

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

July 12, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 28

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## New top cop at Depot



leaderpost.com

July 11, 2013

**Louise Lafrance was a child of about 11 years of age attending a fair in a small Quebec community when she came face to face with her future.**

"There was a Mountie in red serge ... He looked so professional," she recalled. "I didn't know what the RCMP was, but I said one day I want to be like that man."

Had someone told her when she entered the RCMP Training Academy as a cadet in 1985 that she would return one day as its 56th commanding officer, Lafrance admitted, "I would have laughed."

Instead, she cried.

Lafrance unexpectedly became emotional during Wednesday's change of command ceremony as the RCMP ensign was transferred to her from outgoing commanding officer Roger L. Brown, now assistant commissioner of the force in New Brunswick.

"It really got to me right here, in my heart," Lafrance said. "It means the world to me to run this place."

She becomes only the second woman to hold the post — something neither she nor Canada's top Mountie dwell on.

"She's being promoted because she's very competent. She's very capable," Commissioner Bob Paulsen told reporters when asked about

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the significance of having a woman at the helm of Depot when the force is facing allegations of sexual harassment by some female Mounties. "From an organizational point of view, obviously, we benefit from having women in key roles in leadership in the organization," Paulsen added.

Lafrance, 49, credits hard work, dedication and "putting heart and soul into what you do" — the same qualities she encourages in new recruits — for her achievements.

"Just like every woman in this organization, we — the women of the RCMP — want to be recognized for what we do, not because we're women," she said.

Seated in her office overlooking Depot's parade square — hours after its pomp and pageantry — Lafrance shared some of the wit, wisdom and drive that brought her to this point in her career.

She was a reluctant trailblazer at age 19, becoming the first woman officer on a 15-member municipal police force in her hometown of Mont-Laurier, Que. She aspired to policing because she wanted a career with challenges — and she found them.

Responding to calls, she was told by some, "I will wait for a male police officer."

"I even caused a traffic accident one day," she said, explaining how a gawking motorist drove into a post while she was on traffic duty.

But the bumps on the road only gave her momentum.

"Each obstacle fed me with energy," Lafrance said. After about 18 months in municipal policing, she headed west for RCMP training at Depot. A francophone in a mostly anglophone troop, she spent her evening hours honing her English.

Her first postings were in Ontario, working various sections, on numerous international visits and on the security detail for the Governor General. Lafrance was a com-

munications officer in Ottawa when 9-11 hit, and found herself on call 24-7 fielding reporters' questions as a sense of panic overtook the world.

While some of her favourite duties were on the front lines, she kept the door and her mind open to opportunity, working on strategic planning and later recruiting at national headquarters.

Three years ago, she came to Depot as the training officer, a secondary role to the one she now holds.

She also carved out time for marriage — her husband Michael Robineau is also a Mountie — and their three children, now aged 23 to 18. The eldest, daughter Alex Ann, hopes to one day also wear red serge.

Her mother has no qualms about that choice. "I do believe we have evolved. We have made our mistakes. And we can't change the past. However, we're in charge of the future," Lafrance said.

And she welcomes the opportunity to shape that future in her new role.

(Regina Leader-Post)



**SASKATOON - A Saskatoon police officer on bike patrol has minor injuries after being hit by a driver who was allegedly using a cellphone while behind the wheel.**

Saskatoon police say the officer saw a man driving while using his phone today and tried to get the man's attention.

The officer pursued the vehicle on his bicycle for about a block and half before being hit when the vehicle made a right hand turn into an alley.

The 34-year-old driver, whose name was not released, was issued one ticket for driving without due care and attention and another for using an electronic communications device while driving.

Jul 04 2013

**PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - British Columbia's coroner's service will hold a public inquest into the death of Gregory Matters, a former Canadian peacekeeper shot in a confrontation with Mounties.**

The 40-year-old was killed in September 2012 at the rural property he shared with his mother near Prince George, B.C.

A report released last May by B.C.'s Independent Investigation Office ruled that there was no criminal wrongdoing by RCMP officers when they shot Matters.

The report said Matters was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and when he came at officers with a hatchet, police fired

two bullets into his chest.

The inquest will be held from Oct. 7 to 11 at the Prince George courthouse.

Jul 04 2013

**VANCOUVER - A British Columbia woman's dream of meeting a Mountie dressed in formal uniform has come true - 78 years after she first laid eyes on an RCMP officer in Red Serge in her native Scotland.**



globalnews.ca

Jenny Stewart, 88, shared her secret wish with staff members at the hospice where she lives in Port Alberni, and before she knew it a Mountie showed up to visit her.

