

# BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY  January 10, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 2

## Executive Digest

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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## Attempted murder charges likely to stem from shootout



Chief Supt. Randy McGinnis

Jan 07 2014

**TOFIELD, Alta.** - RCMP say a man who was wounded in a shootout with Mounties on a farm east of Edmonton will likely face attempted murder and firearms charges.

One officer had his arm grazed by a bullet and another was injured when he was run over by a truck driven by the suspect, who had been hiding in a shed.

RCMP Chief Supt. Randy McGinnis said it would be wrong for people to compare what happened Monday night to the 2005 ambush near Mayerthorpe, Alta., where four Mounties were gunned down by a man hiding in a Quonset hut on a rural farm.

"We weren't protecting a scene. We

weren't waiting for other members to come to examine a scene, to seize other items like the Quonset in Mayerthorpe," McGinnis said Tuesday.

"I have heard that we should have had our emergency response team there when we first went there.

"Well, if we went with an emergency response team to every potential witness that we wanted to interview, I think that we would be criticized for being a military state rather than a police force."

The officer who was run over suffered broken bones and internal injuries and was undergoing surgery at an Edmonton hospital Tuesday afternoon.

### THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

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McGinnis said a couple arrested on the farm with the alleged gunman were later released without being charged.

The alleged gunman was in hospital being treated for gunshot wounds.

McGinnis said it all started when RCMP got a call Monday afternoon complaining that a man had threatened to go to a farmhouse with a handgun and kill someone. Police then received a call from someone in the area between the communities of Tofield and Vegreville who reported the theft of two shotguns and a rifle.

Five Mounties approached a farm, with two officers staying at a distance as three others went to the house. The officers spotted the suspect's truck parked near a shed. When two of the Mounties looked inside, they found the suspect hiding there and a fight began.

"There was a physical altercation between two of the members and this suspect," McGinnis said.

"This suspect managed to get away, got into his truck and the events unfolded where we got into a gunfight with this individual and our members were injured."

The wounded suspect was arrested after a lengthy standoff.

Alberta's Serious Incident Response Team will investigate the shooting, which is standard procedure in Alberta when anyone is shot by police. ASIRT can make recommendations to the RCMP.

McGinnis said police have been frustrated while dealing with people in rural Alberta involved in the drug trade who steal so they can pay for their drugs.

A somewhat emotional McGinnis said he hopes what happened sends a message to the public.

"This is their RCMP members that are

out there doing this. I really want the Canadian public to know that," he stressed. "This is their police that are putting their lives on the line to make sure they're safe in their beds."

On March 3, 2005, gunman James Roszko ambushed constables Peter Schiemann, Anthony Gordon, Leo Johnston and Brock Myrol near Mayerthorpe northwest of Edmonton. Roszko was shot by another Mountie before killing himself.

In February 2012, two Mounties were injured when they were shot while trying to deliver a warrant to a farmhouse near Killam, 160 kilometres southeast of Edmonton.

Constables Sheldon Shah and Sid Gaudette underwent surgery and survived. Sawyer Robison, 28, has been charged with two counts of attempted murder.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford said she was saddened by the officer's injuries.

"I'm pleased that they've been able to make progress with respect to the perpetrators in the alleged incidents. It's not appropriate for me to comment any further with respect to the investigation or the prosecution, but sufficient to say today that it was very disappointing, very worrying to hear the story last night," she said in Calgary.

"Our thoughts and our prayers are with the family and every single day we thank everyone who's a front-line service provider."



Jan 02 2014

**TORONTO - Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General will be picking up the tab for an appeal attempt by the man convicted of killing eight-year-old Victoria Stafford.**

Michael Rafferty's lawyer says he has again been turned down for funding from Legal Aid Ontario after a judge ordered last month that it reconsider Rafferty's case.

Appeal Court Justice Marc Rosenberg had ruled the case is too complex for someone with a Grade 9 education in segregation and with no access to a law library to handle on his own.

Rafferty had been turned down four times by Legal Aid since his convictions in May 2012 for first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping in Tori's death.

Rosenberg said if Rafferty was turned down again, the lawyer who represented him on the motion would be appointed for the appeal and he would be paid by the attorney general.

Lawyer Paul Calarco says the case is proceeding, but could not comment further as the issue is before the courts.

