

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Aug 23, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 34

Executive Digest

Aug 15 2013

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

Page 2

Aug 16 2013

TORONTO - The powerful Toronto Police Association has pulled out of the Police Association of Ontario in part because of the issue of lethal force.

Page 5

Aug 19 2013

CALGARY - Calgary police are going ahead with plan to outfit officers with body cameras and say they have become an effective policing tool.

Page 8

Aug 19 2013

WINNIPEG - Social media and outdated laws hinder police dealing with online crimes, says Vancouver's police chief.

Page 10

Aug 21 2013

OTTAWA - Ottawa police are set to begin a program in September aimed at reducing police involvement in mental health and addiction issues and upping their partnerships with community groups to prevent crime.

Page 14

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100⁰⁰

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

Toronto officer charged with second degree murder



Aug 19 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer is facing a rare murder charge in the death of a young man who was shot multiple times while apparently wielding a knife on an empty streetcar.

Const. James Forcillo was charged Monday with second-degree murder in 18-year-old Sammy Yatim's death last month.

The shooting was captured on cellphone and surveillance video on which nine shots can be heard, seconds after shouts for Yatim to drop a knife. The final six shots appear to

come after Yatim had already fallen to the floor of the streetcar and he is Tasered.

It's not known how many of the shots hit Yatim, but the Special Investigations Unit has said the young man was shot multiple times.

The videos sparked outrage and prompted hundreds of people to take to the streets in two separate marches, demanding justice for Yatim.

Yatim's sister took to Twitter to share her reaction to news of the charge.

"The SIU charged the cop with 2nd degree murder!!! Good morning JUSTICE," tweeted

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS . . . and we'll keep giving our best

BLUE LINE

CANADA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION SPECIALISTS



Blue Line Magazine has been the information source for Canadian law enforcement for 25 years. Our first rookie readers have now reached retirement eligibility so we decided to give our readers an opportunity to tell us what they think of the magazine and how it may have helped them during their career. We will dedicate space in the December edition for these letters and stories.

Send your comments to
Publisher@Blueline.ca

Sarah Yatim.

If Forcillo is eventually convicted, it would be a first for an SIU charge in Ontario. Since the agency's inception in 1990, nine other police officers have been charged with second-degree murder or manslaughter, but none of them were convicted.

Forcillo has arranged through his lawyer to turn himself in Tuesday morning, at which time he will be taken into custody and appear in court, the SIU said in a statement.

Since the officer has received threats, the SIU would not say where Forcillo will surrender himself. Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack said he is concerned for Forcillo's safety in and out of custody.

"We're always concerned when one of our officers goes before the courts or gets remanded in custody," McCormack said.

"We'll ensure just like anybody else that somebody who's vulnerable is protected... We've had death threats against this officer."

Peter Brauti, the lawyer representing Forcillo, could not immediately be reached for comment. But McCormack spoke to Forcillo and said though he wasn't surprised by the charge, he was disappointed.

"He's obviously upset about the charge, the nature of the charge, concerned about it," McCormack said. "It's definitely had an adverse impact on his life."

The SIU has investigated more than 100 firearm deaths since 1990.

Forcillo is the third to be charged with second-degree murder. One of the other officers was acquitted, while the second had his charge dismissed, though that decision is under appeal.

Seven police officers have been charged with manslaughter in Ontario since 1990 - three of them for the same death - and all were acquitted. Not all were firearm deaths.

York Region Const. Randy Martin was acquitted in 2000 of second-degree murder for the shooting death of 44-year-old Tony Romagnuolo. Martin shot Romagnuolo four times in a scuffle outside the man's home after police showed up to arrest his son.

The Romagnuolos testified at the trial that the officers pulled their guns and began shooting during fist fights. Martin said his life hung in the balance as he fought for control of his gun. The son was also shot by another officer, but he survived.

McCormack cited Cavanagh's case as an example of why the public shouldn't rush to judgment against Forcillo.

"Our officer should be judged in this incident based on what the facts and the evidence are, not just a video or not just what somebody saw on YouTube, but looking at the larger, bigger picture," McCormack said.

In addition to the SIU's investigation, Toronto's police chief has said retired justice Dennis O'Connor will lead a separate review of police procedures, use of force and police response to emotionally disturbed people in the wake of Sammy Yatim's death.

Chief Bill Blair has said he understands the public has many questions about police conduct in Yatim's case and has said O'Connor's review will be "extraordinary" in its scope.

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.

respect reduced speed limits in construction zones is a serious, life-and-death issue and that violators will face serious consequences."

The current practice of requiring drivers to slow down only when workers are present is too problematic, Rebeck said. Instead, Manitoba should have clear signs indicating where a construction zone begins and ends, as well as whether there are workers present.

Saskatchewan has brought in rumble strips and gates on major projects to alert drivers that they are entering a construction area. Manitoba should do the same, he suggested.

The federation is also calling for inspection blitzes to remind employers that safety rules will be enforced and more digital boards equipped with radar that let drivers know how fast they are going.

Aug 15 2013

WINNIPEG - A police drug raid in downtown Winnipeg has led to cocaine trafficking charges against a 12-year-old boy.

Police say officers seized crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and \$1,200 cash during the raid Wednesday afternoon.

Six people were arrested and face possession and drug trafficking charges.

The 12-year-old boy is also charged with possessing the proceeds of crime and failing to comply with previous court-ordered conditions.

He remains in custody at the Manitoba Youth Centre.

A 33-year-old woman, 28-year-old woman, 18-year-old man, 17-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl are all facing drug-related charges.

Aug 15 2013

OTTAWA - Police have wrapped an investigation that has led to more than 100 charges being laid against 20 people after marijuana grow-ops and traffickers were targeted in the Ottawa area.

The three-month investigation called "Project Power Plant" also involved the work of the OPP, Ottawa Fire Services and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Police say 12 search warrants were executed in Ottawa and surrounding jurisdictions.

Sgt. Mike Laviolette says the project "significantly disrupted the illicit production" of marijuana in the Ottawa region.

Police say they've seized more than \$6.8 million worth of marijuana, more than \$35,000 in cash, a 12 gauge shotgun, a cross-bow, various types of ammunition and body armour over the course of the investigation.

Aug 15 2013

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

But Louise Bradley also cautions there's



Aug 15 2013

WINNIPEG - Manitoba's federation of labour is urging the province to crack down on speeding in construction zones following the death of a 21-year-old highway flag worker.

In an open letter to Labour Minister Jennifer Howard on Thursday, the federation highlighted the 2010 death of Brittany Murray, who was killed by a driver going nearly double the speed limit.

Michael Blostein, 79, was found not guilty of dangerous driving earlier this year. The verdict is being appealed.

"We have a serious problem in Manitoba if driving that fast in a construction zone is considered to be the reasonable community standard," wrote federation president Kevin Rebeck.

"It is essential that the province send a clear message to Manitoba drivers that failure to

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

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

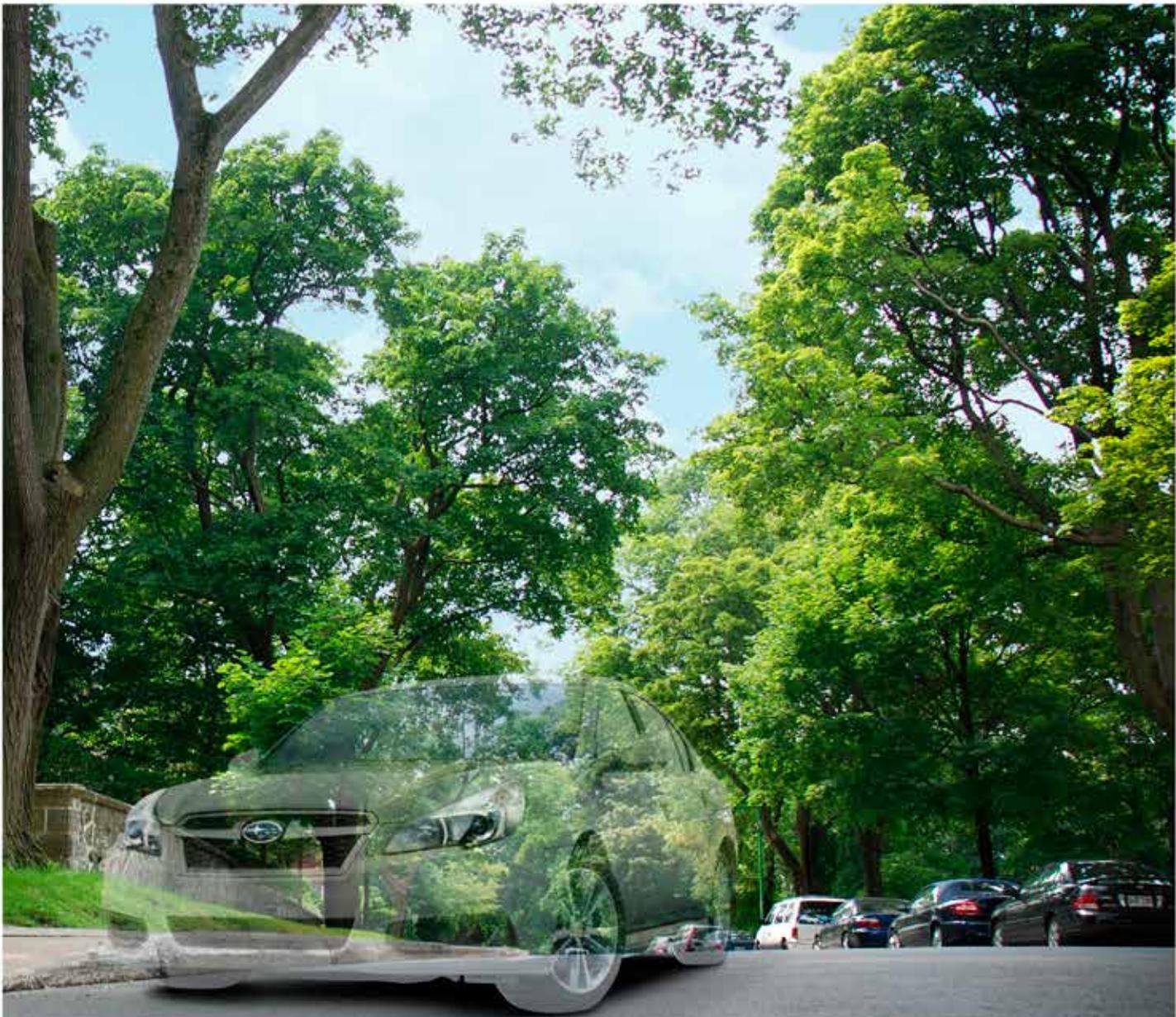
Published weekly by Blue Line Magazine, Inc. as an executive news briefing service to Canada's top level law enforcement personnel.

