

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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Police-reported data in Canada show that young adults aged 18 to 24 have the highest rates of criminal offending of any age group. In 2014, there were over 183,000 young adults accused of police-reported crimes, a rate of 5,428 individuals accused per 100,000 young adults.

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Hundreds of auxiliary Mounties are ready to hit the front lines of the devastating northern Alberta wildfires - but no one's calling.

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MONCTON, N.B. - The RCMP has pleaded not guilty to four charges of Labour Code violations stemming from the force's response to a 2014 shooting rampage in Moncton, N.B.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Deputy Eric Girt appointed new Hamilton police chief



Former Chief Glenn De Caire with incoming Chief Eric Girt

May 11 2016

HAMILTON - Hamilton's new police chief named two priorities during his official introduction to the city Wednesday.

"Our priorities are building relationships, maintaining the public trust," Chief Eric Girt told reporters at the Central Station forecourt.

Girt, 54, steps into the top job after serving as deputy chief for 10 years. He has a five-year contract.

Girt replaces former chief Glenn De

Caire, who abruptly announced his retirement in December.

His fellow deputy chief, Ken Weatherill, had also hoped to fill the vacancy, which the police services board decided to fill internally, rather than search externally.

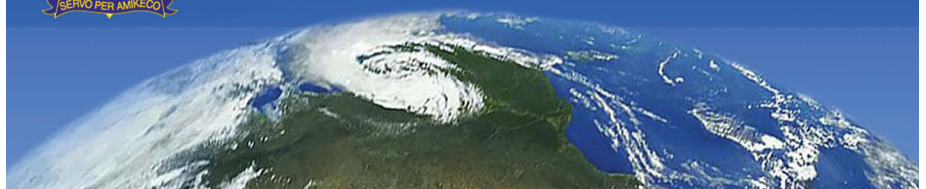
Coun. Lloyd Ferguson, chair of the board, said both candidates "hit home runs" during interviews, but it was Girt's 10 years of experience as deputy that gave him the edge.

Girt also offers a different style from De Caire, Ferguson said, describing the new



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chief of Ontario's six-largest police force as "shy," something his predecessor was not.

At the time, the police service needed De Caire's tougher approach to crack down on discipline, Ferguson said.

Girt has a lighter touch, the councillor suggested.

"I think we're ready for that after Glenn. Glenn was needed at the time. But now we need someone with a little softer style."

During his speech, Girt spoke of innovation, compassion and adaptation.

He also referenced the importance of working with those who suffer from mental illness, addiction and poverty.

"We want people to get the help. We want to reduce use of force if we can."

Ferguson said the internal search was meant to show the board had confidence in the service's existing leadership.

The board recruited De Caire from Toronto in December 2009.

The police association is pleased a new chief was found internally, president Clint Twolan said.

It's encouraging for members to see one of their own rise through the ranks over a 30-year commitment to the service, Twolan said.

"It gives the members that confidence. Remain committed to your organization and you'll be rewarded."

Last year, a police association survey - which involved 695 of the service's 1,205 members - found morale was low with 83 per cent of sworn officers saying they worked in a "culture of fear."

Twolan described the former chief as "much more autocratic" than Girt, whom he said has a more collaborative approach.

"(Girt's) a stable person. He's a level-headed, calm, cool and collected approach."

Hamilton's 35th police chief takes the helm after a turbulent stretch.

Under De Caire, the police service was scrutinized for beating up a man after offic-

ers broke into the wrong home during a drug raid; the shooting death of Steve Mesic, a 45-year-old who struggled with mental illness and allegations ACTION team officers faked tickets.

Girt, who spoke highly of De Caire, said he's "cognizant that we stand on the shoulders of those who precede us."

He's facing increasing pressure to address random street checks.

(Hamilton Spectator)

THURSDAY MAY 5, 2016

May 05 2016

FORT MCMURRAY, Alta. - RCMP in Alberta have brought in special tactical teams to root out people who refuse to leave fire-ravaged Fort McMurray.

"We still have some people hanging around and we are trying to ensure everyone's safety," Sgt. Jack Poitras said Thursday.

"Right now we have special tactical operations inside the city looking to make sure that there is nobody left behind."

Poitras said police found two stragglers Wednesday night and there have been others.

They were sent out of the city on a bus. They won't face charges.

There were no details about why they refused to leave after days of fires that have torched more than 1,600 structures.

"They are not giving us a reason," said Poitras. "They are just refusing to go."

The tactical teams will be checking homes and yards for people, he said.

Some members of the RCMP from Fort McMurray have remained on the job despite losing their homes to fire.

Cpl. George Cameron said he wasn't sure if his house is still standing.

"It makes a tough job harder," he said.

May 05 2016

SURREY - Hundreds of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition were recently turned over to the Surrey RCMP.

Between April 4 and April 22, Mounties visited the owners of restricted and prohibited firearms whose registrations had expired, as part of their Safety City project. The goal of the program, according to police, was not to penalize gun owners, but to educate.

"The Surrey RCMP recognizes there are many reasons why gun owners may have let their firearms registration lapse, including not even realizing they are expired," said assistant commissioner Bill Fordy in a press release. "The vast majority of firearm owners in our city are compliant with the laws."

During those two-and-a-half weeks, more than 500 firearms and 3,000 rounds of ammunition were turned over to RCMP. Many owners, however, requested that police safeguard their guns while they complete the proper paperwork. In the end, ownership of about 50 unwanted firearms were relinquished to the RCMP.

Officers found many examples of improperly-stored firearms, according to the release. Many had also been passed on from deceased family members to individuals with little to no knowledge about their status.

(Vancouver Metro)

FRIDAY MAY 6, 2016

May 06 2016

TORONTO - Toronto has unseated Vancouver as Canada's de facto cannabis capital due to an ongoing explosion in illegal dispensaries, while officials begin shutting down dozens of shops in the West Coast city to enforce a landmark new bylaw.

