

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

April 12, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 15

Executive Digest

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OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a pair of cases involving elements of the Harper government's "tough-on-crime" agenda.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Ontario Police College cancels training session



Apr 05 2013

AYLMER - The Ontario Police College has cancelled its spring training class after a lack of recruits sent to the facility by the forces hiring them.

Normally each session would see about 350 new recruits, but the spring class had approximately 60.

Police forces hire potential constables and then send them to the facility in Aylmer for training but thanks to budget cuts at municipalities across the province, demand for new hires is down.

Toronto has its own training college but smaller centres (which would have smaller recruiting classes) send recruits to Aylmer to

maximize cost efficiency.

Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack said this highlights problems facing police sectors across Ontario.

He believes budget pressures facing police services in larger municipalities are now showing up in smaller cities and towns across Ontario.

"It looks like it's happening more on a provincial basis, not only in Toronto...but with the OPP for instance with the way that the governments and sectors are looking at policing," says McCormack.

London, ON, Police Chief Brad Duncan told Newstalk 1290 that times are changing

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and police forces don't have the budget for new hires.

He says some police services are not able to grow to meet demands and are reducing programs.

(Newstalk 1010)

THURSDAY APRIL 04, 2013

Apr 04 2013

OTTAWA - The calls are getting louder within the intelligence community for Canada to track citizens as they exit the country - or deny them permission to leave altogether - in order to frustrate overseas terrorism.

A former intelligence officer says it's time for the country to consider so-called exit controls, up to and including the removal of a citizens' passports if they are deemed a threat.

The radicalization of young people, while not new, can take place at lightning speed in today's wired world, and Ray Boisvert says stopping them before they turn violent is a moral imperative, not just a legal one.

The RCMP confirmed today the bodies of two young men from London, Ont., were among those found at the site of a deadly terrorist siege in Algeria.

The Mounties asked the public's help in tracking the movement of Ali Medlej and Kristos Katsiroubas, including determining how the two left Canada and who may have helped them.

Apr 04 2013

VANCOUVER - The British Columbia lawyer who acted as a "tool" for a criminal gang has been sentenced to a year in jail in the first such conviction of its kind in Canada.

William Mastop, 46, pleaded guilty last

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ISSN 1704-3913
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Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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December to participating in a criminal organization known as the Greeks.

A prosecutor told the judge during a sentencing hearing that Mastop provided the gang with court documents that led to the murders of two people.

But B.C. Supreme Court Justice Mark McEwan said there wasn't enough evidence that the information led to the deaths and only some of Mastop's behaviour was criminal.

"In this respect his utility to the criminal organization seems to be not much more than as a convenience," he said.

McEwan said Mastop played only a peripheral role in the gang's activities and that mitigating factors such as his loss of community standing and job loss prompted him to rule in favour of a more "moderate" jail term.

Mastop's lawyer asked for a sentence of between 10 and 18 months, while the prosecution was looking for a sentence of up to three years in prison.

At a sentencing hearing in March, 75 intercepted phone conversations between the lawyer and gang members revealed Mastop offered to obtain court information for the Greeks.

Documents Mastop provided the organization contained search warrant information that revealed an unnamed informant - information the gang later used to kill two people they wrongly thought were responsible, the prosecutor told the sentencing hearing.

Mastop and the Greek's gang leader Peter Manolacos also grew up together in Vernon, B.C., where Mastop later became a criminal lawyer.

FRIDAY APRIL 05, 2013

Apr 05 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Newfoundland and Labrador government says it has ratified a collective agreement with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Association.

Under the deal, a police officer taking maternity, adoption or parental leave may be eligible to receive more than 90 per cent of their weekly pay for up to 17 weeks of leave.

Severance pay is also being eliminated and will no longer be accrued to employees as of this Sept. 30.

Those who currently meet the qualifications for severance can opt to take a one-time payout before that date.

Association president Tim Buckle says members accepted the agreement with more than a 90 per cent majority.

Salaries for police members are determined through a compensation formula using analysis of comparable sized forces across the country. (St. John's Telegram)

Apr 05 2013

EDMONTON - A hearing in Edmonton into a proposed body rub parlour came to a quick halt when a man acting as the parlour owner's translator was arrested

at the scene on prostitution-related charges.

A city committee was to hear an appeal Thursday from the owner, who wants to open an erotic massage parlour near a youth centre.

The centre was to present a 12,000-name petition against the business, but a detective approached Simon Shum just before the proceedings began and took him to a police car.

Police say the 55-year-old man is charged with living off the avails of prostitution as part of a human trafficking investigation not connected to the massage parlour.

Investigators were not expecting to see Shum at the hearing.

As a result of the arrest, the hearing was postponed to May 2 due to communication barriers with the owner.

