

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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## Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Toronto Chief defends O'Connor appointment



Aug 14 2013

**TORONTO** - Toronto's police chief is defending his choice of a retired judge to assist in an internal review of the force following the death of an 18-year-old.

Bill Blair announced on Monday that Dennis O'Connor would help him in a review of police use of force in dealing with emotionally disturbed people.

Blair revealed Wednesday that the law firm O'Connor is with - Borden Ladner Gervais - has acted for the insurers of the Toronto Police Service in civil suits.

Blair said he and O'Connor are satisfied that his association with BLG will not impair his ability to give sound advice on the matters under review.

The chief also stressed that he hasn't asked O'Connor to investigate or make factual findings about past incidents, but to

review Toronto police policies, procedures, and training.

Blair called for the review following the death last month of Sammy Yatim, who was shot and Tasered by police on an empty streetcar.

A review by the chief of police is mandated under the Police Services Act in Yatim's death because the Special Investigations Unit is involved.

Const. James Forcillo has been suspended and the Toronto Police Association president has urged the public not to jump to conclusions.

Following Yatim's death, Blair said he understood the public had many questions about police conduct.

"I recognize that there is a need for answers and that the public quite rightfully expects that the matter will be thoroughly investigated. I want to assure you all that this will be done,"

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he said at the time.

“The public also has a right to demand that the Toronto Police Service examine the conduct of its officers to ensure that its training and procedures are both appropriate and followed. This will be done.”

Blair said Monday that O’Connor’s review will look beyond his case, and will include an international review of established best practices.

O’Connor presided over the inquiries into Ontario’s Walkerton water tragedy and the rendition and torture of Maher Arar.

He also sat on the Ontario Court of Appeal from 1998 until last year and served as the province’s associate chief justice for more than a decade.

Ontario’s ombudsman has also launched an investigation, probing what kind of direction the provincial government provides to police for defusing conflict situations.

Andre Marin has said Yatim’s shooting raises the question of whether it’s time for Ontario to have consistent and uniform guidelines on how police should de-escalate situations before they lead to the use of force.

Many coroner’s inquests into similar deaths over the past 20 years have made recommendations that are almost “carbon copied from each other,” he said, such as increasing police training.

A coroner’s inquest into similar police-related deaths will also get underway this fall.

### men in Alberta and Ontario.

National Chief Shawn Atleo says the shootings that left one man dead and two in critical condition must be subject to independent, impartial investigations.

Last weekend Lance Cutarm died while his brother, Larron Cutarm suffered chest wounds after they were shot by a Mountie during a traffic stop southwest of Edmonton.

In Ontario a member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nations was shot by police in an exchange of gunfire.

The shootings are under investigation by government agencies in both provinces.

Atleo says police should only use such force as a last resort.

Aug 08 2013

### HALIFAX - Two Halifax teens face child pornography charges in the case of Rehtaeh Parsons, the 17-year-old Halifax girl who was taken off life-support following a suicide attempt in April.

Her family says she was bullied for months after a digital photo of her allegedly being sexually assaulted was passed around her school.

Police say one 18-year-old man faces two counts of distributing child pornography, while another 18-year-old man faces charges of making and distributing child pornography.

The RCMP said earlier this year that they looked into the allegations of sexual assault and an inappropriate photo but concluded there were no grounds to lay charges.

They later reopened their investigation, saying they received new information.

Aug 08 2013

### MONTREAL - For many of the non-aboriginal police officers who patrol Canada’s reserves, their first meaningful encounter with First Nations culture comes when they’re wearing a badge and a gun.

It’s a fact that can strain the relationship between police and aboriginal communities. This hasn’t traditionally been a problem in Quebec, where the vast majority of reserves are staffed with aboriginal police forces.

But residents of one Quebec First Nation say they don’t want an outside police force in their town any more after an alleged incident of police brutality was caught on tape.

The video captured what appears to be two Sûreté du Québec officers beating an Innu man in the streets of the remote Unamen Shipu territory. In the shaky footage, one officer pelts the man with baton strikes as he lies on his back squirming. The other police officer has her knee on the suspect’s stomach and appears to punch him in the face repeatedly.

Since July, when it was shot, the video has gone viral, prompting an internal investigation. The SQ confirmed Tuesday that the probe could lead to sanctions or even criminal charges against the officers allegedly involved in the beating.

However, leaders within the community say that won’t be enough.

“At its core, the problem is that the SQ doesn’t really understand much, if anything, about this community,” said Raymond Bellefleur, the grand chief of Unamen Shipu. “Police come here and they can’t speak the Montagnais language and they never stay for more than a week. How can you effectively patrol a place you know nothing about?”

The SQ has been in Unamen Shipu since 2008, when the reserve’s local police force was disbanded due to budgetary constraints. Though provincial police maintain a year-round presence in the North Shore village, none of the officers are permanently stationed there.

“We rotate people in and out, some of our people have been in the territory many times but nobody stays long-term,” said SQ Sgt. Nathalie Girard. “The staff is constantly changing.”

Because officers have to be flown onto the reserve, they usually work for seven to 10 consecutive days before returning to their permanent posting in another region. The short-term nature of their presence in town doesn’t give the officers much time to build a relationship with the 1,000 Innu who live in Unamen Shipu, according to Bellefleur.

Before serving as grand chief, Bellefleur was a police officer on the reserve’s aboriginal force for 17 years. He acknowledges that the job came with a number of challenges because the reserve’s population is disproportionately young and impoverished. But Bellefleur says his force did a more thorough job than the SQ is doing.

“Let’s say there was a fight somewhere in town, just by hearing the voice on the call I could tell you exactly where it was and I’d be there in a minute,” he said. “Whereas with the SQ, they have to deal with calls coming from people who only speak Innu. I’ve tried making a compromise, you know, suggesting that the police at least hire a dispatcher that can speak Innu but I haven’t heard back from (police) yet.”

The SQ’s strategy in Unamen Shipu contrasts with the methods of the Ontario Provincial Police. Officers stationed in remote communities in that province must spend up to six years at their post before being transferred. OPP cops are also given courses on aboriginal culture and the police force has a program designed to recruit from Ontario’s First Nations.

“If we can have people in a community that are from that community then it makes for the best possible situation,” said Jim Christie, president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association. “To a lot of officers who come from say Toronto, the north is Muskoka. It’s cottage country just a few hours away. So try 20 hours and a plane ride, it’s a shock. So we make an effort to include aboriginal police and to sensitize non-aboriginal police to their



Aug 08 2013

### OTTAWA - The leader of the Assembly of First Nations is speaking out about recent police shootings involving aboriginal

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new environment.”

Christie says the conditions non-aboriginal police face while living on reserve can be extremely trying.