The owner of a cannabis consulting firm who has been tracking the meteoric growth of the illicit sector following last fall's election win by the federal Liberals, who have promised to legalize the drug, says Toronto's wide-open market is now supporting more than 100 pot shops.

This expansion comes as Vancouver has shut down 22 dispensaries out of its roughly 100 locations in the past week, and city staff say they will continue their crackdown over the coming weeks. About two dozen are expected to remain open while they clear regulatory hurdles to obtain a coveted new class of business licence.

Harrison Jordan, a second-year student at Toronto's Osgoode Hall Law School and owner of The Big Toke, said he has mapped 114 dispensaries now operating - or opening very soon - across a region where only a handful of tucked-away businesses were operating a year ago.

"In the next month or two, we might have as many dispensaries as Pizza Pizzas in Toronto," said Mr. Jordan, who built his database by cross-referencing the dispensaries' own websites with various social media platforms and several online listing services. This is the most comprehensive tally to date of Toronto's shops, which, like all dispensaries, procure and sell their products outside of the federal government's mail-order medical marijuana system.

Toronto Mayor John Tory expressed exasperation last month at the ongoing boom, but said he is awaiting direction from Ottawa on how to proceed before federal legislation is introduced next spring legalizing marijuana.

"The one thing you can't afford to have happen is a broad-scale mockery of the laws," Mr. Tory said at a news conference on April 20 - the day marijuana enthusiasts around the world celebrate the drug.

The city's top medical officer is due to report back to the Toronto Board of Health at the end of this month with details on how other jurisdictions regulate dispensaries.

Despite the large expansion in shops, the Prosecution Service of Canada, which



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handles all federal drug cases, recently told The Globe and Mail that only three dispensaries have been busted in Toronto in the past two years.

In Vancouver, police have said it takes the equivalent of three months' work by one investigator to execute a warrant on a pot shop. After most of the force's 11 recent raids, the dispensaries reopened the next day.

Like their counterparts in Vancouver, officers in Toronto are especially concerned with reports of selling to minors, Toronto Police service spokesman Mark Pugash said. He added that an experienced drug squad investigator recently returned from studying Vancouver's approach to policing the use and sale of marijuana and other illicit street drugs.

(Globe and Mail)

May 06 2016

OTTAWA - Ontario's premier says the federal government must clarify the law around the recreational use of marijuana because of complications involving shops selling pot.

Kathleen Wynne says provinces and cities remain confused about how to handle those shops because of a lack of direction from Ottawa.

The governing Liberals plan to bring in legislation next spring that would legalize cannabis — but until that happens Wynne says the lines are blurred.

Liberal MP and former Toronto police chief Bill Blair, the government's pointman on pot, has stressed that Criminal Code provisions on marijuana must be enforced as the government considers a legalized regime.

Vancouver started cracking down on unlicensed dispensaries last week and Toronto Mayor John Tory said yesterday that the growth in dispensaries in his city is on the verge of being out-of-control.

Wynne has publicly mused about selling marijuana through the provincially-run liquor stores.

SATURDAY
MAY 7, 2016

May 07 2016

KAMLOOPS - A long-standing volunteer with the Kamloops RCMP has retired after 39 years on the job.

Tuesday, the Kamloops RCMP celebrated the retirement of Don Torry, a dedicated volunteer with the Kamloops RCMP Auxiliary program. Torry has been a member of the program for 39 years, joining the team on June 27, 1977.

Over his almost four decades with the program, Torry contributed 12,555 hours of service to the City of Kamloops auxiliary program, more than double the amount of hours volunteers need to complete.

Torry said he enjoyed his service with the program and that the time went by quickly.

The Kamloops RCMP honoured their

longest standing volunteer with his favourite chocolate cake and a cup of coffee.

Kamloops RCMP said Torry would still be with the program if it weren't for the fact he turned 70 on May 1, the mandatory retirement age for the auxiliary program.

(Kelowna Now)

May 07 2016

VICTORIAVILLE, Que. - A second man has been arrested in the theft of five million bees in Quebec.



Provincial police say the 43-year-old suspect surrendered to police on Friday in Joliette, about 50 kilometres north of Montreal.

He will appear in court on Monday.

Earlier this week the man's 36-year-old brother was also arrested and arraigned in connection with the theft.

Police suspect the accused also made off late last month with 180 hives belonging to Jean-Marc Labonte, who estimated the value of everything stolen at \$200,000.

The bees have not yet been found.

SUNDAY
MAY 8, 2016

May 08 2016

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver police officer is recovering after being slashed Saturday night by a woman wielding a butcher knife.

At around 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, an officer attended an apartment building on the west side of Vancouver to deal with "an emotionally distraught woman," said Vancouver police spokesman Const. Brian Montague.

While the officer was standing in the hallway outside the women's apartment speaking with her, "she suddenly produced a butcher-type knife from behind her back and started swinging," Montague said.

The officer raised his arms in defence, and sustained a knife injury to his hand.

The woman then returned inside her apartment and "barricaded herself inside," Montague said.

"After many hours of unsuccessful negotiations, police lost contact with the woman. Concerned for her own safety, the door was breached and entry was made into the apartment," he said in an email.

Police arrested the woman.

The injured officer was treated in hospital, was released and is recovering at home.

(The Province)

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MONDAY MAY 9, 2016

May 09 2016

TORONTO - Toronto police say more people are getting behind the wheel while on drugs this year compared to last year.

They say 25 drivers have been charged with impaired driving due to drug use so far this year, up from 10 at this time last year.

That's an increase of 150 per cent.

Meanwhile, the number of alcohol-related charges has dropped by roughly seven per cent - 431 as of last week, compared to 464 to the same time last year.

Drivers impaired by drugs face criminal charges but do not currently have their licence automatically suspended like those who fail a breathalyzer test.