**TORONTO - The number of charges for prostitution-related offences in Toronto courts has dropped by 90 per cent over a five-year period, as the constitutional challenge against Canada's prostitution laws wound its way to the country's highest court.**

An analysis of statistics published by the Ministry of the Attorney General shows Toronto courts received 1,088 charges related to prostitution in 2006.

In 2011, the number of charges was a tenth of that, just 110.

Toronto police spokesperson Victor Kwong said no one was available to comment during the New Year's holiday.

In December, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down laws that made it illegal to communicate for the purpose of prostitution, run a brothel or live off the avails of prostitution. Prostitution is not illegal under Canada's Criminal Code.

The court ruled, in a unanimous decision, that the laws infringed on the constitutional rights of sex workers, imposing risky conditions on a legal activity.

Alan Young, the lawyer who argued the case, said there are several possible explanations for the drop in charges.

Prostitution-related offences have been low priority for enforcement, usually only brought on by complaints, said Young.

"It was always odd doing the case, because the government kept asserting that when the laws were invalidated, there would be some sort of chaos that would ensue," said Young. "And my position was, we're charging so little, the community wouldn't notice much difference."

Young also pointed to the 2010 ruling in Ontario's Superior Court that struck down prostitution laws, though it was suspended as the government appealed.

In a 2012 decision, Ontario's Appeal Court affirmed the lower court's decision to quash the ban on brothels, but upheld the law on soliciting for the purposes of selling sex.

It ruled the law dealing with living on the avails should be amended so it would still apply "in circumstances of exploitation."

"It puts the police in a very awkward position because even though technically they're allowed to charge, it seems somewhat anomalous to proceed with a prosecution for an offence that's in limbo," said Young.

"If you're in that kind of limbo, there's a disincentive to lay the charge in the first place because you're just kind of clogging up the system."

The number of charges was already on the decline. From 2001 to 2006, charges dropped 21 per cent, from 1,382 to 1,088.

Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General referred the Star to Statistics Canada's data on incidents of prostitution-related offences

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in Toronto, which reflect a similar drop.

According to Statistics Canada, there were 988 incidents of prostitution-related offences in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area in 2001, 825 in 2006 and just 86 in 2011. Statistics Canada's definition includes living off the avails, procuring, bawdy house, underage offences and "other."

(Toronto Star)

Jan 02 2014

### **The homeless, mentally ill man holding a knife is surrounded by officers — guns drawn — in a parking lot.**

"Drop the knife!" an officer is heard yelling on fuzzy cell phone video shot by a passing motorist.

Seconds later, a blaze of shots ring out — more than 40 — and the man drops to the ground.

Video of the fatal 2012 shooting incident in Saginaw, Mich., was shown recently to a group of new police recruits at the Justice Institute of B.C. during a daylong session that emphasized de-escalation techniques and alternative strategies for dealing with people suffering from mental illness.

While such training has become standard in police colleges and academies across the country, experts acknowledge there is no consistency in how that training is delivered. Nor has there been any rigorous evaluation of whether the training actually makes a difference.

Still, there's been a big push to enhance crisis intervention and de-escalation training and mental health awareness in the wake of a number of high-profile — and sometimes fatal — incidents.

In March, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police will be hosting a joint conference with the Mental Health Commission of Canada focusing on police interactions with mentally ill people.

At the conference, the commission, which has been pushing for the development of a nationwide education and training curriculum aimed at improving interactions between police and people with mental disorders, is expected to release an update of a survey it completed in 2008 of police academies and colleges.

The study found that training in the area of mental illness varied widely, running from five to 30 hours. Report co-author Terry Coleman, former police chief in Moose Jaw and consultant for the commission, said training has grown over the past five years and now encompasses role-playing scenarios, videos, the use of actors, and talks from mental health professionals and people suffering from mental disorders.

Coleman said there's been good work done training police personnel to recognize symptoms of various psychological disorders and to recognize that when someone is in

crisis, shouting at them isn't usually going to help.

This training was on display on the day Postmedia News visited a crisis intervention training class at the Justice Institute of B.C. Instructor Linda Stewart, a former Vancouver police officer and crisis negotiator, had an officer stand in the middle of the room as other officers bombarded him with questions.

