

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest



May 16 2013

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Page 2

May 17 2013

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Page 3

May 21 2013

OTTAWA - Justice Minister Rob Nicholson says the government will support a private member's bill that would require people who are on parole, probation or serving conditional sentences to stay away from victims.

Page 4



May 23 2013

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Page 5

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Quebec Police officers face drug charges



May 23 2013

MONTREAL - A joint investigation by Montreal and Longueuil police has resulted in the arrest of four of their own officers, two of whom face drug-related charges.

The Montreal officers had been suspended without pay for several months leading up to their arrest, the SPVM spokesman, Ian Lafrenière, said.

Charles Lavallée, 34, of Repentigny, is charged with trafficking drugs between April 16, 2012, and April 24, 2012, as well as possession of hashish. Amir El Alfy, 33, of La Prairie, is charged with importing drugs between Feb. 9, 2012, and April 19, 2012, possession of a prohibited weapon called a shuriken, or ninja star, on May 1, 2012, stealing an iPhone from Patrick Guillaume on March 19, 2012, and possession of a stolen iPhone.

The Longueuil officers, who both had about 10 years of experience, are charged with fraud, breach of trust, conspiracy and

fraudulent use of the police database.

Maxime Marcotte and Olivier Roy were suspended with half pay since the investigation began about a year ago, said Capt. Nancy Colagiaco, a spokeswoman for the Longueuil police force.

"That will now be re-evaluated, probably tomorrow morning," she said Wednesday.

The Montreal officers are to appear in Quebec Court on July 29. Their summons says they must present themselves to special constables at the Montreal courthouse at 8:30 a.m. to have their mug shots and fingerprints taken. Marcotte and Roy are to appear June 27 at the Montreal courthouse.

Colagiaco said the investigation was lengthy because "there were a lot of things to go through."

"We don't tolerate that kind of behaviour," she said. "We denounce them openly and now it's up to the courts to decide."

She said all four officers knew one another.

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Marcotte and El Alfy were in a Mexican bar in January 2011 when another Montreal police officer was severely beaten.

And while the charges they face now have nothing to do with that incident, it is what sparked the investigation, carried out by police internal affairs, Lafrenière said.

Shane Kenneth Maloney, 35, who has alleged ties to the West End gang, and Marc-André Lachance are charged in connection with the assault of the officer in Mexico.

Maloney was also arrested in November, with more than 100 people, in Operation Loquace, a Sûreté du Québec investigation into drug trafficking.

Late last year, the Quebec Court heard a motion to see if it had jurisdiction to try Maloney and Lachance here rather than in Mexico for the charge of threatening a member of the justice system in order to instill fear. (Montreal Gazette)

The \$100 bills were issued in 2011, and were followed by \$50 notes in March 2012, \$20 notes in November 2012, and the unveiling of the \$5 and \$10 notes this past April.

The RCMP says almost 50,000 counterfeit Canadian bank notes were passed in the country last year.

May 16 2013

VICTORIA - John Ducker has decided to call it a career after 34 years with the Victoria Police Department.

The 54-year-old Ducker, one of two deputy police chiefs on the force, will retire Sept. 1. He announced his plans Wednesday in a post on the VicPD Beat Blog, where he writes about unusual cases officers come across.

Ducker acknowledged that leaving before he could compete for the soon-to-be-vacant position of chief was a difficult decision.

Police Chief Jamie Graham said last month that he would retire at the end of the year.

On the blog, Ducker explained that with the standard term for a police chief being five years, "the prospect of committing to another five years of police work was too much for me and my wife at this stage of the game."

(Victoria Times Colonist)

May 17 2013

SAINT-SIXTE, Que. - A man is in stable condition in hospital after being shot in the head by a Quebec provincial police officer Thursday night.

The shooting, in the community of Sainte-Sixte northeast of Ottawa, will be investigated by police in Montreal.

Provincial officers received a 911 call just after 10 p.m. about an individual in crisis at a residence in the town.

