

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Leadership Award recipient selected



Sgt. Edith Turner of the Winnipeg Police Service has been selected to receive this year's Blue Line Police Leadership Award to recognize her outstanding commitment both to the people of Winnipeg and the entire Province of Manitoba.

Through her many years of dedicated service as a member of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), Turner has continuously striven to strengthen the relationships between the service and the aboriginal community. She

has also shared her skills with officers locally, nationally and internationally.

Turner dedicates her personal time to volunteer work in her home community of Misiwapisit Cree Nation and in Winnipeg to improve the well-being of aboriginal people throughout Manitoba.

During her 21-year career as a police officer, Turner has worked in many areas of including uniform operations, community relations aboriginal & diversity unit and sections investigating organized crime,



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drugs and gangs.

Early in her career, Turner was recognized as a skilful undercover operative and in joint task force operations. Her undercover work was critical as she infiltrated aboriginal street gangs in Manitoba, leading to numerous convictions during several high profile investigations.

Turner's skills as an undercover operative took her to southern Ontario to partner with the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (CISO). During this ground-breaking, multi-agency and inter-provincial covert undercover operation, she became the first female police officer in Canada to be embedded in a prison. During this four-day harrowing operation, Turner gathered vital evidence that led to the successful prosecution of a female offender, resulting in a second degree murder conviction.

During the court proceedings, Provincial Judge R. Harris commended her for her creativity in developing a system of doodle notes to aid in her testimony. This doodle system is now highlighted in undercover courses across Canada and helps officers document their covert experiences for court purposes. Turner was recognized by CISO Director Det. Insp. Al Bush and Hamilton Police Service Chief Brian Mullan for her exemplary work.

After her work in the operation, Turner was invited to assist in training aboriginal operatives in conjunction with the Canadian Police College, focusing on disrupting organized crime activities in the aboriginal community. Turner has been instrumental in mentoring many aboriginal police officers from across Canada, sharing her unique perspective and enhancing their skill sets. This in turn enables them to share their knowledge with the next generation of police officers in their respective jurisdictions.

Through her continued leadership, Turner is a mentor and role model for many

police officers within the WPS and has been involved in training operatives for more than a decade. She has also been active within the WPS Women's Network mentoring officers and has lectured on her experiences in undercover operations throughout Canada.

Turner shared her harrowing undercover operation with more than 700 police officers from 55 countries at the International Association of Women Police Training Conference in Newfoundland. Her presentation was one of the most well attended and many officers gained vital information for their organizations, further expanding Turner's leadership and mentorship across the world.

As a child of residential school survivors, Turner understands the negative impact of the systematic destruction of many aboriginal families. As a police officer, she has strived to provide youth with positive role models. Toward this end Turner has worked on numerous steering committees.

Turner is a member of the board directors of Building Urban Industries for Local Development. This is a provincial initiative focusing on training and skill development for underemployed persons and youth involved in gangs.

Prior to the establishment of the Manitoba Integrated Task Force for Murder & Missing Women community leaders sought out Turner as a key person to bring all sides together. Turner continues to reach out to aboriginal leaders to bridge the gap, assisting task force investigators.

In 2009, Grand Chief Ron Evans of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs recognized Turner's work in building relationships and her long term commitment to the citizens in northern Manitoba and western Canada.

Throughout her career Turner has recognized the need to develop stronger relationship between police and the aboriginal community. She turned her knowledge about long standing treaty issues into an opportunity to become involved with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo honoured Turner at the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak National Assembly in 2010 for her dedication in mentoring aboriginal youth, providing positive role models and breaking through employment barriers in her work with the Winnipeg Diversity Unit.

Turner has received many awards recognizing her years of dedication and exceptional work in strengthening relationships between the WPS and the aboriginal community, including: Manitoba Excellence in Law Enforcement Award in 2011, the WPS James Toal Award of Excellence and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

She was a finalist in the Manitoba YM-CA-YWCA Women of Distinction Leadership Category and was nominated for a leadership award with the International Association of Women Police in 2013.

THURSDAY
MARCH 17, 2016

Mar 17 2016

STRATFORD - Mike Bellai has been promoted from deputy to chief of the Stratford Police Service.



Mayor Dan Mathieson said the police services board has been looking at having a strong line of succession in place. When Bellai was hired as deputy chief, it was believed he would one day make a good chief. Even so, outside consultants were brought in to evaluate Bellai.

He had a strong resume but he also has a history with Stratford.

"It's about continuity but it's also about understanding the community and how best to deliver services and knowing the partners," Mathieson said.

Bellai has lofty goals for his first year as chief.

He has already posted for a technological crime investigator to tackle the rising amount of cyber crime.

"We have some very bright people within this organization that could certainly take on those tasks," Bellai said.

In a recent survey the public identified issues like drugs and alcohol, youth crime, elder issues and road safety as major concerns. All of those will be a priority as well.

Police will also step up education programs in seniors' residences to help make sure vulnerable citizens aren't taken advantage of by scams or other crimes.

Bellai joined Peel Regional Police in 1988 when he was 21 years old -- he's still in touch with his former sergeant there, John Fox -- and has worked his way up the ranks.

"It's funny. I interview people now and ask why do you want to become a police officer and you get a lot of different answers. I remember my answer, as simple as it was: 'I just want to help people.' It really is about helping people. I've always remembered that and kept that at the forefront of my mind," he said.

Bellai was promoted to inspector in 2010 where he ran the support services division. He became deputy chief in 2013 and graduated from the FBI National Academy the following year.

Bellai has been the acting chief since former Chief John Bates took a position with the St. John Police Force.

(Beacon Herald)

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KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A man who shot a Mountie at a traffic stop in Kamloops, B.C., has been sentenced to 16 and a half years in prison.

Kenneth Knutson, 38, pleaded guilty to attempted murder earlier Thursday before a judge accepted joint submissions for the sentence from Crown and defence lawyers.

Knutson shot Cpl. Jean-Rene Michaud in December 2014, and was arrested after a 12-hour manhunt.

He arrived in court wearing orange prison garb and periodically peered into the gallery, where 10 officers were seated, including Michaud and his wife Colleen Michaud.

Knutson was ordered to stand trial after a preliminary hearing last December before entering a guilty plea Thursday. Other charges, including aggravated assault and two firearms-related offences, were dropped against him.