“There’s a bit of a fishbowl effect. You’re one of maybe two or three officers in town and you’re living in a home that’s often much nicer than the other houses on the reservation so you’re very visible,” Christie said. “And on a human level, you’re seeing a lot of poverty and that’s tough to watch.”

Because there are so few cops on the reserve, Christie says OPP officers will often carry their radios with them when they’re at home or during a day off. For a lot of those police, it becomes as though they’re always on the job, as though they always have to be hyper-aware.

“The last thing you want to do is leave a fellow officer alone, so it’s tough to settle down,” Christie said. “But I hate to make it seem like it’s all bad. A lot of our members go (north) planning on staying for just a few years and they spend their entire careers. They raise families in the north.”

It’s unclear if the SQ offers its officers any kind of aboriginal culture courses before serving on a reserve since the department only polices six of Quebec’s 30 First Nations. However, officers trained at Quebec’s national police school in Nicolet do undergo extensive sensitivity training.

“At the end of the day ... it’s hard to deny there’s a language barrier, a cultural barrier and racial profiling,” Bellefleur said. “To me the best way to solve that is to reinstate an aboriginal police force.”

(Montreal Gazette)



Aug 09 2013

**MIRAMICHI, N.B. - Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the federal government will review whether it needs to play a role in how exotic pet stores are regulated following the deaths of two boys who were killed by a snake.**



Harper made his comments in Miramichi, N.B., today, just as zoo staff seized 23 reptiles and euthanized four alligators that belonged to Reptile Ocean in Campbellton, N.B.

An African rock python killed two children in

an apartment above the pet store earlier this week.

Environment Canada says that 11 years ago, it delivered the python to the store at the centre of the tragedy.

This happened even though the species was banned in the province without a special permit.

Environment Canada spokesman Mark Johnson says the federal department was enlisted to help transport the snake to Reptile Ocean after it was abandoned at the SPCA in Moncton, N.B.

Johnson says department records indicate Reptile Ocean was operating as a zoo when the snake arrived at the facility in August 2002.

New Brunswick’s Department of Natural Resources says only accredited zoos can apply for a permit to own a banned species, including the African rock python in question.

Canada’s Accredited Zoos and Aquariums says it is the only recognized national body to accredit zoos in the country and it has no record of Reptile Ocean ever applying for accreditation.

The Natural Resources Department won’t say whether Reptile Ocean was issued a permit for the python.

But it has said it was unaware the 45-kilogram snake even existed until four-year-old Noah Barthe and his six-year-old brother Connor were asphyxiated this week by the reptile.

Aug 09 2013

**CALGARY - Investigators say a Calgary police officer was justified in fatally shooting a man two years ago who brandished a screwdriver during a chase.**

Jonathan Rawlings, 36, was shot four times on Aug. 11, 2011.

Police had been trying to stop two stolen trucks and Rawlings was pursued into a Calgary neighbourhood on foot.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team said it is satisfied that the use of lethal force was justified.

At the time of the shooting police said Rawlings had been arrested in 2010 on drug and weapons charges.

Calgary’s police chief also backed the actions of his officer, who was an experienced member of the tactical team.

Aug 09 2013

**An RCMP officer from Cranbrook accused of shooting into a car following a carjacking complaint last fall is now facing charges.**

B.C. prosecutors have charged Constable Richard Drought with intentionally discharging a firearm into a motor vehicle and reckless use of a firearm.

The shooting followed a carjacking near Creston in October, 2012.

The officer fired his gun after a police chase of the suspects ended in a dead-end road.

A man and a 17-year-old girl were in the

vehicle and both were arrested.

The man received non-life threatening injuries and the woman was not injured.

Constable Drought will be in court next month and is currently on administrative leave. (CTV News)

Aug 09 2013

**MONTREAL - The discovery of 447 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated \$47 million inside cans of tomato paste in a Montreal delivery van in 1993 resulted in the third-largest drug seizure in RCMP history at the time.**

Five years later, the name of one of the three men who was arrested and convicted in the headline-grabbing case appeared to pass imperceptibly at the highest echelons of the Montreal Police department and the Montreal Urban Community when his wife signed a 10-year lease in 1998 to rent the police a building at 6665 Papineau Ave. to serve as a neighbourhood station.

The name of Vincenzo Murdocco, who was sentenced to 12 years in prison in the tomato-can cocaine bust, appeared on a power of attorney document that accompanied the police lease and was part of the civil service file that travelled up the chain for approvals within the Montreal Police force and the MUC. The city of Montreal’s archives retrieved the warehoused file at The Gazette’s request late this week.

The document, signed by building owner Natale Armeni, granted his daughter power of attorney to sign the lease with the MUC and the Montreal police force on his behalf. The affidavit identified Murdocco as his daughter’s husband and provided such personal details as the couple’s home address.

That makes Murdocco the second convicted drug trafficker to be associated with the Montreal police’s 15-year rental of the Papineau building to surface this week.

A memo in the 1998 MUC file indicates a copy of the lease was sent to the then-outgoing Montreal police chief, Jacques Duchesneau, the then-director of finance for the MUC, Michel Bélanger, and Jacqueline Leduc, the director of the MUC’s legal department, after it was approved by the MUC council.

A Gazette report on Thursday revealed the Papineau building has housed the Éclipse anti-gang squad since 2008 after initially serving as Station 35 East.

By the time the Montreal police renewed the lease for five years in 2008, Natale Armeni had already ceded the building to Armeni Family Trust, headed by convicted drug trafficker Vincenzo Armeni — who has ties to the Mafia and had at that point been sentenced to 19 years in prison for his latest conviction — and his wife.

Vincenzo Armeni’s wife represented the family trust in signing the lease renewal with the police and the city of Montreal, which replaced the defunct MUC in overseeing the

police department.

Montreal police Commander Ian Lafrenière said this week that the department didn't do background checks on owners of buildings where the department rented space in 1998, when the Papineau lease was signed.

And while the police force began doing background checks on all new leases in 2006, it only began investigating the owners of buildings on lease renewals in 2010, he said. That explains why there was no background check on the owners of the Papineau building in 1998 or when the lease was renewed in 2008, Lafrenière said.

The Montreal police force learned of the landlord's record in 2010 and doesn't plan to renew the lease when it expires in October, he added.

The 1998 MUC file on the lease and the city's 2008 lease-renewal file offer no indication whether anyone recognized the names of either drug trafficker at either moment.

Meanwhile, the 1998 file lays out how the Montreal Police wound up signing a lease for the Papineau building.

The MUC said it was cancelling a lease signed six months earlier for the police station to be housed at 5650 Iberville St. because the building owner had failed to obtain a municipal zoning change for the building, a report by the MUC's real-estate division said at the time. The zoning change was a condition of the lease, it said.

"So the real-estate division started the rental process again," the report said.