(CTV Edmonton)

Apr 05 2013

GATINEAU, Que. - Terror-stricken parents and guardians scrambled to retrieve their unharmed children from a Quebec daycare Friday as police tried to piece together a shooting at the nursery that left two adults dead.

Police in the city of Gatineau, Que., say they safely evacuated 53 children - five of them infants - from the daycare upon arriving at the scene after a report of shots being fired.

Police Chief Mario Harel says two bodies were found inside, one the gunman, the other a male daycare worker.

It isn't immediately clear how much of the incident the children might have seen.

Police rushed them to shelter at a nearby home as anxious parents flocked to the scene.

The children, some wrapped in blankets, were then carried out to be re-united with their parents.

Apr 05 2013

OTTAWA - Ottawa police are going ahead with an internal discreditable conduct charge against an officer found not guilty in an incident where a woman was stripped inside a police cell block.

Sgt. Steven Desjoury was acquitted Wednesday on a criminal sexual assault charge in connection with a September 2008 incident where a woman's shirt and bra were cut off while she was in custody.

The police force had stayed the discreditable charge made under the Police Services Act when the trial began, and say they're proceeding now in light of the not guilty ruling.

They say a decision by the Crown to appeal the verdict within 30 days would once again set back the internal discipline proceeding.

The complainant in the case cannot be named to protect her identity.

She has launched a civil lawsuit against Desjoury and two special constables. (The Canadian Press/CFRA)

Apr 05 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The government of Newfoundland and Labrador is going to review cuts made in its recent budget

to the Justice Department.

The government has been criticized for making the cuts, which include 147 layoffs and 52 vacant positions that won't be filled in the department.

Justice Minister Darin King told VOXM radio that he is putting together a committee to review the cuts sometime next week.

The committee includes Nick Avis of the Legal Aid Commission, Donovan Molloy of the office of Public Prosecutions, Attorney General Tom Marshall, Finance Minister Jerome Kennedy, Ernie Boone of the Sheriff's Office, the provincial chief judge and justices, and lawyer Bob Simmonds.

King says he's keeping an open mind about the review and it's possible the department needs more resources.

The cuts announced in the budget also include trimming the number of staff in the Office of the High Sheriff and laying off probation officer.

(VOXM)

Apr 05 2013

TORONTO - A man who claimed he was the victim of brutality during an unlawful arrest can sue police even though a complaints adjudicator found no merit in his claims, the country's highest court decided Friday.

In a split decision watched by civil liberties groups, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled it would be unfair to allow the adjudicator's decision to bar Wayne Penner from pressing his lawsuit.

"I brought this case because I have always felt that police should be accountable for their actions, and that judges - not police adjudicators - have the responsibility to hold police accountable," Penner said in a statement.

"The Supreme Court of Canada agreed with us - it is a good day for justice."

The case arose in January 2003, when Penner lodged a complaint against two officers with Niagara regional police after they arrested him for making chirping noises and other disruptive behaviour in a courtroom in St. Catharines, Ont.

Penner alleged misconduct under the Police Services Act. He also sued for damages.

At a disciplinary hearing in 2004, an adjudicator appointed by the chief of police dismissed Penner's complaint against the officers.

Penner appealed to the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services, which overturned the decision on the grounds the officers had no authority to arrest him in the courtroom.

On appeal, Divisional Court restored the adjudicator's decision which absolved the officers after finding the commission's ruling unreasonable.

Armed with the Divisional Court decision, police argued Penner should not be allowed to sue them. The Ontario Court of Appeal agreed.

In his appeal to the Supreme Court, Penner maintained it would be wrong to allow the police disciplinary process to shield officers from a civil action.

In its 4-3 decision Friday, the high court

agreed, saying it would be a "serious affront to basic principles of fairness" to allow that to happen.

"Potential complainants may not come forward with public complaints in order to avoid prejudicing their civil actions," the court said.

Apr 05 2013

VICTORIA - No criminal charges will be laid in connection to the first charge assessment sent to Crown by British Columbia's new police watchdog.

The Criminal Justice Branch says it has decided not to approve a charge in connection to allegations of excessive force by an RCMP officer in Creston, B.C.

Crown counsel says it has thoroughly reviewed all available evidence from the Independent Investigations Office and the Delta Police Department in connection to the incident.

The IIO began investigating after an allegation that a man suffered serious facial injuries after an altercation with an officer at a local business last October in the southeastern B.C. community.

The justice branch has concluded the available evidence doesn't support the substantial likelihood of conviction for a criminal offence.

While the branch says Crown counsel has concluded the officer used force against a male, the prosecution wouldn't be able to prove that the force was excessive and therefore unlawful.

Apr 05 2013

Help is on the way for Shelburne's beleaguered RCMP Detachment.