The exercise was intended to demonstrate what someone suffering from schizophrenia might be feeling and why such a person can't always respond to officers' commands. For some with mental illness, just the mere sight of a uniform can freak them out, so be aware of your approach and your stance, she told the students.

Stewart repeatedly implored officers to be sincere, to never lie, to demonstrate good faith, and to be active listeners. Sometimes, it doesn't hurt just to let someone vent.

After watching the video of the shooting of the homeless man in Michigan, Stewart suggested an alternative approach to just barking orders to "drop the knife."

Perhaps officers could've designated an officer to try to talk to the distraught man in a calm manner, and find out why he was so upset. Maybe even offer him a cigarette. That officer could "forget about the knife" because he knows that his fellow officers are there to back him up if the man tries to make a sudden move.

Coleman praised this approach. Officers sometimes just need to "back off" a bit, especially if the subject is in a contained area. Let things calm down, and try to engage the subject in a conversation and develop a relationship, he said.

He said he is dismayed that there are some instructors in the country who still aren't putting enough emphasis on "communication at the front end."

Coleman also praised Stewart's inclusion of guest speakers who suffer from mental disorders or who are relatives of people with mental disorders.

One of the panel members that day was Lyle Richardson, a New Westminster man diagnosed 16 years ago with schizoaffective disorder, a combination of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Richardson, who regularly participates in Stewart's class, openly talked about hearing voices in his head and how his illness drove him years ago to rob a store while pretending to have a gun.

He's doing a lot better now and says he hopes his participation in the class will shatter the "us-versus-them" mentality that can develop when officers hit the streets. He said he hopes hearing from the panel will make rookie officers think about people they may know personally who suffer from mental illness.

But even with all the training officers now get in de-escalation and mental health

awareness, sometimes the niceties have to be pushed aside and their use-of-force training has to kick in, experts say.

This was a point made by Ron Hoffman, an instructor at the Ontario Police College, in October during a coroner's inquest examining the shooting deaths by Toronto police of three armed but mentally ill people over a three-year period.

Even though he advocates de-escalation strategies and even wrote a handbook for officers in identifying symptoms of major mental disorders, Hoffman said if a person starts brandishing a weapon or threatens someone, "the officer is bound to act."

"There's no hard science on de-escalation," he also testified.

Officials with Ontario's ministry of community safety refused a request by Postmedia News to talk to Hoffman, citing the ongoing inquest.

But in a PhD thesis completed last year for the University of Waterloo, Hoffman wrote that the jury is still out as to whether more training actually makes any difference because there just hasn't been a lot of research evaluating the effectiveness of such training.

He cited research that suggests even with enhanced training, police behaviour will remain substantially unchanged. That's because if there is a threat to the public, officers are taught to "eliminate the threat."

"The fact that a person has a mental disorder will always be secondary to the fact that he or she is a threat to life," he wrote. "Thus, although enhancements to training may have some beneficial effect, training in and of itself, may not be the great panacea that many think it is."

(Postmedia News)

Jan 02 2014

### **MONTREAL — The fire that ravaged a St-Côme chalet co-owned by the Sûreté du Québec's director general was in fact criminally set, Montreal police have confirmed.**

Arson was originally suspected in the fire that broke out in the chalet located in the Lanaudière region about 120 kilometres north of Montreal.

The property is partly owned by SQ boss Mario Laprise and retired SQ officer Bruno Beaulieu.

Beaulieu had recently been in charge of investigating allegations of fraud involving three members of the force's top brass.

