

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Oct 11, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 41

Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Montreal police feel betrayed after arrest

Oct 09 2013

MONTREAL - Montreal's police chief said Wednesday the force had no inkling one of their high-profile investigators was allegedly trading sensitive police secrets to organized crime.

Using the terms "shocked" and "disgusted," Marc Parent told a news conference the force had been badly shaken by the arrest of former organized crime investigator Benoit Roberge last Saturday.

When he was stopped he was allegedly in the company of an individual linked to the Hells Angels crime gang.

Montreal police brass had no idea Quebec provincial police were investigating Roberge, who retired this past August.

"There are colleagues who have not slept since his arrest on Saturday, knowing that a credible police officer with whom they had shared information had betrayed their trust," Parent said.

"How to live with that when you realize you've never seen any signs? There's nothing to tell you that this person could have gone to the dark side?"

Calling it an "exceptional and isolated case," Parent said Roberge's former colleagues have been left reeling. The police chief said he has met with 200 investigators, some of whom worked closely with him.

"Everyone feels betrayed," said Parent. "The only consolation is that he was caught and was brought to justice, but it's a small consolation in the face of the damage he's done to police organizations and to the administration



of justice."

Roberge appeared in court on Monday on four charges: one of obstructing justice, one of breach of trust and two related to gangsterism. His bail hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

Roberge, 50, was a sergeant-detective who worked for 11 years in specialized squads that investigated organized crime. He teamed with RCMP and provincial police officers, among other forces, and his last five years were spent investigating criminal bikers.

He also testified at biker trials before he retired. Roberge has been suspended from a job working in intelligence for the province's tax collection agency.

Further complicating matters is that Roberge's spouse is a Crown prosecutor specializing in organized crime.

The Quebec prosecutor's office has announced an increase in security measures to protect its files. A prosecutor from out

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of town has been brought in to handle the Roberge case.

The police chief added that in the aftermath of another sensitive information scandal in 2012, the force instituted new security measures and sought to tightly control sensitive information with more cameras, random polygraph testing and tougher rules about who could have such information at their disposal.

The Montreal police detective implicated in that scandal killed himself in January 2012 while under investigation over whether he peddled a list of police informants to the Mafia. Ian Davidson took his own life after being outed as a mole in different newspaper reports.

This time, Parent said it may be time to discuss how to treat sensitive information on a national scale. He co-chairs a national police body that looks at intelligence matters.

"All major dossiers are now shared among police forces; organized crime really has no boundaries," Parent said.

"Investigations often go past our own borders and it's an opportunity to develop actions and guarantee better security in cases like the Montreal police is going through now."

THURSDAY OCTOBER 03, 2013

Oct 03 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton police have released a statement regarding citizens' concerns over delayed response times.

"I want to assure the citizens of Edmonton that when you call 911 or the non-emergency number, and you require the assistance of a police officer, the EPS will respond as quickly as we can," acting chief Brian Simpson said in a news release. EPS also stated that an increase in the number of all calls has caused delays in response times.

"It is becoming more of a challenge to get

to lower-priority calls for service as quickly as we would like to," said Simpson.

EPS has seen a 4.3-per-cent increase in dispatched calls, a total of 4,479 calls, from this time last year.

Questions were raised about response times after an incident in July when fitness instructor Cheryl Schneider made several 911 calls to EPS after two drunken males tried to enter her southeast fitness centre, No More Excuses.

After the incident, Schneider filed a formal complaint and a freedom of information request for data on EPS response time and calls. The information provided by EPS showed that the number of Priority 1, 2 and 3 calls has decreased in the last three years; however, response times have increased.

Schneider called the data alarming and hopes this serves as an opportunity to change policies.

According to EPS, police are still gathering information in regards to Schneider's concerns. Once complete they will provide a statement to her and the media.

Between January and August 2013, Edmonton police received approximately 1,340 Priority 1 calls and officers were able to respond within the seven-minute target window about 71 per cent of the time. In 2012, police responded to 1,390 calls within the target window 79 per cent of the time during the same time period. In 2011, police were able to respond to 1,640 calls within the target window approximately 78 per cent of the time.

(Edmonton Journal)

Oct 03 2013

EDMONTON - The Edmonton Police Association is demanding that an Alberta lawyer be suspended, after he was charged for allegedly trying to smuggle drugs into the Edmonton Remand Centre.

Police say 31-year-old Justin Sidhu went to visit a client at the institution on September 19, and brought with him a package he says contained documents related to his client's case.

Officers say they searched the package and found six grams of methamphetamine inside.

As a result, the EPA is calling on the Law Society of Alberta to suspend Sidhu from practicing law until the matter is resolved.

"This is clearly a serious breach of ethics on the part of Mr. Sidhu. His alleged actions clearly put his client, ERC (Edmonton Remand Centre) staff as well as other inmates of this institution in danger. The illegal trafficking of drugs in institutions is an extremely serious problem," read a letter to the society from EPA President Tony Simioni and EPA Treasurer Bill Clark.

"The public has the right to be reassured that a defense lawyer is not using his/her privileged status as a lawyer to commit crimes or to wilfully be blind to the commission of crimes."

The EPA is also calling on the Law Society of Alberta to conduct a thorough, objective and open investigation into the matter.

"Their demands and their consistent calls for a public disciplinary process for police officers, we'll be watching this very interestingly and very closely to see just how public this investigation is, how public this hearing may be," Simioni said. "And it's of note to us that this lawyer is still practicing law in the City of Edmonton; if that was a police officer, they would be suspended immediately without pay and they would be calling for that."

Sidhu has been charged with trafficking a controlled substance. Police say the amount of methamphetamine had an 'institutional price' of \$6,000.

(Global News)

Oct 03 2013

MONTREAL - Quebec police and the province's securities watchdog say they've dismantled a Ponzi scheme in which six people allegedly defrauded 240 investors of more than \$19 million.