After a three hour meeting between RCMP representatives and Shelburne Town officials, it was announced that two additional Mounties are on the way to bolster the local detachment later this spring.

Since the beginning of the year, Town officials have been expressing concerns after learning that half of the detachment's members were on medical, maternity and paternity leaves, a situation that was expected to remain that way for many months.

(Shelburne County Coast Guard)

Apr 05 2013

MONTREAL - After 15 years running the Laval force, police chief Jean Pierre Gariepy announced on Friday that he will step down at the end of 2013.



courrierlaval.com

"My decision to retire is the result of several months of reflection that ended in the past

few days," said Gariepy in a statement. "I'm proud of the many projects I was able to achieve."

During his time at the head of the Laval police, the force suffered its first fatalities when two officers were killed in shooting incidents.

Constable Valerie Gignac was killed when Francois Pepin fired a rifle through a door while she was responding to an argument in 2005.

In a controversial incident in Brossard in 2007, Laval Constable Daniel Tessier was killed during a drug raid in the south shore city. The shooter, Basil Parasiris, was later acquitted for self-defence.

Gariepy began his career with Quebec's provincial police in 1968. He took over the Laval police in 1998.

The final two years of the police chief's career was dominated by the downfall of Laval's long-time mayor, Gilles Vaillancourt. The mayor's resignation followed dozens of raids by the SQ on the mayor's homes and city hall.

Gariepy has served as a police officer for 45 years.

(CTV News)

Apr 05 2013

MONTREAL - As many as 300 protesters were corralled by Montreal police Friday evening in central Montreal and fined \$637 for participating in an illegal assembly.

The detention of protesters and the handing out of fines came as no surprise to most participants.

The protest had been organized by the Anti-Capitalist Convergence, also known as the CLAC, in a bid to "take back the streets" and contest a controversial bylaw.

"Isn't this why we are here," one protester was heard to say as police moved in on the protesters, kettling them in a circle on de Maisonneuve Blvd. between St. Hubert and Berri Sts.

No one was injured in the exercise although one police officer twisted his ankle, Montreal police spokesman Sgt. Laurent Gingras said.

All told, 279 people were fined for participating in an illegal assembly and three people were charged with assaulting a peace officer, police said.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 05 2013

OTTAWA - Ottawa police officers are getting retroactive raises of nearly 3 per cent for 2011 and 2012, thanks to an arbitrator's ruling on Friday.

The city's police services board had budgeted for raises of 2.5 per cent, said the board's exasperated chair, West Carleton-March Coun. Eli El-Chantiry. "I'm going to have to find it in the budget. Either you're going to hire less police officers or you're going to have to find something you were going to buy and say you aren't going to buy it yet."

The raises (2.99 and 2.95 per cent, to be precise) are significantly higher than what the

city has negotiated with other unions recently.

El-Chantiry said the city wanted a four-year contract but the Ottawa Police Association also got its way with a two-year award.

The Citizen couldn't immediately reach the association's president, Matt Skof.

Police contracts, like those of firefighters, are often settled by arbitrators because those emergency service workers aren't allowed to strike and the city isn't allowed to lock them out. If the employer and the workers can't make a deal on their own, arbitration automatically kicks in. Municipalities across Ontario have complained that the system, which has arbitrators look at other contracts around the province to find proper comparisons, drives pay rates up to match whatever jurisdiction is paid the most.

That's how a provision in the Toronto police department's contract, which pays experienced officers a bonus because the Toronto service was losing officers to quieter suburban ones, spread to emergency-services workers all over Ontario, whether their employers had retention problems or not.

In this case, the arbitrator shrugged off the idea that Mayor Jim Watson and city council's promises to keep tax hikes to 2.5 per cent a year or less mean anything.

"The simple fact is that while the Employer may choose to be bound, or be actually bound, by the resolutions of Council, adopted at a political level, it is trite to observe that bargaining agents are not, and arbitrators cannot be, so bound," wrote arbitrator Russell Goodfellow.

"If they were, interest arbitration, as a substitute for the free collective bargaining process and the loss of the ability to strike or lock out, would be a hollow exercise indeed."

Ottawa police have been paid a bit less than Toronto, Peel, and York police, and a bit more than Hamilton and London police, and that's the way thing should stay, Goodfellow wrote.

He also gave "responsibility pay" to civilian police employees: \$325 raises at the 10-year mark, \$700 at the 20-year mark, and \$1,000 at the 30-year mark, though the city said it couldn't afford the hikes.

"That needs to be changed," El-Chantiry said. The councillor, who usually identifies himself as a Liberal, said he supports a reform bill being touted by the provincial Progressive Conservatives that would have arbitrators look at municipalities' capacity to pay higher salaries, not just at what other contracts have included, when making awards.