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

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in an electronic database or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers. One Year Subscriptions are \$10500 (GST Included). Paid subscribers may make up to four (4) copies of this publication for distribution within their organization.

Group Publisher: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
Subscriptions: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048
12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
Phone: 905 640-3048 eMail: news@blueline.ca

Cylinder automatic engine also available. A Fuel consumption figure rating posted by Natural Resources Canada of 6.0L/100 km (highway) for the 2014 Legacy equipped with the Lineartronic continuously variable automatic transmission and a 70L fuel tank capacity. Fuel consumption figures should only be used for vehicle comparison purposes. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving conditions, driver habits and vehicle load. Ratings of "Good", "Better", "Average", "Fair", "Poor" are the highest rating awarded for performance in five safety tests (moderate front, small overlap front, small overlap rear, side, rollover) and rear conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) www.iihs.org. To learn a 2013 Top Safety Pick+, a vehicle must receive a "Good" rating in at least four of the five tests and a "Good" or "Acceptable" rating in the fifth test. Technical specifications are subject to change without any prior notice. Vehicles shown for illustrative purposes only.



DISCRETION: "10-4"

Equipped with a 2.5L 173 hp BOXER engine, 6-speed* manual transmission or available 5 Speed Lineartronic® Continuously Variable Transmission for greater performance and a more direct connection between driver and vehicle, 4-wheel 4-channel 4-sensor anti-lock brake system (ABS), voice-activated Bluetooth® and Subaru's legendary symmetrical full-time AWD system, it's not easy for the 2014 Legacy to remain inconspicuous. And yet the Legacy manages to do just that.

2013 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+*
2014 SUBARU LEGACY



LEGACY
Fuel economy (L/100 km)^A
Lineartronic® CVT | City 8.4 / Hwy 6.0
6MT | City 9.0 / Hwy 7.0
Recommended minimum octane: 87
Estimated Data

pzev
PASSIVE SAFETY AND EFFICIENT VEHICLES
subaru-pzev.ca



To consult our Fleet ordering guide or for more information, please visit www.fleet.subaru.ca or call 1-877-293-7272 for the National Fleet Sales department.

2014 LEGACY



SUBARU

Confidence in Motion

no easy answer.

"There isn't, unfortunately, one thing that will fix it all," said Bradley. "It is a variety of things and a very complex issue."

Saskatoon police Chief Clive Weighill says it's one of the biggest policing problems that has emerged in the last 10 to 15 years.

"We're dealing with homeless people. We're dealing with people who have mental health/addiction problems," he said. "People call us. We end up putting intoxicated people in our detention areas. They don't belong there."

"It's a health issue, not a crime issue."

A coroner's inquest is scheduled this fall into the deaths of three people with possible mental health issues who were shot by Toronto police.

"I think that there is a lack of understanding overall of mental health problems and illnesses, but that's not just for police officers. That unfortunately is the case in many areas, including health care itself," said Bradley.

"It's something that isn't well understood."

Bradley is a registered nurse with a master's of science degree specializing in mental health. She has worked on the front line and in mental health care in corrections.

She said the lack of understanding of mental health illness puzzles her.

"I've been in mental health for about 30 years and while I'm encouraged that this is a time when we are talking about mental health more openly than we ever have before, I still don't understand why it is that there is such stigma attached to it," she said.

"There's virtually none of us that are not impacted in some way, either ourselves, a family member or a close friend or a work colleague. And yet it's shrouded in secrecy, it's shrouded in shame and embarrassment."

Bradley said she hopes that at the end of the conference there will be "clear, discernible action items" to help mental health workers collaborate with police.

Education and training is just a start, she said.

"But it isn't as simple as saying 'OK, we're going to go in and give you a day's (education) and then you know how to do it,'" she said.

"In the same way that we do CPR training and we have to get re-certified every year, it's something that's ongoing."

Aug 15 2013

MONTREAL - It was an alleged fecal felony, with a plodding police pursuit.

A Quebec man is accused of dumping heaps of manure into his ex-wife's jacuzzi and onto her doorstep in the wake of a marital rift.

An ensuing low-speed police chase with the man's tractor has swamped him in an even deeper legal mess, with four criminal charges.

Quebec provincial police were called to a home in Ste-Emelie-de-l'Energie on a mischief complaint Tuesday. Sgt. Gino Pare, a spokesman for the force, said they found the man raising a stink with a tractor.

"He was dropping manure into the spa of his ex-wife, and at the front door," Pare said Thursday.

Police tried to head him off with their patrol car, which got hit.

"He wouldn't stop," Pare said.

"He continued on with his tractor."

The man allegedly chugged away from the scene, with officers in pursuit.

"It was a low-speed (chase)," Pare said. "About 20 kilometres an hour."

Police got the tractor pulled over about a kilometre away - but the man allegedly resisted arrest and slightly injured one officer.

The man was arraigned that afternoon in court in Joliette.

Aug 15 2013

WHITEHORSE - The RCMP has suspended production of a reality TV show documenting the work of the force in Canada's North amid complaints about the privacy of citizens featured on the show and suggestions it's inappropriate for police officers to star in a television program.

U.S.-based production company True Entertainment began filming the show in Whitehorse earlier this week, though community groups had already been raising the alarm about it.

Last week, RCMP spokesman David Gilbert was publicly defending the show as a chance to tell "good stories," adding the force was aware of the concerns but had taken steps to ensure proper oversight before the program went to air.

But on Thursday, after complaints surfaced in media reports about an arrest of a distraught woman who was taken into custody under the watch of television cameras, the force abruptly announced filming had been suspended.

The RCMP issued a statement Thursday afternoon saying it would be discussing the concerns with the production company and there would be no filming in the meantime, though it wasn't sure how long that would take and when, or if, production would resume.

Both the RCMP and True Entertainment have previously said that if a person does not sign a waiver after he or she is filmed, the footage will not go to air.

Similar concerns have been raised about the reality TV show "Border Security," which follows the work of the Canada Border Services Agency. The B.C. Civil Liberties Society has led the charge against that show, claiming the RCMP is violating privacy legislation by allowing members of the public to be filmed without their consent.

On "Border Security," members of the public, including people who are arrested or turned away from the border, still appear on the show if they don't sign the waiver, but their faces are blurred.

The border agency and the federal government have both defended "Border Security," which is now in its second season of filming. (Whitehorse Star)

Aug 15 2013

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s coroner service has confirmed a former RCMP spokesman who became the public face of the force in the early days of the Robert Dziekanski story died by suicide.

Pierre Lemaitre died on July 29 after he was found hanging in his home in Abbotsford.

A news release from the coroner says emergency personnel attended Lemaitre's home, but could not resuscitate him.

Lemaitre was the force's spokesman in the days following Dziekanski's death at Vancouver's airport, where the Polish man was stunned with a Taser during a confrontation with the RCMP.

The Mounties, and Lemaitre in particular, faced allegations they misled the public after an amateur video emerged of the incident that appeared to contradict what Lemaitre had told reporters.

Commissioner Thomas Braidwood, who led a public inquiry into Dziekanski's death, concluded Lemaitre was "well-intentioned" and was doing his best to inform the public in the early stages of an investigation that had yet to determine the facts.

Aug 15 2013

WANHAM, Alta. - A suspect has been arrested after an RCMP officer was attacked during a traffic stop on a northern Alberta highway.

RCMP say a man was arrested Thursday afternoon but would not release further details.

The Spirit River RCMP officer that was assaulted is said to be in stable condition and is speaking.

The officer had been called to reports of an erratic driver near Wanham, about 100 kilometres north of Grande Prairie.

The suspect vehicle was stopped when the altercation took place, but then fled.

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

Aug 15 2013

TORONTO - Citizens have a right to film police but must comply with officer commands, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit has concluded in clearing Toronto police in an arrest that left a hotel guest with a broken rib and other injuries.

"There is no law that I am aware of that prohibits citizens from recording police activity in public areas," SIU director Ian Scott said in a news release.

"However, the right to record police

activity should not be confused with the authority of the police to require citizens to comply with lawful commands to control a disorderly situation.”

Karl Andrus of St. Catharines, a 35-year-old dispatcher for an IT company with no criminal record, recorded video on his smartphone of arrests of two members of a family at Toronto’s Sheraton Centre Hotel on the night of Aug. 29, 2012.

Karl Andrus of St. Catharines was arrested and injured while trying to make video of an arrest of a young Sheraton hotel guest on Aug. 29, 2012. zoom

After a couple of minutes of recording from an area where other hotel guests were also standing — and some of them making recordings as well — Andrus was told by an officer that he’d “filmed enough” and was in the way, and was told by police repeatedly to move back.

Andrus, who is suing police over what came next and whose story was featured in the Star, said he felt he had the right to be where he was and continue recording.

Andrus moved back to where he started his filming, again, with other guests beside him. After being warned he would be arrested, an officer approached him and started moving him back.

At one point in the video, Andrus, smartphone in one hand, raises his other arm.

The SIU concluded that the arm motion was “aggressive” and justified a subsequent takedown by a number of officers that left Andrus with bruises, bumps, an abrasion on his head and a broken rib.

The arresting officer, Const. Jeffery Riel, had the “lawful authority to arrest him for assaulting a peace officer. As well, other officers had the authority to assist in that arrest,” Scott said in an unusually lengthy and detailed statement released Thursday.

“Given Mr. Andrus’ resistance, I am of the view that the involved officers did not use excessive force in effecting this lawful arrest. Accordingly, I have no reasonable grounds to believe that the subject officer committed a criminal offence.”

Scott said “the subject officer (Riel) was attempting to control a difficult situation, and had the lawful authority to require Mr. Andrus to step away from the arrest scene whether or not he was video-recording the involved officers’ actions.”

(Toronto Star)



Aug 16 2013

REGINA - As funding starts to fall into place, Al Nicholson becomes more optimistic that the RCMP Heritage Centre will climb out of the financial doldrums

and get on solid footing.

The Heritage Centre’s CEO welcomed the province’s one-time grant of \$100,000 announced Thursday — even though it fell short of the \$200,000 that centre executives had requested.

The provincial money, along with a matching \$100,000 and tax exemption from the City of Regina, will assist with the centre’s operating costs in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The centre is working with the city’s culture department and SaskCulture’s Community Initiatives Fund on an ongoing basis to secure future funding.

The goal of the independent, non-profit charitable organization is to develop a world-class heritage, tourist and educational facility, but first the centre must get its financial house in order.

In January, it was projected the Heritage Centre would carry a three-year projected deficit of \$139,000, but that figure was based on the province ponying up \$200,000 this year.