That is set to change this fall after legislative amendments take effect.

(680News)

May 09 2016

OTTAWA - With the clock ticking down to a tight deadline imposed by the Supreme Court of Canada, CBC News has learned the Official Opposition is pulling support for a bill that would give Mounties the right to collective bargaining.



The Conservatives had supported Bill C-7 at second reading, on the hopes it would be amended at committee to guarantee a secret ballot for RCMP members if they decide to certify a union.

While the proposed legislation was tweaked at committee to remove controversial sections that would have altered officers' health benefits, committee members voted down an amendment suggested by Conservative public safety critic Erin O'Toole to ensure any future certification vote is held by secret ballot.

Conservative Treasury Board critic Pierre Poilievre called the secret ballot a fundamental democratic right.

"Instead of forcing RCMP members to disclose their vote publicly, the Liberals should listen to RCMP members who are concerned that their vote will impact their workplace situation," he said.

The Liberal government has always maintained the mechanics for union certification would be addressed in another bill before the House, which the Conservatives also oppose.

Parliament doesn't have much time to

work this one out as the Supreme Court's deadline for C-7 to become law is May 16.

(CBC News)

May 09 2016

MONTREAL - Nearly two years after pressing the federal government and Canada's railroad operators to beef up their safety regulations, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said Tuesday his demands have been met.

For the past year, the city's first responders have used a mobile application that allows them to identify what dangerous goods are being shipped through the city in real time. By punching in a train's identification number into the AskRail app, firefighters can access a diagram of the train's dangerous goods.

"I'm plenty satisfied with the kind of data and information we have access to," said Coderre, in the lobby of Canadian National Railway's Montreal headquarters. "If something might happen, we know that we're ready, that we have what we need to deal with it."

After the fatal Lac-Mégantic train wreck in 2013 - in which a train carrying crude oil derailed, killing 47 - Coderre criticized companies like Canadian National Railway for not sharing enough information about what gets shipped across the city. Under old federal regulations, operators only had to provide cities with detailed information on their shipments after they had been delivered.

(Montreal Gazette)

May 09 2016

Deputy Chief Dave Thorne is retiring from the Winnipeg Police Service.



Thorne spent 35 years with the service, serving in commercial crime, robbery, child abuse and homicide units. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2013.

Winnipeg police made the announcement

Monday.

(CBC News)

May 09 2016

SURREY, B.C. - Mounties from across British Columbia are heading to northern Alberta to help in fire-ravaged Fort McMurray.

B.C. RCMP spokesman Staff Sgt. Rob Vermeulen says about 150 tactical troop members and traffic service officers are being sent.

He says the Alberta RCMP requested help from their B.C. counterparts.

The officers will come from communities across the province to make sure local

detachments aren't left short-handed.

Vermeulen says the officers are used to being redeployed on short notice for serious events.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley says Fort McMurray is not yet safe for residents to return after a wildfire ripped through the city, torching 2,400 buildings.

May 09 2016

WINDSOR - Two Windsor police officers will not have to stand trial on assault charges after the disappearance of the man they allegedly brutalized.

Const. Daniel Merlo and Const. Aaron Naklie were charged in relation to the Oct. 26, 2014 arrest of Matthew Jonsson. Jonsson, who reportedly was handcuffed, uncuffed, then tasered during his arrest, suffered a broken elbow joint. The officers' trial was expected to hear that Jonsson's injury, described as a non-displaced fracture of the elbow, likely occurred when he fell forward, landing on his hands.

Merlo was charged with assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm. Naklie was charged with assault causing bodily harm and aiding and abetting an assault with a weapon.

The charges came more than eight months after the incident, following a probe by the Special Investigations Unit.

Monday, after Jonsson failed to attend court to testify, the charges against the two officers were withdrawn. A prosecutor brought in from Toronto to handle the case told the court Jonsson had stopped returning his calls.

Jonsson, who has a long criminal record and is currently wanted in relation to a fraud ring involving bogus online postings for cottage rentals, is the subject of an arrest warrant out of London.

If he had turned up to testify in Windsor, he likely would have been arrested and returned to London to stand trial.

(Windsor Star)

TUESDAY MAY 10, 2016

May 10 2016

CALGARY - A Calgary police officer was taken to hospital for treatment of blurry vision after someone in a car pointed a laser at a cruiser.

Police say they received several 911 calls late last evening about a green laser beam being flashed in a southeast neighbourhood.

The light was allegedly aimed at a cruiser when officers arrived and tried to pull the car over.

The vehicle fled but it was followed by the police helicopter.

Two people were arrested after a foot chase near a shopping centre.

Charges are pending.

(CHQR, CTV Calgary)

May 10 2016

KITIMAT, B.C. - RCMP officers in Kitimat, B.C., are using creative measures to catch drivers who ignore school bus warning lights.



Mounties are riding on the buses in that north coast community to nab drivers in the act.

Buses have also been equipped with dashcams to collect video evidence.

Kitimat's school bus co-ordinator, Angie Maitland, says area drivers frequently ignore flashing bus lights signalling students are getting on, off, or preparing to cross the street.

B.C. penalties for disobeying school bus signals include a \$167 fine and three licence demerit points, but Transportation Minister Todd Stone said in March that tougher punishments could be in place by the end of June. (CFTK)

May 10 2016

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - The province's police watchdog says there are no reasonable grounds to charge a provincial police officer after a man was struck near the eye by a prong from a Taser and partially blinded.

Director Tony Loparco says the incident occurred on June 19, 2012, and was reported to the Special Investigations Unit on July 13, 2015, after the man's father notified the OPP that his son had lost sight in one eye.

The SIU says the officer responding to a call about an out-of-control man at a home at the Pikangikum First Nation at some point deployed his conducted energy weapon and one of the prongs lodged itself near the man's left eye.