The division received just one proposal — the Papineau building — which met the police department's needs, the report said.

The lease on the Papineau building was worth \$1.3 million over 10 years.

However, the police didn't vacate the Iberville building after signing the lease on the Papineau building. The department maintained offices in both buildings.

Meanwhile, Montreal police deemed the Papineau building was no longer needed to serve as a police station in 2008 when the lease came up for renewal. The department decided to transform the building into administrative offices for the Éclipse squad.

(Montreal Gazette)

Aug 09 2013

**CALGARY - As police grapple with the growing problem of cyberbullying, they are "overwhelmed" by the quantity and complexity of computer-related crime,**



### **says the head of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police.**

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht said law enforcement agencies need more resources from government to deal with crimes that relate to the Internet — everything from cyberbullying and online child exploitation to the use of the Internet to facilitate theft and assault.

"We are overwhelmed," he said in an interview Friday. "You just see the crime that is facilitated through technology and the Internet is exploding for us and we need to catch up."

The issue of cyberbullying has sparked a national debate after a series of high-profile cases, including the suicide of B.C. teen Amanda Todd last fall after years of online harassment.

Just this week, Nova Scotia put into force its new Cyber Safety Act and child pornography charges were laid against two males in relation to the case of Rehtaeh Parsons, who killed herself earlier this year after what her family says were months of cyberbullying following a sexual assault.

Knecht said he's interested in the Nova Scotia law — which allows individuals bullied online to sue or seek a protection order against those responsible — but acknowledges that cracking down on the problem puts a strain on resources.

"We have to go online and we have to retrieve all the emails and maybe the Facebook page, and we need a warrant to do that," he said.

"A bullying investigation 20 years ago took, I would say, anywhere from a half-hour to an hour. A bullying investigation today for the police is, I'm going to say, probably 30 hours of investigation minimum. That whole dynamic has changed."

Police have made child exploitation a priority when it comes to cybercrime. In the year ending March 31, 2012, the joint Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) unit — which covers computer crimes relating to child pornography, luring, voyeurism and the child sex trade — investigated 484 new cases and charged 125 people. That was up from 449 cases and 76 people charged the year before.

"There's a group that are just hopelessly overworked," Knecht said.

Dave Radmanovich, the acting staff sergeant in charge of the ICE unit covering the northern half of the province, said officers are trying to keep up with the sheer volume of offenders, the worldwide nature of the distribution networks and the constant upgrading of technology by those looking to avoid the law.

Earlier this week, the ICE unit arrested a 42-year-old Airdrie man accused of convincing a nine-year-old American girl to make sexually-explicit videos.

Knecht said policing is undergoing one of the biggest transitions it has ever seen because of technology.

Police services can't reduce the number of officers on the street, but require more peo-

ple working behind computers, he said. And while personnel are needed with specialized technical skills, beat officers must be comfortable with computers as part of their job, Knecht said.

Alberta Justice Minister Jonathan Denis said the province funds the ICE unit as part of its \$32-million Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) program.

"We're going to continue to fund that to try to stay on top, ahead of the curve," he said. "It is very difficult because of how quickly it seems to change."

While the overall justice department budget was cut this year, Denis said direct funding for police was up.

(Edmonton Journal)



Aug 10 2013

**A police officer shot and injured a man while responding to a conflict between two men Friday night in the South Shore town of Laprairie.**

The officer, who was with his partner at the time, used his firearm after apparently being threatened or attacked by the two men at a home on Conrad-Pelletier St.

The man who was shot did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

Officers from the provincial SQ police squad are investigating and have interviewed several witnesses to determine what could have caused the conflict.

(CTV News)



Aug 11 2013

**The RCMP have shut down two medical marijuana licences on Vancouver Island and arrested 10 people after an investigation found the number of plants being grown exceeded what was allowed.**



Investigators suspect a large amount of marijuana harvested from homes in Nanaimo and Nanoose Bay were being sold, which is

not allowed under the medical marijuana licence, said RCMP.

During a raid last week, more than 400 plants and 20 kilograms of dried marijuana was seized, said police.

At one of the properties, the resident was stealing electricity from B.C. Hydro by circumventing the pay metre, noted RCMP Sgt. Sheryl Armstrong in a news release.

The 10 arrested people are scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 12 to face charges of production and possession of marijuana and theft of electricity.

(Vancouver Sun)

Aug 11 2013

**PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - The agency that investigates police in B.C. has been called in after an RCMP cruiser hit an all-terrain vehicle in Prince George, leaving a passenger in the ATV with serious injuries.**

A news release from the RCMP says the collision happened early Sunday morning, when the RCMP car hit a type of all-terrain vehicle known as a "side by side."

A passenger in the ATV has been taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The province's Independent Investigations Office will be investigating the police officer involved.

The RCMP will still be involved in the investigation, focusing on the driver of the ATV.

Aug 11 2013

**Twelve Alberta teens will be spending the next week finding out if they have what it takes to become RCMP officers.**

The students left Edmonton Sunday for the RCMP Depot in Regina, where they will join 20 other teens from across Canada in the third annual youth camp.

"It's a great opportunity for us to showcase to today's youth what the career is going to be like in law enforcement, especially for the kids that have an aptitude or an interest in the field," Const. Andy Wetzstein told CTV News.

Organizers said the students were selected based on their academic record as well as their interest in policing.

"In Alberta we were allotted 12 of the 32 students going to Regina. In selecting those 12 we spoke with over 80," Const. Wetzstein explained.

Many of the campers said they had been interested in law enforcement for a long time but also expected the camp to be a challenge.

"We're going to have them practicing some drill and deportment skills so we'll get them marching around the base," Const. Wetzstein explained, adding there would be some classroom time as well as some other training.

"We'll take them through some firearms simulators. We'll take them through police

defensive tactics so they'll learn a little about how to defend themselves and defend others."

The camp runs from August 12 to the 16 at the Depot in Regina.

(CTV Edmonton)



Aug 12 2013

**BOISE, Idaho - The highly publicized multistate search for a Southern California teenage girl probably would have taken longer if she and her abductor hadn't encountered a sharp-eyed retired sheriff and three others riding horseback in Idaho's rugged backcountry, authorities said.**

The girl, 16-year-old Hannah Anderson, was rescued Saturday afternoon after the former sheriff passed along his suspicions, allowing investigators to focus efforts on a southwest corner of wilderness in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, a 3,600-square-mile roadless preserve in the heart of Idaho.

At a news conference Sunday in Boise, 71-year-old Mark John and his three riding mates shared the details of their meeting with Anderson and James Lee DiMaggio, who was later killed in a shootout during the rescue at a remote, alpine lake.

"They just didn't fit," said John, who retired as Gem County sheriff in 1996. "He might have been an outdoorsman in California, but he was not an outdoorsman in Idaho. ... Red flags kind of went up."