On holidays in Prince Edward Island, Nicholson couldn’t put a figure on the revised deficit on Thursday.

In 2011, the Toronto-based firm TCI Management Consultants released a report urging the Centre’s board of directors to move forward with a new governance model so the centre didn’t continue to run yearly deficits.

One of the report’s recommendations was that the federal government or the RCMP buy the building back for \$1.

The Heritage Centre’s board of directors accepted the proposed governance model in principle so the city, province and the feds — through the RCMP — would have flexibility as to how they could help the centre close the funding gap, Nicholson said.

Currently, the Heritage Centre is looking at a way to continue to own and operate the building. Using current market rates, it is negotiating a new lease agreement with the RCMP. The RCMP rents space in the centre for its employees in the Historic Collections Unit and to house its collection of exhibits.

“The plan is to have this finished within the next six weeks,” Nicholson said.

On another front, the Heritage Centre has signed a letter of intent with the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa.

“We want to do more and bigger and better things with them and we’re working on signing another letter of intent with the Mounted Police Foundation that will give us the opportunity to work on bigger projects with them across the country,” Nicholson said. “When all of these things get in place, we will be talking to some people with private money who are interested in supporting the heritage centre, but what they want to know first is that we have some financial stability.”

(Regina Leader Post)

Aug 16 2013

CAMROSE - A Camrose woman, who alleged an Alberta sheriff assaulted her during a routine traffic stop, has now been charged herself with assaulting a peace officer and resisting arrest.

The charges, from Aug. 3 near Camrose, are assault and resisting arrest and obstructing/ resisting a peace officer.

The accused was to be in Camrose court Aug. 14, but the court appearance was put over until Sept. 18.

Meanwhile, the sheriff, whose name has not yet been released, has been put on desk duty.

The sheriff was taken off of traffic duty soon after the initial allegations were made.

At the same time, the City of Wetaskiwin confirmed that the sheriff involved in the alleged incident works out of the Wetaskiwin RCMP detachment, but responding to speculation on social media, the city distanced itself from the matter.

In a press release, Wetaskiwin communications coordinator John Vandenberg states,

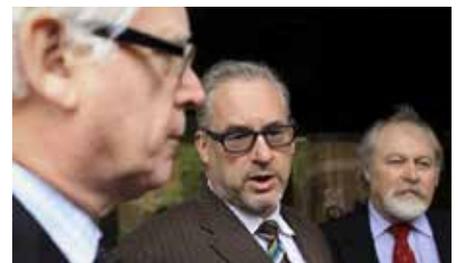
“The sheriff involved is not a City of Wetaskiwin peace officer. City of Wetaskiwin peace officers are not involved in traffic operations and have no authority outside city boundaries.

“The sheriff involved is in no way connected with the City of Wetaskiwin. The City of Wetaskiwin policing contract is with the RCMP, and the alleged perpetrator is an Alberta sheriff, who reports to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General — a provincial government ministry.

(Camrose Canadian)

Aug 16 2013

TORONTO - The powerful Toronto Police Association has pulled out of the Police Association of Ontario in part because of the issue of lethal force.



The TPA, representing 7,800 sworn officers, is going it alone because “we deal with a lot of issues that are unique to Toronto,” says president Mike McCormack. The most prominent of those issues right now — “on the front of every newspaper” — is the police shooting of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim, he says.

McCormack says while fatal police shootings happen in other communities too, the “volume of calls” in Toronto puts that association in a unique position.

“Our board felt that we were taking a little bit of a different direction” than the provincial

association, says McCormack. He would not elaborate.

The TPA announced it was leaving at the end of July. It is now the only association in Ontario not to belong to the provincial group.

The TPA is the fourth largest municipal police association in North America, after Los Angeles, New York and Chicago. The Ontario Provincial Police Association, Ontario's second largest police union, is now the biggest member of the provincial association, which is still more than 25,000 front line officers strong without Toronto.

Dave McFadden, president of the PAO, says the association has been undergoing "a strategic review" of its operations for the first time in its 81-year history. The TPA told the association it didn't agree with the new direction it was taking.

"We'll continue to talk with Toronto on a case-by-case basis," says McFadden.

McFadden would not say how much the lost membership dues from Toronto amounts to. (Hamilton Spectator)

Aug 16 2013

The top three Treaty Three Police chiefs have resigned.

Chief of Police Conrad DeLaronde's resignation is effective this coming November, Deputy Chief of Police Larry Indian's resignation is effective at the end of August and Deputy Chief of Police Terry Armstrong has accepted a position with Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS).

"Armstrong went to NAN; he's the police chief there now," said Treaty Three Police Service Board Chairman Eli Mandamin. "We're dealing with about three signatures, but there's no crisis, there's no urgency."

Mandamin was appointed as board chairman along with new board executive members during the Treaty Three Police annual general meeting on July 23.

Mandamin said the board is "working hands-on" with the resignations, noting a board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 14 in Fort Frances.

"As chiefs, we don't belong on these corporate boards but we've been asked to step up to clean things up and sort things out so we can turn it over to the band members once we've finished sorting things out," Mandamin said.

"We're working in sectors and doing due diligence and we'll sit down with the chief of police when it is time to deal with his resignation. He might even extend it beyond three months, just to work with us. Everything is still quite open."

Mandamin said the three resignations are likely due to upcoming deadlines for their pension plans.

"They won't be eligible as of September 1," Mandamin said. "You have to bail out by the end of August to be eligible. So there's

different dynamics going on — it's not just because people are frustrated or upset."

Mandamin said the board's recent meeting with representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which represents Treaty Three Police officers, went well.

Although concerns were raised about the future of the Treaty Three Police after some officers were laid off, the Treaty Three Police Service board executive announced in early July that it does not intend to close down the police service.

"It is not nor ever will be the desire of the board of directors, executive or our member-representative communities to close our police service," the board executive said in a press release.

Meanwhile, Alberta Regional Chief Cameron Alexis said First Nation police services are in a state of crisis because they have not received a substantial increase in funding levels since 2007.

"The federal government's commitment to maintain the previous funding levels for the next five years is a positive step but it does not address the chronic underfunding of these essential services for First Nation communities," Alexis said.

"Despite limited resources, our police services continue to provide their communities with above average results. Ongoing limitations on adequate funding will compromise the level of service provided in the future." (Wawatay News)

Aug 16 2013

OTTAWA – Canada's national police force is violating the rights of some Canadians trying to access RCMP documents, according to the country's information watchdog.



Access to Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault says over the past months her office began receiving complaints from individuals saying they were not hearing back from the RCMP after filing access to information requests.

"This past year at some point, they just completely stopped responding," Legault said of the RCMP. "Requesters were complaining to my office, but we didn't even have any response from the institution."

The commissioner plans to reveal details about this in her next annual report, scheduled for release Sept. 16.

In an email, an RCMP spokesman said they are actively working to respond to all

submitted requests, which have been increasing in volume and complexity. Sgt. Greg Cox maintained the force is "diligently working towards increasing our efficiency."

Legault said she has witnessed a slow corrosion of the access system, especially over the past four months.

Her grim viewpoint is based primarily on the complaints her office receives and analyzes.

"What I've seen last year was really the clear signs of deterioration across the system," she recently told Global News. "Since the beginning of this fiscal year (April 1), there has been a 50 per cent increase in the number of complaints."

In one week this month, 80 complaints landed on Legault's desk — a rate she says she hasn't witnessed in the four years she's held the post.

While Legault looks to the flow of complaints as one indicator of the state of affairs for access to information, what she's seen with the national police force is unprecedented, she said.

"There's actually an institution that's completely stopped responding. Just stopped responding to requesters," she said. "And this is not a small institution. It's a big institution that gets a lot of requests and that has been performing somewhat steadily over the years."

This, she said, is failing to respect the most basic obligations of the access to information laws.

Canada's access laws give all Canadians the right to access records the government holds, subject to certain exemptions; the laws have been described as essential to democratic accountability.

Despite those certain exemptions, federal institutions are legally obliged to acknowledge receipt of the request and confirm it will be processed and responded to within 30 days.

The act permits for extensions beyond the initial 30 days, within reason. Any requester who feels their rights under the act have not been honoured can complain to Legault's office, which can take departments to court, but doesn't have the power to compel any action.

The RCMP, however, hasn't even been completing the first step of the process, neglecting to send receipts of acknowledgment, Legault said.

RCMP spokesman Cox said the RCMP have not stopped responding to requests.

"The RCMP is fully committed to meeting our obligations under the Access to Information Act and Privacy Act. All requests are taken seriously and dealt with in a professional manner," he said.

The RCMP approved increased funding and staffing levels for the access to information branch this past March, Cox said, but not all positions have been filled.

(Global News)

Aug 16 2013

The suspect accused of killing peace

officer Rod Lazenby as he investigated a dog complaint on a Priddis property a year ago still is without a lawyer.

Trevor Kloschinsky, 47, told Court of Queen's Bench Justice Ged Hawco on Friday he has spoken with Legal Aid but has not been given an answer on whether he will be appointed counsel for his trial.

Crown prosecutor Mac Vomberg told court that assigned prosecutor Jim Sawa has been attempting to assist the accused, who is charged with first-degree murder in relation to the death of the officer, who was working for the M.D. of Foothills.

Kloschinsky has been without legal representation since parting ways with his lawyer on July 19.

The case was adjourned to Aug. 30 for an update on whether he has counsel.

According to an information to obtain a search warrant, just released by the court this week, Kloschinsky lay in wait for three days in a Quonset on the rural Priddis property where he lived in order to catch the person he believed was responsible for stealing his dogs.

According to the document, when Lazenby arrived on Aug. 10, 2012, Kloschinsky got into a fight with him. Kloschinsky overpowered and restrained the officer with two sets of handcuffs attached to some safety chains in the Quonset.

Kloschinsky, according to the document, showed up at the Calgary Police Service's District 8 office a short time later with Lazenby's bruised, bloodied and heavily scratched body in the back of the marked municipal district vehicle.

Police attempted to give him CPR, but Lazenby was pronounced dead an hour later after being rushed to Rockyview General Hospital.

No cause of death has ever been released by police, but officers searched the property the next day looking for DNA, blood, hair, a rubber mat, fire extinguisher, sledgehammer, cellphone, glasses, handcuffs, chains, an animal cage and a pole used for catching dogs. (Calgary Herald)

Aug 16 2013

PLEASANTON, Calif. - An 18-year-old accused of killing a bicyclist with his car has had a vehicular manslaughter charge upgraded to murder in part because he boasted about speeding on Twitter, prosecutors said Thursday.

Cody Hall, of Pleasanton, was being held without bail after he was charged Wednesday with the murder of 58-year-old Diana Hersevoort, the San Francisco Chronicle and Oakland Tribune reported.

