

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY  January 25, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 4

Executive Digest

Jan 17 2013

PICTOU, N.S. - The Nova Scotia Supreme Court has ruled that the province's Police Review Board was justified to demote Stellarton's former police chief for discreditable conduct.

Page 2

Jan 18 2013

A Sorrento man busted with nearly 800 pot plants in a barn grow-op walked free Friday after a B.C. Supreme Court justice ruled that RCMP made too many errors in information used to obtain a search warrant.

Page 3

Jan 20 2013

OTTAWA - New restrictions on the granting of criminal record suspensions, or pardons, are causing more former convicts to seek clemency under the rarely used Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

Page 3

Jan 23 2013

VICTORIA - RCMP officials and Victoria police announced changes to the controversial licence plate recognition system, which was slammed by the B.C. privacy commissioner for breaching provincial laws.

Page 6

Jan 24 2013

VICTORIA - B.C.'s auditor general says there are gaping security holes in a provincial database used to manage criminal cases, a criticism the government says it's already acting to fix.

Page 7

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100⁰⁰

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

High levels of chronic offenders force VPD to change definition



theprovince.com

Jan 22 2013

VANCOUVER - Vancouver has so many chronic offenders that police had to change the definition of the term just to keep tabs on the worst of them.

Most forces define a chronic offender as someone with five convictions in the last 12 months.

But that definition led to an unmanageable case load for the seven-officer Chronic Offender Unit, so police arbitrarily decided that in Vancouver you need 12 convictions in 12 months to make the chronic-offender list.

"Eighty per cent of all crimes are committed by five to 10 per cent of criminals," Vancouver Police Sgt. Bill Pake told the Vancouver Police Board on Tuesday.

"Eighty-five per cent of chronic offenders have addiction issues, and 35 per cent have mental health issues."

Under the former definition in Vancouver — five convictions in 12 months — the small unit would have had to keep track of more than 800 criminals, watching for court dates, release conditions, preparing background to ensure judges and prosecutors have the latest updated court records.

With the definition at 12 convictions per year, the unit is keeping an eye on "only" the 345 worst chronic offenders.

Pake told the police board that those offenders are 88 per cent male, averaging 48 convictions each, with some offenders racking up

Police Leadership Award

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.

Details and application forms at
www.blueline.ca/leadership

Applications for 2012 must be received by
February 12, 2013
and emailed to
leadership@blueline.ca



huge conviction totals.

Sixty of the chronic offenders have 75 convictions or more, 26 have 100 or more convictions, and the worst four have 150 convictions to their name.

Meanwhile, Mayor Gregor Robertson, who chairs the police board, said now is the time to begin work on a regional force, as recommended by Commissioner Wally Oppal.

"Some areas believe they have better service with their own force," Robertson said.

"That might be true in some cases, but overall for the region I believe it will be better to have a regional police force.

"I believe a regional police force will save lives, and save money, but it's a big piece of work to get there....

"The B.C. election is an opportunity to break the logjam on creating a Metro police force," he said. "At this point it's not a top issue that party leaders are addressing directly. There have been comments made towards it but we'll look to see what's in the party platforms and see if this emerges as a key differentiating mark between the leaders and their parties."

Robertson said it's up to the provincial government to bring together municipal police forces and politicians who don't believe a merged force is necessary.

Oppal concluded that a regional force may have nabbed convicted serial killer Robert Pickton sooner, saving lives, and establishing a regional force is one of the most ambitious recommendations of his Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.

Politicians and police forces are now weighing in on where they stand on Oppal's recommendation.

"There is no consensus among the chiefs," said Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu, who supports a regional force.

"We cannot speak with one united voice."

Chu said his department made it clear as far back as 2004 that a regional police force

would be more effective in solving major crimes.

But Chu said there's no agreement on that among various police departments and that the RCMP, which recently signed a 20-year-contract with the province, maintains their force is serving communities well.

Attorney General Shirley Bond said the government will work with local governments to ensure their policing models meet their communities' needs.

"Any change, whether it be regionalization or further integration, has to meet the needs of both our communities and our taxpayers," she said in a statement.

Deputy Chief Cst. Doug LePard told the board that Vancouver's department is working on a real-time crime centre, which is a centralized crime-fighting computer facility that would allow police to access investigative information around the clock.

He said that would mitigate structural barriers to communication as cited in Oppal's report.

"Hopefully that will mean some additional support from the provincial government because of course there are some funding challenges to it," LePard told the board.

(Vancouver Province, Canadian Press)

THURSDAY JANUARY 17, 2013

Jan 17 2013

CHICAGO - A Canadian businessman was sentenced to 14 years in prison Thursday for providing material support to overseas terrorism, including a Pakistani group whose 2008 attacks on Mumbai, India, left more than 160 people dead.