A total of 35 police officers swooped down on locations in two Montreal suburbs as well as Sherbrooke, QC, in the Eastern Townships on Thursday.

Officials also placed a lien on a \$400,000 home that they plan to seize.

Police arrested four women and two men and are looking for a seventh suspect.

It's the third major Ponzi case to make headlines in Canada this year.

In June, police south of Quebec City arrested 43-year-old Pierre Jolicoeur after 65 people were allegedly bilked of \$12.5 million through a bogus investment firm.

Robert Sellars, 76, of Calgary pleaded guilty in April to fraud in an Albert-based pyramid scheme that saw clients fleeced out of \$35 million over 17 years.

(QMI Agency)

Oct 03 2013

ORILLIA - Orillia taxpayers have invested more than \$1 million preparing for a building that will never materialize.

With council no longer pursuing an earlier plan to build a new OPP detachment, dollars spent on the project to date cannot be recovered.

"That building will never get built, or presumably it won't get built, so none of those costs are recouped," said CAO Roman Martiuk.

Council in 2008 and 2010 established budgets for the design and construction of a 30,000 square foot detachment at a cost of more than \$12 million.

A property was purchased in 2009 to accommodate the detachment and architects were hired to design the building.

The project was halted during contract negotiations between the city and the provincial force.

Under a recently reached agreement, the OPP will continue to operate as an integrated detachment.

Instead, "the OPP will evaluate the project and then they will come up with the capital costs and they will build it," said Martiuk.

The municipality won't be required to

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

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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
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contribute toward its construction, but will pay a fee for the building through its annual billing for police services.

Expenditures on the detachment project include \$400,000 for property acquisition and building demolition, about \$450,000 for architectural design fees and \$172,000 in miscellaneous consulting fees.

(Orillia Today)

Oct 03 2013

TORONTO - A new detention centre is set to open in Toronto in the next few weeks, with space for up to 1,650 inmates, environmentally friendly features and a sweat lodge.

The Toronto South Detention Centre replaces the Toronto Jail, known as the Don Jail, and the Toronto West Detention Centre, which together could hold up to about 1,100 inmates.

The new, state-of-the-art facility, which will hold people on remand and those sentenced to provincial terms of under two years, opened its doors to members of the media today.

Rose Buhagiar, the director of the detention centre, says there's no specific date yet for the jail to start receiving inmates, but she hopes it will be in the next few weeks.

Oct 03 2013

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg woman who was arrested during a drug raid of her home, but was released without any charges, has lost her lawsuit against city police.

Jurors reached their verdict in the rare civil court trial following only a few hours of deliberations.

Gerilyn Riedle, 52, was seeking extensive financial damages, claiming she was the victim of a malicious arrest, false imprisonment and defamation of character.

Her lawyer, John Michaels, says police actions were "over the top."

But six citizens who heard more than a week of evidence sided with the police in ruling against Riedle.

Lawyers representing police argued the evidence was clear that Riedle should have known her 19-year-old son had drugs in the home.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Oct 03 2013

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper has formally appointed Marc Nadon to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Nadon fills the vacancy left by the mandatory retirement of former justice Morris Fish in August.

Nadon was a justice of the Federal Court of Appeal when he was nominated to the high court.

Before that, he was a Federal Court judge, a judge of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada and a judicial member of the Competition Tribunal.

He is a recognized authority on maritime law.

Oct 03 2013

CALGARY - Rick Hanson, Calgary's Police Chief, is calling for changes in federal legislation to allow police officers to obtain a DNA sample from suspects at the point of arrest.

Hanson made the comments during the opening of Calgary's new forensics lab on Wednesday morning.

He says that the concept might be new to Canada, but police in many European countries have the ability to take a DNA sample.

"The new technology is DNA. That's how you positively identify that that person is who they say they are and how you link a person to their crimes. It just makes too much sense that the federal legislation be amended

to include obtaining samples on arrest so that, number one, you ensure that you've got the right person and he is who he says he is.

And, number two, it will clear huge numbers of crime where we have evidence but we haven't yet linked that evidence to the perpetrator," Hanson said during the event.

He hopes that DNA sampling becomes as routine as fingerprinting and mug shots.

The new forensics lab is hoped to cut down on the time it takes to investigate crimes.

Previously, all evidence needed to be sent to a federal crime lab.

Hanson says the turnaround time on that lab was very long and the new lab will drastically cut down on the wait period.

(CTV Calgary)

Oct 04 2013

REGINA - When he gets back on Australian soil, Queensland police officer Sgt. Peter Blake will be holding up the Saskatchewan RCMP as a shining example of the best way to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in police work.

And he's hoping his bosses will agree the Canadian approach will work just as well in his home state.

Blake is about to wrap up a 12-day stint in Saskatchewan as part of a worldwide Winston Churchill Fellowship study on the use of UAVs in policing.

His travels have also taken him to the UK and Germany, but he says he "learned more in the first 20 minutes" with the RCMP than in the previous month in Europe.

"These guys have been my No. 1 stop, because they lead the world in the way they use UAVs in policing," he told the Leader-Post inside F Division RCMP headquarters on Thursday.

It's not just how the RCMP use UAVs, he says, but how open the force is with the public, particularly compared to the rest of the world.

"A lot of police forces around the world have these things, but ... why they don't share that information with the public, I don't know," he said.

"The idea of this technology is very much a concern with the public, but that's the best part of what they do here. They specifically say, 'This is how we're using it.'" Staff Sgt. Dave Domoney, who heads up the Saskatchewan RCMP's UAV program, said that openness with the public has been an integral part of the program since it was piloted in 2010.

In Saskatchewan, UAVs are primarily used for taking photos of collisions and major crime scenes, as well as in search and rescue.