The man was taken to a local nursing station, treated, and released, but returned the next day with pain and swelling to his eye, and later underwent surgery in Winnipeg for a detached retina.

Loparco says there was little evidence available to assess the incident and the man has "limited to no recollection" of the event.

He says the SIU was unable to determine if the officer deliberately fired at the man's face or if the prong lodged itself in his face by accident.

May 10 2016

MONTREAL - The unions representing Montreal police and firefighters are sounding the alarm after the City of Montreal's emergency telecommunications system was down on Monday for two hours.

It was the second outage for the city-wide emergency radio network, known as SERAM, in less than a week.

The City of Montreal has spent \$70 mil-

lion on the system. It has been in operation since 2014.

But the unions representing the city's police officers and firefighters have not been impressed and have lodged a complaint with the workplace health and safety board.

Chris Ross, vice-president of the firefighters' union, said they had to use cell phones to send information back to the communications centre.

He said the system has been beset by problems since the beginning.

"Almost immediately, they started to have problems with it to the point where we had to pull it out of service," he said.

"And it was brought back in almost a year later, and in the past couple of months that it's been online we've had some recur-

ring issues with it, including twice in the past week where it's crashed. Each time we're explained that it was sort of a freak of nature, and that it won't happen again. And a few days later it happens again."



On Monday, the technical problems started around 12 p.m. and service came back around 2 p.m., according to the city.

"The outage took place during work that was underway on the network by the provider," Valérie De Gagné, a spokesperson for the City of Montreal, said in a statement.

"Not in any moment was the safety of citizens ever in jeopardy."

De Gagné said the city is taking steps to ensure it doesn't happen again.



Quebec courts were also paralyzed due to an unrelated computer outage during the day. (CBC News)



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The Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), in cooperation with the Ontario Association of Law Enforcement Planners (OALEP), is proud to be hosting the 2016 annual International Association of Law Enforcement Planners (IALEP) conference in Waterloo, Ontario, on **September 19-23, 2016**.

The theme of the conference is **"Thinking Forward"** and embraces a focus on skills and insight needed for police planning in the future, including strategic foresight, community safety, and the many challenges to anticipate along the planning continuum. This conference has only been in Canada three times in the past 25 years, and offers a great opportunity for you and your members to attend, network with an international group of sworn and civilian police planners and academia, and showcase some of our Canadian talent.

The conference begins in Waterloo, Ontario, on Monday, September 19th with an evening reception at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), and runs all week, wrapping up with a Friday morning Roundtable breakfast. A special conference registration fee is being offered this year in celebration of the 25th anniversary of this annual training conference.

The agenda features topics on community engagement, learning through evaluation, socio-economic and policing impacts of autonomous vehicles, strategic foresight tools to help make robust long term decisions, visioning future law enforcement technologies, career passion by a renowned TED Talk presenter, arguments for evidence-based policing, a panel discussion on the future of community safety and well-being through collaborative partnerships, and much more! After hours, enjoy a curling bonspiel, a morning trip to St. Jacob's Farmers Market, and an evening banquet infused with the local Oktoberfest spirit.

Law enforcement planning and research is an integral component to police organizations and leaders, as we strive to **Think Forward** and stay ahead of this rapidly changing business of policing. We invite you and your members to join this international conference available in Waterloo, Ontario, this September.

The preliminary agenda is now available and registration is open.
Details can be found under the "Conference" menu at
www.ialep.org

VANCOUVER - A high-profile former RCMP officer once in charge of strategic communications in British Columbia has been charged with sexual assault.

The province's Criminal Justice Branch said Tuesday that a charge has been sworn against former inspector Tim Shields stemming from an investigation into sexual misconduct.

The misconduct is alleged to have occurred between 2009 and 2010 at RCMP headquarters and involved a civilian employee who worked in co-ordination with the communications unit headed by Shields.

Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens, head of the RCMP in British Columbia, said the Mounties became aware of the allegations against Shields in 2013, but there was insufficient evidence at the time to proceed actively with the investigation.

He said new information became available in 2014 and an investigation team was formed. Information from that investigation was reported to Crown and resulted in the charge sworn Tuesday, Callens said in a statement.

"Charges of this nature against a police officer are disturbing and are even more so that it is alleged to have occurred in our headquarters."

"The RCMP pursued this investigation as it would any serious criminal matter, regardless that the suspect was a senior police officer," he said.

The allegation against Shields has not been tested in court.

Shields was suspended with pay in May last year and submitted his discharge documents in December, said Callens.

Mounties said at the time his suspension was due to a code-of-conduct investigation.

Shields appeared in Vancouver provincial court on Tuesday and is scheduled to return on June 27.

May 10 2016

Crown attorneys wrapped up their first witness examinations Tuesday in the trial of a York Regional Police officer accused of fatally striking a pedestrian in 2014 while on duty.

On the evening of Feb. 12, 2014, Natasha Abogado had just got off a TTC bus in Scarborough when she was struck by an unmarked vehicle travelling east.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The province's Special Investigations Unit invoked its mandate and investigated the circumstances leading up to the incident.

The SIU concluded that unmarked vehicle was being driven by a York Regional Police officer. Investigators concluded the officer was driving at a speed of 115 km/h in a 60km/h zone without using police lights or sirens when Abogado was struck.

In June of that year, the SIU charged the officer driving the vehicle with one count of dangerous driving causing death.

Det. Const. Remo Romano pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Romano has been an officer with York Region since 2003 and a member of the #5 District Criminal Investigations Bureau since 2010. He was placed on administrative duties throughout court proceedings.

The trial is expected to last two weeks.

(CTV Toronto)

May 10 2016

FORT MCMURRAY, Alta. - RCMP have seized some guns following the fire in Fort McMurray, but won't be conducting a mass seizure of firearms like they did after the flood in southern Alberta.