The judge sentenced Tahawwur Rana in U.S. District Court in Chicago to the prison term followed by five years of supervised release.

Rana, 52, a Pakistani-born Canadian, faced a maximum 30 years in prison.

Jan 17 2013

PICTOU, N.S. - The Nova Scotia Supreme Court has ruled that the province's Police Review Board was justified to demote Stellarton's former police chief for discreditable conduct.

The Town of Stellarton sought the judicial review after the board concluded Ambrose Heighton should be demoted instead of being fired by the town council.

In 2008, Heighton was accused of discreditable conduct for writing and distributing an unsigned letter alleging that several RCMP officers with the Pictou detachment took part in sex parties and used drugs.

The Municipal Board of Police Commissioners found the complaint against Heighton credible and said he should be dismissed as police chief - a recommendation the town council implemented.

Heighton asked for a review of that decision and the Police Review Board concluded

that the dismissal was unnecessary and instead he should be demoted one position in rank.

In a ruling released today, the Supreme Court said the Police Review Board's conclusion that it had the authority to change the penalty against Heighton was reasonable.

Jan 17 2013

VANCOUVER - The latest shooting in Metro Vancouver has police concerned about the potential for innocent bystanders getting hurt in the crossfire of what could be a return to gang-related violence in the region.

RCMP Sgt. Peter Thiessen said a man was arrested five minutes after four people were shot in a targeted hit Wednesday night at a packed banquet hall in Richmond, B.C.

Thiessen said the suspect was taken into custody a short distance from the scene, where 150 people were gathered.

"Police recognize these types of incidents are very concerning to the public," he said Thursday. "The potential for innocent people to be hurt is high."

Since Sunday, nine people have died and five others have been injured in several violent incidents in Metro Vancouver.

Police have said at least five of the incidents were either gang or crime related.

Mounties in neighbouring Surrey are investigating three targeted shootings that have claimed four lives in that city since Sunday.

Jan 17 2013

EDMONTON - Alberta's municipal affairs minister has announced proposed changes to the province's 911 system that could mean another charge for cell phone users.

About 70 per cent of emergency calls are made from cell phones, but users aren't paying for that service like those with landlines are.

So Doug Griffiths is proposing that cell phone bills include the same 44-cent per month charge, which will fund 911 call centres.

The province is also considering improving technology to allow the option of texting 911.

"For example, someone hearing impaired can text an emergency to 911 or someone having a heart attack," Griffiths explained. "GPS is critical to making sure you can find where that person who lost consciousness is."

There is also a proposal to charge penalties to chronic abusers of the call system.

"We've heard stories about 911 call centres getting calls from someone who is upset that Subway made their sandwich wrong, and that story about a call from someone who was upset that Tim Hortons had run out of their favourite doughnut," Griffiths said.

"We have a call registered from someone who said that their taxes were due tomorrow and they wanted to know where to go to file them.

"Those are not crank phone calls but they're frivolous and waste time and energy and resources."

Details on how it would be tracked haven't been worked out, but the province

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK
A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

ISSN 1704-3913
Copyright 2013
Blue Line Magazine Inc. & The Canadian Press
Permission to reprint may be obtained in advance from
Access Copyright
Phone 1-800-893-5777 Info@accesscopyright.ca

Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

Most information supplied in this publication is from newswire services. As such Blue Line Magazine does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of articles as supplied.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$105⁹⁹ (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.

GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048

12A-4981 Hwy, 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueine.ca

says accidental “pocket dialling” won’t be included.

The changes will need to be approved in the legislature this spring, to be implemented by September.

(Global Edmonton)

FRIDAY JANUARY 18, 2013

Jan 18 2013

OTTAWA - A Nova Scotia woman who tried to hire a hit man to kill her abusive husband is free after the Supreme Court of Canada ordered a stay of proceedings in her emotional case.

The high court also raised serious questions about the conduct of the RCMP and Nova Scotia prosecutors, saying it is “disquieting” that the Mounties chose to mount a sting operation to arrest Nicole Ryan rather than respond to her husband’s “reign of terror” over her.

Ryan was originally acquitted of counselling to commit murder in 2010, a decision that was upheld by Nova Scotia’s appeal court. She was arrested in 2008 when she tried to hire an undercover RCMP officer to kill Michael Ryan - who had threatened to kill her and her daughter and burn their house down.

Technically, the Supreme Court granted the Crown appeal and overturned the acquittal, saying her defence of duress wasn’t valid.