But, he admits, they were "a hard sell off the bat," mainly because of the public misconception that UAVs are akin to military drones.

"Once we were able to show the public what we do with it, that we use it for very specific purposes, it gets easier all the time and the public is seeing them in use more and more," he said.

"We have nothing to hide. It's a tool and we've proven the tool works."

That proof was no clearer than in May this year, when Saskatchewan Mounties used a UAV near Denis to find a man who had wandered away from his vehicle, disoriented after a collision.

"They found him curled up under a tree in a snowbank," Domoney said.

"He wouldn't have lasted the night."

That's exactly the kind of example Blake will share with the Queensland Police Force top brass.

"For me, the information I've got from (Saskatchewan) is invaluable," he said.

"There's so much I can present to the hierarchy, saying, 'Look, here's a proven path we can go down and here's the evidence about how it's working. Here's the evidence that it helps police work and helps the community.' "If we take a similar route to Canada, there's no reason anyone could speak ill of what we're doing."

(Regina Leader-Post)

Oct 04 2013

TORONTO - A violent feud between two rival gangs in Toronto has led to a police crackdown resulting in more than 40 arrests and hundreds of charges.

Staff Insp. Greg McLane of the homicide squad says two police probes - Project Brazen and Project Quell - came as a response to violent gang activity that began in late 2011.

McLane says the murder of 24-year-old D'Mitre Barnaby in December 2011, which police later determined to be a case of mistaken identity, and several attempted murders in Toronto's east end prompted them to kick off Project Brazen.

McLane says the murder of Barnaby, who was shot multiple times in a parking lot, remains unsolved and he was not believed to be a gang member.

But he says Project Brazen and Project Quell, which was launched in June this year to continue the investigation, have led to the arrests of 41 people alleged to be gang members.

More than 400 charges have been laid, including attempted murder, trafficking, firearms and drug-related offences.

"It is alleged that the Barnaby homicide and a number of shootings were in fact associated to the escalation in violence between the Galloway Boys gang and the Orton Park gang," said McLane, adding the feud is believed to have been sparked by a turf war over the drug trade in the east-end area.

Oct 04 2013

SAN FRANCISCO - A San Francisco man denies charges that he operated an encrypted website where users could anonymously shop for drugs such as heroin and LSD, his attorney said on Friday.

"We deny all charges. That's the end of the discussion," said federal public defender

Brandon LeBlanc, who is representing defendant Ross Ulbricht.

The denial came after Ulbricht, looking calm, appeared in federal court in shackles and red prison clothes for a bail hearing. LeBlanc asked U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero to postpone the hearing, saying the case was complex.

Spero granted the request and rescheduled the hearing for Oct. 9.

Ulbricht has been charged in New York with narcotics trafficking, computer hacking and money laundering in connection with the website known as Silk Road, which is believed to have collected more than \$1 billion in revenue.

He is also charged in Maryland with arranging to pay someone to kill a witness.

FBI agents arrested the 29-year-old San Francisco resident - allegedly known online as Dread Pirate Roberts - on Tuesday in the science fiction section of a small branch of the San Francisco public library, where he was chatting online.

The arrest came after a federal investigation that began in 2011.

If convicted, Ulbricht could be sentenced to life in prison.

Oct 04 2013

OTTAWA - Ottawa's top cop supports a change that would allow police to collect DNA samples from suspects upon their arrest.

"I think it's an opportunity to modernize the way we collect evidence and to be more inclusive, and broaden the type of offences that DNA is currently being collected for," said Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau.

"I think if we're expected to solve crimes and do a better job at solving more crimes, this is using science to our advantage to ensure that those individuals who are responsible for committing these types of crimes are brought to justice."

Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson recently called for federal legislation to be amended so that DNA samples could be collected on arrest, as opposed to upon conviction for particular offences, in a move that also has support from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Similar to how fingerprints are taken upon arrest, DNA is the latest technology for policing, which supporters say will help en-

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sure people are who they say they are and can clear crimes faster.

“Now we’re at the point where (we need to say) how can we best use DNA, which is the latest and very reliable in helping us solve crimes,” said Bordeleau. “The science is there for us to take advantage of.”

The federal government indicated on Thursday it would explore the issue.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford came out in support of the idea on Friday
(QMI Agency)

Oct 04 2013

VANCOUVER - A former Vancouver Island deputy police chief is speaking out against the mayors of Victoria and Esquimalt, saying politics is getting in the way of a finalized policing deal.

In July 2012, then- B.C. justice minister Shirley Bond ordered Victoria and Esquimalt to reach a consensus on how to best operate their amalgamated police force, despite Esquimalt’s request to end their reliance on Victoria police and contract the RCMP instead.

John Ducker, a former deputy chief of the Victoria Police Department, said in an interview with Focus Magazine earlier this week that the mayors of Victoria and Esquimalt put more effort into political posturing than aiding the police board in finding a resolution.

He also said that the negotiations have become so heated that some staff members from each community won’t sit in the same room with each other.

Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardin said she can’t see how a consensus might be reached.

“We all know the process is stalled. How do we speed it up? Well, we now have new board members, that might be part of it,” she told CBC News.

Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin says the province will likely have to step in and help to resolve the issues on each side of the debate.

“We’ve exhausted the process. Now we’re looking for assistance from the province,” he said.

In a statement Friday, the B.C. Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton said she will be meeting with the mayors of Victoria and Esquimalt to discuss this issue.

“I am hopeful we will be able to resolve this situation in the near future to provide certainty about the future of policing for the residents of Victoria and Esquimalt,” she said.

Anton added that she believes recent changes to the police board’s membership would ultimately strengthen the Victoria-Esquimalt policing relationship.
(CBC News)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 05, 2013

Oct 05 2013

EDMONTON - Alberta prosecutors are not proceeding with a murder charge against a man accused of shooting

and wounding two Mounties.