Court heard Michaud stopped a vehicle in the early hours of Dec. 3, 2014, approaching Knutson from the passenger side after the driver had failed to stop earlier.

In a statement read in court, Michaud said the vehicle's rear window was blown out. Then a gunshot hit him in the stomach, and a second shot struck him in his elbow.

He did not pull his own gun.

Police later determined six shots were fired, and two had lodged in Michaud's body armour.

Michaud endured several surgeries before returning to full-time duties 13 months later.

He had worked part-time on administra-

tive duties before returning to his regular job.

His wife has said he suffered countless complications and setbacks while recovering from extensive injuries.

Mounties have said they are conducting an internal review parallel to the criminal investigation into the shooting.

With time served before his guilty plea, Knutson is expected to serve 14 and a half years in prison.

(CHNL, CFJC)

Mar 17 2016

Peel Regional Police said one of its officers is facing an assault charge stemming from an incident that happened last December.

Sgt. Jeff Jones was charged with one count of assault Thursday, following an internal investigation ordered by Chief Jennifer Evans.

Police said the alleged assault took place while Jones was on duty and said one person suffered minor injuries, but released no further details.

Police did say the charge resulted from the disclosure process, not a complaint.

Jones is a 15-year veteran of the force and was working in 22 Division at the time of the incident. He has been suspended with pay since the investigation began in February.

"Chief Jennifer Evans is committed to holding officers accountable for their actions in order to maintain the trust that the community places in the Peel Regional Police," police said in a news release.

(CBC News)

Mar 17 2016

WINNIPEG - An inquest into the death of an indigenous man killed by Winnipeg police eight years ago will consider, for the first time, how systemic racism may have contributed to the fatal shooting.

On Thursday, Judge Anne Krahn delivered an oral decision in favour of expanding the scope of the inquest into Craig McDougall's death.

The inquest won't investigate racism among individual officers or within the police force in general.

Instead, it will examine how institutional police policies may have led specifically to McDougall's death.

Corey Shefman, a lawyer for the McDougall family, said he hopes the expanded scope of the inquest will allow the police service and other institutions to make changes that will help indigenous people regain confidence in those systems.

Shefman said one of the really difficult things about systemic racism is that it's often only visible to the victim, and not to the perpetrators or bystanders.

"We're not saying that officers targeted him. We're not saying that anyone was yelling racial slurs or anything," Shefman said.

"This is about policies. It's about practices. It's about standard operating procedures and it's about the personal stories which the officers and Craig brought to the scene of the incident that day."

McDougall, 26, died Aug. 2, 2008, after

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he was shot four times by two police officers who were called to a disturbance at McDougall's home in Winnipeg.

Police said McDougall had a knife and refused repeated demands to drop it, but witnesses said he only had a cellphone in his hand.

An investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police deemed the shooting justified.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Mar 17 2016

CALGARY - The City of Calgary is hiring a yoga instructor "with proven experience and expertise" to provide classes for sworn officers and civilian members of the Calgary Police Service for a year, with the optional of four additional years tacked on to the job.

No salary range has been listed on the posting.

The police service says this is an existing part-time position that's part of its overall corporate employee wellness program. In addition to yoga, there are Zumba and boot camp classes offered to its members.

The new yoga instructor's hours will depend on the season. At most, they will teach seven hour-long classes per week, a number that drops to two hour-long classes per week in the summer.

The service has been offering yoga to recruits as part of its training since 2003 and the program was expanded to include members around 2008 - 2009.

(Calgary Herald)

Mar 17 2016

SASKATOON - The board of police commissioners has approved having a paramedic in the Saskatoon police department's detention unit for 24 hours a day instead of 12.

Chief Clive Weighill said the change could take effect as soon as June 1.

Weighill approached the board after a man died in a police cell last month during the 12-hour period when no paramedic was on duty.

Detention unit staff found Michael Ryan, 38, unresponsive in his cell three hours after he was arrested for running into oncoming traffic.

Relatives said Ryan struggled with substance abuse issues. The cause of his death has not yet been released.

Weighill noted inquests into deaths in police detention cells almost always end with recommendations for 24-hour paramedics.

(CKOM)

Mar 17 2016

OTTAWA - The commissioner of the RCMP says his force is committed to supporting the family and colleagues of 10-year veteran who died Thursday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound within sight of Parliament Hill.

Commissioner Bob Paulson wrote in an internal email that Const. Jean-Pascal Nolin was alone when he shot himself inside the A Division Parliament Hill detachment at 90

Sparks St. The RCMP have not publicly commented on the officer's suicide.

Paulson wrote that he was "saddened" and "sorry" to tell RCMP employees that their colleague had taken his own life, leaving behind his spouse and two young children.

"We are committed to supporting Constable Nolin's family and his colleagues during this very difficult time," Paulson wrote. "On behalf of us all, I offer my sincerest condolences."

Paulson said the circumstances surrounding the officer's death were under investigation by Ottawa police.

Nolin reportedly parked his cruiser at the Metcalfe Street side entrance to the Thomas D'Arcy McGee building, between Sparks and Queen streets, then walked in to the building, and shot himself at about 9 a.m.

When first responders arrived, Nolin had no vital signs. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Nolin was a member of the general duty protection policing team and was on duty at the time, but his death was not duty-related, a source confirmed.

According to the RCMP website, the GDPP unit "provides safety and security for Canadian officials such as the Prime Minister and the Governor General, as well as international dignitaries and their residences and embassies."

Paulson wrote in his email that Nolin had worked with the RCMP's E division in British Columbia for six years before he was posted to the national division in Ottawa in 2011.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale issued a statement on the officer's death, saying Paulson said the service is providing full support to the family, as well as officers as they mourn the loss of their colleague.

"On behalf of all Canadians, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the RCMP officer who tragically passed away this morning in Ottawa," Goodale said in a statement.

Goodale's statement said the RCMP is working closely with the Ottawa police to investigate the circumstances surrounding the officer's death.

The RCMP launched a five-year strategy in 2014 to focus on mental health awareness and education, but questions were raised about whether the force was doing enough following the suicide of Ron Francis, an RCMP corporal who suffered from PTSD and smoked medical marijuana while in uniform.

Francis was the 32nd RCMP officer - serving or retired - to commit suicide since 2006.