Stewart first saw a Mountie at the British Empire Exhibition in Glasgow as a 10-year-old girl while she was on a school field trip from the village of Crosshouse, an hour's train ride away.

"It was all beautiful red apples," she said of the Canadian exhibit. "But at the top stood somebody in red and it was a Mountie. I was absolutely taken by this Mountie and I said to my friend, 'Maybe some day I can go to Canada and I can see a real Mountie again.'"

In 1946, Stewart became a war bride when she married a Canadian soldier and sailed to Halifax six months later aboard the RMS Aquitania to join her husband.

The couple lived in Saskatoon before moving to B.C. in 1958.

Walter Stewart died in the 1970s, and it wasn't until this week that the woman met another man of her dreams - in the form of RCMP Cst. Scott MacLeod.

"I just have always admired the Mounties," she said. "I just don't know why."

Stewart said she was tickled pink to meet the Mountie because she's loved those men in red for so long.

"He was a really nice fellow," she said of MacLeod, who'd heard about Stewart's love of dogs and brought along pictures of his golden retriever.

It's the first dog Stewart and her husband bred in Port Alberni after setting up a kennel in the Vancouver Island community, where she also owned a Canadian champion shih tzu.

MacLeod said Gail Koehle, the kitchen supervisor at the hospice, attends the same church as him and asked if he'd make a special visit to see Stewart, who has lived at the hospice for a year and a half while most residents spend a couple of months there.

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MacLeod showed up on his way to his son's graduation ceremony, for which he'd dressed in full uniform because he'd be on duty.

"I spent an hour with her and because my family's from Scotland we had a chance to talk about where she was from, and we had tea," he said.

The hospice had also arranged for folk singers in town from Virginia to perform a private concert of Scottish tunes during the special occasion.

"It sort of reminded me of that movie 'The Bucket List' and knowing someone who's going through a painful moment in their life, just to give them a spark that somebody cares," MacLeod said.

"I don't know how long she has to live, frankly, but she was a joyful lady."

Koehle said the entire staff was thrilled to see Stewart in her glory as she wore MacLeod's hat with pride.

"This was an important thing for Jenny," Koehle said, adding Stewart was starry-eyed just to be in the same room with the Mountie.

"It wasn't something she asked for but we thought, 'Wouldn't it be great for him to come and we can look at the two of them?' She's just a tiny little lady and he's a big Mountie. It was a beautiful sight."

Koehle said Stewart worked hard to raise four children as a young widow who had to get a job as a homemaker in private homes. She now has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Jul 04 2013

### **WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg judge isn't buying a man's bid to escape conviction on robbery and assault charges by claiming it was part of a scheme to have police kill him.**

Justice Richard Saull said John Charlette, 29, may have wanted to die when he found himself confronted by two Winnipeg police officers in a dark alley after a botched robbery.

But Saull said Charlette's testimony showed he only made up his "suicide by cop" defence after he got caught.

Saull found Charlette guilty on six of the eight charges he faced: robbery, two counts of assaulting police, two counts of assault with a weapon, and possession of a weapon.

He will be sentenced at a later date.

Charlette was shot twice by police officers in a dark alley in the early hours of July 21, 2011, after a botched robbery of a taxi driver. (Winnipeg Free Press)

Jul 04 2013

### **CALGARY - Three Medicine Hat police officers are facing a charge of aggravated assault relating to the arrest of a suspect in 2012.**

Cst. Robert Angstadt, Cst. David Hrycyk and Cst. Marc Seiller were charged on Thursday following a months-long investigation.

According to Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, the officers were called to a business on Aug. 25, 2012, for a complaint of an assault.

A 34-year-old man was arrested and, while being taken into custody, suffered serious injuries that required surgery.

All three officers remain on duty but have been re-assigned.

Angstadt has been with the Medicine Hat Police Service for five years while Hrycyk has seven years of service and Seiller eight.

The officers are scheduled to make their first court appearance on July 30.

(QMI Agency)



### **TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has cleared a Toronto officer after a man was shot in the ankle during a police raid this spring.**

The Special Investigations Unit says it appears the 23-year-old man accidentally shot himself with the officer's gun while trying to fend off police.

The SIU says police had a warrant to search the apartment for firearms just before midnight on April 24 and the authority to temporarily detain the occupants.