Sawyer Robison was charged last year with attempted murder in connection with the two officers and second-degree murder in the death of his uncle, Bradford Clarke.

But Alberta Justice spokeswoman Michelle Davio says the murder charge will be discontinued when the matter returns to court on Monday.

She says prosecutors recently received evidence from the RCMP related to Clarke’s death and concluded there was little chance of a murder conviction.

Robison still faces the two counts of attempted murder as well several weapons offences.

The charges were laid after four officers went to execute a search warrant on a farm about 160 kilometres southeast of Edmonton and were fired upon.

Two officers were hit but managed to get outside.

Clarke was later found dead in a home on the property and a manhunt began for his nephew.

Robison was arrested peacefully three days later.

Oct 05 2013

ORILLIA - The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is deferring contract renewal discussions with municipalities while it works with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services on a new billing model for municipal policing services.

Municipalities whose contracts expire before Jan. 1, 2015, will have two options:

- Amend their current contract to continue until the new billing model is ready (Section 10 of the Police Service Act).
- Let their contract expire and be policed by the OPP on a non-contract basis (Section 5.1 of the Police Service Act) until the new billing model is launched).

“No matter what option affected communities choose, there will be no discernible change in service,” said OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis. “The OPP looks forward to working with all its municipal partners, and we ask that they be patient during the transition period to the new billing model.”

The OPP is also deferring discussions with municipalities seeking new estimates and costs for contracting police services in their community until details of the new billing model are finalized.

Oct 05 2013

TORONTO - Ontario’s police watchdog is investigating after a man was shot during an interaction with police in Toronto’s northwest.

The Special Investigations Unit says it happened just before 8 a.m. Saturday after someone reported seeing a man breaking into cars.

The SIU says there was an interaction between police officers and the man, during which the man was shot.

It says the 28-year-old man was taken to hospital for treatment.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 06, 2013

Oct 06 2013

OAKVILLE, Ont. - Three Oakville men are in custody after a Halton Region police officer was knocked down by a car while investigating suspicious activity.

Police say undercover officers were approaching a car in a parking lot Saturday evening when the vehicle lurched ahead knocking an officer to the ground.

Police say the officer fired a shot, striking the car, which stopped a short distance away.

The officer hit by the car was treated in hospital and released. No one else was injured.

Twenty five year old Jonathan Young is facing charges of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and assaulting a police officer.

Twenty year old James Falkenstein is charged with possession of a controlled substance and 20 year old Jon Kobli faces that same charge.

MONDAY OCTOBER 07, 2013

Oct 07 2013

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - A coroner’s inquest will get underway today into the fatal RCMP shooting of a Canadian military veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Greg Matters was shot during a stand-off on his rural property near Prince George, B.C., just over a year ago.

The 40-year-old military veteran was in treatment at the time for PTSD, and the fatal shot was the end of an escalating series of events that began with a dispute with his brother.

An independent investigation cleared RCMP officers of any criminal wrongdoing, but the coroner’s inquest will look at systemic issues that may prevent any similar deaths in future.

The weeklong inquest is expected to hear from the psychiatrist treating the former peacekeeper and officers involved in the shooting.

Oct 07 2013

MONTREAL - A retired Montreal police investigator who had spent his career combating organized crime was arrested over the weekend and is suspected of leaking inside information to criminal bikers, provincial police say.

The Sûreté du Québec says they arrested Benoit Roberge, who had been on a police unit handling organized crime until his retirement.

The 50-year-old Mr. Roberge has been charged with obstructing justice, breach of trust by a public officer and participation in the activities of criminal organization.

His indictment says the offences took place in St-Denis-de-Brompton, near Sherbrooke, between January, 2010, and this month. Mr. Roberge is alleged to have leaked

information from on-going police investigations to the Hells Angels biker gang in exchange for cash.

"This situation is taken very seriously," Inspector Michel Forget of the provincial police told a press conference.

He said the former police investigator was picked up on Montreal's South Shore on Saturday night. He was in the company of a member associated with organized crime, prompting the police to bring in the tactical squad.

Mr. Roberge was a well-known officer who had worked on a joint police unit combating organized crime.

"Let's be clear ... all attempts of infiltration by organized crime will be repressed," Insp. Forget said.

"We've reached the point in Quebec that we're destabilizing the structures of organized crime. They will try by any means to harm our investigations. At no time will any police organization tolerate attempts to infiltrate them.

"We will continue to keep up the pressure on organized crime, regardless of their attempts or their tactics to hurt us."

The investigation leading to the ex-officer's arrest included the Montreal police, provincial police, RCMP and the Quebec revenue agency.

After his retirement from the Montreal police, Mr. Roberge became last March the head of the intelligence unit at Revenu Québec. In a statement, the agency said it had suspended Mr. Roberge and was cooperating with the investigation.

Mr. Roberge was one of the province's most experienced biker specialists and had testified as an expert witness in several court proceedings.

He was one of the former controllers of the late Dany Kane, a biker who worked undercover for the police and played a key role in the crack-down against the Quebec Hells Angels in 2001.

Mr. Kane was a member of the Rockers, the puppet gang of the Hells Angels' Nomads, the top chapter that spearheaded the murderous biker turf war of the 1990s.

After initially working for the RCMP, Mr. Kane was eventually handled by Mr. Roberge and an SQ colleague, Robert Pigeon. They talked to him by phone daily, debriefed him in person, got him to wear a body pack and recorded his video statements. He tipped them about upcoming biker meetings, which police secretly recorded.

Mr. Roberge also often showed up at biker gatherings, checking who visited their clubhouses.

