

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

Happy New Year!

Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | December 30, 2016 – Vol. 21 No. 53

## Executive Digest

Dec 22 2016

**OTTAWA** - A new deputy police chief with two decades of policing experience has been appointed to replace Deputy Chief Ed Keeley, who will officially retire in January. The Ottawa Police Services Board announced Thursday that Steven Bell has been chosen as Keeley's successor for the job.



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**South Simcoe Police** will have a new top cop next spring. Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher will officially take over the position of Chief as of April 18, 2017. Fletcher succeeds Rick Beazley who announced on December 12th that he is retiring after 42 years of policing, the last 4 years as Chief of South Simcoe Police.



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**MONTREAL** - The Quebec government won't appeal a court decision that rejected evidence obtained from a photo radar machine.

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**WINNIPEG** - Devon Clunis may be retired but he's working to make sure his legacy of building community lives on.

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BLUE LINE  
NEWSWEEK

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[www.BlueLine.ca](http://www.BlueLine.ca)

## Opioid deaths need immediate attention

*Calgary Chief urges more action and less talk*



Dec 27 2016

**CALGARY** - Calgary's police chief says the Alberta government has to take more aggressive action on fentanyl if it wants to help addicts and families who are being destroyed.

"It is a crisis," said Calgary Police Chief Roger Chaffin in an interview.

"Look at the numbers of deaths. Numbers of homicides and traffic fatalities don't come anywhere near the deaths associated with these drugs."

In the first 10 months of 2016, 338

Albertans died from opioid-related overdoses, with fentanyl linked to 193 of those deaths.

"People are going to keep arguing about whether this is a crisis or not. It just shocks me," Chaffin said. "We're wasting all our energy arguing about whether this should be called a public health crisis or not. Spend your energy fixing the problem."

Chaffin said there is a huge demand for highly addictive opioids. Reducing the supply increases the price and make its users more desperate, he said.



"We can take off dealers until we're blue in the face and we do," he said. "We exhaust a lot of time looking for supplies of these drugs ... but, until you deal with the demand side, until you help communities recover from that, we'll be chasing it for a long time and see a lot more tragedies before we see any change in the game."

Chaffin wants the government to come up with a broader strategy beyond providing the opioid antidote naloxone and creating safe injection sites.

"We need to get these people out of the lifestyle they're in and get them into more healthy lifestyles, improve their families, improve their wellness in this community and change the quality of life in Calgary. That won't happen by one-off programs or relying on the police to arrest dealers," he said.

"If I get hold of you as an addict and you want to get help and I tell you to come back in 30 days because there's no treatment facilities - addicts don't come back in 30 days.

"They're not going to think that way."

Alberta's associate health minister said the government is working on the problem, but it can't solve it overnight.

Rosalind Davis watched her partner, Nathan Huggins-Rosenthal, develop an opioid addiction after a back injury. His doctor referred him to an outpatient program.

"At that time I don't think his addiction was that bad, he was still functioning but we waited four months for him to be admitted into that program and during that interval, his addiction went from bad to unmanageable and he found his way to illicit fentanyl," she said.

"At that time, I do believe that it was manageable. I do believe we would have been okay."

Huggins-Rosenthal died of an overdose in February.

Davis is disappointed with the Alberta NDP government's approach on opioids.

"They're the self-proclaimed compassionate government and really we're just seeing no changes in terms of how addiction treatment is being offered."

Alberta's associate health minister said the government is working on the problem, but it can't solve it overnight.

"I really wish that there was a quick fix for this, but unfortunately there just isn't. I think a key thing for us to do is to continue to expand access to opioid replacement therapy as well as other treatment models so that people are able to get the treatment that they need," said Brandy Payne.

"We also know that not everyone is ready for treatment and moving forward on harm reduction is critical so that we are able to help people stay alive another day."

Calgary's Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre offers an 8-to-12 month program for up to 30 addicted kids between the ages of 13 and 21, but its founder says there are many more who require treatment.

"It's Russian roulette with these kids," said executive director Dean Vause.