Initially, it was the lack of openness on the trail and a reluctance to engage in the polite exchange of banter like so many other recreationists John has encountered during his various horseback excursions.

John and his partners on horseback were also puzzled why Anderson and DiMaggio were hiking in the opposite direction of their stated destination, the Salmon River.

But more than anything, it was their gear - or lack of it.

Neither was sporting hiking boots or rain gear. The 40-year-old DiMaggio, described as an avid hiker in his home state of California, was toting only a light pack. It even appeared Anderson was wearing pajama bottoms.

The four riders - John, John's wife Christa, 68, Mike Young, 62, and his wife, Mary Young, 61 - had a second encounter with Anderson and DiMaggio later Wednesday, this one at the lake as they were getting ready to head back down the trail.

The Youngs and Johns recalled seeing Anderson soak her feet in the lake and again avoid interaction. Still, nothing about their behaviour raised suspicion that DiMaggio was wanted for murder and kidnapping.

"If she was sending us signals that she was in trouble, we didn't key in on it," Mary Young said.

It wasn't until Thursday afternoon when the Johns returned home and saw the girl's photographs on the news that they made a connection. After confirming with the Youngs, Mark John immediately called Idaho State Police, setting off the investigation in Idaho.

On Friday, police found DiMaggio's car, hidden under brush at a trailhead on the border of the wilderness area.

On Saturday, after searchers spotted the pair by air, two highly specialized FBI hostage teams moved in on ground, ultimately rescuing the girl and killing DiMaggio.

DiMaggio is also suspected of killing Anderson's mother and brother at his home in Southern California.

Anderson was immediately transported to an unidentified hospital. She was expected to be reunited with her father, Brett Anderson, earlier Sunday.

Details about the operation that ended in Hannah's rescue were being released slowly.

FBI spokesman Jason Pack said the rescue teams were dropped by helicopter about 2 1/2 hours away from where Anderson and DiMaggio were spotted by the lake. Pack said the team had to hike with up to 100 pounds of tactical gear along a rough trail characterized by steep switchbacks and treacherous footing.

The teams then surrounded the camp and waited until Anderson and DiMaggio were no longer near each other before moving in, and ultimately killing DiMaggio. Few other details about the shootout are being released pending an automatic investigation by FBI agents of everything that occurred before, during and after the shooting.

Aug 12 2013

**HALIFAX - A former Ontario prosecutor and civil servant has been appointed by the Nova Scotia government to conduct an independent review of the handling of the Rehtaeh Parsons case by police and the provincial Public Prosecution Service.**



Murray Segal has been asked to make recommendations to improve the justice system and consider the impact technology is having on young people and their families, as well as their interaction with the justice system and police.

Segal was deputy attorney general and the chief prosecutor in Ontario with more than 30

years experience as a lawyer, consultant, mediator and government adviser.

Parsons was 17 when she was taken off life-support following a suicide attempt in April.

Her family says the Halifax teen was bullied for months after a digital photo of her allegedly being sexually assaulted was passed around her school.

Two 18-year-old men are due in court Thursday to face child pornography-related charges after they were arrested last week.

Aug 12 2013

### **KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The RCMP have re-opened a missing-person case that dates back to 1960, when a 21-month-old toddler vanished from a rural area in Interior B.C.**

On July 3, 1960, Edna Bette-Jean Masters disappeared from a friend's residence in the Red Lake area, west of Kamloops.

Her disappearance prompted a massive search, but officials were unable to turn up any sign of her.

In the decades since, the RCMP have also attempted to track down a man and woman in their late 20s who were spotted in the area driving a rust-coloured Chevrolet car with Alberta plates.

The Mounties say investigators are hoping new technology and investigative techniques could produce new leads in the case.

Masters, who was known as Bette-Jean, would be 55 years old today.

Aug 12 2013

### **BOSTON - James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted Monday in a string of 11 killings and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant.**

Bulger, 83, stood silently and showed no reaction to verdict, which brought to a close a case that not only transfixed the city with its grisly violence but exposed corruption inside the Boston FBI and an overly cozy relationship between the bureau and its underworld snitches.

Bulger was charged primarily with racketeering, which listed 33 criminal acts - among them, 19 murders that he allegedly helped orchestrate or carried out himself during the 1970s and '80s while he led the Winter Hill Gang, Boston's ruthless Irish mob.

After 4 1/2 days of deliberations, the federal jury decided he took part in 11 of those murders, along with nearly all the other crimes on the list, including acts of extortion, money-laundering and drug dealing. He was also found guilty of 30 other offences, including possession of machine-guns.

Bulger could get life in prison at sentencing Nov. 13.

"Today is a day that many in this city thought would never come," said U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz. "This day of reckoning has been a long time in coming." She added: "We hope that we stand here today to mark the end of an era that was very ugly in Boston's history."

She said Bulger's corrupting of law enforcement officials "allowed him to operate a violent organization in this town, and it also allowed him to slip away when honest law enforcement was closing in."

Bulger attorney J.W. Carney Jr. said Bulger intends to appeal because the judge didn't let him argue that he had been granted immunity for his crimes by a now-dead federal prosecutor.

But Carney said Bulger was pleased with the trial and its outcome, because "it was important to him that the government corruption be exposed, and important to him to see the deals the government was able to make with certain people."

"Mr. Bulger knew as soon as he was arrested that he was going to die behind the walls of a prison or on a gurney and injected with chemicals that would kill him," Carney said. "This trial has never been about Jim Bulger being set free."

Bulger, the model for Jack Nicholson's sinister crime boss in the 2006 Martin Scorsese movie "The Departed," was seen for years as a Robin Hood figure who bought Thanksgiving turkeys for fellow residents of working-class South Boston and kept hard drugs out of the neighbourhood. But that image was shattered when authorities started digging up bodies.

Prosecutors at the two-month trial portrayed Bulger as a cold-blooded, hands-on boss who killed anyone he saw as a threat, along with innocent people who happened to get in the way. Then, according to testimony, he would go off and take a nap while his underlings cleaned up.

Among other things, Bulger was accused of strangling two women with his bare hands, shooting two men in the head after chaining them to chairs and interrogating them for hours, and opening fire on two men as they left a South Boston restaurant.

Aug 12 2013

### **VANCOUVER - B.C. Supreme Court has ruled that a government report on breathalyzers is not admissible when reviewing a roadside ban.**

Angela Lichun Buhr was given an immediate roadside prohibition in February after taking two separate breathalyzer tests, and while one showed a fail reading, the other did not register.

The second device's temperature was 9 C, and Buhr's lawyer said at her review hearing that according to the breathalyzer's manual, a reading cannot be initiated if the temperature

is outside of a certain range.