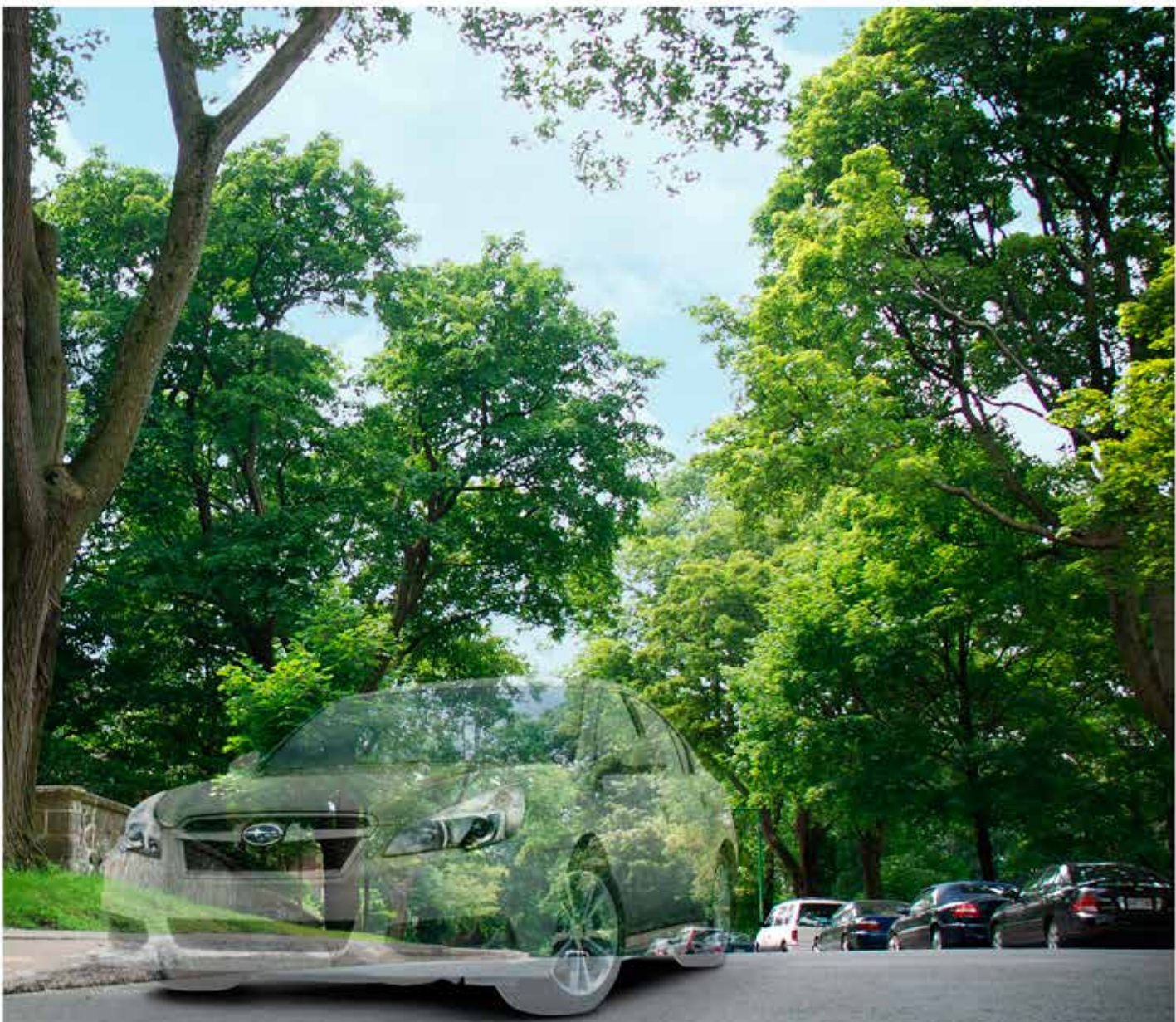
The fire broke out in the waterfront chalet on Christmas Eve and levelled the property, Canadian Press reported.

The Montreal police force has taken over the investigation to assure it is conducted in a transparent fashion.

On Thursday, Montreal Police Constable Daniel Lacoursière confirmed that observa-



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tions made at the scene, as well as testimony from witnesses, have led police to conclude the fire was criminal in nature. Further analyses are being made in a police lab, he said.

No arrests have been made so far.

(Montreal Gazette)

**FRIDAY**  
**JANUARY 03, 2014**

Jan 03 2014

**DETROIT - If there's any silver lining around Detroit's bankruptcy and \$18 billion debt cloud in recent months, it's crime.**



New police Chief James Craig, who took over six months ago, says violent crime is down 7 per cent, response time to 911 calls is down from something like an hour to around 8 minutes and officers are solving 50 per cent of homicides, up from around 40 per cent. There were also 53 fewer homicides between 2012 and last year.

Craig, a former chief in Cincinnati and Portland, Maine, has made sweeping changes. He's identifying trouble spots, moving detectives back into precincts and there's a new executive command team.