(Ottawa Citizen)

**FRIDAY
MARCH 18, 2016**

Mar 18 2016

HALIFAX - An affidavit filed by police in provincial court states that a 28-year-old man accused of killing a

Nova Scotia police officer allegedly confessed to being "responsible for her death."

Christopher Calvin Garnier is facing charges of second-degree murder and indecently interfering with a dead body in connection with the death of 36-year-old Catherine Campbell in September.

In a sworn affidavit by RCMP Const. John Berger filed with the court to obtain a warrant for Garnier's DNA, Berger writes that Garnier told two officers he punched Campbell several times in the face and then strangled her.

None of the allegations in the affidavit have been proven in court.

CBC reports that the lawyer for Garnier said police are entitled to their views but the only interest of the Crown and defence is proven facts.

Campbell's body was discovered Sept. 16 near an overpass that leads to the MacDonald Bridge connecting Halifax and Dartmouth, two days after she failed to show up for work with the Truro Police Service.

A preliminary inquiry has been tentatively set for July 11 to 15.

Mar 18 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police say they arrested a man in his 20s after a TTC bus was hijacked at night by a man possibly jonesing for Tim Hortons.



Investigators say the suspect boarded the bus just before midnight Thursday in York Region, north of Toronto, and forced the driver at knifepoint to bypass several stops before eventually dropping him off at a Tim Hortons.

Officers arrested the man at the restaurant a short time later.

Police say neither the driver nor anyone else on the bus was injured.

(680 News)

Mar 18 2016

WINDSOR - Windsor police chief Al Frederick wants the Ontario government to have serious discussions about regional policing.

He met with officials from the Ministry of Correctional Services and Community Safety Thursday to discuss potential reforms to the province's Police Services Act.

Though discussions focussed on important issues like recruitment, mental health calls and addictions, Frederick questions why regional policing is not on the radar.

"Regionalization is 20 to 30 per cent cheaper for policing services," he said.

"How is that continuously ignored by the government, the provincial government, that controls that discussion?"

The ministry is seeking input from different communities as it maps out plans to modernize the police act, which was written in 1990.

Officials are also working with First Nations leaders to develop a framework for equitable and culturally responsive policing in those communities.

Frederick focussed his discussions on homelessness, addiction and mental health. He highlighted issues with police services in southwestern Ontario that all approach mental health differently.

(CBC News)

Mar 18 2016

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog says a Toronto police officer who fatally shot a man armed with a hammer didn't exceed the range of justifiable force.

The Special Investigations Unit says it will not lay charges against the officer who shot Andrew Loku, 45, around midnight on July 5, 2015.

The SIU says police were called to a third-floor apartment by a woman who said Loku had a hammer and was threatening to kill her friend.

It says two officers arrived moments later and confronted Loku in the hallway.

The agency says the officers had their guns drawn and repeatedly told Loku to drop the hammer as he walked towards them.

It says Loku continued to move towards the officers, raising the hammer above his head, and was shot twice when he came within two or three metres of one officer.

The agency's director, Tony Loparco, said there is "no question" the officers were acting according to their duty when they approached Loku.

Mar 18 2016

WINNIPEG - RCMP raided an office inside the new Winnipeg police headquarters last June as part of its investigation into fraud and forgery by the building's general contractor, Caspian Projects, CBC News has learned.

After looking at a "small fraction" of the evidence it had collected up to that point, police believed the city overpaid \$2.5 million for the new police headquarters building, according to the June 2015 information to obtain a search warrant.

"Discrepancies were found between the monetary values that sub-trades charged Caspian and the amount Caspian then charged to the City of Winnipeg," wrote RCMP Cst. Julie Cote in court documents.

The search warrant targeted the on-site office of engineering firm Adjeleian Allen Rubeli (AAR) which shared the space with the Winnipeg Police Service and the City of Winnipeg project director.

Officers believed they would find the information that was used by Caspian to back up invoices submitted to the city.

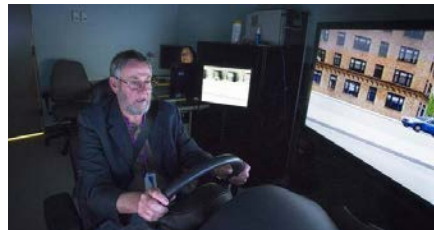
AAR is the second company where offices were searched as part of the investigation into allegations of criminal wrongdoing during the building of the Winnipeg police HQ.

No charges have been laid and none of the allegations have been proven in court.

(CBC News)

Mar 18 2016

The federal government faces a critical challenge as it moves to legalize marijuana: It will be much harder to detect and charge people who toked and drive than people who drink and drive. Some researchers fear that it may be impossible.



THC acts very differently from alcohol. American states that have legalized marijuana have struggled to come up with a legally enforceable equivalent of .08 for alcohol consumption. There is no marijuana equivalent to a modern breath-analysis machine, and it could be years, if ever, before one reaches the market.

If the American experience is any guide, Canadians may have to accept that, once marijuana is legal for recreational use, traffic deaths will increase.

According to a 2015 report by the Colorado State Police, marijuana-related traffic deaths increased by 32 per cent in 2014, the year it became legal for businesses to sell marijuana for recreational use. Marijuana was a factor in 20 per cent of traffic fatalities, double the number of five years before.

Although some of the data may be influenced by the fact that police and researchers are testing for THC more than in the past, surveys show that people of every age in Colorado smoke more pot than they used to, now that it is legal. In Canada, annual school-based surveys by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) reveal that teenagers are twice as likely to toked and drive as they are to drink and drive (10 per cent versus 5 per cent).

The problem, according to Erin Holmes, a research director at the Washington-based Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org), is that research into the effect of alcohol on the body preceded policy and legislation. But, with legalized marijuana, the law is getting ahead of the research.

"There just aren't the studies to say: Here is the nanogram level at which every person would be so impaired that they could not safely operate a motor vehicle," Ms. Holmes said in an interview. "We're just not there with the research. And forensic toxicologists have gone so far as to say we may never get there."

Washington and Colorado have set a limit of five nanograms of THC per millilitre of blood in your system, although some experts consider that level arbitrary.

However, new data will soon be available from Canada. At CAMH, based in Toronto, Robert Mann is overseeing one of the most extensive studies ever undertaken to determine how marijuana impairs driving ability.