Sgt. John Spaans said Tuesday that officers have taken one or two guns found in public places, but are not going into homes looking for more.

He said he's not sure if the decision had anything to do with what happened in High River during the floods.

"That's a decision that came through our unified command. I don't know the rationale."

Flood water forced thousands of people from their homes in High River in June 2013. As Mounties searched for people who were stranded in the town, they kicked in doors and took firearms.

The seizures angered residents and fostered mistrust of the national police force.

The force's Civilian Review and Complaints Commission later found the RCMP had legal authority to forcibly enter evacuated homes and seize unsecured firearms in plain view. But it said officers exceeded their authority by taking some guns that were properly secured.

About 300 RCMP from Alberta and other provinces are in Fort McMurray and recently finished a door-to-door canvass of the community, said Spaans.

They did not force their way into homes, he said, and only offered help to people who didn't evacuate with the 80,000 other residents ordered out last week when a massive wildfire spread through the city. About 2,400 buildings were burned.

Firefighters have gone into some houses, Spaans added.

"In those cases, the RCMP have stayed outside."

Mounties have assisted some residents who needed help evacuating, he said. Officers have also found people who are refusing to leave, but he wouldn't reveal how many.

Police don't have the authority to remove them unless there they pose a threat to public safety, he said.

Spaans said he expects the large presence of officers will remain "for months to come" in order to prevent property crime and help re-establish the community.

May 10 2016

WASHINGTON - Motorists are being convicted of driving under the influence of marijuana based on arbitrary state standards that have no connection to whether the driver was actually impaired, says a study by the nation's largest auto club.

The problem is only growing as more states contemplate legalizing the drug. At least three, and possibly as many as 11 states, will vote this fall on ballot measures to legalize marijuana for medicinal or recreational use, or both. Legislation to legalize the drug has also been introduced in a half-dozen states.

Currently, six states where medical or recreational marijuana use is legal - Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington - have set specific limits for THC, the chemical in marijuana that makes people high, in drivers' blood. But the study by AAA's safety foundation says the limits have no scientific basis and can result in innocent drivers being convicted, and guilty drivers being released.

"There is understandably a strong desire by both lawmakers and the public to create legal limits for marijuana impairment in the same manner we do alcohol," said Marshall Doney, AAA's president and CEO. "In the case of marijuana, this approach is flawed and not supported by scientific research."

Another nine states, including some that have legalized marijuana for medical use, have zero-tolerance laws for driving and marijuana that make not only any presence of THC in a driver's blood illegal, but also the presence of its metabolites, which can linger in a driver's bloodstream for weeks after any impairment has dissipated.

The problem is that determining whether someone is impaired by marijuana, as opposed to having merely used the drug, is far more complex than the simple and reliable tests that have been developed for alcohol impairment.

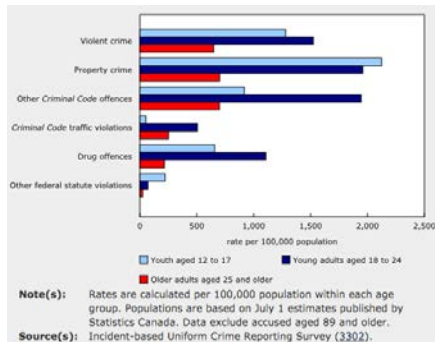
The degree to which a driver is impaired by marijuana use depends a lot on the individual, the foundation said. Drivers with relatively high levels of THC in their systems might not be impaired, especially if they are regular users, while others with relatively low levels may be unsafe behind the wheel.

Some drivers may be impaired when they are stopped by police, but by the time their blood is tested they have fallen below the legal threshold because active THC dissipates rapidly. The average time to collect blood from a suspected driver is often more than two hours because taking a blood sample typically requires a warrant and transport to a police station or hospital, the foundation said.

In addition, frequent marijuana users can exhibit persistent levels of the drug long after use, while THC levels can decline more rapidly among occasional users.

(AP)

Police-reported data in Canada show that young adults aged 18 to 24 have the highest rates of criminal offending of any age group. In 2014, there were over 183,000 young adults accused of police-reported crimes, a rate of 5,428 individuals accused per 100,000 young adults.



In comparison, the rates of youth aged 12 to 17 accused (4,322 per 100,000), as well as the rates for adults aged 25 to 29 (4,712) and aged 30 to 34 (4,022) were notably lower.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of young adults aged 18 to 24 accused of crime declined 31%, while the rate for youth aged 12 to 17 (-39%) had a larger decrease. Over that period, the rate of all individuals accused of crime in Canada fell 22%.

As with police-reported crime committed by youth aged 12 to 17, the criminal offences most frequently committed by young adults aged 18 to 24 were theft of \$5,000 or under (727 per 100,000 young adults), common assault (682 per 100,000) and mischief (585 per 100,000). Of note, however, almost one-quarter of young adults accused of crime were accused in offences against the administration of justice (1,286 per 100,000 young adults). This group of offences includes offences arising from court processes, primarily failure to comply with the conditions of a sentence, breach of probation and failure to appear. Among young adults accused of criminal offences, 28% were accused in violent incidents.

While most offences committed by young adults were relatively minor, young adults were more likely to be accused of serious crimes than individuals in other age groups. Rates of individuals accused of homicide and attempted murder and assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) were highest among young adults. In addition, young adults also had the highest rates of mischief, disturbing the peace and Criminal Code traffic violations compared with older adults and youth.

As a group, young adults had the highest rates of drug offences under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Individuals accused of cannabis possession accounted for two-thirds (67%) of all young adults accused in drug crimes. The rates of individuals accused of non-cannabis drug offences were notably higher among young adults than among youth aged 12 to 17. While cannabis possession peaked at age 18 in 2014, rates of non-cannabis drug offences peaked at age 21.