But they shut down any attempt by Nova Scotia prosecutors to re-try her.

By an 8-1 margin they said it would be unfair to subject her to a new trial and instituted a stay of proceedings.

The court also highlighted the fact that the RCMP did not adequately respond to Ryan’s numerous calls for help, which forced her to resort to attempting to hire a killer.

“The abuse which she suffered at the hands of Mr. Ryan took an enormous toll on her, as, no doubt, have these protracted proceedings, extending over nearly five years, in which she was acquitted at trial and successfully resisted a Crown appeal in the Court of Appeal,” justices Louis LeBel and Thomas Cromwell wrote in the ruling.

“There is also the disquieting fact that, on

the record before us, it seems that the authorities were much quicker to intervene to protect Mr. Ryan than they had been to respond to her request for help in dealing with his reign of terror over her.”

The judgment avoided any comment on its precedent-setting 1990 battered woman’s ruling, which allows abuse victims accused of killing to plead self-defence.

Jan 18 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto Police officer suffered several broken bones early Friday when he was hit by a car and crashed through its windshield while working on a pay-duty movie site.

“He’ll be awhile recovering,” traffic services Staff-Sgt. Brian Bowman said.

The 43-year-old traffic services unit officer, who joined the force three years ago, was hit just before 2:30 a.m.

He was later reported in stable condition, despite suffering several broken bones.

“He’s in good spirits,” Bowman said.

The investigation continues but alcohol was not believed to be a factor.

The officer — one of several on pay-duty postings at various film sites overnight — apparently landed in the front seat of the older-model four-door brown Toyota after going through the windshield.

He had just stepped out of his car to close the intersection as the movie crew prepared to film a scene.

His wife was brought to the hospital to see her husband, whose name was not released.

The 38-year-old driver stopped and co-operated with investigators.

He and his passenger were not reported to have been injured.

No charges had been laid.

An investigator with the Ontario Ministry of Labour is also probing the incident.

(Toronto Sun)

Jan 18 2013

A Sorrento man busted with nearly 800 pot plants in a barn grow-op walked free Friday after a B.C. Supreme Court justice ruled that RCMP made too many errors in information used to obtain a search warrant.

Darren Farrell was charged with production, possession of more than three kilos of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking and theft of hydro after police raided his property April 15, 2011.

Police visited Farrell’s property one week earlier, a visit defence lawyer Julian van der Walle suggested was done on a false pretence so that police could do a “snoop and sniff” test.

An RCMP officer visited Farrell’s home in person April 8, 2011, to advise him how to obtain his firearm, which had been seized on another matter. The member failed to state in a search warrant, however, that he’d talked to Farrell in January about the gun.

Meiklem rejected the allegation of the snoop and sniff test, but said there were fundamental problems with other information used to obtain the search warrant, enough to breach Farrell’s rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Other problems with information supplied by the RCMP to obtain the search warrant included:

- A BC Hydro representative told police he didn’t see anything unusual in hydro records, something not disclosed by police.
- Failure of the member to note that a thermographer who conducted infrared imaging on the barn from the roadside reported one of the walls didn’t have any large heat transfer.
- The RCMP member who swore the information said he smelled an odour of marijuana on the property but didn’t note another, more senior, member with him failed to smell anything.

As a result, Meiklem found the search was unreasonable and breached Farrell’s rights, what he called “negligence to a degree the court should not condone.”

Meiklem said the Mountie who supplied information to obtain the search warrant from a justice of the peace had less than two years of experience and may have been inadequately trained.

While the grow-op was a huge commercial operation and thus serious — with jail time a distinct possibility — Meiklem noted governments are now beginning to license production themselves.

“Society’s view of the seriousness of the offence may be changing.”

(Kamloops Daily News)

SUNDAY JANUARY 20, 2013

Jan 20 2013

OTTAWA - New restrictions on the granting of criminal record suspensions, or pardons, are causing more former convicts to seek clemency under the rarely used Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

According to the Parole Board of Canada, there are currently 79 active mercy pleas in the system, up from about 20 applications that are usually handled in any given year.

In fact, the federal agency has posted an



TRADE SHOW • TRAINING • AWARDS DINNER

APRIL 23 & 24

LE PARC CONFERENCE CENTRE, MARKHAM ON

www.blueline.ca/expo

“Important Notice” on its website to discourage clemency applications, which it notes are “only granted in exceptional circumstances.”

The Parole Board says tougher eligibility rules for getting a federal pardon - which seals a person’s old criminal record - are behind the jump in clemency bids.

The Conservative government has brought in a series of changes to the pardons system.