The adjudicator upheld Buhr's driving ban, pointing to a government report that says while an approved screening device can be inaccurate when it is outside of the ideal temperature range, its functionality is not impacted.

But Justice Richard Goepel says in his ruling that the report is inadmissible, because the adjudicator's considerations are only limited to the statements or evidence submitted by the driver, and any documents forwarded by the officer who handed out the driving ban.

Goepel also says the adjudicator's findings were in error, since the instruction manual clearly states the breathalyzer would not operate below 10 degrees.

(The Canadian Press)

Aug 12 2013

### **EDMONTON - Capital Towers used to be known as "Crack Towers" because of all the drug-related violence it housed. Now, thanks to a community partnership, calls to police have been reduced by 98 per cent.**

By the time Edmonton's first homicide of 2013 happened in Capital Towers in January, the building was already a huge concern for police.

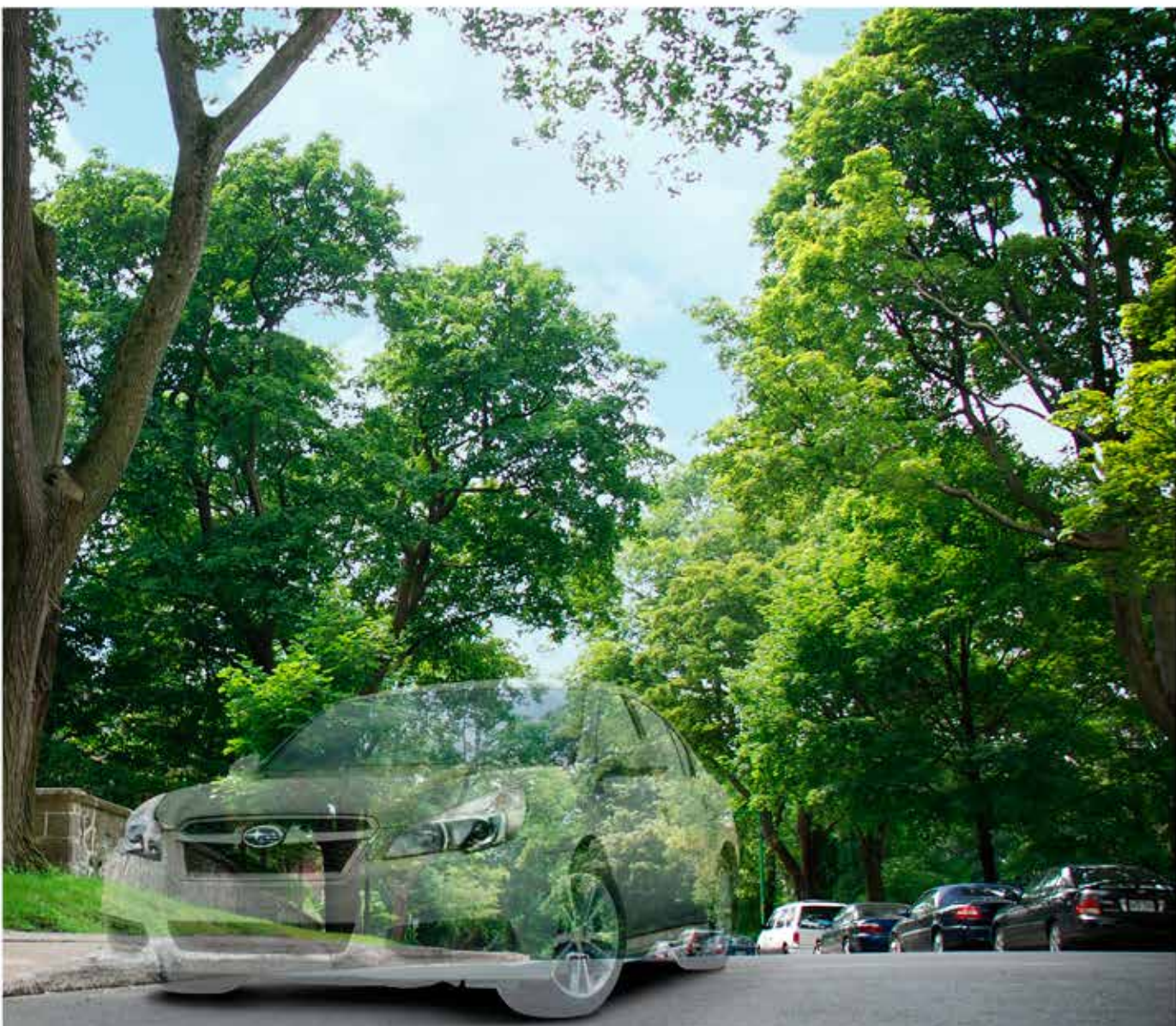
Crime was continuing to rise there and violence, victimization, and calls to police had escalated to 100 calls a month.

So, in February, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) began working on a plan with the McCauley Revitalization Working Group and the managers and owners of Capital Towers to address and remove the causes of the criminal activity in the building.

The project involved three phases:

- An assessment of the building and tenants was undertaken in February, 2013. The most vulnerable "at risk" residents and the most active suites/individuals responsible for attracting and committing violent crime, were identified.
- A long-term sustainable plan was developed and implemented to support vulnerable tenants through the intervention, relocation and care of those at risk of victimization. The plan also dealt with those individuals responsible for attracting criminal activity, through enforcement or relocation far away from the building and vulnerable targets.
- The third phase involved working with building management, owners of the building and Safety Codes Edmonton to determine a long term solution that would mitigate risk and vulnerability to the residents of Capital Towers. As a result, suites are being renovated and security of the building has been substantially improved in the common areas, the entrance, and in the elevators. A new facade will soon adorn the building, representing internal

\*In-cylinder automatic engine stop system. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load. \*\*EPA fuel economy estimates. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load. \*\*\*EPA fuel economy estimates. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load. \*\*\*\*EPA fuel economy estimates. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load. \*\*\*\*\*EPA fuel economy estimates. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load.



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and external improvements and sending the message that Capital Towers will not tolerate criminal activity.

Police say the project has made a huge difference. Calls for police service have gone from 100 calls a month in March to just two calls for help in the entire month of July.

"A wrap up survey has been conducted and the results show a huge increase in resident perception of safety and security," says EPS Community Liaison Sgt. Ray Akbar, Downtown Division. "Tenants now feel safe enough to get involved in the process of revitalizing Capital Towers. They are excited about the improvements and optimistic about the future."

The City of Edmonton, Alberta Health Services and Capital Towers management all worked with the EPS on this project.