"It's powerful and it's killing them. It is the most painful, most horrible part of my career - dealing with a parent who has lost a kid to this ugly illness. The gravity of it is, some people are going to die from this. It's out there and it's real."

Alberta's Liberal leader, who co-chaired a government review on mental health services, said addiction needs to be dealt with immediately.

"What we have is a government that's in denial," said David Swann. "We now have between 40,000 and 60,000 addicts in the province and we're only managing about 2,000 to 3,000 in our clinics."

Swann said Alberta spends just six per cent of its health budget on mental health and addiction, but many suffer from both. He said waiting up to six weeks for treatment is unacceptable.

"Once an addict decides to get care, they have to get in promptly - not four to six weeks after they're ready. They could be worse off or dead in four to six weeks," Swann said.

"For some reason the government either doesn't have the resources to step it up or the political will."

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 22, 2016

Dec 22 2016

### HALIFAX - The first person convicted of human trafficking in Nova Scotia is facing new charges after allegedly threatening the 14-year-old victim during a court appearance.

Crown attorney Catherine Cogswell says 21-year-old Owen Gibson-Skeir mouthed "I'll see you," and made a shooting gesture with his hand at the girl in a Halifax courtroom Wednesday.

He has been charged with intimidation of a justice participant and uttering threats.

Earlier, Gibson-Skeir pleaded guilty to sexual assault and two human trafficking charges: exercising control and directing the movement of a child and materially benefiting from a child.

Cogswell said he's the first person ever to be found guilty of human trafficking in Nova Scotia under a Criminal Code of Canada section brought in about 10 years ago.


She said she plans to submit a joint recommendation with the defence for a sentence of seven years for the human trafficking and sexual assault charges, and she'll be seeking an additional two to three years for the two new charges.

Gibson-Skeir is scheduled to return to court Feb. 22.

Dec 22 2016

### VANCOUVER - British Columbia's Court of Appeal says a judge did not make an error in law when he found that a man charged with trafficking marijuana in Vancouver was unlawfully arrested.

Eugenio Alfonso Bahamonde was acquitted of one charge each of trafficking and possession of marijuana after a provincial court judge ruled he was unlawfully arrested in November 2012 and that evidence seized by the RCMP from his vehicle after his arrest was inadmissible.



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**Signs of Use**


- Drowsiness or nodding
- Constricted or pinpoint pupils
- Agitation
- Depressed respiration
- Confusion
- Euphoria

**Signs of Overdose**

- Severe drowsiness and inability to be awoken
- Slow heartbeat
- Seizures
- Respiratory reduction
- Low blood pressure

**Slang terms and texting phrases to be aware of**

- Fading (slang for the high)
- Fet and Fetty
- Ice cream
- Chinese food
- White 80's
- Phantom 100
- A-215's



# ILLICIT FENTANYL



In its appeal, the Crown argued, among other things, that the trial judge erred in assessing the sufficiency of a constable's grounds for making the arrest.

The trial judge took issue with different parts of his testimony, including that the officer attempted to impress the court by suggesting he could lip read and that he detected the odour of marijuana on Bahamonde after his arrest when no other officers made that observation.

The judge ruled that the unreliability of the officer's evidence meant the search of Bahamonde's vehicle was a breach of his charter rights.

A three-judge panel of the appeal court unanimously dismissed the Crown's appeal.

In its decision released Thursday, the court says "although the trial judge was overly critical" of the constable "and erred in addressing aspects of the evidence, the errors were not such as to undermine the judge's overall assessment of the reliability" of his evidence.

Dec 22 2016

### BRACKLEY, P.E.I. - An alleged drunk driver messed with the wrong excavator operator on Prince Edward Island.

RCMP in Brackley say the motorist con-

fronted the operator with a concern about his work at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in central P.E.I.

They say the operator noticed "signs of intoxication," and decided to prevent him from driving further.

He pinned the man's car in place with the excavator's bucket - and called police.

RCMP say the man, a 50-year-old resident of Brackley Beach, was found to have a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit.

There was no immediate word on charges.

Dec 22 2016

### CALGARY - Two airplanes passed under "balloonatic" Daniel Boria while he performed a stunt by floating two kilometres above Calgary in a lawn chair tied to about 110 helium balloons, court heard as he was sentenced to thousands of dollars in fines and donations.