Just 12 clemencies have been granted in the last dozen years, but the Royal Prerogative of Mercy got a high-profile boost last summer when Prime Minister Stephen Harper used it for two grain farmers previously convicted for protesting the Canadian Wheat Board monopoly.

Jan 20 2013

Foreign crimebusters such as US supercop Bill Bratton will be given the chance to take over British police forces under radical new plans to be unveiled by Home Secretary Theresa May.



And former Army officers will be recruited as police superintendents in an attempt to end the closed shop police culture blamed for bungled investigations and corruption. The changes, set to be fiercely opposed by police chiefs, rip up the centuries-old tradition of only British citizens serving in the police.

They also abolish the rule that senior policemen have to work their way up from being a bobby on the beat.

Mrs May believes there are too few talented people at the top of the police. Crucially, she hopes the shake-up will lead to more women and people from ethnic minorities in high command. The reforms will have a major effect on policing at three levels.

Graduates in their 20s will be offered a fast-track direct entry to the police with promotion to inspector rank in just three years, without having to work as constables before they are promoted.

Former Army officers, businessmen and others from the private sector in their 30s and 40s with exceptional achievements and abilities will be encouraged to apply for jobs as super-intendents.

Newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners will be given permission to recruit chief constables from the US, Australia and other English-speaking nations with UK-style common law policing by consent.

Mr Bratton, former head of New York City Police and the Los Angeles Police Department, was drafted in by David Cameron to advise on tackling gang warfare in Britain in 2011.

The Prime Minister had suggested putting

him in charge of the Metropolitan Police but was forced to drop the plan after protests by British police chiefs. In the end, the job advert said only British citizens can apply.

Mrs May’s initiative follows mounting controversy over policing in the UK highlighted by the cover-up in the Hillsborough stadium disaster, police conduct in the phone-hacking scandal and the row between former Minister Andrew Mitchell and Downing Street officers.

Her controversial decision to cut constables starting pay by £4,000 can now be seen as part of a major overhaul of police recruitment and salaries.

Ministers privately complain that one of the major problems in fighting crime is the lack of talent in senior policing posts.

Mr Bratton, 65, became renowned for his no-nonsense approach to policing when he was in charge of America’s two largest police departments.

He halved New York’s murder rate and cut violent crime by 50 per cent in Los Angeles. (UK Daily Mail)



Jan 21 2013

REGINA - Municipal police officers across Saskatchewan will be allowed to carry conducted energy weapons, commonly known as Tasers.

After a review that started in 2007, the Saskatchewan Police Commission has decided that individual officers - not just police tactical team members - can use the devices.

The commission says there will be strict controls, including a review each time a Taser is used.

Tasers fire a jolt of electricity that can incapacitate a person and are used by some police forces to deal with violent suspects.

The commission says officers would have to be trained and certified to carry the weapon, which has been linked to more than 25 deaths in Canada.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers, which represents more 1,250 officers, says it’s very happy Tasers have been approved.

Jan 21 2013

VANCOUVER - The Crown will appeal a B.C. Supreme Court decision that struck down a section of the federal government’s human smuggling law.

Prosecutor Peter LaPrairie told the judge the Crown fears the ruling leaves a gap in the law that could affect immigration cases, extradition and other human smuggling prosecutions.

The case will return to court Friday, when the Crown will ask the judge for a stay pending an appeal in the case of four men accused of human smuggling.

Justice Arne Silverman ruled that section 117 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection

Act is overly broad, and could lead to the prosecution of people like humanitarian workers.

Silverman says the federal government needs to rethink the law introduced to much fanfare after two migrant ships carrying Tamil migrants arrived off the B.C. coast.

The four men in the case were on trial for human smuggling in relation to the arrival of 76 people aboard the MV Ocean Lady in October 2009.

Jan 21 2013

WINNIPEG - The trial has begun for two Winnipeg police constables accused of trying to cover their tracks after one of them shot an unarmed suspect.

In opening statements on Monday, the Crown told the jury the officers went way outside their duties.

Darrel Selley and Kristopher Overwater are charged with obstruction of justice while Selley is also charged with attempted murder.

Both officers have pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Prosecutor Robert Tapper said Monday the officers got into a high-speed chase with an 18-year-old suspect who was high on crystal meth and driving a stolen vehicle the wrong way down city streets.

Tapper said the two vehicles collided and the officers chased the suspect on foot into a backlane, where Selley fired his gun four times, with the fourth shot hitting the young male in the buttocks. (CTV Winnipeg)

Jan 21 2013

MONTREAL - There’s been a surprise twist at Quebec’s corruption inquiry.