It says the Toronto police emergency task force broke down the door and called for the occupants to leave before going inside and removing those who stayed inside.

The agency says the man seemed asleep and didn't respond to officers' commands, then "put up a significant amount of resistance when he was woken up," prompting them to Taser him.

The SIU says the officer switched the safety toggle on his machine-gun to the "off" position and had it dangling from a sling on his chest when he approached the man, who then grabbed it.

"At that point, the weapon discharged, with a projectile striking the complainant in the left ankle," the agency said.

Forensic tests later found the man's blood on the flashlight attached to the gun, it said.

Jul 05 2013

### **VANCOUVER - The B.C. government says a lawsuit launched by family members of Robert Pickton's victims can't target prosecutors because they didn't pursue attempted murder charges against the serial killer back in 1997.**

The families of four women whose remains or DNA were found on Pickton's farm filed separate lawsuits in May, targeting the provincial and federal governments and Pickton himself.

More than a dozen women disappeared from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside in the years after prosecutors stayed charges against Pickton when a sex worker claimed he almost killed her at his farm.

The province has filed four applications in B.C. Supreme Court asking that any references to Crown counsel and B.C.'s criminal justice branch be removed from the statements of claim.

The notices of application say Crown lawyers are immune from most claims of negligence, pointing to several cases in which courts have thrown out lawsuits filed by people who claimed they were wrongly prosecuted.

The province also argues the Crown had no responsibility to warn sex workers that a potential serial killer may have been targeting sex workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Jul 05 2013

### **OTTAWA - The head of the RCMP is asking for an investigation into the seizure of firearms from homes evacuated during the Alberta floods last month.**

Commissioner Bob Paulson has written to the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP, asking the agency to look into the matter.

The Mounties have said they took the weapons as officers searched homes in the High River flood zone to look for flood victims, pets and anything that might pose a threat to returning residents.

They said any firearms they took weren't properly stored.

The Prime Minister's Office condemned the seizures, saying the RCMP should have been focused on protecting lives and property.

Paulson says he is troubled by the criticism that erupted after the seizures and wants the commission to decide whether the actions were reasonable and followed policy.

Jul 05 2013

### **OTTAWA - The province's police watchdog says the shooting of a knife-wielding man by an Ottawa police officer was justified.**

The Special Investigations Unit says a 20-year-old man left his home following a family dispute on June 4 and walked into traffic, jumping onto the hood of a car carrying three people and kicking in its windshield.

The agency says the man then went back inside his residence and was back on the street with a butcher knife when the officer arrived.

It says the male officer repeatedly ordered the man to get on the ground, and fired two shots when the suspect advanced to within roughly three metres of him.

The SIU says the officer was legitimately in fear of immediate harm or death and that the gunfire was justified.

**VANCOUVER - The 34-year-old man suspected of opening fire on two pedestrians in Vancouver before turning the weapon on himself has died.**

Vancouver police say they have no idea why the man suddenly jumped from a car on the city's Main Street late Thursday night and began shooting.

One person was grazed by a bullet, a second pedestrian targeted nearby wasn't hurt, and police say the victims of what appears to be a random attack have no relationship to the gunman or to each other.

Police say officers found the Vancouver man critically injured from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, and the man was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead Friday.

Police say the suspect, who hasn't been named, is known to police, but they couldn't say if he had a criminal record.

They say the investigation continues and officers hope to determine what led to the shooting.

(The Canadian Press/CKNW)



Jul 06 2013

**REGINA - A police chase involving stolen vehicles and a moving train has resulted in the arrest of four people in Regina.**

The saga began early Friday morning when officers spotted two white trucks they thought had been involved in recent break-and-enters.

They tried to pull the trucks over but the drivers managed to elude police. One of the trucks, which had been stolen from a construction company, was found on rail tracks a short time later.

An officer spotted one of the suspects on a moving train and managed to get it to stop.

Two people on the train were then arrested.

The other truck, stolen from a different construction company, was later found and two other people were arrested at the scene.

(CJME)



Jul 08 2013

**PORT MOODY, B.C. - Allegations of excessive force by a Port Moody, B.C., police officer are being investigated by the department after a video of an arrest surfaced.**

The 18-second clip posted on the Internet shows the officer reaching around a man's

neck and throwing him to the ground.

The officer, who was not identified by the department, was responding alongside other officers to a 911 call from staff at Port Moody's Golden Spike pub.