He testified as an expert witness in a major case against the Rock Machine, in the mega-trials against the Quebec Hells Angels and in the landmark Ontario case against Hells Angels Steven (Tiger) Lindsay and Raymond Bonner, which ended with the club being deemed a national criminal organization.

Mr. Roberge was also familiar with rogue cops. He was once called to testify before a Florida court that extradited Guy LePage, a former Montreal police officer who became a Hells Angels associate and was convicted of cocaine trafficking.

(Globe and Mail)

Oct 07 2013

VANCOUVER - The Vancouver Police Department insists it made "reasonable efforts" to find women whose remains were later found on Robert Pickton's farm, despite the force's own repeated public apologies for not catching the serial killer sooner.

The City of Vancouver has filed statements of defence on behalf of its police force in a series of lawsuits related to the Pickton case.

The children of nine women whose remains or DNA were found on Pickton's property in Port Coquitlam filed lawsuits earlier this year against the Vancouver police, the RCMP, several individual officers, and Pickton himself.

The city has filed statements of defence insisting it acted reasonably when it received reports of sex workers disappearing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

The statements also argue there is no evidence any of the women named in the lawsuits actually disappeared from Vancouver or died as result of activity that happened in the city.

The force has publicly apologized for failing to catch Pickton as he murdered Downtown Eastside sex workers and it released a report in 2010 that identified a series of deficiencies in the force's response.

Oct 07 2013

EDMONTON - A police dog in Edmonton has been killed after it was slashed while helping to capture a suspect involved in a pursuit.

The dog, named Quanto, was stabbed overnight.

Police say the five-year-old canine was deployed after the pursuit ended in a parking lot near the RCMP headquarters.

The dog was allegedly slashed while biting a suspect on the arm.

Quanto was taken to an emergency veterinary clinic where he died.

"It's a tragic day here at EPS," Scott Pattison, police spokesman, told the Edmonton Journal.

"Everybody's in shock here this morning."

The suspect is in custody, facing charges that include possession of stolen property and criminal flight.

Quanto's handler, Const. Matt Williamson, was being consoled at the police kennels.

Quanto was part of Williamson's family, Pattison told the Journal; his children were also very fond of the dog.

"It's a very taxing job for these animals and it takes a special animal to do this sort of work; they're extremely valuable," Pattison said.

In July, Quanto helped catch a suspect after a two-hour police foot chase "through yards and over fences" in Edmonton's downtown, the Journal reported.

"There's no charge under the Criminal Code that involves when a dog dies in the line of duty; it's rather nebulous," Pattison told the Journal.

The last Edmonton police dog killed in the line of duty was called Caesar, which was shot school yard in June 1998.

Oct 07 2013

VICTORIA - B.C. Attorney General Suzanne Anton says an agreement with British Columbia's Legal Services Society averts concerns about adjourned child-protection cases and other court delays.

Anton says a one-time funding crunch associated primarily with legal bills for lawyers is being cleared and the government has confirmed all legal aid accounts will be covered for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Some lawyers were planning to start applying today to adjourn cases.

In a written message to lawyers, the B.C. Legal Services Society said it was no longer recommending lawyers avoid booking hearing dates for legal aid work from February 17 through March 31, 2014.

But the society said it continues to face cost pressures in criminal cases and while discussions with government were ongoing, those pressures could result in reduced services.

Anton says her ministry remains in discussions with the society on meeting cost pressures, and her goal remains to meet her budget targets.

Oct 07 2013

SASKATOON - A Saskatoon woman who led officers on a wild chase has been sentenced for dangerous driving and evading police.

Kaitlyn Nicole Daniels, 20, pleaded guilty to the charges Monday in provincial court.

Court heard Daniels was driving Wednesday with her boyfriend Jason Heaton, a fugitive wanted on several drug charges.

Police attempted to stop the vehicle but Daniels refused to pull over, and she sped off at speeds of up to 160 km/h.

Court heard she had been using methamphetamine that day.

Provincial court Judge Albert Lavoie sentenced Daniels to 45 days in jail, a one-year driving ban and 10 months probation.

"This isn't a video game, we are playing in real-time life," Lavoie said, referring to Daniels' dangerous driving.

"It wasn't a bad decision, it was criminal."

(CKOM)

Oct 07 2013

OWEN SOUND - The Owen Sound Police Services are on the verge of adding another police force to its dispatch business.

The city service participated in an Ontario Civilian Police Commission hearing last week about taking on dispatch duties for the Port Hope police and expects to hear in four to six weeks if they have approval to provide the service beginning Jan. 1.

Owen Sound Police Chief Bill Sornberger said another police service is considering a proposal from Owen Sound, which would bring the total to seven police forces dispatched by the city service. The Owen Sound communications centre also handles emergency calls for 21 fire services with 26 fire halls.

"This is something that is taking off and

making Owen Sound part of the conversation in a lot of different parts of the province right now," said Sornberger. "It is making it cost efficient for us and we are making it cost efficient for the municipalities we are providing the dispatch service for."

The dispatch service now takes in about \$800,000 in revenue annually. If Port Hope and the other service are added to the mix, it will bring in more than \$1 million.

The dispatch centre now employs eight full-time and 10 part-time workers, up from eight full-time employees and seven part-timers a year ago. Sornberger expects the force to add more employees.

The Owen Sound centre provides dispatch services for the Aylmer, Wingham, West Grey and Saugeen Shores police forces.

The Pembroke police service, as of May, moved its dispatch service from Owen Sound to the OPP.

Sornberger said the Port Hope service contract will be for five years.

"We won't get involved in an agreement that is less than five years and that is to protect us from sudden whims and changes," he said. (Owen Sound Sun Times)

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 08, 2013

Oct 08 2013

CRANBROOK, B.C. - B.C.'s police watchdog has ended its investigation involving a fight between Cranbrook RCMP officers and a man they were trying to arrest.