No details have been released, but Montreal police say a 42-year-old man who was armed with a long gun was shot in the head.

Investigators with Montreal's major crime squad were headed to Saint-Sixte, about halfway between Ottawa and Montebello.

May 17

2013 SYDNEY, N.S. - The Cape Breton Regional Police Service has been cleared of any wrongdoing after a man died while in custody late last year.

The Serious Incident Response Team says it will not lay charges against any officers after a 66-year-old man who was arrested on Dec. 9 later died.

Police followed up on a tip about an SUV allegedly carrying marijuana that was about to board a ferry to Newfoundland.

Officers arrested a male driver who they took to jail.

The Serious Incident Response Team says the man was unresponsive when taken to the cell and despite efforts to revive him, he died.

The unit says he died as a result of a blockage in his coronary arteries, and while a search of his SUV found no drugs, it says the arrest and other actions of the police were appropriate.

May 17 2013

SURREY, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog has cleared two officers of criminal wrongdoing in separate cases, one involving the death of a Vancouver man and the other connected to the injury of a man in a Prince George police pursuit.

The Vancouver case involves Christopher Ray, who was shot and killed by a Vancouver police officer last October.

At the time, police said the officer was responding to reports of someone smashing windows when he saw Ray running towards him with a knife, and shot him.

The Independent Investigations Office says the majority of witnesses interviewed confirmed Ray was holding a weapon, and that the officer involved shot him in self-defence.

The IIO also found a Prince George Mountie committed no offence when he chased after a man in response to reports of someone causing a disturbance in an apartment building.

During the pursuit, the man jumped into a ravine and was injured, but the IIO says the officer involved did not use force against the man and didn't commit an offence.

THURSDAY MAY 16, 2013

May 16 2013

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - It was only two years ago that the head of the RCMP said the country's new polymer bank notes would go a long way to deterring the threat of counterfeiting.

Today, police in British Columbia are warning that several of the fake \$100 bills have been detected floating around Metro Vancouver.

Mounties are now asking consumers to check the security features on the notes and compare them with a genuine bill if they are suspicious.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Duncan Pound says the note are so secure that retailers are almost overconfident in the bills, so they aren't checking the money.

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2013



May 17 2013

LOS ANGELES - A federal judge has formally ended federal oversight of the Los Angeles Police Department.

In two short sentences, U.S. District Judge Gary Allen Feess released the department on Wednesday from a transition agreement put in place in 2009 to ensure reforms made after a corruption scandal were kept in place.

The city was forced into the consent decree under the threat of a federal lawsuit.

The U.S. government alleged a pattern of civil rights violations committed by police officers that went back decades.

The abuses came to light after the so-called Rampart scandal in which officers in an elite anti-gang unit were found to have beaten and framed suspected gang members.

The decree was entered into in 2001.

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May 17 2013

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The former RCMP detachment commander in Merritt, B.C., will be sentenced for breach of trust later this month.



Criminal Justice Branch spokesman Neil Mackenzie confirms Stuart Seib, an 18-year veteran of the force, will be in a Kelowna courtroom on May 27 for sentencing.

He was arrested in January 2012, just weeks after Mounties learned that a quantity of cocaine had disappeared from an evidence locker.

The 54-year-old pleaded guilty to the breach of trust charge and resigned from the force last May.

Seib's resignation means he will not face any internal discipline.

He was the detachment commander in Clearwater for nearly eight years and had been at the Merritt detachment for just a few months before his arrest.

(CHNL)

May 17 2013

CHATHAM, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog has been called in to investigate after a male was struck and killed by a Via Rail train in Chatham, Ont.

A Via spokesman confirms a passenger train struck and killed a trespasser (near Byng Avenue) Friday afternoon.

Police were in pursuit of the victim when he tried to cross the tracks.

There were 120 people on the train travelling from Toronto to Windsor.