Police say a man and a woman had been kicked out of the pub after assaulting and threatening employees and were still yelling obscenities at staff from outside the pub when the officers arrived.

Police allege the 30-year-old man from Coquitlam remained unco-operative after being arrested, and despite multiple warnings was taken to the ground.

Both he and the woman were then taken to cells and released when sober.



Jul 09 2013

**LIVERPOOL, N.S. - The RCMP say a 40-year-old man has died in custody in Nova Scotia.**

The Mounties were called Monday at around 11:15 p.m. to a report of an intoxicated man on Riverhead Road in Port Mouton along the province's South Shore.

Officers found the man laying on the ground, and paramedics came to the scene and assessed him before he was taken to a police cell in Liverpool.

Shortly before 2 a.m. today, paramedics were called to the RCMP detachment in Liverpool after the man was found unresponsive in his cell but they were unable to revive him.

He was taken to the Queens General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

An autopsy is being conducted to determine the cause of death, and the matter has been referred to the Nova Scotia Serious Incident Response Team.

Ron MacDonald, the team's director, says the investigation will look at RCMP policies for checking on inmates and how those policies were applied in this case.

Jul 09 2013

**VERNON, B.C. - Some arrests take diligent police work and hours of painstaking investigation, but an RCMP officer in Vernon, B.C., is boasting about a collar that was practically phoned in.**

The Mountie was watching as a 48-year-old woman walked into the detachment in the North Okanagan city to pick up some paperwork related to a prior drug charge.

A closer look determined she was carrying a cellphone in her back pocket, which is a breach of her court-ordered conditions.

Not surprisingly, she was arrested.

That's when a further search turned up five pre-packed bags of cocaine.

The confiscated phone rang several times

as customers tried to place orders for the drugs, but there's no word if officers were taking messages.

(CKIZ)

Jul 09 2013

**SURREY, B.C. - The lawyer for one of two people accused in a British Columbia terror plot says Mounties used a so-called Mr. Big undercover operation in the arrest of his client.**

Tom Morino made the statement outside B.C. Supreme Court after 38-year-old John Nuttall, and Nuttall's girlfriend Amanda Korody made a brief appearance.

Morino, who knew few details about the police undercover operation, says he'll be going through disclosure information and asking for a delay when the two return to court tomorrow.

Nuttall and Korody looked dishevelled as they appeared in court this morning, but Korody smiled when she saw her boyfriend.

Morino says the pair have been detained in different institutions and are being kept in segregation for their own safety.

They were arrested last week and charged with plotting to bomb the B.C. legislature with homemade explosive devices during Canada Day celebrations.

Jul 09 2013

**RCMP are launching provincewide aircraft patrols over major Alberta highways this summer to put the brakes on speeders and erratic drivers.**

New signs are warning motorists their speed may be monitored by police aircraft and lines have been painted on the roads to enable officers in the sky to calculate the speed of vehicles, RCMP and Alberta Transportation officials confirmed Monday.

"We want people to realize that we do expect them to obey the rules of the road in the name of safety," Solicitor General Jonathan Denis said Monday in Calgary. "We want people to be aware that we are very serious about this."

The first patrols could begin later this month, said K Division traffic superintendent Howard Eaton.

"It just gives us another tool in the tool box," said Eaton. "Having people worry about maybe having an aircraft in the air will hopefully keep them slowed down."

He said 25 sheriffs and RCMP officers are being trained to do the work from a helicopter.

"Is it cost effective? If we doing it full-time, it probably wouldn't be ... but to do it once in a while and have people worry about the fact it might be up there at any given time, it's worth its value that way."

First launched in Alberta in 1968, aircraft surveillance has been used off and on over the decades, but its provincewide use was suspended in the early 1980s, said Transportation

spokesman Parker Hogan.

It was resumed briefly in the late '80s with RCMP using private aircraft, but it was deemed too costly and eventually stopped, he said.

RCMP brought it back in a limited fashion in 2009, enlisting aircraft to catch speeders on the TransCanada Highway between Calgary and the B.C. boundary.

K Division spokeswoman Sgt. Jose Valiquette said the aircraft will carry specially-trained officers who will use a stopwatch to time the travel of vehicles between a set of lines painted on the highway.

Descriptions of speeding vehicles will be radioed to police officers in marked patrol cars, who will pull them over and issue tickets, she said.