Provincial court Judge Bruce Fraser accepted a joint recommendation for a sentence of a \$5,000 fine on Thursday, a day after Boria pleaded guilty to dangerous operation of an aircraft.

Fraser called it an "unusual case" and also accepted a recommendation Boria make a \$20,000 donation to a charity of his choice.

On July 5, 2015, Boria tied \$13,000 worth

of industrial-sized balloons to a Canadian Tire lawn chair and took to the skies in a stunt to promote his cleaning company.

Boria's plan was to parachute into the Calgary Stampede chuckwagon races, but the weather didn't cooperate and high winds forced him to bail early.

He landed on Ogden Road, where he was arrested by police who had been monitoring Boria since he was spotted above the Stampede grounds.

Though he called Nav Canada Edmonton Flight Information Centre and Transport Canada in the months leading up to the stunt, Boria did not get permission to perform the stunt, according to an agreed statement of facts read aloud in court on Thursday.

"Some have called [Boria] a balloonatic," said Crown prosecutor Matt Dalidowicz.

Boria was last spotted in his lawn chair and balloon rig at about 2,100 metres, "well within the control zone above the Calgary International Airport," the statement of facts says.

Even a full-grown Canada Goose - which only weighs about 20 pounds - can cause "devastating damage" to airplanes but Boria's contraption weighed up to 200 pounds, the document points out.

## OPIOID OVERDOSE RESUSCITATION

### Symptoms of an overdose:

1. Slow and shallow breathing.
2. Very sleepy and unable to talk, or unconscious.
3. Skin color is blue or grayish, with dark lips and fingernails.
4. Snoring or gurgling sounds.

### If there are symptoms of an overdose:

1. Lightly tap, shake, and shout at the person to get a response.  
If there is still no response, rub knuckles on the breast bone.
2. If the person responds, keep them awake.
3. Call 911.

### If you get little or no response:

1. Call 911.\*
2. If their breathing is shallow or non-existent, or if the skin color is blue or grayish, with dark lips and fingernails, perform mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing by tilting head back and lifting up chin until mouth opens, clearing airway. Give two quick breaths to start and then a strong breath every 5 seconds.
3. If the person no longer has a heartbeat (pulse), continue to perform rescue breathing. Perform CPR by pushing hard on the chest bone at a rate of 100 times per minute.
4. Stay with the person. If you have to leave the person alone or vomiting occurs, place the person in the recovery position - on their side, hand supporting the head, mouth facing downward, and leg on the floor to keep the person from rolling onto stomach.

*\*If you have access to **naloxone** (also called **Narcan** - a medication that can rapidly reverse the overdose of opioids), administer it according to the package instructions, in addition to calling 911.*



Perform mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing.



Perform chest compressions.



Place the person in the recovery position.

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"In a scenario where an aircraft traveling at 300 km/h makes contact with an uncontrollable object weighing 150-200 pounds, the results would be catastrophic damage to the airframe, engine and/or control surfaces."

A Westjet plane arriving at the Calgary airport noticed a "whole bunch of balloons clumped together" but airport tower controllers had no way of knowing his precise location, the document says.

During his time in the air, between 7:10 and 7:30 p.m., 24 airplanes took off and landed in Calgary.

As part of his sentence, Boria must also surrender the footage he captured during the stunt so that he can no longer benefit from media attention.

Calgary police initially charged him with one count of mischief causing danger to life. (CBC News)

Dec 22 2016

**OTTAWA - A new deputy police chief with two decades of policing experience has been appointed to replace Deputy Chief Ed Keeley, who will officially retire in January.**



Deputy Chief Steven Bell



Deputy Chief (Ret.) Ed Keeley

The Ottawa Police Services Board announced Thursday that Steven Bell has been chosen as Keeley's successor for the job, after an internal search conducted by the board over the past month and a half.

"Supt. Bell's experience, fresh ideas and ability to motivate people are an asset to the organization, and I look forward to welcoming him to my executive command team," said police Chief Charles Bordeleau shortly after the announcement.