For the past three years, moderate marijuana users 19 to 25 years old have been asked to smoke as much as they would in a normal situation. The volunteers were then subjected to a series of tests, including driving in a highly accurate simulator.

"Some people say that 'I'm aware of the effects, I can compensate for them, so I'm just as good or even maybe a safer driver'" after smoking pot, Dr. Mann says.

The study will determine the truth of that assertion. Interim results, Dr. Mann reports, suggest that distractions, such as counting backward by threes while driving after smoking, can be particularly problematic. Final results could be ready by the end of the year.

Another, possibly even bigger, problem is measuring THC levels in the blood. There is no breath-analysis machine that would allow a roadside test to determine marijuana use. Cannabix Technologies, a Vancouver-based company, will soon begin trials on one that, if everything goes well, could be ready for use in 2017. But the machine can read only whether marijuana has been ingested in the past two hours. It can't determine levels of concentration.

For now, police use the old-fashioned Standardized Field Sobriety Test - stand on one leg, walk a straight line, follow the pencil - to determine whether a driver is drug-impaired, which could eventually lead to a blood test. But drivers who are only mildly impaired may escape detection or conviction.

That doesn't mean that legalizing marijuana must result in an orgy of impaired driving and carnage on the roads. All of the lessons learned about deterring drunk driving are available to deter drugged driving.

"I am confident that we can have the safeguards in place if we do things right," Dr. Mann says. He maintains that legalization might actually make it easier to have a testing and enforcement regime in place, and to devote the necessary resources to change the behaviour of marijuana users who drive.

(Globe and Mail)

**SATURDAY
MARCH 19, 2016**

Mar 19 2016

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. - The province's police watchdog is probing the shooting of a man at the scene of a fatal stabbing Friday night in Peterborough, Ont.

The Special Investigations Unit says Peterborough police responded to a call about an assault just before midnight.

Officers encountered a man with a knife, shots were fired and the man was wounded.

The 25-year-old man is in intensive care after emergency surgery in Toronto.

The body of a dead woman was found at the scene.

Five investigators and two forensic investigators have been assigned to the case.

(CP, CKRU)



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Tuesday, April 26, 2016



Contraband Tobacco and Its Impact on Organized Crime
Gary Grant

Contraband tobacco is a serious problem all over Canada and is particularly bad in Ontario where an estimated 1-in-3 cigarettes purchased over the last year were illegal.



Police Response and Mental Health
Dan Hirdes & Ron Hoffman

This presentation will provide evidence to show how the use of a new mental health screening tool enhanced the ability of officers to identify persons with serious mental disorders.



Police Act Charges & Case Law Updates
Simon Borys & L. Gridin

Legal education to frontline officers on criminal and Police Services Act charges, complaints resolutions, and SIU investigations.



PTSD and Policing
Ian Johnstone & Pat Simon

The challenge for police services is to manage PTSD cases lawfully, honouring the obligations placed on services under police legislation and human rights codes.



Automotive Investigations
Bob Lucas (OMVIC)

It is well known among the police community that auto thefts are linked to organized crime and terrorist groups. This session will introduce attendees to basic auto theft investigation techniques.



Non-Accusatory Interviewing
Gord MacKinnon

Instruction will cover the techniques for obtaining and maintaining rapport with the interview subject as well as the importance of critical listening to obtain information. You will gain an understanding of the key element of any successful interview.



Police Ethics
Dr. Ruthie Williams
Dr. Elsie Smalls

Explore the connection between individual ethics in the framework of the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on leadership roles in the organization and the role of values in public policy and management.



Breaking the Stigma: Compassion Fatigue
Lambia Karitsiotis

Peggy Campbell-MacLean
This session focuses on assisting workers to identify different forms of work-related trauma, learn proper debriefing techniques and learn how to build resiliency before taking time off work.

Wednesday, April 27, 2016



Basic Note-taking
Michael Souliere

Notes continue to come under scrutiny in legal processes both criminally and civilly. This presentation will explore both the shortfalls and successes of officers notes and will engage the learners with some 'food for thought' with respect to recording events.



Leadership Strategies in VUCA Situation
Dr. Mitch Javidi

Learn how volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA) applies to community policing strategies and what deliberate leadership strategies are most effective.



Interactions with Mental Health Issues
Dr. Terry Coleman
Dr. Dorothy Cotton

Presenters will be able to share emerging promising practices that have been adopted by agencies with regard to mental health issues.



Interac Fraud
Rachel Jolicoeur

This presentation will provide an overview of a recent attempt to outwit chip fraud and an overview of current fraud trends and investigative methods on the INTERAC network regarding debit card transactions.



Deploying a Video Library System on a network
Rob Poretti & Claude Turcotte

Learn the various approaches for deploying a network-based media library system that collects audio, video, and metadata from numerous sources for re-distribution.



Police Professionalism
Geoff Gruson

Explore opportunities to advance a Canadian policing profession in light of the changing societal and economic realities and recent events for policing management and governance.



The Ethical Use of Force
Al Arseneault & Toby Hinton

Issues regarding the ethical applications of effective and practical uses of force will be addressed. Tried and true methods of physically taking people into custody will be shown and discussed.



Effective and Innovative Community Engagement
Randall Arseneault

This training course will take the attendees through real life scenarios outlining the benefits of proper community engagement, and who should be representing their service.

For more in-depth information about the instructors and the courses go to www.blueline.ca/expo/conference

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MONTREAL - Montreal has cancelled its plans to host the 2017 World Police and Fire Games, one of the largest international multidisciplinary sporting events on the planet, following a growing union movement to boycott the event.



Slated to coincide with Montreal's 375th birthday celebrations, the games were expected to draw 10,000 athletes from 70 countries, as well as their families, and bring in revenues of close to \$100 million to the city.

Montreal's police and firefighters' unions had vowed to boycott the games to protest against provincial legislation spearheaded in large part by Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre to reduce pension payments, and over the suspensions and firings of firefighters who participated in protests.

In recent weeks, they have won the support of police unions internationally who said they, too, would boycott, threatening attendance figures and risking a multi-million dollar loss for the city.

This week, the 60,000 members of the Canadian Police Association voted to join the boycott. In February, thousands of Australian firefighters pledged to abandon the games as well.

The mayor's office confirmed Saturday that Montreal has renounced its bid to host the games, which were awarded in 2011 after Montreal's chief of police proposed the idea in 2010. The total cost of hosting the event was estimated at \$20 million, several million of which the city has already spent on infrastructure.