Hall was going more than 80 mph in a 40 mph zone when he hit Hersevoort and her husband along a busy boulevard in Dublin on June 9, prosecutors allege. Hersevoort's husband only broke an arm, but she was killed.

An analysis of Hall's driving record, along with Twitter posts in which he discussed how fast he liked to drive, persuaded prosecutors to change the charge to murder, the Alameda County district attorney's office told the Chronicle.

Aug 16 2013

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service has a new chief.

Terry Armstrong takes the helm on Sept. 3, filling the seat that has been filled by acting chief Robert Herman since January, NAPS' board of directors announced on Thursday.

Armstrong spent most of his policing career with the Ontario Provincial Police in Northwestern Ontario, and served as a First Nation constable at Pikangikum for three years prior to joining the OPP.

He served many years in the Northwest Patrol and served secondments to First Nation policing, including acting chief of the Lac Seul Police Service.

After retiring from the OPP in 2010, Armstrong served as deputy chief of operations for Treaty Three Police Service, a position he will hold until the end of this month.

"(Armstrong) has extensive experience in a wide variety of operational and administrative areas, including several years as a command officer, and has an in-depth knowledge of the issues and challenges facing First Nations policing in Northern and remote communities," board chairman Frank McKay said in a news release.

Herman will continue his stint as acting chief until Armstrong completes a brief orientation session in September. NAPS' deputy chief is Roland Morrison.

NAPS is the largest First Nations police service in Canada and the second-largest in North America, employing more than 130 uniform officers and 30 civilians.

NAPS polices 35 communities across Nishnawbe-Aski Nation territory, which encompasses nearly two-thirds of Ontario. (Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal)

Aug 16 2013

COLD LAKE, Alta. - RCMP have shot and killed a man on a reserve in north-eastern Alberta.

It's the third death this month involving Mounties in the province.

The 52-year-old was shot at a home on the Cold Lake First Nation's reserve on Thursday and was pronounced dead in hospital.

"RCMP officers were at the residence to execute an arrest warrant on the individual when a confrontation took place," said a police news release.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team was at the scene Friday.

The unit is also investigating the other two deaths and a non-fatal shooting in recent weeks.

On Aug. 1, RCMP pulled over a suspected

impaired driver near Grande Cache northwest of Jasper. Mounties said the man behind the wheel was shot and wounded during an altercation. He fled but was caught a short time later and taken to hospital.

Family later identified the injured man as Curtis Hallock, a regular sidekick on the reality TV show "Mantracker."

The following day, RCMP in Leduc, just south of Edmonton, used a Taser while trying to arrest a suspect in a series of assaults, thefts, driving complaints and hit-and-runs. The 27-year-old went into medical distress while in handcuffs and later died in hospital.

That same weekend, an officer pulled over another suspected impaired driver near Ma Me O Beach on Pigeon Lake southwest of Edmonton.

RCMP said while the officer tried to arrest one of five men inside the car, there was an altercation and two of the occupants were shot. A 30-year-old man from Pigeon Lake died at the scene. His 41-year-old brother was taken to hospital with chest wounds.



Aug 17 2013

MISSION, B.C. - British Columbia is the latest province with a snake problem as officers discovered and euthanized nearly 50 illegal pythons in a small town home.

Insp. Chris Doyle of the B.C. Conservation Officer Service said they were called to a house in Mission, B.C., on Thursday while the tenant who owned the snakes was being evicted.

Officers discovered 46 reticulated pythons which are prohibited under the province's Wildlife Act without a permit - the longest snake was just over four metres in length.

Doyle said nobody had a permit at the house, which is located in a residential area within a couple blocks of a school.

The report came in the same day that 40 pythons were seized at a Brantford, Ont., motel room.

Aug 17 2013

HALIFAX - Community members of all stripes joined together in Nova Scotia this weekend to tackle the problem of bullying.

Nearly 500 participants - including youth, parents, educators, government officials and representatives from community organizations - gathered at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax on Friday and Saturday to take part in Nova Scotia's first anti-bullying leadership conference.

The aim of the conference - called Speak Up - was to bring together and promote co-operation

between people affected by bullying and those who are working to prevent it.

The two-day event also served as a platform for the Nova Scotia government's announcement of new resources released to students and parents coping with bullying, cyberbullying and sexual violence.

The province also has also announced it will be launching a website in September for young people to anonymously inform their school principals of instances of bullying.

Marilyn More - the minister responsible for the action team on sexual violence and bullying - says she hopes the anti-bullying leadership conference will become an annual event.



Aug 18 2013

Police in Quebec are blaming social media for a riot that broke out after a rock concert north of Montreal, late Saturday night.



Police arrested 19 people after a crowd refused to leave a music festival following an outdoor performance by rock band "Les Trois Accords" in the city of Blainville - located around 40 kilometres north of Montreal.

According to Blainville police, the crowd grew and the scene escalated after news of the violence was put on social media.

"They want to be cool," Stéphane Giguere of the Blainville police told CTV Montreal. "They want to be seen on Facebook."

Rioters flipped over a police car and set it on fire. They also tossed bottles and other objects at officers on the scene. At the height of the riot, police say 1,000 people were involved.

A Blainville spokesperson said alcohol may also have played a role.

"We had a lot of cans of beers on the floor, on the sidewalks," Yves Meunier said.

Blainville police called in reinforcements from neighbouring municipalities to deal with the riot. In total, 80 officers were on scene.

The riot was brought to an end at around 2 a.m. Sunday.

All of the arrested suspects were between the ages of 14 and 22, and 10 were minors.

The suspects were released on a promise to appear in court at a later time. They face multiple charges, including charges related to mischief, arson and participating in a riot.

Police are combing social media for

pictures of the riot and say they plan to make more arrests.

(CTV News)



Aug 19 2013

TORONTO - The Ontario Safety League says it is far too easy to buy crack-pipes, marijuana grinders and other drug paraphernalia in convenience stores across the province.



The non-profit charity says what it calls a growing trend to sell items clearly intended for smoking illegal drugs like pot and crack cocaine is a "serious public safety issue."

Safety League president Brian Patterson says his staff easily purchased dozens of drug-related items at convenience stores in big and small cities from Windsor to Cornwall, including Toronto, Ottawa, St. Catharines and Guelph.

Patterson says it's irresponsible and illegal for corner stores to openly sell items that enable drug use right beside candy and milk.

Aug 19 2013 Investigators with Quebec's provincial police are heading to Nunavik Monday after local police officers shot and killed a man in Akulivik Saturday evening.

Officers with the local Kativik regional police force were called to a home in Akulivik, on the shores of Hudson Bay, after someone reported hearing gunshots on Saturday.

Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Audrey-Anne Bilodeau says the officers came under gunfire when they got to the house.

"When they arrived, at least one shot was fired at a police officer," Bilodeau said. "We're talking about [a] slight injury."

Another officer reportedly fired back, killing the 54-year-old suspect. Bilodeau says it appears another person was injured before police arrived at the home.

"[Police] were responding to a call about gunshots, and the suspect had fired on someone, and this person is now in critical condition," Bilodeau said.

This incident comes a few months after two officers with the Kativik force were shot, in March, responding to a domestic dispute in the Northern Quebec town of Kuujuaq. One of the two police officers, 27-year-old Steve Déry, later died in hospital.

(CBC News)

Aug 19 2013

VANCOUVER - A Vancouver, Washington man who attempted to skip out on a \$20 restaurant bill Sunday was caught after he left his wallet behind, according to the Columbian.

Police said 31-year-old Adam Thomas of Vancouver refused to pay his \$20 bill at the El Presidente Restaurant. Instead, Thomas told police that he showed a knife and fled the scene.

Thomas left his wallet at the restaurant. Vancouver police arrested him less than half an hour later.

Thomas was charged with suspicion of first-degree robbery and an outstanding warrant. (KGW)

Aug 19 2013

CALGARY - Calgary police are going ahead with plan to outfit officers with body cameras and say they have become an effective policing tool.



A pilot project was started in November 2012 and 50 of the cameras were given to a variety of units within the Calgary Police Service to try out.

The micro-cameras are activated when officers respond to a call or come across an incident requiring investigation.

So far, the cameras have captured about 2700 videos including footage of intoxicated persons, assaults, traffic offences, impaired driving, homicide investigations and flood related duties this summer.

The footage can be stored for at least 13 months and up to 25 years depending on the investigation.

Police say that in some cases the videos have led to early case resolutions and convictions.

The police service will expand the program in a phased in approach. (CTV News)

Aug 19 2013

VANCOUVER - Three men accused of participating in a gang-related massacre at an apartment building in 2007 will be tried in Vancouver this September, and not the suburban city of New Westminster, B.C.

Associate Chief Justice Austin Cullen has moved the Sept. 16 trial citing "the efficiency of the trial and the ability to control its process."

Jamie Bacon, one of three brothers who police have linked

to Vancouver's gang war and who was also charged in the case, will be tried separately, although no date has yet been set.

The killings, known as the "Surrey Six" murders, occurred Oct. 19, 2007 and police have previously said four of the victims were targeted.

But 22-year-old Chris Mohan, a resident of the tower, and 55-year-old Ed Schellenberg, a maintenance worker, were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Dennis Karbovanec pleaded guilty in April 2009 to three counts of second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in the slayings.

Aug 19 2013

SASKATOON - Justice Minister Peter MacKay is talking about cracking down on drunk driving, sexual predators and cyberbullying, while doing more to help victims.



MacKay made the comments in his first speech to the Canadian Bar Association since taking over the justice portfolio.

He told the crowd in Saskatoon that he intends to move forward on a bill of rights for victims after hearing heartwrenching stories from people who were frustrated with the legal process.

"First, I think it's fair to say that many have recognized that significant improvements have occurred," MacKay said Monday.

"But second, I've heard many victims who still feel the system is failing and they don't feel that thus far it is meeting their needs. They want the system reformed to include them in a more substantial way.

"We've heard that victims want to understand what is happening to them, what is going on around them throughout the process and they need to know that, in fact, their rights will be protected. And that these rights will at least be moving in the same direction as the rights of the offenders in fact enjoy."

The minister also said more will be done to help stop cyberbullying.

In a news conference after the speech, MacKay, who was once a Crown prosecutor in Nova Scotia, said legislation could come this fall.

"The inappropriate transmission of intimate images without consent is a crime and there are certain, I think, legislative gaps now that we've identified in the Criminal Code that we hope to plug as soon as this fall if we

can get those amendments properly drafted and before Parliament in the coming session," he said.

A report commissioned after the suicide of a Nova Scotia teen said there should be a law against distributing intimate photos without someone's consent.