Youth aged 12 to 17 had higher rates than young adults for many property crimes, most notably breaking and entering and theft of \$5,000 or under. Youth aged 12 to 17 also had higher rates than young adults for robbery and uttering threats. In addition, youth had the highest accused rates for sexual assault level 1 and sexual violations against children.

According to police-reported data, the rate of criminal offending in Canada in 2014 was highest at age 17 and then declined steadily with age. However, this age pattern was not the same for all offence types. For some offences, rates were highest in youth or young adulthood and then declined rapidly with age, while for others, rates peaked in young adulthood and then declined more gradually.

For individuals accused of sexual offences, robbery, uttering threats, breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, and theft of \$5,000 or under, the highest accused rates occurred before age 18 and were considerably lower by age 25. Rates of homicide and attempted murder, major assault, mischief, and cannabis possession peaked between age 18 and 25 and were notably lower by age 30.

For other offences, however, offending declined with age but at a much more gradual rate. For common assault, the most frequent of violent offences for all age groups, accused rates were highest at both age 17 and 22 in 2014, varying little by age 30 (10% lower). Other crimes for which rates remained relatively high at age 30 were criminal harass-



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ment (which peaked at age 43 in 2014); fraud, including identity theft and identity fraud (highest at age 27); and non-cannabis-related drug offences (highest at age 21).

The territories show a notable variation from the typical association between police-reported criminal offending and age. The rate of individuals accused of crime in the territories in 2014 peaked at age 24 and continued to remain high until about age 50. This was mainly the result of high rates of non-violent offences, primarily mischief and disturbing the peace.

(Statistics Canada)

May 10 2016

CALGARY - Calgary police took two men in custody after someone shone a laser in an officer's eye on Monday night.

Det. Andy Nguyen said the incident happened around 11:30 p.m. in the city's deep south, where two men were seen shining a laser from a vehicle.

"They shone a green laser beam on the side-view mirror of the marked police car which ended up striking the member in the eye," Nguyen said.

The officer who was struck by the beam was conducting a traffic stop.

With help from a police helicopter, officers followed the suspects' vehicle all the way to Market Mall in the northwest, where the driver then fled on foot.

He was caught and taken into custody, along with the passenger in the vehicle.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2016

May 11 2016

REGINA - Changing motorists' sometimes lax attitude toward their vehicles' security is the engine that's driving a Saskatchewan campaign aimed at reducing auto theft.

The Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police is at the wheel of the radio, print and online campaign that will run throughout the summer.

Its goal is to get drivers to do the simplest things to prevent their vehicles from becoming another statistic.

Regina police say 60 per cent of autos that are stolen were unlocked, or the driver had left the keys inside.

Drivers will also be encouraged to park in a well-lit area and use a steering wheel locking device.

(CKRM)

May 11 2016

MONTREAL - Thirteen people were arrested on Wednesday after police busted what they called a well-structured organized crime network that imported and trafficked cocaine.

Talks were ongoing with another suspect located in Italy, while a 15th person was also

being sought, the RCMP said.

The alleged Montreal-based ring imported a total of 1.4 tonnes of the drug, the Mounties said.

American and Canadian authorities seized 220 kilograms of cocaine during Project Clemenza, a three-phase investigation that began in 2010.

Authorities said they also confiscated \$2 million that was to be used to help import the drugs from the United States.

Most of the accused are from the Montreal area, although one lived in Ottawa and another was already detained in Kingston, Ont.

They were expected to be arraigned by video conference later on Wednesday.

Quebec provincial police, the Montreal and Laval forces, the Canada Border Services Agency and the Canada Revenue Agency also took part in the investigation.

May 11 2016 A Manitoba-born Toronto police officer is being recognized for helping at-risk girls tackle some of life's biggest challenges.

Jennifer Dekezel, an officer with the Toronto Police Service's Community Response Unit, started the Girlz Will Be Girlz program eight years ago after receiving a call from an elementary school principal in a high-crime neighbourhood in Toronto.

"The principal had me in and I spoke with a few young girls who were being bullied, and I spoke to the bullies too," said Dekezel.

The principal was impressed with Dekezel, and asked her to come back.

The group started with just four girls, meeting weekly. Now, the group has grown to close to 25 girls between eight and 17 years old, with some girls coming back year after year.

On May 7, Dekezel received the Special Recognition Award at the 24th annual Association of Black Law Enforcers awards gala.

Principals and teachers refer students to Dekezel's group. They can be newcomers, introverts, bullying victims, or bullies themselves - anyone who might benefit from bonding with a group and a strong mentor.

Dekezel takes the girls on group outings, as well as individual activities like back-to-school shopping and ice cream trips. She has also sat in hospital rooms after suicide attempts and taken late-night phone calls from girls who need someone to talk to.

"It's not just making cupcakes," she said.

The ripple effects of Dekezel's group extend far and wide. Some of the girls who have been with Dekezel the longest have gone on to start groups of their own, like one 12-year-old who started an anger-management group at her school.

One of the biggest differences Dekezel has noticed is with newcomer girls, who come from communities where policers are viewed with suspicion.

"Having a police officer who is a friend makes a huge difference. Those girls go and talk to their parents, who talk to their neighbours, and the list goes on. To build those relationships is very, very important."

Dekezel hopes that the award helps her to expand the group. The group currently receives funding from Pro-Action Cops and Kids, but Dekezel says she's started to receive other offers of funding, including from some colleges.

"I want to create leaders of goodness," she said.
(CTV Winnipeg)

May 11 2016

Hundreds of auxiliary Mounties are ready to hit the front lines of the devastating northern Alberta wildfires - but no one's calling.

As Canada's national police force conducts a review of the volunteer constabulary, some 300 trained members of Alberta's auxiliary, as well as those from other provinces, have been benched even as the same number of sworn RCMP officers have been flown into the province to help, from as far away as Newfoundland.