The police service's operating budget for 2013 is about \$280 million, of which \$233 million is pay and benefits for 1,935 civilians and officers of all ranks.

(Ottawa Citizen)

SATURDAY APRIL 06, 2013

Apr 06 2013

VICTORIA - Comments made by Victoria deputy police chief John

Ducker after a police misconduct public hearing last week were "outrageous," says the adjudicator who presided over the hearing, ordered by the B.C. police complaint commissioner.

"I simply cannot believe what I read in the paper. The timing, the comments were totally inappropriate," adjudicator Ben Casson, a retired judge, said Friday.

Last week, Casson found constables Chris Bowser, 41, and Brendan Robinson, 27, used excessive force when they arrested Tyler Archer on March 21, 2010, during a brawl outside a bar on Store Street. A video of the incident was posted to YouTube and drew wide attention.

Casson found Robinson, who was in his first year on the job, made mistakes, but did not abuse his authority. However, he found Bowser abused his authority by not intervening when Robinson rushed in and tackled Archer, and by delivering foot and knee strikes to Archer's body.

Immediately after the decision, Ducker, in his role as acting police chief, said: "These are some of the best officers we have in the department. I don't feel they were acting unreasonably." A statement was also posted on the Victoria police website, saying: "It's unfortunate that this was the decision reached."

At Bowser's disciplinary hearing Friday, hearing lawyer Michael Tammen called Ducker's remarks unfortunate, ill-advised and inappropriate, particularly because they were made before the hearing process had concluded. Casson is expected to announce April 19 what discipline Bowser will face.

"The comments have the effect of undermining public confidence in the process of independent police oversight in this province," said Tammen.

"He should have known better."

Casson said he would recommend the Victoria police board look into police policy about making comments to the media during public hearings.

The matter should also be referred to the B.C. Chiefs of Police to "issue some guidance to the chiefs about such outrageous comments before we even get to the disciplinary hearing," Casson said.

Ducker was quick to apologize. "By no means did I intend to criticize Adjudicator Casson or his public hearing. Instead, I was hoping to address the effect the three-year-long process has had on the membership of the Victoria Police Department. We ask our officers to protect our citizens and serve our communities every day and it was their morale and welfare that was my primary concern," Ducker said in a statement issued Friday.

"I unreservedly apologize to Adjudicator Casson, counsels, and the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner for offering public comment before the entire process was concluded. Furthermore, I apologize for voicing my reaction to the decision in a way that was so pointed."

(Victoria Times Colonist)

SUNDAY APRIL 07, 2013

Apr 07 2013

MONTREAL - Montreal police have seized the head of panda mascot "Anarchopanda" and may use it against him in court, a police spokesperson said Saturday.



cbc.ca

Anarchopanda — or rather the person inside the panda costume — was among the 279 protesters corralled by Montreal police Friday evening and fined \$637 each for participating in an illegal assembly.

They were in violation of Montreal by-law P-6, which requires the filing of a route itinerary before protests, police said.

P-6 also prohibits the wearing of masks, which is why Anarchopanda's head was seized, police spokesperson Daniel Lacoursière said Saturday.

"It was to avoid the continuation of the infraction (wearing a mask) and it's going to be brought to court as proof" of the infraction, Lacoursière said.

The panda mascot gained popularity — and notoriety — during the student protests against tuition hikes in 2012.

(Montreal Gazette)

MONDAY APRIL 08, 2013

Apr 08 2013

TORONTO - A forensic psychiatrist says many women in Canada's prisons need intensive psychiatric therapy.

But Dr. Olajide (Jide) Adelugba says the country's one psychiatric prison that takes female offenders has only 12 beds for women.

As a result, he says, the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon gets the "worst of the worst."

Adelugba is testifying at the inquest into the prison death of Ashley Smith in October 2007.

The 19-year-old spent almost four months at RPC, where Adelugba had some interaction with her.

He said she was clearly disturbed.

Apr 08 2013

TORONTO - Two Toronto police officers were hospitalized after a struggle with a man who allegedly threw a bicycle

their way and tried to disarm them.

Police say it happened Sunday as the officers tried to arrest the suspect.

They say a "violent struggle" erupted after the suspect threw the bike at the officers, then tried to disarm them.

Investigators say the man ran away and is still on the loose.

Both officers required hospital treatment. One has since been released but the other is still under observation.

Police are seeking Brian Christopher Hutchings, 29, of no fixed address, on multiple charges including assaulting a peace officer, assault with intent to resist arrest and disarming a peace officer.

Apr 08 2013

MARKHAM, Ont. - The Special Investigations Unit is investigating after a motorcyclist died in a collision with another vehicle in Markham.