Ottawa, the provinces and territories released a report in July that said the law as it stands doesn't go far enough to protect victims of this type of online exploitation.

MacKay was also asked Monday to weigh in on another report, this one from the Canadian Bar Association.

The group released a report Sunday that described access to justice in Canada as "abysmal." It said the harshest consequences would be on the poorest people.

Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, who also spoke at the conference, described access to justice as a growing problem for many Canadians.

Peoples' lives can be ruined if they can't get access to justice, McLachlin said Saturday.

Among other things, the report calls for more federal funding for civil legal aid.

Report author Melina Buckley said the federal government can't say how much it contributes to civil legal aid because the amount is included in overall funding to provinces and the decisions on how to spend the money is made at the provincial level.

MacKay said the federal government has increased the money it transfers to provinces, but that there are constitutional limitations on what Ottawa can tell the provinces to do with that funding.

The minister said he had not yet read the association's full report, but had been briefed on it.

"The overall tenor that I've received both in the report and from talking to everyone from Madame Justice McLachlin to the president of the Canadian Bar Association, front-line prosecutors, victims, is that this is going to require a concentrated effort over time to address some of these short-comings when it comes to access," said MacKay.

"And it's multi-faceted. There's issues in terms of language, in terms of cultural sensitivity, in terms of the number of judges who are in the system to administer justice, so it isn't going to be a one-off simple response.

"It's going to require a period of time, working, collaborating with all levels of government, working with the participants in a way that will bring about meaningful, progressive evolution in our justice system to respond fairly to the subject of access."

Aug 19 2013

CALGARY - Alberta's justice minister is asking a former police officer convicted of possessing child pornography to move out of a Calgary neighbourhood after dozens of residents phoned him with concerns.

Stephen Huggett, who is 59, was sentenced to nine months in jail for possession of child pornography in 2009.

He was recently charged under the 1992 Criminal Code with invitation to sexual touching and sexual interference with a child under 14.

Huggett lives in the community of Willow Park across the street from two elementary schools and a daycare.

Over the weekend, Justice Minister Jonathan Denis went door-to-door to speak with residents, and says he hopes Huggett will voluntarily move.

Denis says people are afraid.

"People are well aware of this issue in the area and realistically we do have to leave matters before the courts, for the courts to decide," Denis said.

"But there is nothing stopping the offender in this case from voluntarily relocating, which is what I'm asking him to do."

Huggett is currently out on bail with strict conditions. His next court appearance is Aug. 29.

"When you're living across the street from a playground, a busy playground, a busy school that's going to have many children are available, it is concerning," Denis said.

"Law-abiding people have the right to feel safe and be free of fear, and not always be looking over their shoulders."

But those who work with sex offenders say putting the spotlight on them doesn't help.

"If one is isolating them, marginalizing them, pushing them out, statistically those are the reasons that will create re-offence," said Moira Brownlee of Mennonite Central Committee.

(Global Calgary)

Aug 19 2013

LANGLEY - The BC RCMP Air Services section has moved its two helicopters from Vancouver Airport's South Terminal to the Langley Regional Airport.

Insp. Nigel Bushe, Officer in Charge of the Air Services, said the move to Langley makes them more central to get to crime scenes and it is also more cost effective.

"To get our helicopter out of YVR we often had to wait 10 to 15 minutes to get clearance because it is such a busy airport," said Bushe. "We didn't get priority treatment, even if it was an emergency."

Now Air One can get from Langley Airport to Whalley in three minutes.

It can fly over to Maple Ridge in that same time.

The RCMP have signed a long-term lease for hangar 47 and have been flying out of Langley since June.

"Langley is dead centre," said Bushe.

Right now there are two pilots and two tactical officers but Bushe is hoping that number grows to four or five. They are also hoping to bring a third helicopter on board.

"We are hoping the third helicopter can be a twin engine. That will allow us to hover,

and do border searches and work with the Americans," he said.

The RCMP Air One launched in 2006. Shortly afterwards, the province bought a second helicopter.

Since then air services has helped with hundreds of arrests, vehicle pursuits and recovery, locating suspects trying to run and hide and helping find lost hikers.

"We track down a lot of stolen vehicles, at least a couple a week," said tactical officer Const. Tammy Sandquist.

(Langley Times)

Aug 19 2013

VANCOUVER - Police technology is getting closer and closer to being able to stop crimes before they occur. Science fiction films like Minority Report no longer seem quite so far-fetched.

The Vancouver Police Department is working with technology that can predict where crimes are most likely to occur, drawing from a wealth of data including that of past offences.

Special Const. Ryan Prox expects the ground-breaking system will be used to stop crimes before they happen by early 2014.

The technology will draw from multiple data sets to predict that a specific crime will probably occur in a specific location at a specific time, he said, so police will know where to go before a crime has been committed.

"We will actually be deploying police units pre-emptively to where crime isn't happening, but where we're predicting it might," said Prox.

Police cars are equipped with mobile terminals with touch screens for easy access to the data while on the go, so officers can make their own decisions on where they should be.

The customized computer system from IBM has been used since 2007, and is making Vancouver's police force leaders in North America, keeping pace with the likes of New York and Los Angeles.

In addition to preventing crime, "big data" can also be used to solve cases traditional techniques couldn't crack, said Prox.

He said their advanced computer system drew from extensive data sets to help solve a case in 2010 that had been unsolved for a year and a half.

A rapist had been targeting young girls around the Lower Mainland since the 1990s when Prox was asked to put the data system to the test. A vast quantity of data was mined, including housing sale records and other data not typically included in a police investigation, using a method known as "geo-profiling."

Within six weeks, the computer spat out a name: Iyata Hexamer, with 99.7 per cent certainty. A warrant was promptly issued for his arrest. He pleaded guilty to four counts of sexual assault last August.

Prox said that without the computer sys-

tem, the case might not have been solved.

"He would not have been caught until he would have offended again," said Prox.

Police are using an increasing number of data sources to find criminals.

Using data to guide police work can help make their work smarter and more efficient, to keep costs low and streets safe, said Prox.

Such investigative technologies have also caught the attention of privacy watchdogs.

For decades, there have been plenty of ways that everyday citizens are monitored by businesses, but SFU criminology professor Richard Frank said government agencies are getting access to more data than ever before.

"More and more, the government is stepping in and collecting it from separate entities," he said.

He said those concerned about privacy infringement should remember that much of what we do online isn't really that private. He said we should think of email providers and social media sites as public property.

(CTV News)

Aug 19 2013

MONTREAL - Three Laval police officers are in hospital on Monday after a chain reaction involving a beating and a car crash that all started with a traffic stop.

At 11:30 a.m. a canine officer in a squad car stopped a motorist.

At this point what the infraction was is unclear. While the officer was writing up the infraction in his cruiser, the enraged motorist got out of his car and commenced wailing on the police car with his fists, pounding on the hood, windshield and driver's window.

The officer got out of his car and the motorist jumped him, knocking the officer to the ground where he hurt his knee badly. The officer had radioed for backup before he left his cruiser. Two more Laval police responded with emergency lights and sirens activated.

They sped along the service road but a 70-year-old driver apparently didn't see or hear them and was broadsided going through an intersection as the cruiser raced through.

The police officers were taken to hospital, one with a concussion, and the others with neck and leg injuries. The 70-year-old driver was treated in hospital for only minor injuries as the brunt of the impact was to the back seat of his car.

Other officers also responded to the call for help from the first policeman and the motorist who attacked the officer was arrested. He may be charged with aggravated assault. The dog was unhurt.

(Montreal Gazette)

Aug 19 2013

WINNIPEG - Social media and outdated laws hinder police dealing with online crimes, says Vancouver's police chief.

"It still remains that police are governed

by laws created in the 1970s when lawmakers could not envisage today's use of computers, mobile devices and social media," CACP president and chief of Vancouver police Jim Chu told reporters.

"The internet continues to be a safe-haven for those who choose to exploit the technology."

He said the CACP supports recent efforts by the Nova Scotia government and the federal, provincial and territorial justice and public safety ministers to deal with cyberbullying and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images online.

But "in order for those in law enforcement to pursue the intent of such important initiatives, we need to ensure that criminal activity committed through new technologies can be effectively investigated and prosecuted," Chu said.

"This requires Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) to preserve data while law enforcement obtains a judicially-authorized warrant to request the production of that data. It also requires that TSPs have the capability to be intercepted through judicially authorized warrants."

While a great majority of police services throughout Canada have invested resources in social media, Chu said all agencies can no longer afford not to engage in it.

"The use of social media provides police services with a tremendous means to communicate with the public, not just through a broadcast of information, but also as a means of engaging in two-way dialogue," Chu told reporters.

"It enhances trust and confidence in policing and helps foster greater relationships, in real-time, with the communities we serve."

(CBC News)



Aug 20 2013

NEWCASTLE, Ont. - Police say a letter sent to the Ontario family of a 13-year-old autistic boy telling them to move or have him euthanized does not constitute a hate crime.

The boy's grandmother, Brenda Millson, received the anonymous letter on Friday and reported it to police.

The letter was signed by someone claiming to be a mother in the area who was upset about noises Millson's grandson Max made when he was outside.

Durham regional police say a criminal investigation is underway but the letter doesn't reach the threshold for a hate crime.

Investigators say they consulted with the Crown Attorney's office on the letter that contains "hateful language."

The letter has gone on to make international headlines, and Millson says she's grateful her

local community has rallied behind the family.

Aug 20 2013

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. - Two Niagara Falls brothers have been sentenced to eight years in prison in connection with a massive cocaine bust.

Frank and Angelo Alessio were arrested in February 2012 after police seized 110 kilograms of cocaine during a raid on a St. Catharines industrial unit.

In July, the brothers pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

After subtracting time served, each brother will spend five years and nine months in prison.

The investigation saw the arrest of nine other people.

Police dubbed the investigation "Project Ink" and said the bust was the region's largest ever cocaine seizure.

(CKTB)

Aug 20 2013

VANCOUVER - The children of another three women have launched lawsuits targeting the police and Robert Pickton, marking the first such lawsuits filed by people Pickton was convicted of killing.

The latest round of claims bring the total number of lawsuits filed since May to nine, though until now the lawsuits have involved women whose remains or DNA were found on the farm, but for whom Pickton was never put on trial.

Statements of claim were filed this week by Brenda Wolfe's daughter, Angel Wolfe; Marnie Frey's daughter, Brittney Frey; and Georgina Papin's daughter, Kristina Bateman.

The three latest lawsuits allege the Vancouver police and the RCMP failed to properly investigate the women's disappearances and failed to warn sex workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside that a serial killer was likely at work.

The lawsuits also target the Crown over prosecutors' decision in 1998 not to put Pickton on trial for attempted murder after he attacked a sex worker the previous year.