The Independent Investigations Office says the man was punched in the head several times when Mounties were attempting to arrest him last August.

Paramedics later determined the man had no injuries, but he complained of pain and a swollen eye after he was brought back to the RCMP detachment.

Investigators say the man was then taken to hospital, where he was diagnosed with a fractured orbital bone, but he didn't require surgery or medical attention for the injury to heal.

Investigators say that since the injury didn't cause permanent damage or serious harm, the IIO will no longer be involved in the case.

However, the IIO says the man has made allegations of excessive force, so the file will be forwarding to the RCMP Professional Standards Unit and the Commission of Public Complaints against the RCMP for review.

Oct 08 2013

OTTAWA - The newest member of the Supreme Court of Canada says he won't hear any cases until a challenge to his appointment is resolved.

A Toronto lawyer is going to court to challenge Justice Marc Nadon's eligibility for the high court.

Rocco Galati argues that Nadon - formerly a Federal Court of Appeal judge - does not qualify to fill one of three slots reserved for judges from Quebec on the top court.

Galati says only judges from Quebec's appeals or superior courts, or lawyers who have belonged to the province's bar for at least 10 years, can be appointed to the Supreme Court.

But former Supreme Court Justice Ian Binnie wrote a legal opinion for the federal government in support of Nadon's appointment.

Oct 08 2013

TORONTO - The Crown is trying to have a decision overturned that cleared a Toronto police officer of murder in the shooting death of a man during a drug and weapon search.

Const. David Cavanagh had been charged with second-degree murder, but a judge last month ruled the death of Eric Osawe was "totally accidental."

Superior Court Judge Michael Quigley dismissed a Crown appeal of an earlier court decision that also ruled the shooting was accidental.

After a preliminary inquiry earlier this year another judge decided there wasn't enough evidence to commit Cavanagh to trial and dismissed the case.

The Crown is now appealing the latest decision, having filed their notice of appeal Tuesday with the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

Cavanagh was part of an Emergency Task Force team that burst into Osawe's west-end Toronto apartment on Sept. 29, 2010, on a search warrant for cocaine and a handgun.

Oct 08 2013

NEW YORK - An off-duty undercover police detective was arrested late Tuesday after investigators said he was shown on video hitting and kicking an SUV when a biker rally spiraled into violence.

Wojciech Braszczyk surrendered to face riot and criminal mischief charges, New York Police Department spokesman John McCarthy said.

The attorney, Phil Karasyk, had said Monday that the detective, a 10-veteran of the force, had only witnessed other bikers attacking the vehicle. But investigators discovered video evidence showing him punching an already damaged back window, then twice kicking the side of the SUV before leaving the scene, according to two people familiar with the case. The people weren't authorized to discuss the inquiry and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

The arrest added to the complexities of the Sept. 29 episode, which authorities say began with a reckless motorcycle group ride

on a Manhattan highway and ended with one motorcyclist run over and the driver dragged from his SUV and beaten on a street.

Four bikers aside from Braszczyk have been criminally charged; the latest was arraigned Tuesday on gang assault and other charges.

NYPD internal affairs investigators had initially been looking into the undercover detective's conduct because he didn't report until three days later that he had been at the rally. The expectation that police officers will act if they see crimes isn't the same for undercover officers.

The encounter, captured partly on a helmet-mounted video that was posted online, began when about two dozen riders slowed down, swarming the Range Rover after it bumped a biker on the West Side Highway. Some riders dismounted and approached the SUV, and police said some bikers began damaging it.

The SUV's driver, Alexian Lien, took off, running over motorcyclist Edwin "Jay" Mieses Jr., who's from Lawrence, Mass. The impact broke Mieses' legs and caused spinal injuries that may leave him paralyzed.

Lien's wife has said he feared for their lives and the safety of their 2-year-old daughter and had no choice but to flee; Lien hasn't been charged with any crime.

The bikers pursued the SUV, which exited the highway and got stuck in street traffic. One biker used his helmet to shatter the driver's window, and others pulled Lien out and beat and kicked him, police and prosecutors said. Lien needed stitches.

The latest motorcyclist charged in the case, Craig Wright, punched Lien through the broken window and joined in stomping him on the street, Assistant District Attorney Samantha Turino said.

According to the undercover detective's account, he saw motorcyclists attacking the SUV but didn't see anyone harm Lien, Karasyk said Monday. The detective also didn't see the SUV hit Mieses, the attorney said.

Carrying no badge or gun, and aware of cases in which officers had been suspended or dismissed for blowing their covers, "he had no other option, so he drove away," said Karasyk, who works with the detectives' union.

Oct 08 2013

WASHINGTON - To gauge whether suspects involved in accidents or routine traffic stops have been driving drunk, police officers pair field sobriety tests with breathalyzers, which signal the presence of alcohol in the breath. Most breathalyzers are expensive and unable to test for precise concentrations of alcohol.

Offering a better solution, Italian researchers have developed a novel idea for

an inexpensive, portable breathalyzer whose color would change from green to red with higher alcohol concentrations. But unlike current color change-based devices, this sensor would be reusable and could also provide a precise digital readout.

The new design is the first to use the sensing properties of opals, a type of gemstone, to detect the gas version of ethanol, the intoxicating component of commercial liquor, by inducing a change in color that is visible to the human eye. The research team describes their new method in a proof-of-concept paper published today in The Optical Society's (OSA) journal Optical Materials Express.

The portable breathalyzers preferred by roadside police use expensive electronic readouts, but these devices lack the "immediate and intuitive" color change that tells police whether the alcohol content of a suspect's breath puts them in the legal red zone, said first author Riccardo Pernice of the Università degli Studi di Palermo in Italy.

Techniques that do use color change to assess the level of alcohol concentration are typically less expensive, but they cannot give a precise reading of the alcohol concentration and most are use-once-and-toss. Pernice said his team's proposed device combines the best elements of each of these two breathalyzer models.