The police watchdog says at about 1 p.m. Monday, York Regional Police officers tried to stop a motorcycle which then collided with a civilian vehicle.

The motorcyclist was transported to a nearby hospital where he died of his injuries.

Four investigators, three forensic investigators and a collision reconstructionist have been called in to probe the circumstances of the crash.

Apr 08 2013

TORONTO - A man who was accidentally dubbed "Mr. Guilty" by the judge at his cocaine-trafficking trial has lost his appeal.

So, "Mr. Guilty" - real name: Prinze Wilson - remains guilty after the Court of Appeal for Ontario upheld his conviction in a decision released Monday.

Ontario Superior Court Judge Faye McWatt was giving the jury its final instructions before deliberations when she turned to the presumption of innocence.

"It is only defeated if and when Crown counsel satisfied you, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Mr. Guilty, I'm sorry, Mr. Wilson, is guilty of the crime charged," McWatt said at the 2011 trial.

Wilson argued on his appeal that there was a "powerful risk" the jury would interpret the comment as representing the judge's view of the case.

But, the Appeal Court ruled, jurors are "reasonable, intelligent people," who would know the remark was a simple slip-up - "an inadvertent misstatement quickly corrected, probably before it was even noticed."

Apr 08 2013

HOBBEMA, Alta. - A Mountie from central Alberta has been charged with assault causing bodily harm following a complaint about an arrest.

RCMP in Hobbema say Cst. Ron Lavallee was charged after an investigation by a senior member of an independent RCMP unit.

The investigation was prompted by a

complaint that excessive force was used during an arrest in January 2012.

Lavallee, a seven-year veteran, is stationed at Hobbema and is on medical leave.

He is to appear in Wetaskiwin provincial court Tuesday.

Apr 08 2013

GATINEAU, Que. - The gunman behind a fatal shooting at a daycare in Gatineau, Que., told staff to take the 53 children there to safety before he opened fire, police said Monday.

The shooter, now identified as Robert Charron, was armed with a registered hunting rifle when he entered the daycare Friday morning, police said in a news conference three days

after the incident.

He fired several shots but the children weren't his target and none were hurt, though some may have witnessed the violence, they said.

One of the staff members, 38-year-old Neil Galliou, was killed in the attack before Charron took his own life.

Charron was the estranged husband of the daycare director, who had ended their relationship only days before, police said.

Investigators said he doused his ex and her office with flammable liquid but didn't manage to set either on fire.

Police have not determined a motive but said Monday there is no evidence to suggest the existence of a love triangle.

They said a note found in Charron's home



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may shed some light on his state of mind.

It's still unclear what happened between Charron and Galliou, an art teacher looking to gain work experience.

Apr 08 2013

EDMONTON - Provincial and federal officials are pointing fingers at each other over the deportation of an Alberta woman who drowned her two children.



edmontonsun.com

Alberta Justice Minister Jonathan Denis says his department contacted Ottawa well before the scheduled removal for Allyson McConnell to her native Australia.

He says officials discussed ways to keep her in Canada.

McConnell left the country today after serving the required two-thirds of a 15-month sentence at a psychiatric hospital for the drowning deaths of her young sons in their home south of Edmonton in 2010.

The Crown has filed appeals to have her manslaughter conviction bumped up to murder and to have the sentence increased.

Federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews has criticized provincial officials for waiting until late last week to ask his office for help.

Denis says Alberta is in touch with officials in Australia to bring McConnell back if the Appeal Court sides with the Crown.

**TUESDAY
APRIL 09, 2013**

Apr 09 2013

VANCOUVER - British Columbia's Coroners Service says the death of a Polish immigrant in an altercation with RCMP officers at Vancouver's airport six years ago was a homicide.

The coroner's report says Robert Dziekanski died of a heart attack after the Taser jolts.

Homicide in coroners' reports means the death was caused by the actions of another person but it does not imply any blame.

The officers are each facing perjury charges related to their testimony at an inquiry into Dziekanski's death.

Apr 09 2013

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has cleared two Toronto police officers in the death of a man who swallowed a quantity of pills after his arrest

last month.

The Special Investigations Unit says the officers approached the man early March 1 after seeing him smoking on a Toronto Transit Commission bus platform, which goes against TTC bylaws.

The SIU says the officers were writing a ticket when they noticed the man smelled of marijuana and had something in his mouth, so they arrested him for possession and placed him in handcuffs.

The agency says the man tried to swallow a plastic bag, which the officers unsuccessfully tried to remove from his mouth before calling paramedics and taking him to hospital.

It says once the man was released from hospital, he swallowed 10 to 15 pills from a bottle

that had just been returned to him by a nurse.

Medical staff decided to hold him under the Mental Health Act, but his condition quickly deteriorated and he died after suffering seizures.