Pickton is named as a defendant, and the lawyer representing all the families in all nine lawsuits has said he wants to compel Pickton to testify.

Aug 20 2013

WINNIPEG - Police chiefs meeting in Winnipeg say handing out tickets for illegal possession of marijuana may be more efficient than laying criminal charges.

Delegates to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police annual meeting have passed a resolution that says officers need more "enforcement options" to deal with people caught with pot.

Association president Jim Chu says in a

release that criminal charges place a significant burden on police and court resources.

Chu, who is chief constable of the Vancouver Police Service, also points out that a conviction results in a criminal record that places barriers on future travel, employment and citizenship.

He says the association does not support legalization of marijuana.

The resolution was presented by the association's drug abuse committee.

"The CACP is not in support of decriminalization or legalization of cannabis in Canada," Chu said in a release Tuesday. "It must be recognized, however, that under the current legislation the only enforcement option for police, when confronted with simple possession of cannabis, is either to turn a blind eye or lay charges.

"The latter ensues a lengthy and difficult process which, if proven guilty, results in a criminal conviction and criminal record."

The committee's report says there are circumstances where a formal charge for simple possession is appropriate, for example, if a driver who has been pulled over is found to be smoking a joint.

But the report adds the "large majority" of simple possession cases could be more efficiently dealt with through tickets.

Aug 20 2013

MONTREAL - Quebec has launched its next debate on minority accommodation - and this one could make the erstwhile soccer-turban ban look like a leisurely stroll on the pitch.

The government is preparing to introduce long-awaited legislation that would restrict religious symbols in numerous places.

A media report Tuesday with leaked details of the Parti Quebecois government's "Charter of Quebec Values" says the proposed policy will prohibit public employees from donning Sikh, Jewish and Muslim headwear in the workplace.

The fiery debate that erupted over a recent ban on wearing turbans on Quebec soccer fields offered a sneak-peek of the what could be in the political pipeline for the national assembly's fall session.

The turban ban was lifted by the Quebec Soccer Federation due to external pressure - but not before it made headlines around the world. Inside Quebec, Premier Pauline Marois rushed to the defence of the soccer federation and accused its detractors of Quebec-bashing.

Tuesday's newspaper report says the PQ government is set to prevent employees in public institutions like schools and hospitals from wearing religious symbols such as turbans, niqabs, kippas, hijabs and highly visible crucifixes.

Aug 20 2013

YARMOUTH, N.S. - Conservation officers have seized a large reticulated python in southwestern Nova Scotia, marking the latest in a series of similar exotic pet seizures across the country.

It's illegal to keep such a snake in Nova Scotia without a permit, a spokesman for the Natural Resources Department said Tuesday.

"It's pretty clear on our website, there's a list of wildlife that are legal to keep with a permit and ones that are not," Bruce Nunn said in an interview. "They seized it because they suspect it was being illegally kept."

Nunn said the snake, seized late Monday, is 5.4 metres long and weighs up to 90 kilograms. This particular species of snake can grow to a maximum length of almost seven metres, making it one of the longest snakes in the world.

Nunn declined to release more details because the department has yet to complete its investigation. He said it's unclear whether charges will be laid.

"We're keeping details tight because the investigation is still continuing," he said.

The huge reptile has been taken to an approved holding facility, but Nunn wouldn't say where that is.

Earlier this month, two young brothers sleeping in an apartment in Campbellton, N.B., were killed by an illegal African rock python that had escaped from its enclosure.

The find in Nova Scotia followed similar seizures in British Columbia and Ontario.

Last week, conservation officers euthanized nearly 50 reticulated pythons found in a home in Mission, B.C. Possession of reticulated pythons is prohibited without a permit under the province's Wildlife Act.

The report from B.C. came the same day that 40 pythons were seized from a motel room in Brantford, Ont.

Aug 20 2013

EDMONTON - A review board has upheld the firing of a former army sniper from the Edmonton Police Service for urinating on another officer and other misconduct, but the case may not be over yet.

Const. Rob Furlong, a decorated veteran of the war in Afghanistan, was fired in March 2012 by a senior officer after pleading guilty to two of four charges at a disciplinary hearing.

A few months later the Law Enforcement Review Board ruled the punishment was too harsh.

It ordered Furlong reinstated with a temporary demotion, noting that he had entered an alcohol treatment program.

Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht filed an appeal that argued the decision to dismiss Furlong was reasonable.

The Alberta Court of Appeal then sent the case back to the board for reconsideration.

In its ruling made public Tuesday, the Law

Enforcement Review Board said the decision by the senior officer to fire Furlong for his misconduct during a night of heavy drinking at a police training event in Sept. 2011 was acceptable.

"The presiding officers' decision that the appellant be dismissed immediately from the Edmonton Police Service is affirmed and the appeal is dismissed," a three-member panel wrote.

"We conclude, after very careful deliberation, that the presiding officers' decision on penalty was reasonable - it was a decision that was available to him in light of the facts as he found them and in light of the law."

Furlong, who served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was lauded in 2002 for shooting a Taliban fighter at a range of 2.43 kilometres - the longest sniper kill recorded at the time.

Furlong, who has been suspended from the police service without pay, was not immediately available for comment.

Sgt. Tony Simioni, president of the Edmonton Police Association, which represents officers, said Furlong is very disappointed with the latest ruling and is seeking leave to challenge it at the Alberta Court of Appeal.

"He is obviously concerned about the overturning of the decision and we are going to support him through this process to the very end," Simioni said.

Knecht was not immediately available for comment Tuesday.

Last April Knecht issued a written statement about the Furlong case.

In it he said the citizens of Edmonton have high standards and expectations of police, and that it is essential for the police to maintain the public trust.

Aug 20 2013

OTTAWA - An ex-Mountie's quest for a disability pension as a result of diabetes-related complications will be reconsidered after the Federal Court overturned a ruling that found his conditions were not related to his job.

Brian Roach, who was with the RCMP from 1980 to 2012, has been seeking this compensation from Veterans Affairs Canada. He claims elements of his job — such as being posted in a remote location in northern Manitoba where no physicians were available and doing stressful assignments requiring long hours that prevented a healthy diet — aggravated his diabetes to the point of creating potentially debilitating conditions in his health.

Roach's initial application for disability compensation was made to Veterans Affairs, which handles such matters, in 2010. He was awarded benefits related to tinnitus and post-traumatic stress disorder, but not for diabetes complications.

Roach's continued efforts pushed it to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board in June of

last year, where it was found his hardships related to diabetes could not be blamed on his job.

On Aug. 9 this year, the Federal Court overturned that decision, sending the case back to the board for reconsideration. In particular, the court directed board members to place more importance on the evidence provided by two physicians who treated Roach that indicated his duties as an officer aggravated his diabetes.

Michael Mac Neil, a law professor specializing in labour issues at Carleton University in Ottawa, said this case could cause police forces and other employers to give more consideration to workers' health conditions before handing them certain assignments.

"What this decision clearly indicates is that if you are in a situation that is likely to make it very difficult for you to manage a medical condition, which then contributes to its aggravation, then you would want to think twice about sending somebody to that kind of a posting," he said.

According to court's summary of the case, Roach was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 1992, requiring him to take insulin and carefully manage his blood-sugar levels through diet, physical activity and stress management.

The records show Roach's inability to take such measures, over the years, resulted in him being afflicted with diabetic neuropathy, a form of nerve damage. As a result, he has trouble attending social functions and performing household tasks because of pain in his legs, and he suffers from erectile dysfunction. Another condition noted is diabetic retinopathy, which has impaired his vision.

It was shortly after the initial diabetes diagnosis that Roach was posted to Shamattawa, Man., a remote northern reserve of about 750 people. The community had a high rate of violence, there were no physicians, housing conditions were poor and there was a lack of fresh food available, according to the court summary.

Two years later, Roach was transferred to the RCMP's criminal intelligence section in Winnipeg, putting in long hours that often forced him to skip meals and made it difficult to monitor his blood-sugar levels, the court document says.

Between 1997 and 2000, Roach was assigned to the RCMP drug section in Winnipeg. Long hours and irregular schedules continued to be a barrier to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, the court summary says, adding that his undercover work led to increased smoking and alcohol consumption.

Robert Hebdon, a professor at McGill University's school of management in Montreal, said the case points out how more consideration of employees' health should be given by employers in certain cases. However, he also said some of the responsibility falls on an employee to prevent situations that place their health in jeopardy.

"I don't think this is an employer problem, totally," Hebdon said. "It may be that (the RCMP) didn't have the sensitivity that they ought to have had. ... I think (Roach) has some legitimate points, but I have difficulty laying this all at the employer and saying it's all their fault."

The RCMP would not comment on this specific case but said in a statement: "Regular members who require insulin for adequate treatment of their diabetes never have a medically isolated posting in Canada imposed on them; the member must volunteer. Unless exceptional circumstances exist, insulin-dependent diabetics are considered medically unsuitable for such postings."

(Postmedia News)

Aug 20 2013

HALIFAX - It's official: Halifax RCMP employees have a brand new home.

The H Division Headquarters, snuggled next to Spectacle Lake in Burnside, was unveiled to guests and the media on Tuesday.

Justice Minister Ross Landry and Minister of Public Works and Government Service Diane Finley were on hand for the official ribbon cutting.

The \$113-million facility consolidates 10 offices scattered throughout HRM into one building and can fit up to 512 RCMP and civilian employees.

The facility was completed in June — six months ahead of schedule — and boasts a pedigree of sustainable features, including a living green roof, rainwater treatment and reuse for building operations, and was constructed with using locally sourced materials when possible.

"We have a lot of room, and the plans that were created for this building allow us to expand within the building right now," said Alphonse MacNeil, commanding officer of the RCMP in Nova Scotia. "We have no issues of growing out the building anytime in the future."

MacNeil says the efficiency of the building stretches beyond the employees who work there.

"Any of our members from detachments around the province that need to come into Halifax to meet with any of our sections only need to come to one building, as opposed to traveling around the HRM," he said.

(Metro News)

Aug 20 2013

MONTREAL - Vincent Geracitano runs the gamut of emotions describing the future of his television channel: pride, enjoyment, worry - but mostly anger about how it's being taken away from him.

When the CRTC made its decisions on mandatory carriage public August 8, it denied most of the applications from existing or proposed channels seeking the status for the first time, and approved most of the applications

for renewal. G racitano's channel, Avis de recherche, was the only service with mandatory carriage that had its renewal denied. And he doesn't understand why.

Avis de recherche is a channel that provides public safety information in Quebec. It airs notices of missing and wanted people, and produces news shows and information capsules in cooperation with emergency services. G racitano got the idea for it in 1999, when he had video of people trying to break into his office for a second time and the police told him they couldn't do anything with it because it wasn't interesting enough for the local news.