(Blackburnnews.com)

SATURDAY

MAY 18, 2013



May 18 2013

WINNIPEG - A Manitoba MP says granting more privileges to a man who beheaded a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus is an insult to the victim's family.

James Bezan says Canadians expect their justice system to keep them safe from dangerous people.

Vince Li was found not criminally responsible for killing Tim McLean in July 2008 and has been in the Selkirk Mental Health Centre ever since.

But the Criminal Code Review Board has now ruled he can go on more escorted day trips, including to nearby beaches.

The board also says Li can be unescorted on the grounds of the mental hospital starting at 15 minutes at a time and working up to full days.

Li's psychiatrist told the review board last week the 45-year-old, who was an undiagnosed schizophrenic when he killed McLean, hasn't had hallucinations in more than a year.

Dr. Steven Kremer said Li has made excellent improvement and is a low risk to reoffend.

Carol DeDelley, McLean's mother, has repeatedly said Li should remain locked up for the rest of his life.

MONDAY

MAY 20, 2013

May 20 2013

OTTAWA - In a statement of defence filed in Ottawa court, the RCMP have denied they destroyed the career and reputation of their top covert-op officer by targeting him in a politically-charged probe over his role in a real estate deal to secure a front for a top-secret operation in Ottawa's east end.

In fact, the RCMP allege that Supt. Mike Gaudreau concealed his romantic relationship with the real estate agent who worked on the \$3-million lease and collected a commission on the deal.

The RCMP also claim that Gaudreau approved the lease without authority.

The RCMP claims are found in a statement of defence to a \$1.2-million statement of claim filed by Gaudreau. He says ex-commissioner William Elliott and other senior Mounties deliberately abused their office and authority by investigating false claims that he concealed his relationship with the real estate agent who collected a commission on the RCMP lease deal.

Supt. Gaudreau, who is being tried on an internal charge of disgraceful conduct under the RCMP Act, has been cleared of wrongdoing in a criminal fraud investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Gaudreau has always maintained that he in fact disclosed his relationship with his then-girlfriend, so much so that he told colleagues in advance that he would not have "any direct role in the selection of the covert facility, remaining at arm's length."

The RCMP initially wanted to keep the senior officer's disciplinary hearing secret, citing national security concerns.

But the RCMP backed down from their in-camera request a day after the Citizen published a story with Gaudreau indicating

September 20 - 22, 2013
Newmarket, Ontario

Money raised benefits:
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through his lawyer that he would fight to keep his internal-affairs hearing public, saying he has nothing to hide.

Project RAVE, inspired by the RCMP's little-known Special Entry Section, was to be headquartered in a warehouse in Ottawa's east end.

The top secret RCMP operation called for Mounties to set up a business front as a cover for their failed project.

The covert operation was shelved after a senior officer raised concerns about Gaudreau's role in the commercial real estate deal.

The allegation of misconduct has not been established by the RCMP's disciplinary board.

None of the allegations contained in the statement of claim or the statement of defence have been proved in court.

Gaudreau is on leave from the national police force, where he last served as the head of its surveillance and covert-tech unit.

The officer has more than 30 years on the job. He became the force's expert on covert operations after years in drug and organized-crime units, including three years spent undercover full-time, and living at a covert house in Montreal that also served as the undercover unit's office.

He was also the officer in charge of the RCMP's Ottawa drug section, and assistant crime-ops officer in charge of the national organized crime and border security unit.

(Ottawa Citizen)

TUESDAY MAY 21, 2013

May 21 2013

OTTAWA - Justice Minister Rob Nicholson says the government will support a private member's bill that would require people who are on parole, probation or serving conditional sentences to stay away from victims.



The legislation, introduced by British Columbia Conservative MP Mark Warawa, would prohibit paroled sexual offenders from coming within two kilometres of a victim's dwelling.

It would also require that people on parole, probation or conditional sentences not contact victims without their consent.

Nicholson says the bill will ensure that victims are not traumatized again after felons are released.