A key witness now says he made up some of his testimony, dealing a major blow to the credibility of the investigation.

Former city official Martin Dumont had recalled a story about a receptionist for Montreal mayor’s party counting out 850,000 in presumably illegal cash donations.

But in a video recording played at the inquiry yesterday, Dumont says that story is false.

The developments came on the first day of proceedings as the inquiry returned from a lengthy break.

Justice France Charbonneau warned that anyone caught lying on the stand will face charges.

The inquiry broke off its hearings at the end of November after a wild session that saw the mayors of Montreal and Laval resign in a cloud of controversy.

The probe has already heard testimony about how the cost of public projects was inflated with the proceeds split between construction firms, political parties, city workers and the Mafia.

Jan 21 2013

SAN RAMON, CA - The San Ramon Police Department is encouraging the city’s residents and businesses to register their existing security cameras under a new program called the

“Citizen’s View.”

The new crime prevention and investigative tool is a confidential registry of privately owned cameras across the city.

Police will not have access to the footage but will be aware that a camera exists when investigating a crime in or around their neighborhood. If a crime occurs in their vicinity or adjoining neighborhoods, the police may, if necessary, contact them and request a copy of their footage for evidence or investigative leads. The residents or business may have unknowingly recorded the crime, possible suspects or an escape route the criminals used.

The department routinely asks businesses and residents for footage from their camera following criminal activity. Attempting to contact every resident or business looking for footage is time consuming and not always feasible.

The Citizen’s View program is a more efficient way to investigate crimes and partner with the community. Instead of canvassing the area looking for cameras, police will have access to the registry to expedite the investigative process. The program will make it easier for more people to get involved in keeping their community safe by simply logging on to the department’s web site (www.sanramon.ca.gov/police) and printing the registry form and warning sign.

When the police receive the form, a police employee will phone to verify the information. The department will only contact people if they feel a camera may have captured a crime or investigative lead.

(San Ramon Police Department, Blue Line Magazine)

TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2013

Jan 22 2013

MONTREAL - A 12-year-old boy has been charged in connection with the shooting death of his older brother.

He has been charged with manslaughter and illegal possession of a prohibited weapon.

Authorities have not laid murder charges but, on the other hand, they are not describing the shooting as an accident either.

Police say the 16-year-old victim was shot in the upper body by a handgun they said could have belonged to the family.

The boy was arrested at the family home after Monday’s shooting and was questioned by investigators overnight, until 5:30 a.m.

The boy was accompanied by a parent during the interrogation.

Jan 22 2013

MONTREAL - Police in Quebec say they have broken up a car-theft ring whose members towed luxury SUVs and sedans and had them shipped to Africa by container ship.

“We’re talking about a structured network,” Quebec provincial police Sgt. Joyce Kemp said.

Thieves targeted mainly Toyota vehicles

parked at hotels around Trudeau Airport.

The stolen vehicles were stored in a barn outside the city.

They were then placed in containers, transported to the Port of Montreal and shipped to Africa.

“A dozen raids and arrests are expected,” said Sgt. Kemp.

Police seized at least 12 vehicles Tuesday. Local police forces were involved in the raids that began at dawn.

(QMI Agency)

Jan 22 2013

WILLIAMS LAKE, B.C. - An RCMP officer accused of beating a 17-year-old girl in the back of a police cruiser is on trial in Williams Lake, B.C.

Cst. Andy Yung is charged with assault in connection with the attack on Sept. 10, 2011 after police were called to deal with a teen who was reportedly drunk.

The Abbotsford Police Department conducted an independent investigation after the girl suffered facial injuries.

A charge of assaulting a police officer was recommended against her but later withdrawn.

Jan 22 2013

SASKATOON - The Saskatoon Police Service says it is investigating a report that an officer dropped a young man off outside the city overnight in frigid temperatures.

But the man involved may not be able to piece together all of the details.

Police say a woman called early Tuesday morning saying the 19-year-old man was driven out of the city and dropped off sometime Monday evening. The man said he was then forced to walk home.

Temperatures dipped to -25C overnight with the windchill.

“Professional standards launched an investigation despite that a formal complaint has not yet been filed and we’re currently attempting to contact both the woman and the 19-year-old male in hopes that they’ll record a formal complaint,” police spokeswoman Kelsie Fraser said.

She said if the man and woman are not comfortable talking directly to Saskatoon police they could go to the provincial public complaints commission or the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Police said they have already checked the global positioning systems that are in all marked patrol cars and none were outside the city at the time mentioned in the call.

Police said they will check in-car camera video to determine if the man was ever inside a patrol car.