According to a police news release, Bell has 21 years of policing experience, all but one year with the Ottawa Police Service. During that time he has worked in the drug unit, guns and gangs unit, youth section, professional standards, courts and temporary custody, and the service initiative.

"I am extremely proud and honoured to take on this new role within the organization, and look forward to working with Chief Bordeleau, members of the police service, the board, and community partners to continue to provide the highest level of safety and security in the city of Ottawa," said Bell in the release. (Ottawa Sun)

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 23, 2016

Dec 23 2016

**LONDON - A man who died in a flurry of London police gunfire after an officer was wounded by a crossbow was known to police, while his wife is spending Christmas behind bars.**

In pre-dawn darkness, officers with a search warrant descended on the red-brick bungalow - a house they'd raided a decade earlier when they turned up a cache of guns and ammunition.

Dead is Samuel Maloney, 35, a father of two young children.

His common-law wife, Melissa Facciolo, 35, is in police custody, so far facing one charge of possession of a prohibited weapon, specifically a crossbow.

Facciolo appeared in court Friday by video link from the police headquarters, noticeably distraught and unable to secure a bail hearing until Wednesday. Her children are a two-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl who is still breastfeeding.

"She's a mother of two who just is absolutely distraught and wants to know how she's going to get her baby fed and what's going to happen over Christmas," her lawyer, Phillip Millar, said outside court.

What happened inside the small red-brick house remains unclear. (Toronto Sun)

Dec 23 2016

**HALIFAX - Police say a fire truck responding to a call outside Halifax collided with a car, killing its 19-year-old driver.**

RCMP Cpl. Dal Hutchinson says a Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency truck and a sedan travelling in opposite directions crashed at about 9 p.m. Thursday on an incline on the Timberlea Village Parkway.

But, he couldn't say which vehicle crossed the centre line on a road that was said to be very slippery at the time.

Hutchinson says the fire truck had its emergency lights on and was en route to another motor vehicle crash when the accident occurred.

He says the driver and firefighters in the truck were not injured.

Dec 23 2016

**MONTREAL - The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada says an American man known as the "Godfather of Grass" will remain in detention in Montreal as he awaits extradition to the U.S.**

A spokesman for the board says John Robert Boone refused to answer questions from border security agents during a detention review hearing Friday afternoon.

His next hearing is scheduled for Dec. 29.

Boone was arrested without incident in Montreal on Thursday after eight years on the run, several months after police opened an investigation at the request of U.S. authorities.

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The U.S. Marshals Service said Thursday that authorities had been seeking Boone since they seized 2,400 marijuana plants on his Kentucky farm in 2008.

Boone, 73, spent more than a decade in prison after being convicted in the 1980s in what prosecutors called the “largest domestic marijuana syndicate in American history.”

Dec 23 2016

**WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police are warning that there are some high-quality counterfeit gold bars being shopped around.**

The one-ounce bars have fooled some gold buyers and pawn shops in the city on Nov. 30. Police say six bars were sold for just under \$5,000, but that they are fake.

The bars were bearing either Perth Mint or PAMP (Produits Artistiques Metaux Precieux - Switzerland) stamps.

Police say their counterparts in other cities were investigating similar incidents.

Officers are warning anyone thinking of purchasing a similar gold bar to take extra steps to ensure it is authentic.

Dec 23 2016

**The RCMP is pledging to reinstate some volunteer auxiliaries to their former role - but the policy will change depending on local departments' wishes.**



Earlier this year RCMP prevented auxiliaries from going on ride-alongs with regular officers and barred them from taking part in traffic stops, citing safety concerns.

On Thursday, RCMP announced the program will re-launched - with certain changes.

Auxiliaries will be divided into three ‘tiers’ of responsibility. Local RCMP divisions in consultation with provincial and territorial governments will choose local volunteers’ level of participation and responsibility.

That flexibility makes sense, says Coralee Reid, who represents the RCMP in Yukon.

“Given the diversity of our country, locations where the RCMP operate and different threat environments, a one-size-fits-all model was not feasible,” she writes.

A press release from the RCMP describes the new three-tier system.