Warawa says the legislation was inspired by a troubling incident in his community.

May 21 2013

OTTAWA - A Mountie who was once part of the famed Musical Ride is suing the national police force, alleging she was sexually assaulted, harassed, repeatedly doused in cold water and dragged through horse feces by colleagues.



In a statement of claim filed in Ontario Superior Court, Staff Sgt. Caroline O'Farrell says the cruel behaviour she suffered in the 1980s left her with post-traumatic stress, led to a marriage breakdown and stunted her RCMP career.

O'Farrell, 52, says an internal investigation at the time substantiated her claims but no real action was taken.

The lawsuit says many of O'Farrell's tormentors continue to work in the RCMP today, some in senior positions.

O'Farrell, who still serves with the RCMP, is seeking millions of dollars in damages for assault, sexual assault, infliction of mental suffering, loss of income and pension entitlement, and breach of contract.

The allegations have not been proven in court and the RCMP has yet to respond to the lawsuit.

WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2013

May 22 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP says it is disappointed a former member of the Musical Ride has waited so long to sue over sexual assault and harassment she allegedly suffered in the 1980s.

In a statement of claim filed in Ontario Superior Court, Staff Sgt. Caroline O'Farrell says the cruel treatment she endured - including hazing rituals - doomed her marriage and limited her career advancement.

In the statement, O'Farrell says she was sexually assaulted, harassed, repeatedly doused in cold water and dragged through horse manure by colleagues who mercilessly targeted her.

The RCMP says it investigated the complaint at the time and, as a result, certain members involved were disciplined and the inappropriate practices were banned.

O'Farrell, 52, argues in her statement that although the internal investigation substantiated more than 100 instances of

harassment, no real action was taken by her supervisors.

She says some of the offenders received counselling and warnings, while others were not disciplined at all.

May 22 2013

MONTREAL - A man is in hospital after being shot at by Montreal police following a store robbery and chase in the city's Plateau Mont-Royal district.

Shortly after 9 p.m., a 44-year-old man robbed a store, fled in a car and was chased by police until he crashed into a utility pole.

As officers approached the vehicle on foot, the suspect apparently tried to ram the officers with the car, prompting the officers to open fire.

The suspect, who is well known to police, was wounded in the hand and abdomen, but the injuries are not considered life-threatening.

The suspect was eventually arrested after a foot chase and taken to hospital.

Quebec Provincial Police have been called in to investigate the incident.

May 22 2013

OTTAWA - A new study by the federal privacy watchdog says the government's recent bid to give police more information about Internet users would have unlocked numerous revealing personal details.

The privacy commissioner's office says the online surveillance bill was effectively a digital key to determining a someone's leanings, the people they know and where they travel.

The Conservative government abandoned the legislation following a public outcry.

The bill would have allowed police, intelligence agents and competition bureau officers access to Internet subscriber information - including name, address, telephone number, email address and Internet Protocol (IP) address - without a warrant.

Currently, release of such data held by Internet service providers is voluntary.

The study says the federal government's characterization of the information as similar to a phone-book listing grossly underestimates what can be gleaned from the data with a bit of additional effort.

May 22 2013

VANCOUVER - A plumber somehow escaped unscathed after an acetylene welding tank in his car in downtown Vancouver detonated like a bomb when he unlocked the doors early Wednesday.

"A miracle," said Vancouver fire spokesman Capt. Gabe Roder. "He just pressed (the electronic mechanism). In the process of the locks being unlocked, somewhere there was a small spark sufficient enough to ignite the gas in the vehicle."

Two men in a nearby car were injured by the 6:50 a.m. blast and taken to hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

In the aftermath, window glass had fallen

from cracked windows as high as 12 storeys above, the car's roof could be seen dangling from an electrical wire, and the top of the remains of the car were otherwise twisted and mangled by the explosive force.

Vancouverite Dale Mounzer lives a block away from the accident scene and was jogging near the intersection when everything started "flying."