Apr 09 2013

CARLETON PLACE, Ont. - A woman faces several charges after police allege a car drove into five of their vehicles in an Ontario Provincial Police parking lot.

Police say it happened Tuesday morning at the Carleton Place OPP detachment, about 50 kilometres southwest of Ottawa.

It's alleged a car drove into the lot, hit a parked police vehicle and then drove into



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Instructor:
Dave Perry - Retired Toronto homicide detective and CEO of Investigative Solutions Network

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Stephanie M. Conn - Registered Clinical Counsellor, Conn Counselling and Consulting and Blue Line Magazine columnist - *Holding the Line*

Economic Crimes: Detection & Investigation (Project Mouse and Project Kite)
April 24th, 9:00 - 4:00
Instructors:
PROJECT MOUSE:
Police Constable Timothy Trotter, Toronto Police Service - 14 Division
Detective Constable Michael Kelly, Toronto Police Service - Financial Crimes Unit

BLANCHARD CASE:
Larry Levasseur CFI, CPP
Senior Investigator at MTS Allstream
Previous: Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba Hydro

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four others.

The car then moved to the front of the detachment, where the driver was arrested.

None of the OPP vehicles was occupied at the time and no one was injured. There was no serious damage.

Angela Porteous, 36, of Carleton Place, is charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and five counts of mischief under \$5,000. She was remanded in custody and is due in court on Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 2013

Apr 10 2013

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia's justice minister has pledged to review the case of a 17-year-old girl who committed suicide a year after an alleged sexual assault.



metronews.ca

Ross Landry made the announcement late yesterday, saying he's looking for ways to review questions about how the RCMP handled the case of Rehtaeh Parsons of Cole Harbour.

The girl's mother, Leah Parsons, says her daughter was pulled off life-support Sunday night after she hanged herself last week.

Parsons says she is dissatisfied that the RCMP concluded there were no grounds to charge four boys over allegations they sexually assaulted Rehtaeh about 18 months ago.

In a statement, Landry says he hopes to meet with Rehtaeh's mother.

Earlier, Landry backed the RCMP's handling of the case, saying he would not second-guess the Mounties.

Apr 10 2013

OTTAWA - The provincial Special Investigations Unit has been called in after three people were injured following a police chase in the Perth area southwest of Ottawa early Wednesday morning.

Provincial police say officers were chasing a vehicle along County Road 10 shortly after 1 a.m. when it went out of control and crashed.

Police say the three juvenile males in the vehicle suffered major injuries.

(CFRA)

Apr 10 2013

TORONTO - A side of fries to go with that good deed? Or a gift card? How about a movie pass?

Adding a fresh incentive to the notion that law enforcement can't do its job effectively without public help, police in Scarborough's 42 Division formally launched a project Wednesday morning whereby citizens get small, on-the-spot rewards for pitching in.

The modest operation – the cost is picked up by the sponsoring companies – looks to be the first of its kind, says Inspector David Saunders, who came up with the "Positive Ticketing" idea.

It grew out of a successful summer-safety program last year.

So far 5,000 of the special tickets have been printed. And like the fast-food rewards they bring, they are instant, given out immediately by the officer.

Contributions of all kinds will qualify: Sticking around after witnessing a traffic accident; aiding a criminal investigation; or just helping out a stranger. Tickets already handed out since the operation began a few weeks ago have been given to Good Samaritans who rendered first aid to an unconscious man, comforted a robbery victim and aided a 90-year-old dementia patient wandering around in the cold.

"Every time you go out there something needs to be sorted out," Insp. Saunders said.

"But officers also see people at their best – stepping up, doing what's right. So this is a kind of small thank you."

Details can be found at <http://www.positiveticketing.ca/> (Globe and Mail)

Apr 10 2013

EDMONTON - Alberta investigators say a Mountie didn't do anything wrong when an officer fatally shot a man holding a shotgun on a farm near Vegreville in July 2012.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says the shooting was justified.

Police were called to the farm to check into a dispute involving a man with a gun and members of his family.

Investigators say three officers tried to get the man to put the shotgun down and surrender, but he refused.

Police say when the man started walking toward one of the Mounties, an officer fired one round, killing him.

The dead man was identified as 43-year-old Russell Skoropad.

Apr 10 2013

VANCOUVER - No charges will be laid against any police officers involved in the death of a man who shot three people and had many more on his hit list.

The shootout involving Angus Mitchell came hours after Burnaby Mounties issued a warning about the man, saying he was the suspect in a double murder in a restaurant and the attempted murder of his landlord.

Vancouver Police took over the investigation after the shooting and the department's Cst. Brian Montague says their investigation concluded officers were right to use deadly force.