The first level would require volunteers to be supervised and restricts their participation to services “such as public education and crime prevention initiatives.”

A second level adds more responsibilities, including “community presence via foot and bicycle patrols, crowd and traffic control du-

ties, disaster assistance and search-and-rescue operations assistance.”

The third level could include general-duty patrols, participation in checkpoints and even “peace officer status where provincial or territorial legislation permits.”

The RCMP is pledging more training for volunteers, as well as national standards when it comes to training.

Another change will be uniforms.

Auxiliaries used to wear a RCMP uniform with a crest which said ‘auxiliary.’ This was later changed, to civilian clothing.

Now, the RCMP seems to be suggesting a midway point.

“Uniform options have yet to be finalized. High-visibility garments will be included in the uniforms as well as the word ‘volunteer’ being added,” reads the news release.

Yukon RCMP spokesperson Reid says there are currently 15 auxiliaries in the territory, and that they will discuss the issue with the Yukon government to decide what will be allowed for Yukon auxiliaries.

(CBC News)

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 2016

Dec 24 2016

**South Simcoe Police will have a new top cop next spring.**



Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher will officially take over the position of Chief as of April 18, 2017.

Fletcher succeeds Rick Beazley who announced on December 12th that he is retiring after 42 years of policing, the last 4 years as Chief of South Simcoe Police.

Fletcher started as a police officer with the Halton Regional Police in 1984.

He was the Deputy Chief in Halton before coming to South Simcoe Police in 2015.

The Bradford-West Gwillimbury/Innisfil Police Services Board will soon search to find Fletcher’s successor.

(Bayshore Broadcasting)

## MONDAY DECEMBER 26, 2016

Dec 26 2016

**EDMONTON - As the city of Edmonton continues to grow, so too are the demands on the Edmonton Police Service.**



Calls for service have grown close to 13 per cent in four years and with very little budgetary wiggle room, police chief Rod Knecht is fully aware that he has to get creative to meet the rise in demand.

In a year-end interview with Postmedia, Knecht spoke about new demand reduction initiatives to try and free up police officers to undertake proactive policing, including increased online reporting of crimes and the creation of collision reporting centres to allow police to spend less time at fender benders and more time trying to prevent crimes.

The time patrol officers get to spend on policing activities to prevent crimes continues to be a disappointing metric for Knecht, but some new initiatives might help boost their numbers.

Third quarter results presented at November’s police commission meeting showed just 11.5 per cent of patrol shift time was spent on preventive activities, well off their target of 25 per cent or greater.

“It’s been a challenge because the calls for service by the public are up so we end up doing the reactive policing of going to a call rather than let’s do something that will prevent having to go to a call,” Knecht said.

“We know we are not going to get big budgets or a big influx of more police officers, so what we can do is have demand reduction.”

They include trying to reduce the wait times for police officers going to emergency wards; Knecht said on any given Saturday night they can have as many as four cars and eight officers baby sitting individuals at hospitals.

Online reporting has proven popular with residents and Knecht said they are expanding the types of crimes that can be reported and another option being considered is the creation of collision reporting centres.

“We go to 34,000 car accidents a year in Edmonton and we estimate that half of those are fender benders,” he said.

Collision reporting centres would deal with accidents that were non-death, non-injury, no impaired driver or stolen vehicle, that

there's not a bigger criminal component attached to it.

"If we can cut that in half, we free up police to go and investigate break and enters, do other proactive policing and bring down the crime rate and victimization in the city."

Knecht knows the numbers and they don't make for easy reading.

A touch over a third of the 338 Albertans who died from an opioid drug overdose in Alberta in the first nine months of this year died in Edmonton.

About half of those were directly related to fentanyl.

To put that into perspective, on average, close to 90 people are killed by drunk drivers on the province's roads each year.

"Our members are coming up against it frequently now," Knecht said.

"It's cheap. It's easy to manufacture. It's easy to conceal. So it's a real challenge for policing."

"We have to do things differently and we have to work differently," he said.

"The philosophy of the Edmonton Police Service is that we are not out there wanting to throw a whole bunch of people in jail, in fact we want to divert them from jail.