Coderre said the city was making the responsible choice to try and preserve the games by shifting them to Toronto, and that it was refusing to cave in to "blackmail" on the part of the unions.

"It's a shame that they chose to engage in petty and, ultimately, the decision is falling on the backs of its members," he said.

Montreal is in talks with the organizers of the games, based in California, and the mayor of Toronto to try and have the games shifted to that city, since it has the infrastructure in place following its hosting of the 2015 Pan Am Games. Otherwise, the event risks being cancelled altogether, for the first time in its 31-year-history.

Coderre said the effect to Montreal's economy will be minimal given the 10-day games were slated for late July and early August, when Montreal is packed with

tourists during its busy summer festival season.

Montreal's firefighters' union said in a statement Saturday it learned of the decision to cancel the games "with a certain sadness," but said it felt it had no option but to boycott given the "intransigence" of the Montreal administration over labour negotiations.

It was the Montreal firefighters' union that started the boycott movement in 2014, following the punishment of dozens of its members in connection with a raucous protest at Montreal's city hall. They were backed by Quebec's firefighters association and, this month, the Montreal and Canadian police officers' unions said they would support them.

Montreal beat out Toronto and Chengdu, China, in 2011 for the right to host the games.

(Montreal Gazette)

SUNDAY MARCH 20, 2016

Mar 20 2016

DOLBEAU-MISTASSINI, QC - Quebec City Police have taken over an investigation after a man was injured in a shooting involving Sûreté du Québec (SQ) officers.

According to Quebec City police (SPVQ)

spokesperson Marie-Eve Painchaud, the incident happened Saturday morning in the Lac-Saint-Jean region.

Officers responding to a break-and-enter call surprised the individual in a car. The man, who was allegedly carrying a weapon, fled the scene leading police on a chase.

Shots were fired during the pursuit and the suspect was wounded.

He was rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

SPVQ officers took over the investigation Saturday afternoon, as per protocol.

(Global News)

Mar 20 2016

TORONTO - The province's police watchdog has been called in after a police pursuit ended in a serious collision in Toronto's downtown core on Sunday.

Paramedics say they treated eight people, seven are in serious condition and one person has life-threatening injuries.

The Special Investigations Unit says that sometime before 3 a.m., Toronto police tried to stop a vehicle, which fled.

The SIU says the fleeing vehicle struck a second vehicle, which was operating as an Uber.

Police were originally reporting multiple people trapped in a vehicle.

The SIU has assigned eight investigators, two forensic investigators and one traffic reconstructionist to the investigation.

(CP, 680 News)

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Mar 21 2016

TORONTO - Ontario is hiring 2,000 correctional officers over the next three years amid what critics call a crisis in corrections.

Correctional Services Minister Yasir Naqvi says the new hires will increase staffing levels in jail, enhance access to rehabilitation and reintegration programming, and strengthen mental health supports.

The province says it has hired 710 correctional officers since 2013.

Guards, unions and opposition politicians have said Ontario's correctional facilities are understaffed to the point that it is jeopardizing guard and inmate safety.

Mar 21 2016

The title of an article published in 1983 in SWAT magazine asked a simple question: "How close is too close?"

When a police officer has an encounter with a person with a knife, distance is only one factor to consider when determining what to do next, and whether to use deadly force.

Nonetheless, the article was to become a kind of seminal text within policing circles, establishing the so-called - and to some, infamous - "21-foot rule."

The rule is also referred to the "Tueller Drill," after Dennis Tueller, the article's author and a former firearms instructor with the police force in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In an effort to determine who is more likely to come out on top in a fight between a gun and an edged weapon, Tueller ran tests, showing that in the time it took for the officer to unholster a gun and shoot (about two seconds) a person with a knife can cover about 21 feet, or roughly six metres.

The take-away - that a knife may pose a more deadly threat than a gun within that 21-foot distance - was soon a doctrine incorporated into police curriculum throughout the U.S., and influenced police training culture in Canada. It is frequently referenced in court cases and coroner's inquests, including the 2014 inquest into the shooting deaths of three mentally ill people by Toronto police officers.

The "21-foot rule" is not formally taught at any police service in Canada, according to Terry Coleman, a former Moose Jaw police chief who spent nearly three decades with the Calgary police and is now a public safety researcher and consultant.

But he said Canadian officers sometimes attend use-of-force training in the U.S., where the concept is still taught. (When his own officers asked Coleman about attending these sessions during his time as chief in Moose Jaw, he said he told them: "Not on your life.")

"It's a well-known concept in policing, and the danger of it is that there's no science behind it," he said.

The consequence is that officers may focus more on distance than anything else, and skip trying other tactics - such as attempting to talk the person down - and go straight for their gun once the person comes within a certain distance.

"The risk runs that no other option will be tried."

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said the 21-foot rule is not taught at the Toronto police college, and that officers are instructed to treat each encounter "on its own unique facts" using six principles.

The principles are: time (try to buy it, often through communication), distance (try to get it, even if it means backing up), cover (try to take it), containment (try to keep the situation from spreading), communication (focusing on verbal de-escalation with the subject) and teamwork (working with fellow officers).

That teaching is in line with 30 new guiding principles just released by the Police Executive Research Forum, a Washington, DC-based police policy and research organization. The aim is to reduce police use of force against people who are not armed with firearms, such as those with knives.

The guidelines were based on years of work with hundreds of police officials, including national conferences and field work in Scotland, New York and Northern Ireland.

One of the guidelines explicitly calls for an end to the "outdated concept" of the 21-foot rule, replacing it instead with an empha-

sis on the principles of using distance, cover, and time.

In many situations where a suspect has a knife, officers should, whenever possible, try to get more time and develop a plan to deal with the situation without use of force.

"Agencies should eliminate from their policies and training all references to the so-called '21-foot rule' regarding officers who are confronted with a subject armed with an edged weapon," the report states. (Toronto Star)

Mar 21 2016

The Town of Amherstburg has formally reached out to the provincial government to find out exactly how much it will cost to have the Ontario Provincial Police take over its police service.

In December 2014, town council passed a motion to investigate policing options. Requests for interest were sent to the other municipalities in the region to gauge the interest in regional policing. A similar request was sent to the Ontario Provincial Police but, at that time, the OPP had a moratorium on costing as it worked through a new policing model.