(Global News)

**TUESDAY**  
**AUGUST 13, 2013**

Aug 13 2013

**NEW YORK - A federal judge's stinging rebuke of the police department's stop-and-frisk policy as discriminatory could usher in a return to the days of high violent crime rates and end New York's tenure as "America's safest big city," Mayor Michael Bloomberg warned.**



U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin declared Monday that police have intentionally and systematically violated the civil rights of tens of thousands of people by wrongly targeting black and Hispanic men.

She appointed an outside monitor to oversee major changes to the tactic, including reforms in policies, training and supervision. And she ordered a pilot program to test body-worn cameras in the some of the precincts where most stops occurred.

"The city's highest officials have turned a blind eye to the evidence that officers are conducting stops in a racially discriminatory manner," she wrote. "In their zeal to defend a policy that they believe to be effective, they have wilfully ignored overwhelming proof that the policy of targeting 'the right people' is racially discriminatory."

But Bloomberg said police have done

exactly what the courts and constitution allow to keep the city safe, reiterating the tactic was one tool that has helped drive down crime to record lows.

Scheindlin refused to hear testimony on crime rates, and her ruling skewered the city's defence of the practice and argument that it effectively polices itself.

Stop-and-frisk has been around for decades in some form, but recorded stops increased dramatically under the Bloomberg administration to an all-time high in 2011 of 684,330, mostly of black and Hispanic men. The lawsuit was filed in 2004 by four men, all minorities, and became a class-action case.

About half the people who are stopped are subject only to questioning. Others have their bag or backpack searched, and sometimes police conduct a full pat-down. Only 10 per cent of all stops result in arrest, and a weapon is recovered a small fraction of the time.

Scheindlin noted she was not putting an end to the practice, which is constitutional, but was reforming the way the NYPD implemented its stops.

In her long ruling, she determined at least 200,000 stops were made without reasonable suspicion, the necessary legal benchmark, lower than the standard of probable cause needed to justify an arrest. She said that rank-and-file officers were pressured by superiors to make stops - and that police brass ignored mounting evidence that bad stops were being made.

Aug 13 2013

**WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg man snapped up in a sweeping covert police sting targeting the Manitoba chapter of the Rock Machine biker gang has been sentenced to six years in prison.**

Richard Lund - described by the Crown as an experienced cocaine dealer - had pleaded guilty to one count of trafficking.

The 29-year-old was one of 11 people arrested in late January during Project Dilemma.

Court heard police spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy the services of a civilian agent - Lund's friend - to set up drug and weapons deals and report back to his police handlers.

Lund set up two multi-ounce deals with the agent in November and January worth just over \$31,000.

All Project Dilemma targets have pleaded guilty to various charges, with the final sentencing hearing set for later this year.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Aug 13 2013

**NEW YORK, N.Y. - Four Canadians and five Americans have been indicted in what U.S. officials call one of the largest international penny stock frauds in history.**

The U.S. Department of Justice says six suspects were arrested today in New York,

Arizona, New Jersey, Florida and California, and another was arrested in Ontario.

Two more are being sought.

The department says the arrests are the result of a multi-year investigation involving the FBI and the RCMP.

It says the suspects are accused in two separate but connected schemes that netted more than \$140 million and affected investors in dozens of countries.

Two of the Canadian suspects - Gregory Ellis, 46, and Kolt Curry, 38 - have been arrested.

Authorities say Sandy Winick, 55, is at large in Thailand and Gregory Curry, 63, has yet to be located.

Aug 13 2013

**EDMONTON - Edmonton police have seized a man's SUV over an alleged road rage encounter before his criminal charges have been dealt with by the courts.**

In what could be a first in Alberta, Supt. Kevin Galvin says police took the man's vehicle away because he is a problem driver and a risk to public safety.

Police seized the car after an April road rage incident where a driver of one vehicle allegedly attempted to force another vehicle off of the road.

Police say the man then threatened the other driver.

Galvin says police seized the car after consulting with the provincial government using a law called the Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act of Alberta.

The name of the man and the charges he faces were not released.

Aug 13 2013

**ORILLIA - Orillia will consider going to binding arbitration to help settle their contract dispute with the OPP. Council Committee agreed with a Police Services Board recommendation at Monday night's Council meeting.**

Mayor Angelo Orsi supports using an arbitrator and says his reason is that the public is confused with what is being said through the media.

He says when the public is hearing so much rhetoric, both sides need to get away from that.

Orsi says the negotiations are becoming very emotional rather than a weighing of the evidence.

He says it is an eight to nine million dollar contract for the city and you have to make the right decision.

Orsi says the Ontario Provincial Police Association recognizes and appreciates the use of arbitration when negotiating a new contract.

He says the City wants to use that same method.

Orsi says they want to get more facts from the OPP about the figures that make up the costs.



He says because that information is often classified, it makes it difficult for city staff to audit and that is why arbitration is the way to do it.

Orillia is considering moving to a stand-alone police force for the city as a way of controlling escalating costs.

(Batshore Broadcasting)

Aug 13 2013

### **OLIVER, B.C. - Mounties in Oliver, B.C., want to find the person who planted a bomb underneath a parked vehicle in that southern Okanagan town.**

Investigators say the device exploded just before 11 a.m. on Monday.

It damaged the undercarriage of the empty vehicle, tore rubber off the rear wheels, scorched the driveway and hurled bits of metal across several properties.

Sgt. Peter Thiessen says the blast was strong enough to drive shrapnel through the walls of two neighbouring garages with enough velocity to tear through the opposite side of one of the buildings.

No one was hurt.

Thiessen says a motive for the violence is not clear.

Aug 13 2013

### **EDMONTON - The RCMP is investigating after a woman said she was assaulted by an Alberta sheriff during a traffic stop.**

Dentist Simona Tibu of Camrose says she was on her way to see patients in Edmonton on Saturday when she was pulled over for speeding.

Tibu says a discussion with the sheriff escalated into an argument.

She says he handcuffed her and began hitting her breasts and she ended up in hospital with bruises all over her body.

Tibu says she was shocked to learn she was being charged with resisting arrest, but the sheriff wasn't facing any charges.

She says she has already filed a complaint against him with Alberta's Professional Standards Unit.

A spokesperson for Alberta's Solicitor General's office says the professional standards investigation could begin right away, or may have to wait until the RCMP investigation is completed.

(Global Edmonton)

Aug 13 2013

### **BRANDON, Man. - A 13-year-old in Brandon, Man., is the first child in that city to be penalized under the province's new mandatory bike helmet laws.**

Police say the boy failed to stop at an intersection Monday and slammed into the side of a vehicle.

Const. Kirby Sararas said the boy was not hurt, but he did receive a ticket for not

wearing a helmet.

The boy has the option of paying a \$50 fine or completing an online safety course to see the fine dismissed.

In Winnipeg, police have issued four separate tickets for the new offence.