"We are the gatekeepers for the criminal justice system. Rather than throwing people in jail we'd like to get them to a better place." (Edmonton Sun)

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 27, 2016

Dec 27 2016

**HALIFAX - Canada's most notorious motorcycle gang ended the year by establishing a presence in PEI.**



Earlier this month, members affiliated with an Ontario Hells Angels chapter held a party in Charlottetown to celebrate the establishment of a new hangaround club.

RCMP Corporal Andy Cook says there are currently eight bikers with so-called hangaround status who will have to attain prospect status before coming "full patch" members of the Angels.

It's a process that can take up to two years to complete.

The Island party followed other high profile "welcome home" events held in 2016 by the Hells Angels, including one in Musquodibit Harbour, a community 45 kilometres east of Halifax.

Saint Mary's University criminologist Stephen Schneider says in recent years the

gang has begun to re-assert itself in the Maritimes, mainly through affiliate or so called "puppet clubs" in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI.

Schneider says the primary goal is to gain control of territory and drug smuggling operations in the region, particularly through the port of Halifax.

Dec 27 2016

**The violent encounter between Quebec police and an axe-throwing, machete-swinging motorist, which left an officer injured and the motorist dead, began in the middle of the night on Tuesday.**

It was around 2:30 a.m. when the man refused to stop his car for police in Lévis, on the

south shore of the St. Lawrence River, just upstream from Quebec.

It ended less than half an hour later in Sainte-Foy on the north shore, near Université Laval, after a dramatic high-speed chase that is now being investigated by Quebec's police watchdog.

The 39-year-old man, who has not yet been publicly identified, managed to evade pursuing police cars as he crossed the Pierre Laporte bridge and even drove over spike belts designed to puncture tires. By that point, police from Lévis were joined in the pursuit by officers from Quebec City and the provincial force.

The man threw an axe at police from his car during the chase. This aggression prompted

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

The 2017 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2017 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at a presentation held in conjunction with Blue Line Expo, Tuesday May 2, 2017.

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officers to try to bring the pursuit to a close by ramming his vehicle at speed, and forcing it off the Charest highway into a snowbank, right at the exit for the Henri-IV highway.

Rather than surrender, the man allegedly left his car and came at police officers swinging a machete. One officer was cut in the arm but the injury was minor and she is expected to recover. At least two officers then fired on the man, striking him an unknown number of times. He died soon after in hospital. It is not known if the injured officer was one of the shooters.

Photos from the scene show the grey Nissan SUV stuck in a snowbank, nearly perpendicular to the highway, with the driver's door open and its windshield wipers stopped mid-cycle. A dented police cruiser was stopped nearby.

Investigators are appealing for witnesses, but details of the chase and the confrontation are not being widely shared. It is not known, for example, why police originally tried to stop the man.

Nine investigators from Quebec's police watchdog have been assigned the case, supported by two forensic identification specialists and a re-enactment technician from the Montreal Police Service.

This will be one of the first major cases for the BEI, Quebec's independent police oversight agency, which was created this year to investigate cases in which people are killed or wounded by police. It replaced an earlier system in which an outside force would carry out the investigation.

(Postmedia)

Dec 27 2016

## A major change in policing services in the Town of Midland could get underway in 2017.



In March, the town began a process to see what it would cost to have the OPP take over police operations.

The rising cost of policing is the primary driver behind the move. In 2015, policing costs represented 27.5 per cent of the municipal budget, up from 18 per cent just five years ago. The Midland Police Service recently signed a contract that will increase salaries for first-class constables by 7.2 per cent by 2017.

The costing process for OPP services is expected to ramp up in the new year. Once the costs have been provided, town council will make the decision as to whether or not to have the provincial force service the municipality.

Midland Mayor Gord 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."

If council decides to go with the OPP to handle policing in Midland, the town's police service would be dissolved, as happened in Penetanguishene in 1996.

(Midland Mirror)

Dec 27 2016

## They work in a murky world, where they are often sent out to search by touch alone.



And a day's work can involve hunting for bodies - the victims of accidents or crimes - that are lost in lakes, rivers or the ocean.