The moratorium has since been lifted and on March 7, Amherstburg officially requested an OPP costing proposal.

During Monday's council meeting, the town will form a steering/advisory committee to review policing options.

"The reason Amherstburg is interested

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in investigating OPP or regional policing is the same as every municipality in the province,” says Mayor Aldo DiCarlo. “Policing is a good percentage of tax dollars, regardless of who you use, and most municipalities are trying to find savings anywhere they can.

“Amherstburg might be a bit unique in that we are the safest community in all of Canada for the fourth time out of five years, which makes our consideration not just about dollars obviously but also in service levels, something we’ve gotten really used to.”

DiCarlo says regional policing is still a possibility.
(CBC News)

Mar 21 2016

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg’s outgoing police chief says he recognizes policing costs are unsustainable and he would ultimately like to see a reduced need for police in the city - but that can only happen, Devon Clunis said, if community partners step up to address the chronic social issues he says take up 80 per cent of police officers’ time.



“It is not sustainable. I don’t think any of us want to see that be sustained. But what we have to do is what we’re doing currently, in terms of the partnerships and what we’re doing currently in terms of the partnerships and addressing the root causes of crime, the collective impact approach — we have just started down that road. And my mindset was always to see us get to the point where we can reduce the number of police officers in the city because the demand within our city’s been reduced for the needs of the police service,” he said.

If approved as expected, the police budget would increase 6.3 per cent over this year — a hike of \$16.7 million, but not quite the \$20-million increase the police service initially asked for to maintain status quo operations.

In their budget estimate, the police service and the police board asked the city to approve a \$20-million budget increase just to maintain status-quo operations, later proposing a leaner \$18.95-million increase. Without that money, the police service said it may have to cut jobs. It’s proposing layoffs of 40 cadets and 20 new police recruits, as well as cancellation of a 20-officer fall recruit class. The job cuts aren’t for certain, with police board chairman Coun. Scott Gillingham proposing instead to cut a \$1-million body cam-

era pilot project and find another \$1.4 million in savings to be announced Tuesday.

The bulk of the increase is due to previously agreed upon expenses: salary and benefit raises (\$9.6 million) and debt payments to the city (\$6.4 million), as well as extra costs associated with the move into the new headquarters building on Smith Street.

Rent at the new HQ, housed in the old Canada Post building, will cost police about \$17 million annually — more than double the roughly \$7 million the police service pays now at the Public Safety Building.

Clunis, who is retiring after 3 1/2 years as chief and 29 years in the police service, said the city would not entertain requests to reduce the police service’s rent.

He said job cuts needed to be explored. Salaries and benefits account for 85 per cent of the police budget, leaving only 15 per cent for operational expenses such as uniforms, equipment and fuel costs.

“You need to be able to outfit your officers, you need to be able to have equipment, photocopies - everything else outside of the salaries and benefits is paid for in that 15 per cent. Over the years, we’ve reduced as much as we can,” Clunis said.

“I’d much rather say let’s reduce by 20 officers than have 20 officers that you can’t properly outfit — that does long-term impact us.”

Other big-ticket police purchases, including the Air1 helicopter — which WPS bought for \$3.5 million in 2010, and a \$343,000 armoured vehicle to be delivered this spring, have faced public criticism in light of recent budget discussions. The province pays for the helicopter’s \$1.7-million operating costs and has ordered an audit of the Air1 program.

“You can certainly have a one-time savings if they wanted to sell the helicopter,” Clunis said, but he maintained the armoured car was necessary to protect the police service from being held liable in case an officer or a member of the public were hurt.

“So that is a purchase that certainly we’re not going to be apologetic for because I think it was necessary and in terms of a modern policing agency, yes, you have the ability to provide your members with what is required to protect themselves and protect the public, we now become the ones who are liable. So I don’t believe that that was a frivolous purchase by any stretch of the imagination.”

A driving force behind the rising cost of policing - besides police salaries, he said, is the social problems that fall to police — they’re often called upon to deal with non-criminal domestic disputes, Child and Family Services cases and individuals with mental-health issues.

That’s why these budget discussions need to bring the community together to spur other agencies to help, Clunis said.

“This should actually be a rallying point for all of us, because you’re not hearing the Winnipeg Police Service saying that ‘yes, these costs can just continue to rise uncontrolled.’ No, we say they need to be controlled but we need to do it in a strategic fashion,

which doesn’t now just demolish everything that we’ve worked hard to achieve to this point. We can do this in a very strategic fashion that in the end, the entire city comes out ahead.”

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Mar 21 2016

Police chiefs across Ontario are launching a public awareness campaign to highlight the risks associated with fentanyl, in response to an alarming spike in overdose deaths linked to the highly toxic opioid.



At a news conference on Tuesday, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police plans to unveil a social-media campaign, #Face-TheFentanyl, and a website with a ticker on the home page, tracking the number of overdose fatalities.

The campaign marks a fundamental shift in how police deal with illicit drug abuse. The association said the chiefs plan to work in partnership with public-health officials and community groups to help prevent “needless deaths” from fentanyl overdoses.

The partnership approach is a recognition that fentanyl is a health and public-safety problem, one that cannot be tackled just with enforcement, Joe Couto, a spokesman for the association, said in an interview. Police, he said, have a role to play in both preventing overdose deaths and arresting drug traffickers.

“We are seeing fentanyl becoming a bit of a drug of choice,” Mr. Couto said. “Part of our mandate as police is to try to work with community partners to prevent the use of drugs from actually killing people.”

Fentanyl has become the leading cause of opioid deaths in Ontario for the first time since Canada’s prescription-painkiller crisis began more than a decade ago. The Globe and Mail has reported that fentanyl overdoses accounted for one of every four opioid-related fatalities in Ontario in 2014. Fatal overdoses linked to fentanyl climbed 28 per cent to 173 in 2014, according to preliminary figures from Ontario’s Office of the Chief Coroner.

Law enforcement and medical experts worry that the province is on track to emulate British Columbia and Alberta, where figures for 2015 show a sharp increase in deaths linked to fentanyl.

In Ontario, the fentanyl problem is largely confined to the diversion of prescription-grade patches to the street. But a spike in heroin overdoses in several communities in

recent months has sparked fears that bootleg fentanyl has arrived in Ontario.