Montague says since shots were fired at

officers first, as seen in a video of the incident that was shot from a police helicopter, so police were not wrong in shooting back.

After Mitchell's death, RCMP revealed the man had a hit list targeting people, businesses and institutions in the Lower Mainland - including two schools and a group home.

A report will not be sent to Crown counsel and a coroner's inquest around the fatal shooting will be held Nov. 5.

Apr 10 2013

SURREY, B.C. - B.C.'s police watchdog is looking into an incident involving Mounties in Quesnel, B.C., going back to Feb. 28th.

However, there are few details about exactly what the Independent Investigations Office is investigating.

A news release from the office says no more information will be released because of the sensitive nature of the probe.

Meanwhile, the office has given the Crown its report on an incident in which a man was injured when he lost control of a motorcycle and struck an RCMP vehicle in Campbell River last December.

Mounties were trying to stop the man over allegations he wasn't wearing a helmet.

The IIO only hands in reports to the Crown when it believes an officer has committed an offence, however, it doesn't make any recommendations and it's up to prosecutors to decide if any charges are laid.

Apr 10 2013

ESTON, Sask. - Teasing and name-calling could result in a fine or even jail time in Eston, Sask., after the small town announced its new anti-bullying bylaw.

Sporting pink shirts to mark the anti-bullying International Day of Pink, students, politicians and police officers gathered at Eston Composite school on Wednesday to launch the bylaw.

As the first in Saskatchewan to introduce an anti-bullying bylaw, the small town hopes to set an example for the rest of the province.

The bylaw defines bullying as "repeated or habitual harassment" ranging from name calling to theft to physical and emotional abuse.

Police can investigate a reported incident and choose to issue a warning or fine.

First time offenders face a \$250 fine while repeat offenders may owe as much as \$1,000 for each offence. Failure to pay the fine could result in up to six months in jail.

(CKOM)

THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2013

Apr 11 2013

SUWANEE, Ga. - Five suburban Atlanta firefighters who were held hostage after responding to a report of a medical emergency are in good condition following a police raid that left the suspected gunman dead.

Authorities say an unidentified man took the five firefighters hostage in a Gwinnett County home Wednesday, demanding that his cable and power be turned back on at the house, which is in foreclosure.

While the suspect let one firefighter leave, police said he held the others for hours before being shot dead during an exchange of gunfire when SWAT members stormed the house. A fire official said the hostages had cuts and bruises from explosions officers set off before moving in but were OK.

Authorities said one SWAT team member was shot in the hand or arm but was in good condition.

Apr 11 2013

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a pair of cases involving elements of the Harper government's "tough-on-crime" agenda.

The first case involves three prisoners sentenced before the passage of a 2011 law that toughened parole conditions.

The prisoners argued they should have been treated under the old law, which allowed early parole after serving one-sixth of a sentence.

They won in lower courts, but the Supreme Court agreed to hear the attorney general's appeal.

The second case deals with credit for pre-trial detention.

Level Aaron Carvery was arrested on the street after midnight for breaking curfew. Police found about five grams of crack cocaine in his hooded sweatshirt and \$110 in cash in his pocket.

Carvery spent more than nine months in custody before eventually being sentenced in June 2011. The trial judge credited him with 1.5 days for each day in detention before sentencing, which the federal government is appealing.

The Conservatives have sought to crack down on early parole for non-violent offenders and tougher pre-trial custody and sentencing provisions for repeat and violent youth offenders.

As is its usual practice, the high court did not release reasons for its decision.

Apr 11 2013

NEWMARKET, Ont. - Police from across Canada are joining forces to use the power of social media to try to catch what they are calling one of the country's most notorious bank robbers.

He is nicknamed "The Vaulteer."

It comes from the way the suspect jumps over counters, and police have connected him to as many as 17 bank robberies over a three-year period across Canada.

Hold-up investigators with police forces in Calgary, Ottawa, Hamilton and Peel and York Regions near Toronto have taken to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest to get images of the serial robber to the public.

It's hoped the social media campaign will give people an opportunity to easily view sur-

veillance images and video captured during the robberies.

The Canadian Bankers Association has offered a \$20,000 reward for anyone providing information that will ultimately lead to an arrest.

Apr 11 2013

Perth - Members of the Perth Police Service officially transitioned to become members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on April 6.

Thirteen officers and one civilian took the oaths of office and secrecy. It was stressed that the community will continue to have the same strong police service to which they are accustomed.

Perth Mayor John Fenik admitted to the large crowd who had gathered at the Algonquin College Perth Campus that he was not sure what to say on this historic day - that no one would want to hear him speak on the process to change from municipal police service to OPP as that would take eight hours, so he decided to speak on what he knew well: community.