Jan 22 2013

REGINA - A report of a suspicious vehicle ended with a police officer shooting a 24-year-old man and the officer being dragged by a vehicle.

Police say they got calls about the man knocking on doors in a Regina neighbourhood

at 5 a.m. Monday.

When they arrived, he was sitting in his vehicle. When an officer started to approach him, the man drove his vehicle at the officer.

“The officer subsequently fired one round from his firearm which penetrated the windshield and the dash,” said Regina police Chief Troy Hagan. “It also struck (the suspect) in the vehicle. The person was struck on the right leg.”

The 38-year-old officer tried to get into the car by both the window and door but ended up being dragged about nine metres down the alley.

Both men were taken to hospital.

The officer was treated for bruises and abrasions to both his arms and legs while the suspect was treated and released to police later in the afternoon.

No charges were immediately laid as Hagan said officers were still investigating.

(CJME)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23, 2013

Jan 23 2013

SHESHATSHU, N.L. - RCMP in central Labrador have accused a local volunteer firefighter of getting drunk and taking the town’s fire truck for a joy ride.

The Mounties in Sheshatshu say the truck was reported stolen Wednesday at 12:30 a.m.

The vehicle was soon spotted near the local school.

The undamaged vehicle was stopped, but the driver fled on foot.

The 28-year-old off-duty fireman was apprehended minutes later.

He has been charged with theft of a motor vehicle, impaired driving, obstructing police and driving without a valid licence.

Jan 23 2013

HALIFAX - RCMP officers are painstakingly cataloguing about 1,000 antiques, rare books, historical documents and paintings they allege were pilfered over two decades and hoarded in a suburban Halifax home.

Cpl. Scott MacRae said officers found a trove of artifacts worth well over \$500,000 on Friday when they searched a large, two-storey home in Fall River that had been turned into a veritable museum.

“When we first arrived, it was almost set up to be on display,” MacRae said Wednesday.

“Lots of the items were from antique dealers, so there’s historic value. There’s value to personal collections, universities and just people in general in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada.”

John Mark Tillmann, 51, is due in provincial court Thursday on charges of possession of stolen property. He remains in custody.

MacRae said another 200 items believed to be connected to the same case were found this week in Halifax, but he wouldn’t elaborate.

He said the investigation began when officers pulled over a car last July and allegedly

found a letter dated 1758 from British Gen. James Wolfe to his uncle in Dublin, apparently taken from Dalhousie University's archives years ago.

Dalhousie archivist Mike Moosberger said staff noticed the letter was missing after completing an inventory in 2009, but no one knew for sure whether it had been stolen or merely misplaced.

MacRae said police have contacted a number of libraries, universities and small-town museums that are believed to be the rightful owners of the loot, including Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax and Memorial University of Newfoundland.

One of the items recovered by police is an 1819 watercolour painting from Nova Scotia's legislative library.

MacRae said not all the institutions even realized the precious items were missing from their vast collections until they were contacted by the RCMP.

Jan 23 2013

NEW YORK - A computer virus that spread to more than a million computers worldwide, including some at NASA, and produced at least \$50 million in illegal profits or losses to victims should be a "wake-up call" for banks and consumers unaware of the threat posed by Internet criminals, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara and George Venizelos, head of the New York FBI office, warned of the growing threat to financial and international security as he announced that a 2 1/2-year probe had resulted in three arrests, two of them overseas, and the seizure of vast amounts of computer-related evidence that will take months or years to fully analyze. He said the Gozi virus had infected 40,000 computers in the United States since 2005, including 190 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, along with computers in Germany, Great Britain, Poland, France, Finland, Italy, Turkey and elsewhere.

"This case should serve as a wake-up call to banks and consumers alike because cybercrime remains one of the greatest threats we face, and it is not going away anytime soon," Bharara said. "It threatens individuals, businesses and governments alike."

Venizelos said law enforcement had seized 51 computer servers in Romania, along with laptops, desktops and external hard drives, accumulating more than 250 terabytes of information.

"That vast pile of data is almost certain to aid criminal investigation at FBI offices around the country as well as law enforcement agencies around the world," he said. "It is more than standard boilerplate to say that this investigation is very much ongoing."

Jan 23 2013

EDMONTON - Police forces won't be told how to handle aboriginal protests, but Alberta's solicitor general said Wednesday he's made sure law

enforcement officials understand how unhappy a lot of people are with Idle No More highway blockades.

"I would say in more than nine out of ten cases, people are very frustrated," said Justice Minister Jonathan Denis. "People are very concerned for public safety, as am I."

Denis said he has spoken by phone to the police chiefs of Calgary and Edmonton, as well as the head of the RCMP in Alberta.