His first instinct was to run, returning hours later to survey the debris.

"I looked up. It was like everything was still flying everywhere, the windows had all crashed here, the car had blown. It was just crazy. I had never seen anything like it before," Mounzer recalled.

"It looked like when you see on CNN or MSNBC, car bomb situations in Iraq or Afghanistan."

Proper storage requires the tanks be placed in a well-ventilated compartment.

Roads in the area were closed for several hours as police and firefighters investigated.

(QMI Agency)

course, able to ride. They were paid \$0.75 to \$1 a day.

The force moved gradually west and played a major role in protecting the Canadian Pacific Railway as it stretched ever-west toward the Pacific and policing the gold rush in the Klondike in the late 1800s.

It merged with the Dominion Police, which had policed eastern Canada, in 1920 to form the modern-day RCMP.

(Toronto Star)

May 23 2013

HAMILTON, Ont. - A second suspect in the death of Tim Bosma, a Hamilton father who took two men on a test drive and never returned, appeared briefly in court Thursday and was charged with first-degree murder.

Mark Smich, 25, of Oakville, Ont., was led in shackles into a Hamilton courtroom Thursday morning and turned his back to the public gallery for the duration of his appearance.

Wearing a brown t-shirt, jeans and white sneakers, the man with a shaved head also had scratches on his left cheek that were visible as he was escorted out of the courtroom.

Smich spoke only to say his name and confirm that he understood an order not to communicate with certain people.

The names of those people are under a publication ban.

Lawyer Tom Dungey said outside the courtroom that Smich will plead not guilty.

"We will be defending this case vigorously," Dungey said. He would not

answer reporters questions and asked court security to escort him out of the building.

Court records show Smich has five previous convictions in Milton, Ont., including two for drug possession in 2005 and 2006, two failures to comply in 2006 and one impaired driving conviction in 2009.

He is also facing a charge of mischief for allegedly spray-painting a highway overpass with graffiti.

Smich is being held in custody with his next court appearance on the murder charge set for June 13, the same day the other suspect in the case is to appear.

Toronto resident Dellen Millard, 27, is charged with first-degree murder as well as forcible confinement and theft of a vehicle. His lawyer has said his client will also plead not guilty.

Police allege the suspects are the two men Bosma took for a test drive in the pickup truck he was trying to sell online.

Police are still looking for at least one other person, as a dark blue GMC Yukon belonging to Millard was seen on video following Bosma's truck as he left his home on the test drive on May 6. Police have urged that person to contact investigators.

Bosma's remains were found about a week after he disappeared, burned beyond recognition at a farm belonging to Millard.

Police believe he was killed the same night he went missing, though they have not yet said if he was killed in the truck, on the farm where his remains were found, or elsewhere.

Investigators haven't disclosed a possible motive.

THURSDAY

MAY 23, 2013

May 23 2013

Google Canada is marking the 140th anniversary of the North West Mounted Police with a doodle that appeared just after midnight Thursday.



A Mountie in the iconic bright red uniform and broad-brimmed hat salutes in front of a backdrop of mountains, forest and water, into which "Google" — in red letters — is nestled.

The doodle has already drawn the attention of social media. The Twitter account for the British Columbia RCMP tweeted shortly after midnight, "Just went to use Google.ca and see a Mountie there!"

The North West Mounted Police was born through an act of the Dominion Parliament in 1873.

In those days, the Northwest Territories encompassed much of modern-day Manitoba and west across the prairies to the Rockies, where traders were flocking from the U.S., establishing wild western outposts with names like Standoff and Whoop-up.

Concerned about increasing lawlessness and violence, particularly against aboriginal people, Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, launched the paramilitary police force.

It was tasked with putting an end to liquor trafficking, gaining the respect of the "natives," collecting customs dues and acting as a police force in the Northwest Territories.

Recruiters sought men aged 18 to 40, of sound constitution, good character, and, of

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