Valiquette said RCMP can also monitor other driving infractions from the sky. (Calgary Herald)

Jul 09 2013

**OTTAWA - A new study says international alliances are key to protecting countries - including Canada - from cyberattacks.**

The federally commissioned study found that efforts to safeguard the digital realm have a growing military dimension that might culminate in a global cyber-treaty.

The research, prepared for Public Safety Canada by Ryerson University's Privacy and Cyber Crime Institute, was released under the Access to Information Act.

It says Canada's international partners have turned their focus from the prevention of cybercrime like financial fraud to the protection of key national infrastructure, such as electrical grids and water systems.

In order to co-operate effectively with its allies, the study concludes, Canada must also focus on protecting crucial facilities.

It points out there is now heated international discussion about the need for a global treaty that would prevent rival powers from going to war in cyberspace.

Jul 09 2013

**LANGLEY, B.C. - RCMP say a driver who did a sudden U-turn and was hit by a motorcyclist caused more problems for himself by switching seats with a passenger before taking off and hiding in some bushes.**

Cpl. Holly Marks says that after the car was struck, the seat switch was seen by a reliable witness - an off-duty Vancouver police officer who followed the vehicle and watched as the driver fled.

Mounties found the driver and ticketed him for failing to remain at the scene of a collision, driving without a licence and driving without due care and attention.

Marks says the motorcyclist who couldn't avoid the collision lost control and ended up on his back.

His vehicle sustained a significant amount of damage.

Langley RCMP Insp. Rob de Boersap says he's grateful for the off-duty officer's help.

Jul 09 2013

**EDMONTON - While heavy equipment owners don't necessarily have to put a butterfly above their machines' exhausts, Edmonton police are recommending that they tattoo their vehicles in order to deter would-be thieves.**

The "Tattoo Your Equipment" campaign urges owners to use bright, easily identifiable symbols or words on their machines to curb theft.

"We're just asking that people go the extra step and maybe put something in marker that can't be removed quite as easily," EPS Acting Sgt. Trevor Henderson said Tuesday.

Henderson said West Division alone receives 10 to 12 theft reports per month, and that even vehicles as large as excavators are being stolen.

"They'll be wearing all the things you'd see at a construction site: reflective vests, helmets," he said about the criminals. "They'll come in and they'll be driving off with your loader without you even asking them a question."

Henderson said that tattoos are only part of the anti-theft solution. Simple things such as parking the equipment in a fenced-off area will help, as well.

"Bad guys are lazy. They're not going to go the extra step," he said.

Bright-coloured and ultraviolet heavy duty markers will be available for heavy equipment owners free of charge at all five division stations starting Friday.

(Metro Edmonton)



Jul 10 2013

**VANCOUVER -- It's not quite the Batmobile, but Vancouver's police force will look just as good as Batman when their existing fleet of patrol cruisers is phased out and replaced by Dodge Charger Enforcers beginning this year. Fleet manager Rob Rothwell unveiled the first of the new patrol cars Wednesday.**



Vancouver police currently drive a fleet of 176 Ford Crown Victoria Interceptors, a model that was discontinued by Ford earlier this year. They will all eventually be replaced by the Charger Enforcers, which have 3.6-litre engines and will reduce fuel consumption by about 25 per cent.

Patrol fleet emissions are expected to be reduced by 660 tonnes per year, a 32 per cent reduction, when the fleet replacement is completed in 2017.

The new cruisers, 61 of which will be on the roads by the end of this year, will feature redesigned exterior markings and a new "rumbler" siren, which projects a deep baritone burst. (Postmedia News)

Jul 10 2013

**EDMONTON - Two Edmonton men have been charged with kidnapping after a man alleges he was abducted during a meeting about selling his car.**

Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer police were all involved in the case, which began when the complainant met in Edmonton with two individuals interested in buying his vehicle.

The vehicle had been advertised for sale via an online website.

The complainant alleges he was then forced into his vehicle and driven to Calgary under threats to his life, before his abductors picked up a third accomplice.

The man says he was forced into the trunk of his vehicle but was able to get out and flee his captors.

Calgary police were able to locate the vehicle and chased it until it ran over a spike belt and the suspects were arrested by members of the Red Deer RCMP.

Police are still looking for a third suspect.

Earlier this year, Tim Bosma of Hamilton, Ont., was killed after taking two men for a test drive in the pickup truck he was selling.

Jul 10 2013

**HALIFAX - An independent commission says the RCMP acted reasonably in dealing with the case of a Nova Scotia woman who tried to hire a hit man to kill her allegedly abusive husband, saying the force had no reasonable grounds to believe Nicole Doucet was a battered wife.**

The report released today concludes the Mounties did not fail to protect Doucet and raises questions about the woman's credibility.