"It's the one we are talking about the most and seeing the least," said Detective Jeffrey Ross of the Toronto police drug squad.

Just last week, police in Waterloo Region announced that fentanyl has been identified in recent drug seizures.

(Globe and Mail)

TUESDAY
MARCH 22, 2016

Mar 22 2016

TORONTO - Ontario has released its final regulations to ban police from randomly stopping people to collect personal information.



The regulations, which were first posted last October for public comment, set out what the government calls "clear and consistent rules" for voluntary police-public interactions.

Race is prohibited from being any part of a police officer's reason for attempting to collect someone's identifying information.

Starting Jan. 1, 2017, police must tell people they have a right not to talk with them, and refusing to co-operate or walking away cannot then be used as reasons to compel information.

However, police can gather personal information during routine traffic stops, when someone is being arrested or detained, or when a search warrant is executed.

The Liberal government said it wanted to ban arbitrary stops after hearing from too many people of colour and aboriginal men and women, who said the Human Rights Code was being ignored by police who stopped them for no apparent reason.

Under the new regulations, police must offer a written record of any interactions with the public, including their name and badge number, along with information on how to contact the Independent Police Review Director.

All identifying information that is collected by officers will have to be submitted within 30 days for review by the local chief of police. At least once a year, the chiefs will have to conduct a detailed review of a random sample of entries in their database to verify it was collected in compliance with the regulation.

Chiefs must also issue an annual public report on the number of attempted collections of personal information, the sex, age and race of the individuals stopped, and the

neighbourhoods where the information was collected.

The government is also promising a roundtable of experts to advise the Ontario Police College on the development of new training for officers on racism, bias awareness and discrimination. It said all officers will be trained by Jan. 1.

Mar 22 2016

BROCKVILLE - Ontario Provincial Police brass asked the city to hold a recent costing meeting behind closed doors in order to build relationships, the head of the force's municipal policing bureau said Tuesday.

"I asked to have a meeting just for the group," Supt. Marc Bedard, the bureau com-

mander, told The Recorder and Times in a telephone interview.

"I asked to have a private meeting with the people involved as a relationship-building process."

The superintendent also stressed the in-camera session was legal as education and training are deemed acceptable reasons for going behind closed doors.

The closed-door meeting of Brockville's OPP contact ad hoc committee, an early step in the now-resumed OPP costing process, is now the subject of an investigation by the Ontario ombudsman's office.

City councillors on Tuesday formally received a letter from the ombudsman's office confirming its "open meeting law enforcement team" will investigate the complaint.

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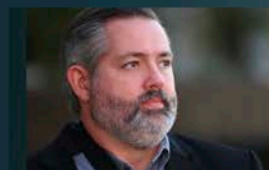
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--Deuteronomy 31:6

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The city formed the contact committee to discuss the nuts and bolts of the costing. The committee agenda stated: "The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members."

It also clarified that an in-camera session can be held as long as "no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making" of the committee.

At the closed-door meeting, Henderson clearly stated all future meetings are to be public, said the superintendent.

(Brockville Recorder)

Mar 22 2016

OTTAWA - The Ottawa Police Services Board will ask a civilian oversight body to investigate Chief Charles Bordeleau's handling of a traffic ticket that was issued to a member of his family, it was determined Monday.

The board cited media reports detailing that on Jan. 25, 2016, Chief Bordeleau phoned the Provincial Offences Court office to learn the name of the prosecutor assigned to the traffic case.

The Ontario Civilian Police Commission will be asked to investigate the claim after the police services board passed a motion on the matter during its regularly scheduled board meeting.

Chief Bordeleau addressed the claims during the meeting.

"I have in no way influenced the outcome of a ticket issued to my family member. There are clear processes in place to investigate the conduct of a chief of police in Ontario, and I have no concerns about them being followed," he told the board.

During his remarks, Bordeleau also said no member of the police service is above accountability, including himself.

Bordeleau's comments follow a difficult week for the force after the head of the police union accused the police board of failing to oversee top police brass.

On Friday, Ottawa Police Association president Matt Skof called for the board's chairman - Coun. Eli El-Chantiry - to resign.

El-Chantiry has refused to step down.

(CBC News)

Mar 22 2016

BATHURST, N.B. - Twelve days have been set aside for a preliminary hearing for two New Brunswick police officers charged in the shooting death of a Bathurst businessman.

Constables Patrick Bulger and Mathieu Boudreau of the Bathurst City Police each face charges of manslaughter with a weapon, assault with a weapon and unlawfully pointing a firearm.

The 51-year-old victim, Michel Vienneau, was shot in his vehicle near the Bathurst train station in January 2015.

Police have said the shooting occurred during a drug investigation.

An investigation by Nova Scotia RCMP revealed that Vienneau, who owned an electron-

ics store, was not involved in criminal activity.

Bulger and Boudreau have elected to be tried by a judge and jury.

Mar 22 2016

Security measures at transit hubs across Canada were stepped up Tuesday in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in Brussels, with a more visible police presence at airports and authorities urging travellers to watch for any hint of trouble.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said law-enforcement agencies are redoubling their efforts at Canada's airports and public-transit systems, calling them "part of the critical infrastructure of the country."

"Canadians can be assured that their police and security services are alert and vigilant and taking the steps that are necessary across the country," he told reporters in Ottawa.

Brussels Airport and a downtown subway station were attacked during the morning rush hour Tuesday, killing at least 31 people and injuring dozens more.

Mr. Goodale sought to reassure Canadians, saying there is no imminent threat in this country and no known Canadian connection to the Brussels attacks. He said Canada's threat level remains at medium, where it was set in October, 2014.

At the country's two biggest airports, near Toronto and Vancouver, officials said security personnel are on alert but declined to say whether more officers and security guards had been deployed.

At least one Winnipeg high school cancelled a European trip and others were considering their options.

Commuters in Toronto and Vancouver saw a more visible police presence. The Toronto Transit Commission made plans for "increased visible presence" of uniformed special constables on the subway system, including at key stations, spokesman Brad Ross said.

In Vancouver, regional transit agency TransLink said it was taking "extra security precautions" and urged passengers to report any suspicious activity.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion, who called the attacks a "black Tuesday for Belgium," said there were no reports of Canadian citizens affected by the blasts.