In 2002, G racitano got a licence for a television channel devoted to broadcasting notices from police, no matter how old or unexciting. It launched on Oct. 21, 2004, and rather than seeking a subscriber fee, G racitano paid Videotron to distribute the channel to its digital subscribers. It cost him two cents per month per subscriber, going up to five cents by 2008. With more than 750,000 digital subscribers, that worked out to almost \$40,000 a month.

His business model was based on business sponsorship, who he figured would want to be associated with a service that provides a public service and helps fight crime. But, as he discovered, the opposite was true. Advertisers didn't want to see their logo next to pictures of wanted criminals. On top of that, its regional nature meant national advertisers weren't interested, and its negligible ratings meant that "agencies won't propose us because they wouldn't make enough money from commissions," G racitano said.

In July 2007, the CRTC granted ADR mandatory carriage on digital cable in Quebec. After objections from distributors, the government took the unusual step of asking the Commission to reconsider the decision, but in January 2008 the CRTC upheld the order. Instead of having to pay five cents a month per subscriber, ADR would receive six cents.

G racitano, who had mortgaged both his home and his parents' home to keep the channel running, spent most of the first year just paying off outstanding debt to Videotron. After that, the channel expanded from mugshot slides to original programming.

"Anything that has to do with public safety has its place here," G racitano explained, stressing that it's expanded far beyond mugshots. It produces a live daily show giving news about police activity, and other news and information programs shot by its journalists.

Because it's not an entertainment channel, ADR doesn't have high ratings. In fact, it's within BBM Canada's margin of error, which is why it doesn't subscribe to the measurement service. This was a key point against it at the CRTC hearing. Broadcasting vice-chair Tom Pentefountas, who led the Commission's questioning, asked if the channel is useful if

people don't actually watch it.

G racitano doesn't believe in that line of reasoning. He pointed to CPAC, APTN and other channels with mandatory carriage that also have small viewership but provide a public service. He pointed out most people pay little attention to it most of the time, except when they need it. "If it's a member of your family (that's missing), you're sure as hell glad that the service exists," he said. He said he doesn't expect people to watch his channel for hours at a time, but maybe just a few minutes a day.

Even the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, a consumer-focused interest group that opposed most demands for mandatory carriage, agreed that ADR and its English-language version All Points Bulletin were essential services and deserved it. (APB, which is licensed but unlaunched, was denied mandatory carriage in 2007, and again this month.)

"Canadians now have access to a whole new set of broadband-based technologies that did not exist when Avis de Recherche obtained mandatory distribution in 2007," the Commission said in its decision, reasoning that those technologies were helpful in "a more effective and efficient manner than a linear television channel."

It also said the ADR couldn't demonstrate it was "unique and complementary to existing programming" or that it had "concrete success indicators such as increased security of Canadian communities."

G racitano said it's hard to measure the channel's success because reports are not fed through ADR. Instead, the channel broadcasts contact information for police departments directly, and he doesn't often get feedback from them about where their tips come from.

However, there are some cases he can point to where ADR made an impact: a car thief in Assumption and a bank robber on Montreal's south shore were caught because viewers saw their mugshots on TV; A 35-year-old missing child case reopened as a result of ADR's attention; a dead body identified after ADR broadcast a police reconstruction of his face; and a child taken to Mexico by his mother, who was allowed to see his father again after ADR publicized the case.

The biggest ace in the hole presented to the CRTC was the statistic that 34% of RCMP cases broadcast on the channel were solved because of it. The e-mail G racitano used as evidence of this actually says that 57 of 168 tips the RCMP received from ADR since 2009 contributed significantly to investigations.

"If the service was useless, do you think the police would be coming here?" he asked.

With no obvious avenue of appeal at his disposal, G racitano is going to have to make cuts. The CRTC extended ADR's mandatory carriage until Aug. 31, 2015, to "allow the licensee time to adapt its business plan in light of this change."

He's not convinced that's possible, since neither the business community nor police departments nor individual subscribers are eager to spend money to keep this service running. And he has to start making cuts now in order to pay off debts faster.

Asked what he can do to save his channel, he shook his head, his eyes growing red and his voice getting quiet. "What do we do now? I don't know. Fight; try to see what we can do."

(Blue Line Magazine)

Aug 20 2013

The fast-approaching trial of the man accused of shooting dead three armed guards at the University of Alberta will no longer be heard by a jury, it was revealed Tuesday.

Travis Baumgartner was charged in the June 2012 robbery and fatal shooting of Michelle Shegelski, Eddie Rejano and Brian Ilesic at HUB Mall. A fourth guard, Matthew Schuman, was badly injured in the shooting.

Baumgartner was working as a guard on the same shift. He was arrested days later with \$330,000 in cash in his vehicle at a U.S. border crossing adjoining British Columbia.

Alberta Justice spokesperson Michelle Davio told CBC News that, at the request of Baumgartner's lawyer, the trial will be switched from jury to judge alone. The Crown agreed with the change.

The time set aside for the trial has also been reduced from three weeks to one after discussions between the Crown and defence lawyers. Davio said the change was made late last week.

Davio said Baumgartner's trial is scheduled to start Sept. 9.

Baumgartner is charged with three counts of murder and one count of attempted murder.

(CBC News)

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 21, 2013

Aug 21 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer facing a rare murder charge in the shooting death of a young man on a streetcar is free on \$510,000 bail after spending just hours in custody.

Const. James Forcillo, 30, surrendered himself to authorities Tuesday morning on an arrest warrant that was issued the day before in the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim.

Yatim was shot multiple times and Tasered on an empty streetcar last month. It was captured on surveillance and cellphone video on which nine shots can be heard following shouts for him to drop a knife.

Forcillo showed no discernable reaction when he appeared in court in the morning on a procedural first appearance and in the

afternoon when he and his lawyers attended the bail hearing. He was brought to the courthouse around 8:30 a.m. and walked free about seven hours later.

Superior Court Justice Gary Trotter's reasons for setting Forcillo free on bail are under a publication ban.

But his lawyer Peter Brauti said outside court that Forcillo, who has an "excellent" policing background, is someone who should be released. The speed with which he got out is unusual, Brauti acknowledged.

"It's rare, if you want to talk about murder cases in general, but when you look at the circumstances of this case, this is a case where Mr. Forcillo didn't ask to be at the foot of that streetcar," Brauti said.

"He was on duty and he had a legal obligation to be there. We'll have a trial about whether the decisions were right or wrong."

Brauti, who often represented police officers, said he and Crown Attorney John Patton spent a nearly sleepless 24 hours hammering out an agreement.

Forcillo's four sureties include his wife and her family and he must report to the Special Investigations Unit once a week. He must surrender his passport and any weapons, obey a curfew and get written permission from the Crown to leave Ontario, though he can't leave Canada.

"The conditions are stringent to show the public that this is a serious case and everybody's treating it seriously," Brauti said.

Forcillo was also ordered not to communicate with the witnesses in his case and Yattim's mother, father and sister.

Aug 21 2013

ONEIDA OF THE THAMES, Ont. - A 17-year-old boy faces a slew of charges, including attempted murder, in connection with a shootout involving Middlesex provincial police earlier this month.

Police say they responded to several calls at the Oneida of the Thames First Nations reserve on Aug. 3 about "violent confrontations."

Officers say they confronted a suspect armed with a shot gun, shots were fired and the suspect was hit by police bullets.

They say he was taken to the hospital where he was initially listed in critical condition, but he is now expected to survive.

A 17-year-old, who cannot be identified, faces multiple charges that include four counts of attempted murder and two counts of discharging a firearm with intent to endanger life. (AM980)

Aug 21 2013

MONTREAL - Stefanie Trudeau, the police officer best known as Matricule 728, will not be charged with any crimes stemming from an incident that took place during last

year's student protests.

The Crown has decided it does not have enough evidence to understand the full context of why Constable Trudeau used pepper spray on several people.

On May 20, 2012 Constable Trudeau pepper-sprayed several people who were apparently taking part in a protest, but did not seem to be doing anything that required their being subdued.

Bystanders recorded the incident and put it on YouTube, and that incident along with several others led to Trudeau being suspended last year pending an investigation.

In April Montreal police finished their investigation and made their recommendations to Crown Prosecutors. The office of the DPCP has now decided that the video, and the 27 statements made by witnesses do not provide enough context for what happened.

The Crown said the witnesses did confirm that the protest on the night of May 20 was quite violent, and that demonstrators had repeatedly been informed they were not allowed to be on the streets.

Accordingly the Crown says that the actions taken by Constable Trudeau seem to fall under reasonable force.

(CTV News)

Aug 21 2013

ORILLIA - Replacing the OPP with a city force could cost Orillia dearly in the long run, Coun. Michael Fogarty warns.



The community's relationship with the provincial force will suffer a damaging blow and the fallout would be felt for years to come, he said.

"What happens in 20 years when the OPP Headquarters needs to do major renovations and they've got 20 municipalities begging for them to relocate, and they are going to give them sweetheart deals?" Fogarty said. "Do I want to be sitting on the council that loses this municipality 2,000 to 3,000 jobs?"

While supporting the call by the city for the OPP to enter binding arbitration on staffing and cost issues, Fogarty is unwilling to consider dropping the force.

"I know the economic benefit brought to this city by the OPP significantly outweighs the \$800,000 to \$1 million more a year that it will cost us," he added.

Council last Thursday gave the OPP two weeks to respond to a request for arbitration, and

the force has yet to respond, at least publicly.

A win for Orillia would mean savings of \$1 million annually.

Should the OPP agree to arbitration, the contract will be renewed and the dispute over staffing numbers and costs would be resolved "whenever the court case is heard," said CAO Roman Martiuk. "That could be months from now."

A refusal by the OPP to participate in arbitration would leave the matter in the hands of the police services board and, ultimately, council.

"(The board) would give us another recommendation," Martiuk added.

The OPP will move into a non-contract position, known as a Section 5.1, if an agreement is not reached by Sept. 1.

Under that scenario, the city's police services board is no longer recognized by the OPP and the billing method for policing changes.

"Some of the extras that were in last year's contract aren't allowed in a 5.1 arrangement," Martiuk said. "They were foot patrol and (enforcing) the taxi and alarm bylaw."

Martiuk said the OPP assured him any transition would be seamless.

(Orillia Today)

Aug 21 2013

REGINA - Saskatchewan's top Mountie is leaving the job.

Assistant Commissioner Russ Mirasty is retiring at the end of the month.

Mirasty became the first First Nations person to lead an RCMP division when he took the post in December 2010.

He will be replaced by Chief Superintendent Brenda Butterworth-Carr, who becomes the first female aboriginal commanding officer.