He described those who founded Perth as strong, courageous, dedicated compassionate people who forged out of wilderness. Those same characteristics are still present in the officers who will continue to serve the community.

"It's not about the superficial things that surround us, the colour of the uniform or the design of it - the bottom line is not about what

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is outside but the value system within. People will soon forget the superficial aspects of an individual. What they will remember is how a person carried themselves and the actions they took," said Fenik. "The OPP have always been part of our community and always will be part of our community. I welcome these officers on this truly historic day."

OPP commissioner Chris Lewis called it a special day and he was proud to be present to welcome the new OPP officers.

"The Perth Police Service has been a highly respected professional police agency and provided the citizens here with exceptional service," said Lewis. "However, these dedicated members will now wear the uniform of the OPP. Please know that you have my personal commitment that the OPP will live up to the standards that the people in this community have come to expect and deserve as we move forward together in partnership."

Lewis emphasized they will not let the community down and that the OPP is committed to providing effective, professional, police services to the people of Perth.

"Perth was a strong community when it was policed by the police service and it will be equally strong when policed by the OPP," said Lewis. "As I say all the time: same people, different uniforms, just part of a different organization."

The former Perth Police officers completed their OPP training in Orillia from March 25 up until the ceremony and have been partnered with the OPP officers to patrol the town as part of the now completed transition.

(EMC News)

Apr 11 2013

HALIFAX - Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter has appointed a cabinet minister to oversee the provincial government's response to the death of Rehtaeh Parsons.

Dexter says Marilyn More, the minister responsible for the status of women, will work with ministers across four departments and several agencies to assess support services for people who face sexual violence.

He told the legislature he wants a timely response in order to satisfy the public's concerns about Rehtaeh's case.

Apr 11 2013

MONTREAL - Several people are expected to appear at the Montreal courthouse Thursday following a series of arrests made as part of a police investigation targeting a drug trafficking and fraud ring that operated in the St-Laurent borough.

Twenty-one men were arrested Wednesday as Montreal police carried out 22 search warrants in Montreal and in Laval. The Sûreté du Québec and Laval police assisted the Montreal police in the operation. Some of the arrests were made in a section of St-Laurent east of Jules Poitras Blvd. The group reportedly operated in and around a park in that neighbourhood.

Montreal police Constable Anie Lemieux said many of the people arrested were already known to police and that the arrests were made without incident.

"This operation targeted people who were involved in criminal activities (including) drugs, firearms, fraud and intimidation," Lemieux said. "The investigation started in 2012. It was complaints from the West Island area that led police officers to supply information to investigators that (initiated) this investigation."

Police seized small quantities of drugs like marijuana, hashish and cocaine as well as cash, firearms and ammunition. They also seized several computers as one aspect of the probe involved credit card fraud. According to Montreal police Constable Raphael Bergeron, investigators believe the fraud involved "several million dollars" and was carried out both in Canada and in other countries.

(Montreal Gazette)

Apr 11 2013

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - Newfoundland and Labrador has backtracked on Justice Department cuts that raised concerns about courtroom security and delays.

Justice Minister Darin King says two deputy sheriffs will be kept and up to seven vacant positions will be filled.

King says five Crown Attorney positions that were to be trimmed have now been restored, and a casual call-in list for extra sheriffs when needed will also be created.

He says the turnabout comes after a

committee of legal experts reviewed the planned job cuts.

King says the government consulted experts before bringing down its deficit-fighting budget last month.

But he says planned changes had raised questions of confidence in the justice system that the government is now addressing.

The government will also review its legal aid and sheriff services for efficiencies.

Newfoundland and Labrador is forecasting a deficit of \$563.8 million this fiscal year.

Its latest budget cut about 1,200 public sector jobs.

Apr 11 2013

HALIFAX - Police have charged eight Halifax residents after a lengthy investigation into an online scam that defrauded hundreds of people in Canada and the United States.

Police say more than \$150,000 was defrauded from some 300 people in the scam, which involved the sale of goods through online classified ads.

Police say people who responded to the ads never received the items they had paid for.

A joint investigation was launched in 2011 by Halifax Regional Police and RCMP.

Police say eight men and women between the ages of 23 and 53 were arrested Wednesday and face multiple fraud-related charges.



The banner features the International Police Association logo on the left, which includes a globe and the motto "SERVO PER AMIKECO". To the right, the text "International Police Association" is written in large white letters, with "Canadian Section" below it in smaller white letters. Two Canadian flags are positioned on either side of the "Canadian Section" text. The background of the banner is a satellite-style image of the Earth showing North America.

The IPA strives to enhance the image of police in its member countries and to facilitate international cooperation through friendly contacts between police officers of all continents.



A photograph of five men in various police uniforms standing in a row outdoors.

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