"Our approach enables an optical, naked-eye detection as a color change from green to red, like litmus paper," Pernice said. "But it also potentially permits accurate quantitative measurements" with the addition of an electronic system or a color detector.

The method is inspired by the natural behavior of opals, gemstones whose iridescence illustrates their ability to manipulate light. Scientists use manufactured versions of opals and other photonic crystals to detect acidity or the presence of liquid ethanol, but until now little attention has been paid by researchers to detecting gaseous ethanol, the researchers said.

In their new setup, the researchers created sheets of manufactured opal about one centimeter square and just a few hundred billionths of a meter thick, as thin as some of the films on soap bubbles. The opals are pumped full of a gel tuned to respond to ethanol vapor. At increasing ethanol concentrations, the gel swells, changing the way light travels through the gel-filled opal and causing the sample to become red.

The change in color is clearly visible to the naked eye, Pernice said, and the device is usable multiple times. After performing the measurements, researchers found that the sample gradually regained its original green color after less than one minute of exposure in air. He added that the sensor is made of all non-toxic materials, and does not react to acetone, one of the many substances that can be falsely identified as ethanol by some breath machines.

The device is currently able to detect alcohol at much higher concentrations compared to other portable alcohol sensors. In the coming months, the researchers hope to explore the device's use at lower concentrations as well.

(EurekaAlert)



GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta. - RCMP have arrested a man as part of their investigation into allegations that a group of self-proclaimed sovereign citizens

have taken over a trapper's cabin in northwestern Alberta.

Police say Paul Fiola, who is believed to be from Manitoba, was arrested Monday afternoon.

He faces charges of uttering threats, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and possession of a firearm while prohibited from having one.

Police say two firearms and ammunition were seized and officers stayed on scene while the man was evicted from the area by Alberta Fish and Wildlife officers.

RCMP say the arrest was related to complaints made by trappers about some people in the area.

Last week, police said the individuals

may have been associated with the so-called Freeman-on-the-Land movement.

Alberta Environment says in May it tried to evict people living in tents on Crown land in the area and that it had received reports that the people had moved into at least one trap-pers cabin.

The FBI considers the Freeman movement a domestic terror threat in the United States, but followers in Canada have said they do not support violence.

(CJXX, The Canadian Press)

Oct 09 2013

VANCOUVER - Fifty-one people have been returned from British Columbia to face charges in other jurisdictions across Canada since the RCMP launched a program for fugitives wanted on outstanding warrants.

The Mounties Fugitive Return Program began two years ago by targeting alleged criminals charged with a range of offences such as sexual assault, drug trafficking and assaulting a peace officer.

Justice Minister Suzanne Anton says returning fugitives is one way to support crime prevention through proceeds recovered from civil forfeiture.

Insp. Mike Cumberworth says the program is an important part of holding alleged offenders accountable for their actions and sending the message that they can't simply skip town to avoid being arrested.

Since August, four fugitives have been returned to Whitehorse, Ontario and Alberta.

The Vancouver Police Department's Conair program has transported 124 fugitives to other provinces since 2008.

Oct 09 2013

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog says an officer who Tasered an 80-year-old woman in Mississauga twice didn't break the law, but could have waited longer before opting to use the stun gun.

The Special Investigations Unit says officers ordered Iole Pasquale to drop the eight-inch-blade knife she was holding while walking on the road around 3:30 a.m. on Aug. 28, but that she kept wandering and made incoherent noises.

The SIU says a supervisor officer equipped with the Taser then arrived and decided to apprehend her under the Mental Health Act because he thought she was suffering from a mental disorder and could harm herself or others.

It says he considered other use-of-force options including a baton and wrestling Pasquale to the ground, but dismissed these due to the risk she and the officers could be injured.

The SIU says that while one officer successfully ordered Pasquale to extend her arms

to reduce the risk of her falling on the knife, the supervisor Tasered her once, then again after she had fallen and broken her hip because she still held the knife.

Director Ian Scott says that while in hindsight the supervisor could have waited longer and tried to convince her to drop it, the use of the stun gun wasn't legally unreasonable, especially since he had her extend her arms to reduce harm.

Oct 09 2013

EDMONTON - A federal private members bill that would give law enforcement animals special protection under the Criminal Code was inspired by the hit-and-run death of a Toronto police horse.

Ontario Conservative MP Costas Menegakis says he was moved by the death of Brigadier, a Belgian cross who broke his legs in the 2006 crash and had to be put down.

When Menegakis was elected to the House of Commons in 2011, he says he set about trying to do something more to protect animals that work with police.

Menegakis's bill has gained traction this week with the death of Quanto, an Edmonton police dog stabbed during an arrest.

The MP says he is currently looking for another backbencher to carry the bill forward because he was recently named a parliamentary secretary and can no longer table private members bills.

Still, he says he doesn't expect any opposition and hopes the bill can be passed before the next federal election in 2015.

Alberta Justice minister Jonathan Denis said the province is considering changing the Service Dog Act to include provisions that would punish people who harm the animals.

Oct 09 2013

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - A violent, high-risk sex offender who has managed to elude police for more than a week appears to be on the move again.

Lethbridge police issued a news release Wednesday saying they are satisfied Michael Sean Stanley, 48, is no longer in their area.

Stanley has been the subject of a Canada-wide search since cutting off his electronic monitoring bracelet on Oct. 1 in Lloydminster, on the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary.

Stanley has a long history of sexual offences against women and children.

Last week, schools in several west-central Saskatchewan communities locked their doors and kept children inside after Mounties got multiple, unconfirmed sightings of the Edmonton man.

A few days later, police in Lethbridge found Stanley's SUV and started warning people to be safe and wary, though schools were not ordered locked down.