Butterworth-Carr joined the RCMP in 1987 as a native special constable.

She has served in Yukon, British Columbia and Saskatchewan in many key positions including as the First Nations policing co-ordinator.

Aug 21 2013

WINNIPEG - If only all crime cases were this easy to solve.

Early Wednesday morning, a man came up to a gas station in Winnipeg, approached the sliding window and told the employee he had a gun and to give him all the cash.

But the clerk refused and simply shut the window, and the would-be robber fled in a vehicle.

A short time later, the man came back to apologize.

But police were at the gas bar investigating and the 44-year-old man was arrested and is facing a charge of robbery.

Const. Eric Hofley says no weapon was found and the man's apology may help him in court.

(CJOB)

Aug 21 2013

OTTAWA - Ottawa police are set to be-

gin a program in September aimed at reducing police involvement in mental health and addiction issues and upping their partnerships with community groups to prevent crime.

It's modelled on the Community Mobilization program in Prince Albert, Sask., which Sgt. Brent Kalinowski says has brought violent crime down 32 per cent since it began in 2011.

In a presentation to nearly 200 municipal leaders at the closing day of this week's Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa, Kalinowski said the program brings together teachers, addictions experts, social workers, health-care workers, police, mental health advocates, probation officers, First Nations and academic analysts.

"Police are only part of the equation," he said, noting that involving all these people with various expertise gets closer to the root of the problems that create crime.

He also said it could help to reduce policing costs by taking the burden of dealing with mental health issues and addictions, for example, off the police plate and getting expert help for those most in need. This creates a "functioning community," and helps in crime reduction because those people aren't getting into trouble, he said.

Kalinowski said Prince Albert took the data showing the success of their program to the province of Saskatchewan and got more support from Premier Brad Wall, a major proponent of the initiative.

Cash-strapped municipalities in Ontario with over-stretched police forces are already taking note, and an 11-community working group is meeting to create programs here that would address the same issues.

Toronto is rolling out a pilot project in Scarborough.

Ottawa Police Sgt. Teena Stoddart with the Crime Prevention Section has been in touch with the United Way to help bring community partners to the table as early as September and get the project off the ground "as soon as possible."

She said she expects a lot of heavy lifting in the first year, reaching out to community partners, showing them the model, exchanging ideas and asking them to come on board.

"It's a lot of up-front work — building relationships and getting the structure in place — but, once that's done, I think you'll see this project take off very quickly."

Staff Sgt. Cori Slaughter said the first steps are to educate the force internally and figure out how to adapt the program to Ottawa's unique challenges.

"This is one of the inherent problems in the policing: we go, we arrest or we lay charges or we hand out tickets — but, that's not the answer," she said. "How can we get out to these families in order to address some of the problems they're having instead of just showing up in crisis mode? 'Cause that's what we

do: we show up in the middle of the night and we deal with the immediate crisis, but we're not looking at what's causing it."

So, if it's a mental health issue, Slaughter said, the idea is to consult a mental health professional and find the resources needed to solve the problem that is causing the criminal behaviour in the first place.

"There's lots of services for victims, so they bring in the groups and the services to deal with the victims but for the person who got arrested, there's no real mechanism to give them the help they need, whether it be anger management, employment help or addictions counselling, whatever the problem may be," said Stoddart.

Both women are excited at the prospect of what they call this "paradigm shift" in policing.

"The reason why we arrest the bad guys is so they don't have another victim, right? We want to help. We want to make society a better place. And, when you get into policing, you really believe that you're going to make a difference," said Stoddart.

"So, I've been in 23 years and I think, with this program, I'm going to be able to make a difference — not just me, but collectively across the city, if we can get our partners involved. If we make Ottawa a safer community, I may never retire."

(Ottawa Citizen)



Aug 22 2013

WEYBURN, Sask. - Police in Weyburn, Sask., have reached a deal for a new contract.

The three-year-deal includes a pay raise of 12.5 per cent over the contract, and is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2012.

There is a 4.5 per cent hike in the first year, and four in the other two years.

Evan Bray, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers, says they are thrilled both sides were able to come to an agreement they are satisfied with.

He says they did better than some of the larger centres that recently settled in Saskatchewan and in western Canada, but says Weyburn police are still behind when it comes to pay.

Weyburn Mayor Debra Button said in a statement that the city is pleased to "come to a negotiated settlement that is fair for both the police and the taxpayers."

(CJME)

Aug 22 2013

DECATUR, Ga. - The 911 tapes from a frightening standoff and shooting at an Atlanta-area school show how a school employee's calm demeanour

and kind approach helped end the ordeal without any injuries.

Police said Wednesday that school bookkeeper Antoinette Tuff was heroic in how she responded after being taken hostage a day earlier by Michael Brandon Hill, a 20-year-old man with a history of mental health issues. Hill went to the school armed with an AK 47-style rifle and nearly 500 rounds of ammunition, police said.

On a recording of a 911 call released Wednesday, Tuff can be heard relaying messages from Hill to DeKalb County emergency dispatchers before convincing him to surrender. She tells the dispatcher that Hill said he wasn't there to hurt the children but wanted to talk to an unarmed officer.

"He said, 'Call the probation office in DeKalb County and let them know what's going on,'" Tuff is heard telling the dispatcher. "He said he should have just went to the mental hospital instead of doing this, because he's not on his medication."

No one was injured, but police said the suspect shot into the floor and exchanged gunfire with officers who had surrounded Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy in Decatur, a suburb east of Atlanta. The school has 870 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

Dramatic television footage showed lines of young students racing out of the building with police and teachers escorting them to safety. They sat outside in a field for a time until school buses came to take them to their parents at a nearby Wal-Mart.

The exchange between Tuff and the suspect was captured on a recording of a 911 call made by school officials to dispatchers.

Tuff begins by telling Hill of her own struggles, including raising a disabled child and losing her husband. The bookkeeper reassures him by saying he didn't hurt anyone, hadn't harmed her and could still surrender peacefully.

"We're not gonna hate you, baby. It's a good thing that you're giving up," Tuff says after having Hill put his weapons and ammunition on the counter. Tuff tells Hill she loves him and will pray for him.

Before he surrendered, Tuff took to the school's public address system to say Hill was sorry for what he'd done and didn't want to hurt anyone - although the lockdown remained in effect.

Hill is charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, terroristic threats and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Police declined to discuss what he told them when questioned.

"We have to make a reasonable assumption he was there to do harm to someone," DeKalb County Police Chief Cedric L. Alexander said.

Law enforcement officers praised Tuff for helping to avert a potential tragedy.

"She was a real ally," Alexander said.

“She was a real hero in all of this. She just did a stellar job. She was cool, she was calm, very collected in all of this, maintained her wherewithal.”

Tuff told WSB-TV in Atlanta that she tried to keep Hill talking to prevent him from walking into the hallway or through the school building.

“He had a look on him that he was willing to kill - matter of fact he said it. He said that he didn’t have any reason to live and that he knew he was going to die today,” Tuff said.

Hill was arrested in mid-March for making terroristic threats in Henry County, DeKalb and Henry County sheriff’s officials have said. He was sentenced to probation.

Aug 22 2013

OTTAWA - A 23-year-old Montreal man has been convicted on human traffick- ing charges in Ottawa.

It’s the first time someone has been convicted under human trafficking laws in the country’s capital since they were added to the Criminal Code in 2005.

Jamie Byron was accused of abducting a 17-year-old Windsor, Ont., girl from her home in 2011, and forcing her to perform sexual acts on more than 100 men over a two month period.

Byron was caught by an undercover Ot- tawa Police officer.

He is due back in court on Sept. 6 to set a sentencing date.

(CFRA)

Aug 22 2013

BRIDGEWATER, N.S. - A Halifax man charged with sexual assault in the case of a teenage boy who was chained inside a Nova Scotia cabin will go to trial in March.

John Leonard MacKean is scheduled for a three-day trial by judge and jury beginning March 17 in Bridgewater Supreme Court.

MacKean, who was not in court today, is also charged with communicating for the purpose of obtaining sexual services from a person under 18.

In June, David James LeBlanc was sentenced to 11 years in prison after pleading guilty to kidnapping, forcible confinement, sexual assault, uttering threats and breach of conditions.

An agreed statement of facts in LeBlanc’s case said he offered the boy a painting job and drove him in a van from Halifax to Lunenburg County last September on the pretext of picking up painting supplies.

But the document said the boy was taken to a cabin in Upper Chelsea, about 130 ki- lometres southwest of Halifax, where he was chained inside a bedroom and repeatedly sexually assaulted.

The boy later escaped and a woman report- ed seeing a barefoot teenager at her doorstep,

chained at his wrists and ankles.

Aug 22 2013

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Can- ada will not hear a case involving two Quebec policemen accused of forging a search document.

Officers Georges Lebel and Gilbert Ga- gnon say they have waited too long for their day in court.

The two officers were accused of forging the signature of Daniel Audet, whose home they searched in February 2001.

But Audet says he never signed a docu- ment consenting to the search.

Six years passed between the time charges were filed in 2005 and the scheduled begin- ning of the officers’ trial in 2011, which they claim violates their right to be tried within a reasonable time.

As is standard practice in the case of ap- plications for leave to appeal, the Supreme Court did not give reasons for its decision.

Aug 22 2013

TORONTO - Ontario’s Special Investiga- tion Unit is looking for witnesses to a collision in Toronto’s west end that left a 24-year-old man with serious injuries.

The SIU says that a Toronto police offi- cer was driving a marked police motorcycle (northbound on Kipling Avenue), when he pulled alongside another motorcycle to speak

with the driver.

The driver then allegedly fled the scene and struck a curb before being thrown from his motorcycle and landing in an intersection.

The man was then taken to hospital with a broken arm and a punctured lung.

The SIU has assigned eight investigators to probe the details of the crash.

Aug 22 2013

TORONTO - The family of an 18 year old who died after being shot by po- lice on a Toronto streetcar says they are “distressed” by reports the young man was hit by eight bullets.

The Special Investigations Unit has said Sammy Yatim was shot “multiple times” and Tasered, and has charged Const. James Forcillo with second-degree murder in his death.

Yatim’s shooting was captured on surveillance and cellphone videos, on which nine shots can be heard following shouts for him to drop a knife.

The Toronto Sun and the Toronto Star are now reporting that their sources say eight of those shots actually struck Yatim.

A spokeswoman for the coroner’s office says they can legally only disclose informa- tion about their investigations to family mem- bers and others involved.

The family released a statement saying they have no knowledge or information to verify the media reports as they haven’t seen a copy of a coroner’s report.

International Police Association
Canadian Section

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

Service through Friendship

Membership is \$30 annually
To learn more visit the website
www.IPA.ca