The call went out to auxiliary members last Tuesday, just as the wildfire forced the mass evacuation of Fort McMurray, asking volunteers to be ready to go if needed.

Subsequent memos obtained by Postmedia from the coordinating auxiliary constable told members they've been added to the list of available resources, suggesting once the fire was under control the need for relief help would be crucial, freeing up regular members from duties like traffic control and ferrying around officials.

"I realize that we all feel helpless right now but hopefully our patience will pay off and we will have our boots on the ground shortly!" read a May 7 memo from the coordinating auxiliary constable.

One auxiliary member, who Postmedia has agreed not to identify, said he has been ready to go since the first call came out, and questions why RCMP's K Division isn't willing to take advantage of a group of highly trained individuals ready to do whatever is needed to pitch in.

"I've literally have had my uniform, my duty belt and my equipment sitting in the trunk of my car for the last week," said the member, who volunteers with a rural Alberta detachment.

"We all know what we signed up for."

In January, all 1,600 members of Canada's RCMP auxiliary were informed of immediate changes to the program, including an end to ride-alongs and firearms familiarization training, as well as more clearly distinguishable uniforms.

RCMP Sgt. John Spaans said there's still a chance auxiliary members could be used in the recovery operations, but at this point all the bases are covered by the regular force.

The use of auxiliary constables has not been required as we are adequately staffed for our response to Fort McMurray," he said.

"Auxiliary constables would have the ability to assist at a later date when as the community begins to normalize, but that is not the situation at the moment."

Spaans added regular RCMP members

from B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Newfoundland and all corners of Alberta have been called in.
(Calgary Sun)

May 11 2016

OTTAWA - New figures released through a freedom-of-information request show Ottawa police are handing out fewer speeding tickets.

Police issued 15,318 speeding tickets in 2015 - down from 21,712 in 2011. That's a 29 per cent decrease. In fact, the number of tickets steadily dropped between 2011 and 2015, dipping as low as 14,948 tickets issued in 2014.

There are several theories for the decline.

Sgt. Mark Gatien in traffic enforcement said resources have been increasingly diverted to illegal cell phone use.

"(Distracted driving) has become a more serious issue than impaired driving, so we're starting to focus more on cell phone enforcement than speeding," Gatien said.

Ticket counts for distracted driving were not immediately available.

Another reason, according to Coun. Riley Brockington, is lack of traffic enforcement resources.

"The police chief will tell you that over the past three years, the amount of officers he's had on the road enforcing speeding has gone down," Brockington said. "He's taken his three traffic units ... and he's put those resources into other priorities."

(Metro)

May 11 2016

VANCOUVER - A campaign aimed at stopping adults in Metro Vancouver from buying alcohol for minors kicks off today and is focusing on the risks underage women face when binge drinking.

The eighth annual Think Before You Let Them Drink campaign is a partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health, West Vancouver Police and North Vancouver RCMP.

Kerrie Watt, a prevention consultant and educator with Vancouver Coastal Health, says alcohol is still the number one drug of choice among young people and is what leads to the most accidents, injuries and death among them.

"Somewhere along the line an adult had to provide them," she said.

And once they get a hold of alcohol, Watt says, many young people drink themselves into a stupor.

"Especially young women under 14. We know they're binge drinking at a rate higher than their male peers," she said.

For underage girls, there are added risks. "The most immediate threat is the risk of unwanted sexual activity," said Watt.

The most recent B.C. Adolescent Health Study found 37 per cent of all underage teens who had tried alcohol had drunk heavily in the past month.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY MAY 12, 2016

May 12 2016

A provincial police officer has been found not guilty of assault, for a second time, after a 2012 altercation in a Greenstone, Ont., jail cell left a First Nation man with broken bones in his face.

A second trial was ordered after the crown appealed the 2013 finding of not guilty in the case against Cst. Brian Bellefeuille.

On Wednesday a judge ruled that Bellefeuille was credible in his description of being "terrified" that he would be spit at, bitten or kicked while attempting to search an intoxicated man who had his hands cuffed behind his back.

Throwing Gary Megan to the cement floor of the cell was "necessary, reasonable and proportional" to the threat he posed, Justice Marietta L. D. Roberts ruled.

Another officer was in the cell at the time. He gave evidence that he did not perceive an "imminent threat" from Megan, whom police said they took into custody outside a bar "for his own safety" because he was too intoxicated to get home on his own.

Megan suffered a cut to his eyebrow and several broken bones around his eye socket after being thrown to the floor.

At the end of the hearing Justice Roberts asked Bellefeuille to stand and told him that he had caused "great injury" to Megan who "had suffered much".

"There may be other consequences for you and other officers," she told him. "Take that to heart."

(CBC News)

May 12 2016

It's been just a month since Quebec Public Security Minister Martin Coiteux invited Aboriginal women across Quebec to call a new toll-free line if they'd been assaulted by police.

In that short time, 44 women have reached out.

Coiteux said the new line was an alternative to calling the Montreal police force, which is in charge of investigating allegations against eight S  ret   du Qu  bec officers that surfaced last fall in a Radio-Canada Enqu  te report.

Calls to the new hotline are being directed to an existing paralegal counselling service for aboriginal people - Services parajudiciaires autochtones du Qu  bec.

"We were not expecting that kind of result," said Jean Jolicoeur, the vice-president of the paralegal service.

"Within a month, we had 44 women that reached out to us and explained their case."

He said it only made sense to offer women an alternative to calling the Montreal police force.

"You have to realize it was extremely difficult for them to call police, to make a claim

against another police."

Jolicoeur said most of the women are not ready to press charges at this time.

"Forty per cent" are, he said.

The province's contract with the paralegal services agency is for two years.

Montreal police also have a hotline, but the force was unable to tell CBC News how many Aboriginal people had laid complaints using that service.