However, the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP also stresses its mandate was not to determine whether any abuse actually occurred.

Doucet was arrested in 2008 when she tried to hire an undercover Mountie to kill Michael Ryan.

She accused him in court of threatening to kill her and her daughter, which Ryan denies.

Doucet was acquitted in 2010 of counselling



to commit murder and the Supreme Court of Canada ordered a stay of proceedings against her in January.

The commanding officer for the RCMP in Nova Scotia says an internal review confirmed the Mounties did not receive a multitude of complaints from Doucet about domestic violence.

Assistant commissioner Alphonse MacNeil says officers acted appropriately and professionally.

Jul 10 2013

**Provincial police have been in talks with the Quebec Bureau of of Public Prosecution, a lead official said Wednesday morning, in the clearest signal yet that the Sûreté du Québec believes there is enough ground for criminal charges in connection with the Lac-Mégantic train disaster.**

SQ Inspector Michel Forget made the comments while confirming that the tally of people who are dead or missing stands at 60.

The decision to press charges has to be made by a Crown attorney, based on evidence collected by police.

No prosecutor has been assigned to the file but Insp. Forget said the SQ has been discussing the matter with the office of Claude Lachapelle, Quebec's deputy attorney-general and head of the bureau of public and criminal prosecution.

"That's their decision and we spoke yesterday about different areas where they could lay charges," he said.

Insp. Forget previously said any charges would be related to criminal-negligence offences.

Quebec police said Tuesday that 15 bodies have so far been recovered from Lac Mégantic's ruined downtown core and another 35 people remain unaccounted for. Police allowed 1,200 residents who were previously evacuated from the blast area to return home, while another 800 must stay away.

Jul 10 2013

**VANCOUVER - An investigation into two Transit Police officers initially charged with assault has led to further charges against the pair in connection with an incident at a SkyTrain station in Vancouver.**

Transit Police spokeswoman Anne Drennan says Constables Bruce Shipley and Alfred Wong are now charged with public mischief, breach of trust and fabrication of evidence.

The charges follow a criminal investigation by the Vancouver Police Department.

Drennan says new information led to more charges related to the pair's alleged action in February 2012.

Shipley and Wong have been on administrative duties since they were first charged last August.

Jul 10 2013

**PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - The police chief of Prince Albert in northern Saskatchewan says a man who died after**

**a shooting involving police was armed.**

Chief Troy Copper says two officers were responding to related calls on Tuesday night about people fighting and a woman being assaulted.

Copper says the officers were confronted by a 27-year-old man holding a knife.

The man, whose name has not been released, was taken to hospital where he died.

The chief says the officers are on days off and their status will be evaluated.

There will also be a further investigation into what happened. (CKBI)

Jul 10 2013

**HALIFAX - A review of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service has found there were several factors that contributed to the delay in bringing Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh to stand trial on 43 child sex abuse charges.**

The report says the Crown attorney failed to follow up promptly as the case moved along due to the volume of other charges he was handling in court daily.

It also cites the time it took India to extradite MacIntosh to Canada as another reason why it took prosecutors a long time to get MacIntosh's case before the court.

Allegations that MacIntosh sexually abused children first surfaced in 1995, but he wasn't brought back to Canada until 2007, a year after Ottawa formally asked India to extradite him.

Nova Scotia Justice Minister Ross Landry,

who released the report today, issued a statement apologizing to the sex abuse complainants.

The review by the Public Prosecution Service was ordered after the Supreme Court of Canada upheld a lower court's decision to quash 17 sexual convictions against MacIntosh dating back to the 1970s, saying the Crown took too long to bring the accused sex offender to trial.

Jul 11 2013

**TORONTO - Border officials at Toronto's Pearson airport have seized more than 10 kilograms of suspected heroin stuffed inside a sport bag they say arrived on a flight from Pakistan.**

Canada Border Services Agency says officers spotted a suspicious box July 2 while checking shipments as they were unloaded from the plane.

They say inside the cardboard box was a blue sports bag holding four small packages carefully wrapped with brown packing tape.

The agency says preliminary testing indicates the substance in the packages is likely heroin, and will now be sent off for further testing.

The investigation has been handed over to Peel police. There's no word yet on any suspects.

Regional director Goran Vragovic says the narcotic seizure is the second big drug bust at the airport in the last few weeks.



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