"In no way do we expect to direct the police," said Denis. "We respect the police's independence."

But he added he has received more than 200 calls from Albertans expressing anger that protesters were able to slow traffic last week on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway, the main route between the two major cities.

"There's not been one person who has suggested we should not respect a person's democratic right to peaceful protest," said Denis. "But the overlying sentiment is that blockading a public roadway is going too far."

Denis told the police chiefs that the province may be willing to provide more resources to deal with such protests in the future.

"I want to keep an open line of communication at all times when there's situations like this that involve public safety," he said.

"We've had a good relationship in the past couple of years."

Jan 23 2013

VICTORIA - RCMP officials and Victoria police announced changes to the controversial licence plate recognition system, which was slammed by the B.C. privacy commissioner for breaching provincial laws.



timescolonist.com

Field tests will begin in a few weeks to address the commissioner's primary concern that Victoria police are sharing information that is not pertinent to any police investigation, said Denis Boucher, superintendent for the RCMP's E Division traffic services.

Boucher made the announcement Tuesday evening at the Victoria police board meeting, saying changes will stop the transfer of non-essential information.

He also wanted to assure the board that Mounties were not using the program as a mass surveillance system to track British Columbians.

"I can tell you unequivocally that we do not," he said. "We don't use it in that fashion, we are not authorized to use it that fashion and I do not allow it to be used that fashion."

The automated licence plate recognition program has become a contentious issue in Victoria.

B.C.'s privacy commissioner Elizabeth Denham expressed concerns in November, calling the system illegal. Then in December, Victoria police board chairman Dean Fortin was prepared to ask board members to turn the cameras off until Denham's concerns were addressed.

But after a private meeting, the board members emerged, saying they will leave the cameras running until the Mounties make changes.

The recognition program allows cameras on police cruisers to record license plates, vehicle images as well as the date, time and location of the recording.

If a plate draws a hit on the Canadian Police Information Centre, a national database used to track information such as criminal histories, missing persons and outstanding warrants, then officers can take further action.

But all images are stored, even the ones "non-hit" information, which is also sent to the RCMP, who say the data is deleted within 30 minutes of transfer.

Changes to the program will now delete the information when the officer completes a shift-end report.

Boucher said his team is also addressing several other concerns, including an update to the description of the program on the RCMP website.

(Victoria Times Colonist)

Jan 23 2013

WEST VANCOUVER - West Vancouver Police Department chief constable Peter Lepine suggests there's something else behind some of the talk about creating a regional police force for the Lower Mainland. Lepine, a former Mountie, says it's really "more of a discussion around RCMP bashing."

He spoke to the Straight by phone on January 18, a few days before Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver Police Department chief constable Jim Chu endorsed the idea of a unified police service for the region. Lepine was commenting on a statement by SFU criminology director Rob Gordon made in a Straight article that Lepine would likely oppose a move to create a single police force for the North Shore, which includes the District of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver, and the District of North Vancouver.

Lepine asserted that there's an existing model for a Metro Vancouver-wide police service: the RCMP's Lower Mainland District Regional Police Service. The service doesn't cover six municipalities that have their own local police forces: Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Vancouver, and West Vancouver.

"The problem is that if you were to ask Mr. Gordon or anybody else for that matter and say, well, if that regional police service was the RCMP, would they be okay with that?" Lepine said. "And my sense of it is that

Mr. Gordon would not be okay with that.”

According to Lepine, that’s “because they have a bias against the RCMP.”

“I would like to see somebody pose that question to him [Gordon],” Lepine said. “If through discussions at the various government levels, if there was a decision to go to a Metro Vancouver police service and if that Metro Vancouver police service was the RCMP, would you be satisfied where we needed to go with it?”

He continued, “Because it seems to me that this is not a discussion about regional policing. This is more of a discussion around RCMP bashing. That’s my sense of it.”

The Straight put Lepine’s question to Gordon, who, before becoming an SFU academic, worked as a police officer.

“They would support regional policing for the whole of Metro Vancouver if it was run by the RCMP,” Gordon said by phone, describing how he believes the RCMP views a unified police service. “So what’s that all about? I mean they’re opposed to it if they didn’t [run it], but they will support it if it is. It is an echo of what Lepine is saying. It really is about power and control and the arrogance of the RCMP in assuming that there is no other worthy police service in Canada, and especially not in British Columbia. Only they can do the job and, of course, that’s piffle.”