Oct 09 2013

CROSS LAKE, Man. - A Mountie has been charged with assault in northern Manitoba.

RCMP say the officer is accused of using excessive force on May 1 after arresting an 18-year-old man from the Pimicamak Cree Nation.

The man was allegedly assaulted at the Cross Lake RCMP detachment.

Const. Jason Ross MacGillivray faces one count of assault.

MacGillivray, a five-year Mountie veteran, has been placed on suspension with pay.

He appeared in Cross Lake provincial court on Tuesday.

Oct 09 2013

TORONTO - Toronto Police didn't have to rent a Cessna to trail anyone; Transport Canada documents show the police have their own.

Last week, Mayor Rob Ford's brother Doug Ford confirmed reports police are tracking the family in a plane, then denied them.

Documents show the Toronto Police Services Board re-registered a Cessna 206H on April 08, 2013.

Norm Gardner, a former city councillor and member of the Toronto Police Services Board, told Global News the plane is used for intelligence-gathering, primarily by the Toronto Police Marine Unit for some coast guard patrol over Lake Ontario.

"The aircraft basically does patrolling because there are people who are trying to smuggle and/or people from the U.S. into Canada," he said. "So police have had a surveillance aircraft for many, many years."

Gardner couldn't confirm when the plane was bought but believes it was prior to 2000.

"It was rather confidential about the police having an intelligence aircraft at the time," he said, adding that it became public knowledge during a 2002 debate when the Toronto Police were hoping to buy a helicopter.

"It's not really a secret," he said. "The police just don't talk about how they gather intelligence."

Mark Pugash, Director of Corporate Communications for the Toronto Police Service refused to confirm the ownership Tuesday, saying he won't "comment on investigative techniques."

Several photos of the plane, apparently taken near Buttonville Municipal Airport, show the plane with a camera pod mounted to its side.

The Toronto Star reported recently the police had contracted a Cessna to follow Mayor Rob Ford and several other people in Etobicoke.

The mayor's refused to comment on the allegations.

City councillors say they are surprised to learn the city has a plane.

(Shaw Media)

Oct 10 2013

WHEELING, W.Va. - A retired police officer armed with an assault weapon and a handgun fired up to two dozen shots at a U.S. courthouse in West Virginia on Wednesday before police returned fire and killed him, authorities said.

Police Chief Shawn Schwertfeger identified the gunman as Thomas Piccard, 55, of Bridgeport, Ohio. He was a retired Wheeling police officer.

Schwertfeger did not speculate on a motive. Officials said they had no knowledge of any sort of note left behind by Piccard.

Three on-duty security officers were injured by flying debris during the onslaught, he told a news conference.

Mayor Andy McKenzie said police who briefed him earlier Wednesday told him that Piccard was a 20-year-plus veteran of the force who retired 13 years ago.

Investigators were seeking a search warrant for Piccard's home in hopes of determining a motive and if he acted alone, said Chief Deputy Mike Claxton of the U.S. Marshals Service in northern West Virginia.

Asked if the gunman had any beef with the U.S. government, Claxton said, "We're really digging hard at this point to find out."

Claxton said a man later identified as Piccard began firing from a parking lot across from the federal building. "He was observed in the parking lot very quickly after the first shots were fired," he said.

The building houses a variety of courtrooms and related offices, including those for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement.

Officials said it was too early to tell whether Piccard was targeting anyone in the building or what his motive may have been.

"That's still trying to be determined," said Bob Johnson, the assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh office.

U.S. Attorney Bill Ihlenfeld said he knew Piccard from 1997 when he started working in the city prosecutor's office until the officer retired in 2000. He said he had no reason to believe his office was targeted, and that Piccard was not under any sort of investigation by federal authorities.

Oct 10 2013

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg man who sat in a jail cell for months on a manslaughter charge has been freed after long-awaited toxicology test results showed he did not take a life.

The Crown dropped the charge against Robert Stewart Maier on Wednesday after the results showed the apparent victim died

from an accidental overdose of alcohol and pills.

Maier, who is 38, then pleaded guilty to assault and was sentenced to time served in the death of Ronald McKinnon, who died after fighting with Maier during a drinking party at a rooming house in February.

Police said an autopsy revealed McKinnon died from injuries suffered in the assault, but a preliminary medical examiner's report said blood tests were needed before any final ruling on the cause of death.

It wasn't until Sept. 30 that a doctor confirmed RCMP lab findings made weeks earlier that McKinnon died from the overdose.

Court heard the delay was because of pressure on the system and the complexity of the work involved.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Oct 10 2013

VICTORIA - Victoria's new Chief Constable has been confirmed and he's coming west from Ontario.

Greater Sudbury Police Chief Frank Elsner takes over from retiring Victoria Chief Jamie Graham on Dec. 31.

Elsner was selected following a nationwide recruitment effort.

He comes to the job after four years at the helm of Sudbury's police service, responsible for a population base about half the size of Greater Victoria.

Police Board Vice Chair and Esquimalt Mayor Barbara Desjardins says the choice of Elsner was unanimous by board members from both Victoria and neighbouring Esquimalt.

Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin praises the new chief saying he has an impressive policing career and a leadership approach that is built on open communication and community involvement.

Oct 10 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton police say a violent, high-risk sex offender who has been missing for more than a week has been located in the United States.

But they won't say if he has been arrested or exactly where he is.

Michael Sean Stanley has been missing since Oct. 1 when the electronic monitoring bracelet he was wearing was found in Lloydminster, on the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary.

He has been the subject of a Canada-wide search and has a long history of sexual offences against women and children.

Lethbridge police found Stanley's SUV in the southern Alberta city a few days ago.

Edmonton police say they have been told that Stanley crossed over the border into the U.S. and will release more information about him later today.



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