The members of the RCMP Underwater Recovery Team form a specialized unit that is on call across the country. There are only about 70 RCMP divers in Canada, so it's an elite group that's used to working in extreme conditions.



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A small team with six members and more being trained is on call for the Maritime provinces. The team is made up of regular officers who are called on whenever a search is needed in water.

In the past year, that has involved about 20 call-outs.

"Primarily we look for missing people or missing items underwater, whether it's related to investigation [or] a piece of evidence," said RCMP Cpl. Mark Bishop.

"It could be anything as small as a bullet to as large as a car, plane, boat."

This is not work for the faint-hearted.

The grim reality of underwater recovery is that the team is often sent to find bodies after an accident.

Sometimes, the team is sent to search for important evidence.

The team has twice found evidence "instrumental" in leading to a conviction in murder cases, said Bishop.

All the divers have been through weeks of training at the RCMP training centre in Nanaimo, B.C.

This month saw the Maritimes RCMP team undertake a day of training at the Department of Natural Resources office on Lake William in Waverley, N.S.

Divers arrived in a specialized truck that carries their equipment and can act as a mobile command centre for the search. It also includes a compressor, so that divers' air tanks can be filled on site.

A supervising diver ticked off a checklist of equipment and tasks for each diver.

Once in the water, divers were tethered by rope to a supporting team member on shore.

The December training exercise was in shallow water in reasonable visibility.

But a real call-out could be in February, in a snowstorm, in the dark.

"We do a lot by feel, for things as small as a cellphone or bullets," said Bishop. "We train in zero visibility and sometimes complete darkness."

Poor visibility isn't the only challenge the team faces.

Sgt. Ross Burt of the Halifax Regional Police is also a member of the team as part of the force's integrated unit with the RCMP.

He remembers being towed on an underwater sledge off Peggys Cove, searching for a tourist swept into the ocean from the light-house rocks.

"I was so cold that I couldn't feel my arms or shoulders," he said.

The job can be demanding both physically and mentally.

"It's not something everybody can do," said Burt. "Nobody does what we do, and we've got great camaraderie with the team."

(CBC News)

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28, 2016

Dec 28 2016

### US police investigating a murder have tussled with Amazon over access to data gathered by one of its Echo speakers.

The voice-controlled device was found near to a hot tub where the victim was found dead amid signs of a struggle.



According to court filings, Amazon was issued with two search warrants but refused to share information sent by the smart device to its servers.

However, the police said a detective found a way to extract some data from the device itself.

The accused killer has yet to be put on trial and it is not clear whether that information proved useful to the investigation.

The prosecutor in the case told the BBC he was still hopeful Amazon would share some further details.

"While many privacy advocates have expressed interest in this case due to the technology involved, this case is really about seeking justice for the victim, who was a husband and a

father," Nathan Smith told the BBC.

"The application for a search warrant based on probable cause and approved by a judge is the constitutionally authorised means for law enforcement to conduct lawful searches of homes, property or computer devices like the Amazon Echo.

"Since law enforcement officers followed the constitutionally mandated procedures to obtain a lawful search warrant in this case, I am confident that Amazon will comply."

The case dates back to November 2015, when the suspect, James Bates, called the Bentonville, Arkansas police department to say he had found the body of a friend, Victor Collins, face down in water.

The court records say one of deceased's eyes and lips appeared to be swollen and suspected blood spots were found around the rim of the hot tub.

Detectives say they learned that music had been streamed to the back patio at the time of death, which they thought might have been controlled via the Echo's smart assistant Alexa.

The "always on" machine makes recordings of audio it hears from a fraction of a second before it detects a wake word - either Alexa or Amazon - until it judges the command to be over.

This audio is then transmitted to Amazon's computer servers, which interpret the request and tell it how to respond.

Although no recordings are meant to be made at other times, the device often becomes activated when it misinterprets speech as being its wake command.

Any captured audio might therefore have



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identified who was active in the early hours of the morning when the alleged murder is thought to have taken place, as well as what was said. Mr Bates claims to have been asleep at the time.