(Globe and Mail)

Mar 22 2016

OWEN SOUND - Staff in Owen Sound will meet with representatives from the Ontario Provincial Police on Wednesday to discuss a policing quote.

City Manager Wayne Ritchie tells Bayshore Broadcasting News it'll be the inaugural meeting between the OPP and the City.

Council in January supported a motion to pursue a bid from the provincial police, and Ritchie says Wednesday's meeting will be the beginning of a long process.

The City police department is expected to cost property taxpayers \$7.03-million

in 2016, which is about a quarter of Owen Sound \$27-million operating budget.

But the police department also generates about \$1-million in revenue from its dispatch service.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

Mar 22 2016

EDMONTON - A Grade 6 student from Tofield School east of Edmonton has won an Alberta liquor bag design contest with a powerful message against impaired driving.



Keana Hollman's art features a drinking driver not paying attention to a road sign as someone is trying to cross.

A second picture shows a person grieving at a grave site.

Her message in bold red-and-orange letters reads: "If you drink and drive, you'll make someone cry."

Keana's entry was chosen from more than 150 provincewide.

It is to be printed on one million brown paper bags distributed to liquor stores starting the May long weekend.

Mar 22 2016

OTTAWA - Supreme Court Justice Thomas Cromwell is retiring Sept. 1.

Cromwell, 63, was named to the Supreme Court in 2008, after serving 11 years on the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

Cromwell says that as his time as a judge draws to a close, he believes more firmly than ever that an independent and effective judiciary is a cornerstone of democracy.

Under the rules, a departing Supreme Court judge may, for up to six months after retiring, take part in rulings on cases that they have heard.

Mar 22 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police are changing the way they respond to minor crashes, including those that result in injuries.

Starting next Tuesday, police will no longer respond to minor collisions that have minor injuries or no injuries at all.

Last year, police responded to almost 64,000 collisions and almost 70 per cent of them were minor fender-benders.

Police say this move will allow officers to focus on more serious calls.

"We can't keep up with the current rate of collisions that are increasing year over year, with the sheer number of vehicles that are

coming into the city, and the sheer number of pedestrians that are using our roadways,” Const. Clint Stibbe told 680 NEWS on Tuesday.

Drivers involved in minor crashes will have to go to a collision reporting centre.

However, officers will still respond if the minor collision involved involves criminal offences, drugs or alcohol, or pedestrians and cyclists.

THURSDAY MARCH 24, 2016

Mar 24 2016

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has waded for the first time into one of humanity's darkest corners, offering its legal definition of what constitutes the disturbed mind of mother who kills her newborn.

The court ruled by a 7-0 margin Thursday that an Alberta woman who tossed two of her newborns into the garbage is not guilty of second-degree murder.

The decision upheld the earlier findings of an Alberta trial judge and the province's appeal court and agreed with the proposition put forth by lawyers for Meredith Borowiec of Calgary, who argued that she was guilty of the lesser offence of infanticide.

The court was ruling for the first time on the infanticide provision of the Criminal Code, which turns on the definition of what constitutes a disturbed mind for a new mother.

Justice Thomas Cromwell, writing for the court, said the legal test for a disturbed mind is lower than the legal test for insanity.

“The word ‘disturbed’ is not a legal or medical term of art, but should be applied in its grammatical and ordinary sense,” Cromwell ruled.

“The disturbance must be ‘by reason of’ the fact that the accused was not fully recovered from the effects of giving birth or from the effect of lactation consequent on the birth of a child.”

Borowiec was originally charged with two counts of second-degree murder for the deaths of two of her children in 2008 and 2009.

In 2014, she was convicted of infanticide and sentenced to an additional 18 months in jail on top of the 18 months she had already spent in custody.

Alberta's Court of Appeal upheld the infanticide verdicts, but it was a split decision, meaning the matter automatically moved to the Supreme Court.

At trial, the prosecution and defence called competing experts to testify on Borowiec's state of mind.

The judge ruled that the definition of a disturbed mind “did not require an actual diagnosis of mental disorder and sets a very low threshold.”

The trial judge concluded that Borowiec's mind was “‘disturbed’ as a result of not yet having fully recovered from the effects of giving birth.

The ruling makes clear there is little case law on infanticide.

Mar 24 2016

TORONTO - Former CBC host Jian Ghomeshi has been found not guilty of sexual assault and choking.

Ontario court Judge William Horkins says the three complainants in the case were simply not credible given their shifting memories and evidence.

Horkins says all he had to go on was the women's credibility, which he said cross-examination showed to be sorely lacking.

Ghomeshi had pleaded not guilty to four counts of sexual assault and one count of overcoming resistance by choking.

The women testified they were being romantic with Ghomeshi when he briefly turned violent in separate incidents in 2002 and 2003.

Ghomeshi's defence argued the witnesses lied during testimony about their interactions with him and so were not credible.

Ghomeshi still faces a separate trial in June on one count of sexual assault.

Mar 24 2016

MIDLAND - The Town of Midland is set to begin a cost-comparison process for OPP services today. This follows council's December decision to ask the provincial force how much it would cost to police Midland.

The rising cost of policing is the primary driver behind the move. Last year, policing costs represented 27.5 per cent of the municipal budget, up from 18 per cent just five years ago, according to Mayor Gord McKay.

The Midland Police Service recently signed a contract that will increase salaries for first-class constables by 7.2 per cent by 2017.

After the costing process is complete,

McKay said, council will have to decide what steps to take.

“At the end of the costing process, we won't have a decision, just a number,” he said. “The question we have to deal with is, what do you do with that number?”

McKay said cost is not the only driver in the process.

“We have to make sure we maintain the quality of the service,” he said. “People have an expectation that, when they pick up the phone to call the police, they get a response.”

(Simcoe.com)

Mar 24 2016

Police officers on Vancouver's North Shore were literally looking down on distracted drivers yesterday.



An officer donned a yellow vest and sat atop a cherry picker along Marine Drive in North Vancouver, B.C. to point out distracted drivers.

West Vancouver Police and North Vancouver RCMP teamed up for the crack down.

“Most drivers understand that using their phone increases their risk of crashing yet many still do it,” said Harvey Kooner, local ICBC road safety coordinator.

Police say one in four deaths on B.C. roads involves distracted driving, and that motorists are five times more likely to crash if using a phone.

(CBC News)



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