As of May 1, every Manitoban under the age of 18 is required to wear a helmet while riding. (CJOB)

Aug 13 2013

### **MEDICINE HAT - Three city police constables will be facing an internal hearing on allegations under the Police Act of using excessive force and discreditable conduct in the arrest of a man in 2010, according to documentation provided to the News.**

Eric Trudeau was arrested in May 2010 on allegations of obstructing a police officer, charges later withdrawn by the Crown.

Trudeau was the passenger in a vehicle pulled over by police during a hit-and-run investigation and, subsequently, the driver became the focus of an impaired driving investigation.

City constables Noel Darr, Chance Franklin and Dustin Biggar and an unnamed British Army MP were involved in the arrest of Trudeau on obstruction allegations.

Force was used in the arrest but Trudeau was found by Medicine Hat hospital staff and paramedics not to have any significant injuries.

He was later diagnosed as having two fractured ribs when admitted to Camrose hospital days later.

The original complaint to Medicine Hat police was dismissed on Nov. 17, 2011 by Chief Andy McGrogan.

An appeal of that decision to the provincial Law Enforcement Review Board ended in May with a recommendation McGrogan reconsider his decision in light of recent case law determining when an internal hearing is deemed necessary.

In the case involving Trudeau, McGrogan has now found a hearing involving constables Darr, Biggar and Franklin meets the threshold. (Medicine Hat News)

Aug 13 2013

### **TORONTO - In the wake of the Sammy Yatim shooting, the chairman of the Toronto Police Services Board says legislation is constraining its ability to ensure accountability, as he renewed calls for stiffer disciplinary powers for police chiefs.**

"Right now it is very, very hard to terminate a police officer," Alok Mukherjee, board chair, said Tuesday. "There are occasions when you say: 'How in God's name is this person working here?'"

He made the startling admission following a police board meeting, during which he read a second statement on the police shooting of

Mr. Yatim, 18 — an incident that continues to stoke rage on the streets of Toronto.

Mr. Mukherjee also announced the board will seek "independent legal standing" at the upcoming coroner's inquest into the deaths of three GTA residents who were suffering from mental health issues and were shot by police. It is the first time the civilian watchdog will probe issues at an inquest separate from the Toronto Police Service and, according to Mr. Mukherjee, signals "the board's determination to ask its own questions" on use-of-force and deescalation tactics.

"The Yatim incident cast a shadow over that inquest," Mr. Mukherjee said.

In its statement, the board said it takes "an extremely serious view of the incident and [is] prepared to use every power and authority that the board has to deal with it."

It vowed to "push the boundaries" by calling for "strong and immediate action by those who have statutory responsibility."

The board has long called on the government to modernize how chiefs can discipline officers by giving them the ability, for example, to suspend without pay. In certain circumstances, Mr. Mukherjee said it should be easier to fire an officer. Currently, under the Ontario Police Services Act, the only time a police officer won't collect a salary while suspended is if he or she is convicted and imprisoned. (National Post)



Aug 14 2013

### **If you're going to tweet about buying, selling or using drugs, it's probably best if you don't also tweet at the police.**

One man from the Greater Toronto Area, identified as Sunith Baheerathan on Twitter, learned this the hard way on Tuesday when his tweet "Any dealers in Vaughan wanna make a 20sac chop? Come to Keele/Langstaff Mr. Lube, need a spliff" attracted the wrong kind of attention.

Police might never have known had it not been for an earlier, unrelated tweet Baheerathan sent that included "@YRP," the twitter username for the York Regional Police.

That tweet prompted police to click on Baheerathan's profile and Const. Blair McQuillan said the first thing they saw was the now infamous tweet.

"This person made a request for a drug dealer or a drug trafficker to attend their place of business, but no actual offence had taken place at that time," McQuillan said, so police "decided a lighthearted approach would be best."

The "lighthearted approach" involved jokingly asking to tag along for the drop. Police tweeted: "Awesome! Can we come too?"

That tweet went viral, retweeted more than

2,700 times in the first 24 hours. Baheerathan's username was also trending in the Toronto area Tuesday night and someone posted a picture of the response to photo-sharing site Imgur, captioning it: "Canada doing Twitter right."

McQuillan said police response mixed "humour and levity" with education, but several hours after police brought the issue to the attention of Baheerathan's employers, Baheerathan tweeted he'd received a "call of termination."

His employer, Mr. Lube, also tweeted "the matter has now been handled."

Baheerathan, who didn't return requests for comment, tweeted repeatedly that his words shouldn't be taken seriously.

(Toronto Star)

Aug 14 2013

### **CALGARY - A retired Calgary police officer faces sex-related charges related to allegations involving a pre-teen girl in the early 1990s.**

Stephen Laurence Huggett, who is 59, is charged under the 1992 Criminal Code with invitation to sexual touching and sexual interference with a child under 14.

Police say the accusations involve inappropriate sexual behaviour and touching.

It's believed the alleged victim met the accused through her mother.

Huggett was sentenced to nine months in jail for possession of child pornography in 2009.

Aug 14 2013

### **CHARLOTTETOWN - P.E.I.'s Opposition Progressive Conservatives are calling on the government to develop a strategy that would place a police officer in every high school.**

Charlottetown city council recently approved funding to place an officer in two local high schools next month.

The local program was launched earlier this year.

Olive Crane, justice and education critic for the Tories, says keeping schools safe is a responsibility of the provincial government.

She says having police officers in Island high schools could help tackle addiction problems among youth.

Aug 14 2013

### **NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. - The Crown says no criminal charges will be laid against a Vancouver-area RCMP officer whose police dog bit and severely injured a 41-year-old man.**

The province's criminal justice branch says it has not approved charges against a member of the Mountie's police service dog unit following an incident in North Vancouver on Dec. 13 of last year.

A Crown counsel review found there was little chance of conviction on a charge of assault or assault causing bodily harm, because

lawyers could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that releasing the police dog amounted to excessive force.

Officers were responding to a report of fraud at a North Vancouver financial institution when they spotted a man running from the bank.

A police dog was used to track the man and he was located nearby, but he was bitten and severely injured during the arrest.

A probe by B.C.'s Independent Investigations Office, which investigates cases involving police, wrapped up in June and the matter was then forwarded to Crown for a decision.

Aug 14 2013

### **REGINA - Regina police say one of their officers has resigned.**

Darryl Blampied, who is 44, was charged with theft of a credit card, possession of stolen property and use of a stolen credit card on July 18.

On Monday, police Chief Troy Hagen accepted Blampied's resignation from the service, saying it is effective immediately.

Blampied, who was a constable, is accused of stealing the credit card while on duty.

Police say Blampied had 11 years of service with them.

He will make his first court appearance in provincial court on Sept. 9.