(CBC News)

May 12 2016

MONCTON, N.B. - The RCMP has pleaded not guilty to four charges of Labour Code violations stemming from the force's response to a 2014 shooting rampage in Moncton, N.B.

Employment and Social Development Canada alleges there were four violations of the code relating to the force's equipment, training and supervision in the June 4, 2014 incident that resulted in the deaths of three Mounties.

Justin Bourque was sentenced to life in prison with no eligibility for parole for 75 years after pleading guilty to three counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada recommended last year that the RCMP be prosecuted for contravention of occupational health and safety provisions.

The RCMP had been expected to enter pleas and set a trial date during a court appearance in Moncton last month, but defence lawyer Ian Carter says the Crown and defence needed more time to discuss narrowing the issues in the case.

Both sides had previously asked for more time in what they described as a complex case during a court appearance in January.

May 12 2016

MONTREAL - Despite a push two years ago to install more public security cameras, the City of Montreal still hasn't installed any in public spaces, Radio-Canada has learned.

Montreal police bought five new cameras in the last two years but none have been installed, documents obtained through an access-to-information request show.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said February 2014 the city needed more surveillance cameras after a series of homophobic assaults at Beaudry metro.

Citizens were asked for their opinions on social media and the city created a committee of elected officials to study the issue, but the results of those measures haven't been made public.

Unlike American and European cities, some of which have thousands of surveillance cameras, Montreal only has about 20.

City spokesperson Catherine Maurice said Montreal has opted to increase the visibility of officers on the streets rather than use security cameras, which could prompt privacy concerns.

(CBC News)

May 12 2016

MONTREAL - An international study says Montreal is a hotspot for sexual tourists in Canada.

The global analysis of sexual exploitation by ECPAT identified Montreal as a hub for the sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT said because Montreal hosts many sporting and cultural events, and because of its proximity to the United States, it is relatively easy for sex tourists to exploit children in the city.

Other key locations for the sexual exploitation of children in North America are Las Vegas and Atlanta, because of the large number of gamblers and business travellers.

The ECPAT findings for Montreal are based in part on the 2014-2016 action plan drawn up by Montreal police to deal with prostitution.

ECPAT is an international group devoted to the end of child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

The ECPAT study says the ease of travel in North America is a challenge for those fighting child prostitution, not only because it's not difficult to smuggle children long distances, but also because sexual predators can travel across the continent without any hindrances.

(CTV Montreal)

May 12 2016

IQALUIT, Nunavut - A Mountie in Nunavut with 30-plus years of service has been charged in alleged assaults on two prisoners at the Pond Inlet detachment.

Sgt. Paul Marenychuk faces two counts of assault with a weapon in August and September of last year.

RCMP say Marenychuk, who has been in Pond Inlet since 2012, has been suspended with pay.

They say an internal review was subsequently referred to an RCMP investigator from Alberta.

The results were submitted to the Public Prosecution Services of Canada and charges were recommended.

Marenychuk is to appear in Pond Inlet territorial court on July 19.

May 12 2016

HALIFAX - As several Maritime cities consider measures to fight aggressive panhandling ahead of the summer tourist season, police and social experts warn it is symptomatic of a larger societal problem that can't be solved through enforcement alone.

Earlier this week, Charlottetown council moved to amend its nuisance bylaw to prevent panhandlers from blocking pedestrians from freely walking by them and also to prevent them from soliciting "captive audiences" at places such as banking machines and bus stops or in vehicles stopped on a roadway.

Charlottetown deputy police chief Gary McGuigan said while the majority of his city's panhandling is considered passive in nature, the numbers of people soliciting for money in the downtown area has increased and the move is meant to keep the activity under control.

"Some people may be intimidated by it, some may not," said McGuigan. "But there were concerns from businesses about the amount of panhandlers."

Halifax has seen a growing number of complaints recently from local business associations about aggressive panhandlers who follow and badger people for money.

It's something police are examining, Hernden said, although he added officers have rarely encountered what's been described as aggressive panhandling. He said when an incident does occur it usually involves a person who has some sort of mental health issue.

This week's move by P.E.I.'s capital city is the latest in a series of measures taken by communities across the continent.

McGuigan said Charlottetown businesses have also installed so-called "kindness meters" in an attempt to get people to donate to soup kitchens, the local food bank and the Salvation Army.

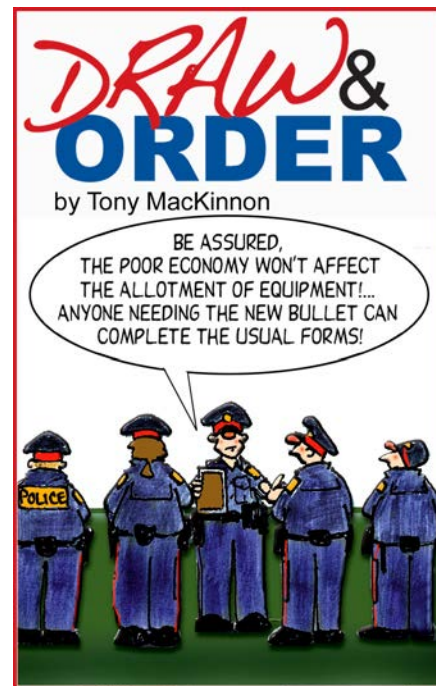
It's a move that's been tried in other communities in an attempt to cut down on panhandling, including Fredericton, where six used parking meters were converted to support aid groups.

In Halifax, Hernden said police have asked city legal staff to review the current bylaw, although he added police aren't pushing for any changes at this point.

He said police have a close relationship with many of the panhandlers in the downtown area and know they are on the streets for a variety of reasons - from mental health and addiction problems to homelessness and


the need to supplement their incomes.

"We are not going to solve this issue through enforcement," said Hernden. "It is going to take a community of people to come together and deal with some of the underlying issues that exist that lead to a person being on the street."



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