(straight.com)

Jan 23 2013

MONTREAL - Mayor Michael Applebaum said Wednesday the anti-corruption squad made up of Montreal police officers he initiated to oversee municipal affairs will save the city at least \$20 million annually.



montrealgazette.com

Responding to questions about when details of the new “integrity squad” dubbed EPIM — Escouade de protection de l’intégrité municipale — would be made available to the executive committee, the city’s main decision-making panel, Applebaum said Montreal police chief Marc Parent was still working out the details, which would be announced in the coming weeks.

When the squad was announced Jan. 18, Parent estimated the cost in the first year of hiring 20 members and paying for office space would be about \$3 million.

“The Montreal police force has a strong knowledge of organized crime in Montreal, and of the Mafia and people who associate with the Mafia,” Applebaum said. “I think they will do an excellent job. The estimate is that it

will cost \$3 million, but it will bring in a return of seven times that. It will have effects on the boroughs and paramunicipal organizations and everything involved with municipal contracts.”

That number is based on estimates provided during briefings and evaluations of the squad that predicted a municipality would save \$7 for every dollar invested, said Jonathan Abecassis, a spokesman for the mayor.

At the Charbonneau Commission investigating corruption in the construction industry, witnesses testified that cartels aided by the Mafia in exchange for payoffs colluded to raise prices on municipal contracts by as much as 40 per cent.

Noting that the Charbonneau Commission is mandated to focus on the construction industry and the provincial anti-corruption squad UPAC deals with individual investigations, Applebaum said the police squad, the first of its kind in Canada, would have free rein to investigate everything at city hall, including real estate transactions, zoning irregularities, equipment purchases and computer contracts. The squad would uproot corrupt practices, and hinder those who would attempt to swindle the city and its taxpayers, he said.

(Montreal Gazette)

Jan 23 2013

WINNIPEG - A Manitoba Hells Angels associate has been found guilty of first-degree murder for killing a rival gang’s leader.

Sean Michael Heickert faces a mandatory life sentence with no chance of parole for at least 25 years.

Bekim Zeneli was gunned down in November 2007 inside his apartment in Thompson, Man., in an apparent power struggle over control of the lucrative northern Manitoba drug trade.

Zeneli was the founder of the LHS gang, an acronym meaning “loyalty, honour, silence.”

Kevin Moose had been accused of providing the gun Heickert used but was found not guilty of manslaughter.

Queen’s Bench Justice Brenda Keyser said she was convinced of Heickert’s guilt, thanks largely to testimony from shady witnesses who reluctantly testified against him.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

THURSDAY JANUARY 24, 2013

Jan 24 2013

BRAMPTON, Ont. - An Ontario cop helped deliver a baby in a car on the side of busy highway early this morning.

Halton Region police say they got a call just after 3:30 a.m. from a couple who had pulled over onto the shoulder of Highway 401.

The couple, from Milton, Ont., were heading to a nearby hospital for their baby’s birth when they called for help.

Sgt. Ryan Snow responded to the call and minutes later - in the midst of heavy traffic and a -18 C wind chill - helped deliver a baby girl.

Police say the baby and her parents are all doing well and the mother and daughter were taken to hospital by ambulance for precautionary reasons.

It’s the second child for the couple.

Jan 24 2013

VICTORIA - B.C.’s auditor general says there are gaping security holes in a provincial database used to manage criminal cases, a criticism the government says it’s already acting to fix.

John Doyle’s audit of the database known as JUSTIN says the controls to detect or ward off unauthorized access to sensitive police and court information are inadequate.

JUSTIN allows adult and youth criminal cases to be tracked and processed from initial police arrests and Crown counsel charge assessments through to court judgments.

Doyle’s report says the JUSTIN system holds information on more than one million police investigations, and it contains some of the government’s most sensitive information, but it’s not safe from being hacked.

Justice Minister Shirley Bond says her ministry has already taken action on Doyle’s report and some major security risks in the JUSTIN system have been addressed.

Bond says the case-tracking system has been reinforced with stronger defence mechanisms to prevent unauthorized and inappropriate access.

An advertisement for a DVD collection of Blue Line Magazine. The central image is a yellow DVD disc with the 'BLUE LINE' logo and 'Canada's National Law Enforcement Magazine' text. Below the logo, it says '1989 TO 2012 24 YEAR ARCHIVE'. To the right of the disc, there are two small inset images: one showing a person in a uniform and another showing a person in a suit. The background is a light blue gradient with a green border at the bottom.

**ORDER YOUR
24 YEAR
SEARCHABLE DVD
and find out what
you've been missing**

Blue Line Magazine is now taking orders for its 24th Anniversary DVD.
You can search 240 editions of the magazine for past articles, caselaw, special features or your favourite writer.

\$105⁰⁰ Shipping and GST included

Go to the Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca