

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Two Toronto area officers die in accidents



Cst. Michael Pegg



Cst. John Zivcic

Dec 03 2013

Toronto - Two Toronto area officers passed away in the last week from injuries sustained from accidents. York Regional Police Constable Michael Pegg passed away on Friday November 30 from a training injury while Toronto Police Constable John Zivcic died on Monday December 3 from injuries sustained in an on-duty vehicle collision.

York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe said in a statement that Cst. Pegg - a 10-year veteran of the force - died early Friday morning.

Pegg had been assigned to the Air

Support Unit as a Tactical Flight Officer since June 2008, and suffered a broken leg during annual requalification training on Nov. 12 in their Vaughan training facility. He underwent surgery on Nov. 15 and never left the hospital afterward, according to a press release.

"It came as a shock," said Const. Laura Nicolle, who said he was well known throughout the force.

"All of our officers are grieving and saddened by this sudden loss. I don't know what part of (the requalification exercise) specifically resulted in the injury, but we all run through



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the exact same training year after year," she said.

More than a hundred Facebook messages were left under his picture on the York Regional Police Facebook page. Flags across York Regional Police facilities have been lowered to half-staff.

York Regional Police have asked the media to respect the privacy of the family while they deal with his unexpected death.

The exact cause of death has not yet been determined.

Toronto Police Cst. John Zivcic, 34, was responding to a call about an impaired driver when he collided with another car Saturday afternoon. His cruiser then crashed into a tree, ejecting him from the vehicle.

The officer succumbed to his injuries at St. Michael's hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

Deputy Chief Peter Sloly said that Zivcic was surrounded by members of his family when he died.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, Dec. 9, in the north building of the Toronto Congress Centre at 650 Dixon Rd. It is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

There will also be a procession in advance of the service.

Officers from Toronto and Hamilton held vigils at the hospital Sunday. Since his death, city officials and members of various police forces and the public have been offering praise and their condolences.

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford also expressed his sympathies.

"He worked very hard and that's why we have to support front-line police men and women. They sacrifice their life day in and day out, and it's a very sad day today," said Ford.

On Monday night, people who didn't know Zivcic personally, including Julia Ricci, began leaving cards, flowers and candles at the site of the crash, creating a makeshift memorial.

"I respect what they do in their job, so I just wanted to come out and show my respect and give my condolences," Ricci said.

In Zivcic's hometown of St. Catharines, Kevin Mckenna looked through childhood photos of his son and Zivcic, who grew up across the street.

"He just seemed to enjoy growing up and enjoyed having fun. He was a really nice kid," said Mckenna, who also coached Zivcic in high school basketball.

Zivcic has been described as a "greatly respected guy," especially at Toronto's 22 Division.

"It's a terrible day for the Toronto Police service," said Toronto Police Association president Mike McCormack.

"Our hearts are broken for John's family." The officer is survived by his mother, and his brother and sister and their spouses.

Hours after Zivcic died, a news release said his organs will be donated.

(CBC news)



Nov 28 2013

HAMILTON, Ont. - Hamilton's police chief called for changes to the Police Services Act on Thursday after a member of his force announced he'll retire rather than face a disciplinary hearing.



Insp. David Doel, who had been suspended with pay for four years while facing a disciplinary proceeding, announced he will retire on March 31.

Doel's retirement effectively ends his Police Services Act hearing since the Hamilton Police Service loses jurisdiction in the case once he is no longer an officer.

Doel was facing more than a dozen misconduct charges following allegations of having sex on duty, keeping pornography on his police computer and using police surveillance equipment to spy on an alleged former lover.

Since being suspended with pay since 2009, he has collected more than \$500,000 in salary, including more than \$138,000 last year.

Chief Glenn De Caire said in a statement that he had "no choice or option" but to accept Doel's retirement.

"What I do not accept is the ability within the Police Services Act to protract the process

at the expense of the taxpayer," De Caire said.

"I further do not accept that any member remain on the payroll when facing significant, serious discipline when the alleged behaviours that breach their oath of office are totally unrelated to the duties and functions of a police officer," he said.

De Caire said he will take his concerns about the issues of the tribunal process and suspension without pay to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Minister Madeleine Meilleur said she could not comment specifically on Doel's case.

But she said the issue has been brought to her attention by chiefs of police from across the province and it is "being reviewed."

Doel's retirement and stay of the disciplinary proceedings means the public will never hear the evidence against him.

(The Canadian Press, CHML)

Nov 28 2013

OTTAWA - The federal privacy commissioner says she has questions about the government's cyberbullying bill - including the lack of accountability and reporting mechanisms to shed light on new investigative powers.

Jennifer Stoddart issued a statement following an outpouring of concern from civil libertarians that the bill tabled last week goes too far in expanding police powers to probe online behaviour.

The bill makes it illegal to distribute "intimate images" without consent and easier to have such pictures removed from the Internet.

But the legislation also updates production orders and warrants for the digital age, and would give police new tools to track and trace telecommunications to determine their origin or destination.

Stoddart's office wants to know more about the new investigative powers and the thresholds for their use.

She says her office also has questions about the potentially large number of "public officers" who would be able to use these significant powers.

Nov 28 2013

BRANDON, Man. - Mayors of Manitoba's cities have called on Ottawa to reinstate the Police Officer Recruitment Fund as policing costs continue to escalate.

Steinbach Mayor Chris Goertzen says the cost of policing is quickly becoming unmanageable for municipalities.

He says a Federation of Canadian Municipalities report found the costs for police services in Canada rose from \$6.4 billion in 1999 to \$12.3 billion in 2009.

Municipalities paid for 60 per cent of the increase.

The \$400-million fund expired last March.

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It was set up in 2008 as a part of the federal government's tough-on-crime agenda with the aim of adding 2,500 more police officers across Canada.
(Winnipeg Free Press)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2013

Nov 29 2013

TORONTO - Police say a massive counterfeiting probe spanning across Canada and the United States has left 21 people facing more than 100 charges.

Investigators say 13 locations in southern Ontario - including several in Toronto - were raided as part of Project PACE, which stands for Partners Against Counterfeiting Everywhere.

In a news conference at Toronto police headquarters, Det. Derek Wilson said thousands of counterfeit items worth an estimated \$6.5 million were seized in the sweep.

They include clothes, cosmetics, electronics, prescription drugs and TTC tokens.

Charges against the accused include fraud, possession for the purpose of trafficking in stolen goods and possession of property obtained by crime.

Officers from the RCMP, Canadian border services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and police from York, Peel and Durham Regions were also involved in the investigation.

Police are warning consumers to avoid buying counterfeit goods, which they say pose serious health and safety risks and fund international organized crime and terrorist groups.

Nov 29 2013

OTTAWA - Ottawa police say an officer faced with a vehicle heading toward him fired a shot on Friday, but no one was injured.

Two men were arrested after the incident in the city's south end just after midnight but there's no immediate word on any charges.

Police say officers had identified a vehicle that was reported stolen and were trying to apprehend two male suspects inside.

As an officer approached the front of the vehicle and ordered the driver to turn off the ignition, police say the vehicle advanced toward him and he fired a single shot.

Both suspects were arrested after a short vehicle pursuit, followed by a foot chase involving officers with a K-9 unit.

Nov 29 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief says he hopes a two-year pilot project can pull some of Edmonton's highest-

needs homeless people out of the "cycle of despair," by bringing together police, health and other social agencies in a new way.



"At the end of the day, it helps everybody," said Chief Rod Knecht, who formally announced the project Friday at City Hall.

The Heavy Users of Services Project involves a partnership between the police, City of Edmonton, Alberta Health Services, and 13 other health, social, and housing organizations in the city.

If it works, Knecht said the project could have a significant benefits, freeing up police, medical and court resources, saving money, and helping an extremely troubled population live a more stable life.

Jay Freeman, co-chair of the project, said the profile of the people the project will seek to help is clear: They often have severe mental illness, suffer from brain injury or intellectual disability, struggle with significant substance abuse issues, are homeless, and pose a significant risk of harm to others or themselves. A recent study estimated there are 300-600 homeless individuals in Edmonton that fit that profile, but the pilot project will begin by focusing on 50.

The project involves greater communication between agencies that deal with the same population to make sure individuals get the help they need and are not being shuffled between agencies then ending up back on the street.

One "heavy user" was described as a 47-year-old, mentally ill chronic alcoholic who visited hospital 115 times and had 48 separate dealings with police. That individual incurred \$188,000 in police and health costs in a single year. Knecht referred to another individual who has had 218 interactions with police since April.

"Some folks were being arrested every second day. Every day, they were having contact with the police," Knecht said. "The majority of these people didn't belong in the criminal justice system. They shouldn't really be involved with the police because they weren't really committing crimes or they were committing low-level, nuisance crimes."

Knecht said one of the keys will be identifying where the users are falling out of the system, and then trying to close the gaps.

He said the project is expected to save money and free resources that are currently not being used properly, like police officers

spending hours waiting at the hospital while the person they are dealing with waits for medical care.
(Edmonton Journal)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2013

Nov 30 2013

OTTAWA - The Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP is sending investigators to High River, Alta., to look into allegations that Mounties illegally seized firearms during June flooding, QMI Agency has learned.

"Commission investigators will be in High River from Dec. 9 to 13 to speak to persons who may have been impacted," said Richard Evans, the commission's senior director of operations, in an e-mail to QMI Agency.

The commission is conducting an "expedited" investigation after irate citizens spoke out at a public meeting over the summer, complaining about Mounties taking away rifles and shotguns after bursting into flood-abandoned homes to conduct searches.

It's not clear exactly when the commission's report will be completed and made public.

The commission has said, however, that while investigations typically take up to a year, this one would be done "sometime in December."
(Calgary Sun)

Nov 30 2013

EDMONTON - A course designed by the Edmonton Police Service has combined safety tips with self defence tactics.

The full-day session, called Hard Target, was designed to educate civilians how to protect themselves against various situations.

"When we mix and match it with the self defence techniques they seem to be quite happy to come out and spend a Saturday with us," EPS Sgt. Ryan Lawley said.

"We live in a very safe country, a safe province and a very safe city but stuff can happen," instructor Calen Paine said.

He added that awareness was the first tool people need.

"If you can see it in advance, you can avoid it in advance."

Followed by the ability to talk yourself out of danger.

"Try to talk yourself out of a situation, to try and verbally diffuse it," Paine added.

If that doesn't work, Paine said people would benefit from knowing a few basic techniques, which is what the course provides.

"There is no one foul-proof technique.

"You need a few simplistic tools, gross

motor tools, in your toolbox that work in a wide variety of situations.”

According to the EPS, over 500 people have taken the course since it was first introduced in 2011.

(CTV Edmonton)

Nov 30 2013

TORONTO - A man is in a Toronto hospital after being shot in an overnight incident involving city police.

The province’s police watchdog says officers became involved in “an interaction” with a man on the fourth floor of a downtown apartment building around 2 a.m.

The Special Investigations Unit says the man sustained gunshot wounds and has been taken to St. Michael’s Hospital for treatment.

Five investigators and three forensic investigators are probing the incident.

One subject officer and five witness officers have been designated.



Dec 02 2013

MONCTON, N.B. - An RCMP officer in New Brunswick has been charged with one count of trafficking cocaine and two counts of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

Cst. Albert Michelin was arrested Friday following an investigation conducted by the RCMP Federal Operations Unit in Nova Scotia, which began in January.

Michelin has been suspended from duty with pay since early 2012 due to unrelated code of conduct investigations.

Prior to his suspension, Michelin had been stationed as a constable on the Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick since 2010.

Dec 02 2013

REGINA - RCMP in Saskatchewan are using new electronic ticketing equipment to cut down on the amount of time and money spent on processing traffic offences.

A pilot project is underway that allows officers to use in-car consoles and printers to scan drivers’ licenses, digitally record the fine information and print the ticket on the spot.

Fine information is then uploaded to the Ministry of Justice’s fine collections branch on a nightly basis.

More than 90 RCMP cruisers across Saskatchewan will be outfitted with the equipment by the time the pilot project wraps up at the end of January 2014.

The ministry says it will make the e-ticketing program available to municipal police agencies once the pilot project is complete.

Dec 02 2013

OTTAWA - The commander of the Royal Canadian Navy says he’s been assured the secrets of the military’s planned Arctic patrol ships have not fallen into the wrong hands, and the yard at the centre of the latest spy case is taking appropriate precautions with top-secret information.

The vote of confidence from Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, in an interview with The Canadian Press, comes as questions linger about precisely what data Qing Quentin Huang, 53, might have been offering to the government of China.

Both Lloyd’s Registry Canada, Huang’s

employer, and Irving Shipbuilding Inc., the prime contractor on the patrol ships, say the suspect had neither security clearance nor access to classified information.

Security services moved swiftly to arrest him over the weekend, apparently before any information was handed over.

It stands in contrast to the handling of the case of former sub-lieutenant Jeffery Delisle, the ex-navy intelligence officer, who sold a trove of secrets to the Russians.

He was under surveillance by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service for months before the RCMP was called in to build a criminal case.



The Police Leadership Award recognizes and encourages a standard of excellence that exemplifies “Leadership as an Activity Not a Position,” and pride in service to the public. Its goal is to increase effectiveness, influence, and quality of police situational leadership from both an organizational and community perspective.

This award is open to active Canadian police officers below the rank of senior officer who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to service through deeds resulting in a measurable benefit to their peers, service and community.

The 2014 award recipient will be recognized in the May 2014 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at the Blue Line Awards Gala held in conjunction with the Blue Line EXPO, April 29, 2014.



Application forms available at: www.blueline.ca/leadership

Applications for 2014 must be submitted, by February 12, 2014, to Leadership@blueline.ca

Dec 02 2013

SYDNEY, N.S. - The Cape Breton Regional Municipality says it has asked the RCMP to step in after regional police withdrew their participation in some services.



The municipality says it was informed of the change in services by Local 1995 of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, which represents officers with the Cape Breton Regional Police Service.

Mayor Cecil Clarke says the union argues the municipality did not provide legal support for an officer who was recently convicted of breach of trust and obstruction of justice.

No one from the union was immediately available for comment.

The municipality says 48 positions in four special police units are affected by the withdrawal, including the force's emergency response team, the public safety unit, the training unit, and the dive team and marine unit.

Clarke says he has ordered police Chief Peter McIsaac to request the RCMP's assistance in providing the services.

Dec 02 2013

CALGARY - Arrestees can now watch SportsCentre from their holding cells at Calgary's downtown police lock-up as authorities experiment with ways to calm a sometimes unruly crowd.

At least three TVs were installed at the police arrest processing unit in the past year and — based on success — the pilot project may be considered in early plans for a new facility, said Staff Sgt. Jolayne Anderson.

Anderson praised the initiative for reducing violence and protecting staff.

"They're sitting watching TV and they're not paying attention to each other," she said Monday. "It has a total calming effect.

Anderson was keen to note full-out brawls aren't common inside the holding cells.

The TVs came with a \$700 pricetag and cost roughly \$150 each year, according to the Calgary Police Service. In addition to sports highlights, authorities can air Crime Stoppers, Alcoholics Anonymous and other self-help services.

(Metro Calgary)

Dec 02 2013

CALGARY - For playing hero, they're paying the price. Short of a Christmas miracle — a miracle meaning red light and speed-on-green cameras flashing

like Yuletide tinsel — it seems the Calgary Police Service will end 2013 in a near million-dollar hole, when it comes to traffic fines.

For the first time on record, Calgary's police won't be breaking their annual fine-revenue record — and the reason is another record-breaking event that kept cops far too busy to fill out their ticket books.

"The floods essentially took all our traffic members out of the mix full-time for three weeks — we had to keep continuity of destroyed areas like Bowness, which meant manning them day and night," said Insp. Michael Watterston, head of the police Traffic Unit.

"So essentially, enforcement took a back seat."

Saving Calgary from its worst-ever natural disaster and patrolling evacuated property came at a price — and that was 70,735 fewer traffic summonses written as of August 31.

(Sun Media)



Dec 03 2013

AJAX, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog says a 47-year-old man shot by a police officer in Ajax has died in a Toronto hospital.

The Special Investigations Unit was called in Monday after the man was shot by a Durham regional police officer responding to a disturbance call in the town east of Toronto.

The agency says officers were sent to an address (on Unsworth Crescent) after receiving multiple disturbance calls about a man acting strangely.

The SIU says the officers located the man a short distance away and there was an "interaction" between police and the man, at which point an officer fired his gun, striking the man.

He died in a Toronto hospital early Tuesday morning.

Dec 03 2013

MA ME O BEACH, Alta. - Alberta RCMP have arrested two people following an investigation into a fight where a Mountie fatally shot a man and wounded another.

On Aug. 3 an RCMP officer pulled over a suspected impaired driver near Ma Me O Beach south of Edmonton.

When the Mountie tried to arrest one of a five people inside the car a fight broke out and the officer shot two of the men.

One of the men died and the other was taken to hospital with chest wounds.

Police say Lawrence Cutarm, 63, is charged with assaulting a peace officer with a weapon and other charges.

Laron Cutarm, 28, is charged with assaulting a peace officer and police are still looking for Lee Cutarm, 42, who is wanted on the same charge.

Dec 03 2013

MONTREAL - The Sûreté du Québec is investigating after a Longueuil police officer shot a man late Monday while intervening in "an altercation between a man and a woman on the street," SQ Sgt. Joyce Kemp said.

She described the two in the dispute as "a couple aged in their late 20s to early 30s."

Municipal police were called about 9.45 p.m. Kemp said the man had "a sharp weapon in his hand" and the woman was found injured.

Although the exact circumstances remain unclear, the first officer on the scene arrived to see the man assaulting the woman and opened fire on him, Kemp said: "During the intervention, the man was struck with a gunshot."

Both the man and the woman were taken to hospital.

Neither of their lives is in danger.

The officer who discharged a weapon also was treated in hospital.

(Montreal Gazette)

Dec 03 2013

KELOWNA, B.C. - An RCMP officer in Kelowna, B.C., is being recognized for helping save the life of a woman who made a nearly fatal, late-night leap into Okanagan Lake.

Supt. Nick Romanchuk says Cpl. Matt Hare displayed exceptional bravery in risking his own life to save the 21-year-old woman.

Police say she was intoxicated when she jumped into the chilly waters last Wednesday and Hare watched as she ignored flotation devices tossed by officers on the bridge and instead began to swim away.

As her strokes became increasingly laboured in the cold water, Hare took off his gear and swam to the woman and pulled her back to shore where both were treated for hypothermia.

Hare said afterward that if he hadn't gone in, the situation would have become a recovery mission.

Hare is no stranger to watery rescues, having jumped into the same lake in September to retrieve an intoxicated swimmer.

(CKQQ, CKFR)

Dec 03 2013

WHITBY, Ont. - A Durham regional police officer will be demoted for nine months after he admitted to sending Ontario's ombudsman a series of offensive tweets.

A police disciplinary tribunal ordered the penalty, which will see Jeff Caplan demoted from detective to first-class constable, today after he pleaded guilty to discreditable conduct.

Caplan's lawyer, Joseph Markson, says the officer will also have to complete training on workplace harassment and the demotion means Caplan will lose about \$35,000 in pay.

The tweets called Andre Marin "a card carrying member of Al Qaida" and told him not to stick his nose "in business it doesn't belong."

The missives were sent Aug. 8 before Marin was to give a news conference on the death of a young man in a police shooting on a Toronto streetcar.

Markson says Caplan was "impulsive and angry" when he sent the tweets to Marin, who had already publicly mused about reviewing police de-escalation guidelines.

Dec 03 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP commissioner says he's very embarrassed for a New Brunswick Mountie who breached policy by smoking medicinal marijuana in uniform.



Bob Paulson says it was awkward and disappointing to see Cpl. Ron Francis make headlines after the national police force discouraged him from going public.

Francis returned his red serge and accused the government and the force of not doing enough to support RCMP members with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The RCMP says officers who are prescribed marijuana for medicinal purposes should not be in red serge or regular uniform while taking their medication as it would portray the wrong message.

New Brunswick Tory MP Rodney Weston says some of his constituents were confused by the RCMP's response.

Paulson says the episode was embarrassing not just for the force but for Canadians.

Dec 03 2013

AMHERST, N.S. - A Nova Scotia judge has accepted the defence of necessity in acquitting a man of impaired driving after he drove his concussed and bleeding friend to hospital following a night of drinking.

Judge Paul Scovil says an acquittal in such a case is rare and his decision should not seen as condoning impaired driving.

Scovil's decision, released Monday, says Roger Pleau was impaired when he drove his injured friend, Eldon Deegan, to hospital in Upper Nappan on Oct. 4, 2012.

The two men had been drinking beer when Deegan left his apartment to smoke a cigarette outside and fell down some stairs, cutting his head on an iron handrail.

Both men were locked out of the building without a key and neither had a cellphone.

Scovil says Deegan was incoherent and having trouble breathing when Pleau "panicked" and drove his friend to hospital, where a nurse noticed he was intoxicated and called police.

In acquitting Pleau, Scovil says the accused was forthright and credible in his testimony, and did not believe he had time to find a "reasonable legal alternative" to driving, given his friend's serious injuries.

Dec 03 2013

WINNIPEG - The Crown is not going to appeal the acquittal of a former Manitoba police chief on charges that include obstruction of justice.

The justice department says it has decided there is no legal basis for an appeal in the case of Harry Bakema, a former top officer in East St. Paul north of Winnipeg.

Bakema was found not guilty last month on charges of obstruction, perjury and breach of trust.

He was accused of covering up for another police officer who caused a deadly motor vehicle crash in 2005.

A provincial court judge ruled Bakema's investigation was flawed, but that the Crown was not able to prove criminal intent.

Bakema failed to test the other officer for impairment at the crash scene, and the most serious charges were dropped.

Dec 03 2013

SAULT STE. MARIE - After 37 years of service, Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Chief Bob Davies will be retiring effective June 30, 2014.



The announcement was made at Tuesday's Police Service Board meeting.

Davies, born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, was hired by the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service June 16, 1976, and appointed Chief of Police December 2, 1996.

The Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Board will begin the process of selecting the next chief over the next several weeks.

(See Today)

Dec 04 2013

SAINT-JEROME, Que. - The RCMP says it has struck a blow against a cannabis trafficking and production ring north of Montreal.

About 90 police officers made eight arrests and 14 seizures this morning in nine different towns in the Laurentian region.

Police allege the organized group was able to produce dozens of kilograms of marijuana on a weekly basis.

The RCMP says six rented homes and one commercial property serving as indoor grow-ops were raided as part of the operation.

Police say one of the residences served as a processing and packaging plant for the product.

The suspects in this case are facing charges that include gangsterism as well as possession and production of marijuana.

Dec 04 2013

WHITE ROCK - Representatives from the RCMP appeared before White Rock council Monday to break down some of the city's costs and what its money was going toward.

Those costs include supporting the RCMP's various integrated units, including homicide teams, forensic teams and SWAT.

While council appreciated the RCMP's presentation, Coun. Alan Campbell expressed frustration that there wasn't much the city could do in terms of reducing costs, as the city must pay what the RCMP require.

"These costs are out of control, but we can't do anything about it, the increases are out of our control, we have no choice; we pay," he said.

Looking at the city's costs compared to how much they use the RCMP's various integrated services, Campbell noted that he would still be upset if he were also a resident of Surrey with a new \$1-billion E-Division headquarters and 23 murders and wondered about the money being spent. "I appreciate you coming here, but it's just more upon more and when you talk about your pension plans going up and medicals, I don't think that should come into the discussion here, that's like salt in the wound," said Campbell.

And while some council members were frustrated at how much the city was spending on policing despite having relatively low crime rates, Mayor Wayne Baldwin noted the alternative would likely cost the city more.

"We have to have it, we have no choice," said Baldwin. "If we wanted to withdraw, we would have to get out of the police contract and create our own force, or integrate. That

would be jumping from the frying pan and into the fire.”

As for whether or not White Rock should integrate its police force with Surrey’s, which has been talked about in the past, Baldwin was dismissive of that idea.

“They have 23 murders in Surrey and none here, so where are they going to put police? Not here,” he said. “They’ll be out on Colebrook Road, in Whalley or Newton and not here.”

Looking at the cost of a murder investigation, which could total in the millions, Baldwin said having the RCMP present in White Rock was more of a form of insurance.

“If we do get one murder here and we don’t have this, we could have a hit on our budget that would exceed a million easily, we could not afford that and go into deficits, this is an easy way for us to deal with it and brings group of experts into play,” he said.

White Rock is projected to pay \$5,015,920 for policing in 2014.
(Surrey Now)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 05, 2013

Dec 05 2013

TORONTO - Allegations that Rob Ford offered purported gang members money and a car in exchange for a video are an “outright lie,” the Toronto mayor said Thursday.



The latest allegations, which have not been proven in court, are contained in wiretap summaries put together as part of a guns-and-gangs investigation that were in a police document released Wednesday.

The intercepts reveal men talking with familiarity about the mayor, and suggest they had supplied him with drugs and plotted to blackmail him, police said.

Ford’s name emerged on the wiretaps about two months before the U.S. website Gawker and the Toronto Star first reported in May that drug dealers were shopping around a video that appeared to show the mayor smoking crack cocaine, police said.

In a conversation investigators said they recorded on March 27, police said one man quotes Ford as saying, “I’ll give you \$5,000 and a car” for a video.

Mohamed Siad, who police believe was

trying to sell the “crack video,” said he wanted to meet with him and ask for “150,” which they said meant \$150,000, the document says.

After months of denials Ford finally admitted in late October to smoking crack cocaine in a “drunken stupor.” The admission came after police said they had recovered two videos in line with what Gawker and the Star had reported.

The wiretaps - part of the investigation known as Project Traveller - also contain unproven allegations in which some of the targets kicked about a plan to blackmail Ford with images of him using drugs.

One man said he had many photographs of Ford “doing the hezza” - which can be slang for heroin - and another suggested those pictures would be worth a lot of money, according to the wiretap summary.

Siad, like most of the men monitored, was arrested as part of Project Traveller.

Dec 05 2013

VANCOUVER - B.C. Police Complaint Commissioner Stan Lowe is not satisfied with the Vancouver Police Board’s decision to dismiss a complaint that accused officers of unfairly targeting Downtown Eastside residents in a ticketing blitz.

Lowe now wants the police board to implement a policy to ensure the number of tickets issued by police for minor offences

such as jaywalking and illegal vending does not prevent vulnerable residents from seeking police protection.

In a Nov. 21 letter to Mayor Gregor Robertson, who doubles as chairperson of the police board, Lowe recommended the policy incorporate a recommendation made by Wally Oppal when he was commissioner of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.

Oppal recommended the City of Vancouver and the VPD take “proactive measures” to reduce the number of court warrants issued for minor offences by:

- Reducing the number of tickets issued and charges laid for minor offences.
- Developing guidelines to facilitate greater and more consistent use of police discretion not to lay charges.
- Increasing the ways in which failures to appear [in court] can be quashed early in the judicial process.

“General support for minimizing charging for minor offences was expressed to the Commission because over-criminalization results in a more adversarial relationship between police and the community,” Oppal wrote in his report.

Oppal noted the concern that vulnerable women avoiding a court fine would likely not seek the assistance of police — when in danger — for fear of being arrested on the outstanding court matter.

(Vancouver Courier)

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