Aug 14 2013

### **Officers will swap badges for chaps and belt buckles at the Calgary Police Rodeo on Aug. 17.**

Enforcement officers, emergency personnel, their families and rodeo enthusiasts will converge on the Airdrie Pro Rodeo grounds for a day of relaxing fun.

"There's nothing like experiencing rodeo up front and personal," Calgary Police spokesman Cst. Ward Stene said. "It's a really entertaining day."

The rodeo will feature popular events such as saddlebronc, team roping, bareback and steer wrestling with chute dogging and mutton busting for kids as the most popular events.

There will also be a barn dance that will feature Drew Gregory who will be returning as the headlining artist.

Amidst the family fun, funds raised from the rodeo will support the Missing Children of Canada Society and the John Petropoulos Memorial fund – an organization that aims to mitigate preventable workplace injuries. The rodeo usually raises around \$10,000 and \$2,000 for the respective charities.

Stene added the rodeo gives a chance for the general public to meet and interact with police and emergency staff when they're out of uniform.

"It's that 'Oh, they're just like us,' type of thing," Stene said.

He added that the rodeo will really give some officers a break from all their hard work

in recent weeks.

"We're still in [flood] recovery phase," Stene said. "A lot of people are still heavily involved in the response and recovery efforts."

(Aldrie Echo)

Aug 14 2013

### **A former Calgary police officer with a history of child pornography allegations is once again facing charges and this time it involves a pre-teen girl.**

Police arrested 59-year-old Stephen Laurence Huggett on Tuesday and charged him with one count each of invitation to sexual touching with a child under 14 years and sexual interference with a child under 14 years.

The charges stem from incidents that are alleged to have happened in the early 1990s, involving inappropriate sexual behaviour and touching.

Earlier this year, Huggett was charged with sexual assault with a firearm, extortion, criminal harassment and possession of child pornography after a year-long police investigation.

A woman came forward in January claiming she was sexually assaulted while in a relationship with Huggett. During the investigation, police uncovered information that the accused was accessing child porn and Huggett was arrested at his Willow Park home.

He also received a nine month jail sentence in 2009 for possession of child pornography after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

Huggett retired from the Calgary Police Service in 2007 after 25 years.

He was released on bail and will appear in court on the new charges on Tuesday, August, 29, 2013.

(CTV News)

Aug 14 2013

### **GUELPH, Ont. - A Guelph police officer is in a Hamilton hospital after falling more than 12 metres during a training exercise.**

Police say the officer fell to the ground while participating in a rappelling exercise at a performing arts facility in downtown Guelph on Wednesday morning.

The exercise was part of training for the Guelph police force's tactics and rescue unit.

Police say the eight-year veteran was attached to a rappelling rope and was wearing safety equipment at the time of the fall.

The officer was transported to hospital, but the extent of his injuries are unclear.

Aug 14 2013

### **VANCOUVER - British Columbia has one of the country's toughest drunk driving laws, but if drivers choose to challenge a roadside ban and the penalties and fines that come with it, they have at least a one-in-five chance of getting it tossed out.**

The government amended its impaired

driving law last year, and the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles says in the year since, about 22 per cent of drivers who challenged an immediate roadside prohibition got it overturned.

The amended law, among other things, requires police to tell drivers they can have a second test on a different breathalyzer if they fail the first one, and the lower of the two readings will prevail.

Defence lawyers applaud their success in getting prohibitions revoked, but they say a flawed adjudication process means many seemingly innocent people still get stuck with the drunk-driving penalties, while those who may be guilty often get off on a technicality.

They say the review process is unfair because they cannot cross-examine police officers or witnesses or request more evidence from police officers and because the roadside screening devices are often unreliable.

But B.C.'s superintendent of motor vehicles Sam MacLeod stands by the review process and the devices, saying they've been federally mandated and approved.

Aug 15 2013

**WANHAM, Alta. - An Alberta RCMP officer is in stable condition in hospital after suffering injuries in an altercation during a traffic stop.**

Cpl. Carol McKinley says the officer from the Spirit River detachment responded to a call about an erratic driver on Wednesday afternoon near Wanham, Alta.

She says the altercation took place after the suspect vehicle was stopped.

Additional RCMP officers arrived at the scene and the injured officer was flown to a local area hospital by air ambulance.

RCMP are still looking for the person or persons responsible.



Aug 15 2013

**SASKATOON - The head of the Canadian Mental Health Commission says good education and training will help police officers deal with people who have mental health issues.**

But Louise Bradley also cautions it's a complex issues and there's no easy answer.

Bradley will raise those issues today when she speaks at the Canadian Association of Police Boards annual meeting in Saskatoon.

The three-day conference will explore the relationship between police and people suffering from mental health issues and illnesses.

Bradley says there's a lack of understanding overall of mental health illnesses, but that's not just for police officers.

She says mental health issues are shrouded

in secrecy, shame and embarrassment even though virtually everyone is impacted.

Bradley says education and training is just a start.

She says it needs to be ongoing, like CPR training and re-certification.

Aug 15 2013

**SEATTLE - A few things will be different at this year's Hempfest, the 22-year-old summer "protestival" on Seattle's waterfront where tens of thousands of revelers gather to use dope openly, listen to music and gaze at the Olympic Mountains in the distance.**

The haze of pot smoke might smell a little more like victory, after Washington and Colorado became the first states to legalize marijuana use by adults over 21. Having won at the state level, speakers will concentrate on the reform of federal marijuana laws.

Oh, and the Seattle police - who have long turned a lenient eye on Hempfest tokers - don't plan to be writing tickets or making arrests. They'll be busy handing out Doritos.

"I think it's going to be a lot of fun," said Sgt. Sean Whitcomb, department spokesman and junk-food-dispenser-in-chief. "It's meant to be ironic. The idea of police passing out Doritos at a festival that celebrates pot, we're sure, is going to generate some buzz."

The idea isn't just to satisfy some munchies. The department has affixed labels to

1,000 bags of Doritos urging people to check out a question-and-answer post on its website, titled "Marijwhatnow? A Guide to Legal Marijuana Use In Seattle." It explains some of the nuances of Washington's law: that adults can possess up to an ounce but can't sell it or give it away, that driving under the influence of pot is illegal, and that - festivals aside - public use is illegal.

Organizers are expecting as many as 85,000 people each day of the three-day event, which begins Friday and is the first Hempfest since voters passed Initiative 502 last fall.

Aug 15 2013

**TORONTO - A stolen taxi officially numbered 666 has been recovered by Toronto police.**

The ominously registered Co-op taxi was found in Toronto's west end on Wednesday afternoon (on Dixon Road and Kipling Avenue).

Police say the car had been taken at some point between 12:45 a.m. and 3:45 a.m. that morning.

They were concerned for public safety because of the possibility that the cab was being operated illegally by an unknown driver.

Police are examining the taxi for evidence. (Newstalk 1010)

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