in the vehicle to prevent it from fleeing and a 29-year-old man was arrested.

Police say a Hamilton man is charged with flight from police, theft and possession over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000, possession under \$5,000, and driving while disqualified.

Dec 29 2015

**VANCOUVER - Vancouver's police chief and city manager say they have not yet resolved the province's attempts to download the hefty costs of DNA analysis to police.**



Chief Adam Palmer and the city's Sadhu Johnston say they are trying to convince B.C. to reverse its decision to saddle Vancouver with an additional \$650,000 in costs.

Earlier this year, the province told municipal governments they would have to pay \$3 million to cover the increased cost of DNA analysis done by the RCMP's forensic services and identification services lab. It said the federal government had changed a cost-sharing agreement in which the province traditionally provided about \$1.4 million in funding.

But with the costs expected to be closer to \$4.9 million next year, the province said it was unwilling to cover the rest, turning it over to cities and municipalities with their own police forces or RCMP contracts.

Vancouver, with the largest population and police force, would have to pay \$650,000.

Earlier this month, the Union of B.C. Municipalities accused the province of misrepresenting its decision to download the costs onto local governments and police departments.

Johnston said the city isn't going to cave.

"We don't have the DNA funding in our budget, nor does the VPD, so we're hoping that we get further support from the feds or province. We plan to work with UBCM to try to get further funding from other levels of government," he said in an emailed statement.

Palmer said a resolution must come soon, since the province has set a deadline of transferring the costs in 2016.

"Once we start the new year, we will be on for the DNA testing costs," Palmer said. "These are all things that have to be worked out. That is a big question that has yet to be answered."

Palmer said the VPD has put forward a "status quo" budget to city hall for 2016, one that meets his policing needs but does not cover the 58 sworn and 30 civilian vacancies currently in the department.

(Vancouver Sun)

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30, 2015

**WINNIPEG - Manitoba's attorney general says he will be pushing for more federal money to help bolster front-line First Nations policing on remote reserves amid harsh criticism from northern chiefs.**



Gord Mackintosh says the previous Conservative government decimated First Nation policing when it cancelled the band constable program, which provided front-line policing for 31 Manitoba First Nations.

The province has stepped in with its own version of the program but First Nations say the new safety officers have fewer powers, don't have the same relationship with the RCMP and are poorly funded.

Mackintosh says the safety officer program is an improvement but he will be asking for much more support from the new Liberal government.

Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson, who represents northern First Nations, says funding is only part of the problem.

She says band constables have been demoted to just being "the eyes and ears of the RCMP."

North Wilson says they have been reduced to driving around disruptive people in band-owned trucks because they don't have the authority to detain people in RCMP cells.

Dec 30 2015

**TORONTO - Drunk drivers, prepare to spend the night in a "palace of no-class comfort and bottom-level luxury."**



A tongue-in-cheek video released by police north of Toronto reminds motorists that taking the wheel while impaired will earn them a stay at "L'Hotel York Regional Police," which features a concrete mattress and an open bathroom with stainless steel fixtures.

The video - <http://bit.ly/1JnIoR> - released ahead of New Year's Eve, also touts the force's "complimentary shuttle service"

- also known as a police cruiser.

In one of several tweets promoting the public service campaign, York Region police posted a bill for a one-night stay at the "tawdry fortress of solitude," totalling close to \$13,000.

Among the costs are \$10,000 in legal fees, about \$400 in impound fees and a \$1,000 impaired driving fine.

A footnote on the bill states it does not include possible criminal charges or property damage costs.

Dec 30 2015

**EDMONTON - Edmontonians are "terrible drivers," says the city's police chief, and the massive increase in traffic fatalities this year seems to enforce his belief.**

There have been 35 traffic fatalities in Edmonton in 2015, surpassing the totals from each of the past five years. There were 12 more fatalities this year than in 2014. Edmonton's total also dwarfs those of Calgary (23), Hamilton (18) and Winnipeg (12).

Drivers have crashed into a Walmart, a tree, a cement post, a parked car and a power pole this year. Two pedestrians died after being hit by LRT trains.

Edmontonians continue to tell police that traffic enforcement is their "No. 1 priority," police Chief Rod Knecht said during a year-end interview.

People have told police they want to see more traffic enforcement, including speed traps and tickets for distracted driving, Knecht said, but police have had to cut down in that area because calls for service are up significantly, with an additional 12,000 from last year, he said.

Starting Friday, distracted drivers in Alberta will be issued a \$287 fine and three demerit points on their licences.

(Postmedia News)

Dec 30 2015

**ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Justice and Public Safety Department in Newfoundland and Labrador has been fined \$70,000 for violating safety rules in the 2013 death of a fish and wildlife enforcement officer.**

The department, which was convicted in provincial court in Port aux Choix on Dec. 3, released an agreed statement of facts today as part of the court's sentencing order.

Fifty-seven-year-old Howard Lavers was patrolling an area in western Newfoundland near Bellburns on a snowmobile on Feb. 21, 2013, when he fell through the ice and drowned.

The department was convicted under the Occupational Health and Safety Act of failure to provide necessary information, instruction, training and supervision and failure to ensure necessary protective clothing and devices were used.

The court also found it failed to ensure written safe work procedures appropriate to the hazards and work activity were included in the employer's safety program.

Under the sentencing order the department must conduct a safety audit and ice safety training for employees and it must report on its progress implementing the measures.