The case has echoes of Apple's refusal to help the FBI bypass the security code of an iPhone used by a gunman in 2015.

"Amazon will not release customer information without a valid and binding legal demand properly served on us," a spokesman for retail giant told the BBC.

"Amazon objects to overbroad or otherwise inappropriate demands as a matter of course."

The spokesman added that utterances are not stored by Echo devices, and the associated audio is only accessible via the cloud and can be deleted by relevant account holders.

Bentonville's police force said it had also managed to extract data from Mr Collins' LG smartphone.

But it added that it had been unable to access Mr Bates' Huawei Nexus handset because it had been "encrypted at the chipset level" and was protected by a passcode lock.

However, the court papers indicate that the property's smart water meter may have yielded the most useful evidence.

The police say it showed that 140 gallons (636 litres) of water was used around the time of the alleged killing. They suggest this was down to Mr Bates using a garden hose to wash away evidence from his porch before he alerted them to the death.

(BBC News)

Dec 28 2016

## MONTREAL - The Quebec government won't appeal a court decision that rejected evidence obtained from a photo radar machine.

Crown spokesman Jean-Pascal Boucher said today his office will instead ensure it has better evidence in the future with which to make its case against alleged traffic violators.

A judge in November cleared a woman from having to pay a traffic ticket after he ruled the photo radar evidence against her was hearsay and therefore inadmissible in court.

The judge said police didn't personally witness the woman allegedly breaking the law or check to see if the radar machine was functioning properly.

Boucher says his office will rely on documentation or witness testimony in the future as evidence against defendants who are fighting tickets obtained through photo radar.

He says the current law allowing such machines is valid and will remain.

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 29, 2016

Dec 29 2016

## WINNIPEG - Devon Clunis may be retired but he's working to make sure his legacy of building community lives on.

Winnipeg's former police chief was recognized for his impact with community policing and he's figured out a way to provide

assistance and financial support to grassroots organizations.

The first step will be providing help to the Bear Clan Patrol, which has close to 400 volunteers, and make sure its founder James Favel is paid for his work.

On Wednesday CBC News reported Favel was close to losing his home earlier this month because he left his job to run the Bear Clan full-time.

"I really want to bring the community together and what I really want to do is see those who are already doing great work in the city and really try to empower them," Clunis said.

Clunis is keeping the name, the partners, and the details of the venture private until it launches in the new year. But he does say the idea was born after business leaders in the community approached him when he announced his retirement.

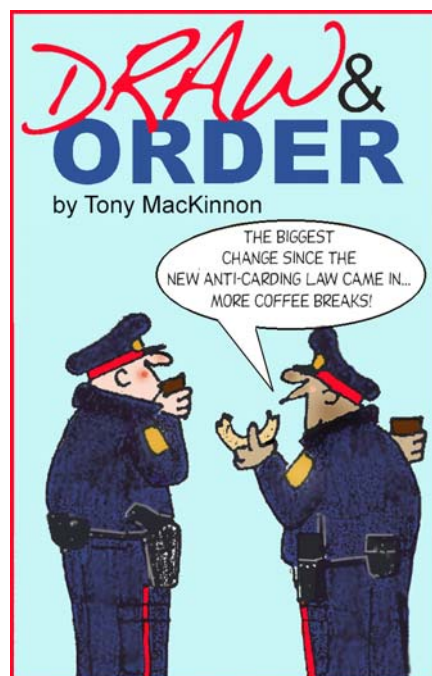
Instead of starting something new, Clunis said he'd prefer to find ways to rally around the groups, such as the Bear Clan Patrol, which are already making gains.

"We see this organization, primarily led by indigenous individuals, who are reaching out to the entire broader community," he said. "To me that really speaks to the heart of what reconciliation is all about, and so anytime we have an opportunity to come alongside someone like that and support them, I think it's what we need to do."

Clunis said Winnipeg is full of like-minded people, and his job now will be connecting them.

"I think the City of Winnipeg can set the example for the country in terms of how we do community well. We need to believe that about ourselves as a city. And it starts at the grassroots with organizations like the Bear Clan and individuals like James and what they're doing."

(CBC News)



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