A half-dozen homicide squads now hold daily briefings with each other, something that had not been happening.

Craig says he wants to shave off another 10 per cent of violent crime this year.

**MONDAY**  
**JANUARY 06, 2014**

Jan 06 2014

**FREDERICTON - The Crown and defence say a New Brunswick Mountie charged with assaulting two police officers has been deemed fit to stand trial.**

Cpl. Ron Francis, who attracted national attention for complaining about not being able to smoke medicinal marijuana while in uniform, was released from custody today after he underwent a psychiatric assessment.

The Public Safety Department for Fredericton said Francis had to be subdued with a stun gun following his arrest last month.

The psychiatric assessment was not dealt with in provincial court today, but the Crown and defence said outside court that Francis

has been deemed mentally fit to stand trial.

In court, defence lawyer T.J. Burke asked for time to review disclosure before entering pleas to two counts of assaulting a police officer and one count of resisting arrest.

Burke says his client will plead not guilty and the case has been adjourned until Feb. 4.

In November, Francis returned his red serge on orders from his superiors but accused the RCMP and the federal government of not doing enough to support officers with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The RCMP said its officers who are prescribed medicinal marijuana should not be in red serge or regular uniform while taking their medication as it would not portray the right message to the public.

Jan 06 2014

**EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief wants the provincial government to consider changing the way it distributes social assistance cheques to help reduce crime against the poor and the handicapped, especially in the inner city.**



The government distributes more than 80,000 cheques on one specific day each month to people across the province who are on income support programs. About three-quarters of those cheques are directly deposited to bank accounts, but others are mailed out and must be cashed.

Chief Rod Knecht said this leads to criminals gathering on "cheque day" to prey on the weak and vulnerable such as those with mental health and addictions problems.

"We are talking with the government right now around: 'Could we split those up, so we are issuing them to different people twice a month as opposed to once a month, or sporadically, so the predators won't converge ... and victimize these people over and over again?'" Knecht said.

"Some people who are mentally challenged, the bad guys take them to one of these quick cheque-cashing places, getting them to cash the cheque and then taking the money away from them."

Knecht said some people are so frightened of being robbed that they spend their entire social assistance cheques in just a few days.

Jennifer Dagsvik, a spokeswoman for Alberta Human Services, said staff "strongly advise" people to have their cheques directly

deposited to a bank account, but she acknowledges that option doesn't work for everyone.

Dale Beesley, executive director of the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program, said the chief's proposal wouldn't work in the short term due to limitations of computers used to manage cheque distribution.

Beesley said the idea will be considered when the computer program is upgraded in the future.

In the meantime, he said, the government will continue working with some clients with mental health and addictions problems to help ensure that monthly cheques cover basic needs. In some cases, a portion can be directly diverted to cover rent and utility bills.

"It would be something that could help. But I think the better strategy is to have better information protocols and use those other safeguards up front with clients to provide them with options to make sure that they are spending the money on what it is intended for."

Knecht said changing the way cheques are distributed would not only help reduce crime, it would have the added benefit of freeing up officers to investigate other cases.

The chief said Edmonton police responded to 6,000 more 911 emergency calls in 2013 than the previous year and he expects the trend to continue in 2014 as the city's population grows and more transients drift into and out of the community.

The police service is already hard-pressed to meet its goal of quickly responding to priority calls involving death or serious injury in the city within seven minutes, he said.

Effective policing goes hand in hand with the prudent use of limited resources, he said.

"We have to find efficiencies. The status quo won't do it anymore."

Jan 06 2014

**MASKWACIS, Alta. - The federal government is spending \$2.9 million on a program to help prevent gang violence on reserves that make up the central Alberta community formerly known as Hobbema.**

The project is called the Maskwacis Youth Initiative after the new name for the area, which includes the Samson, Ermine-skin, Montana and Louis Bull Cree Nations.

Officials say the money will be used to work with 600 aboriginal youth between the ages of 14 and 25 who are either involved with gangs or at risk of gang involvement and violent behaviour.

The program will include promoting education, job skills and counselling.

The community has been plagued with drug and gang-related violence, including the 2011 shooting by youth gang members that killed a five-year-old boy asleep in his bed.

More than half of the 14,000 people who live on the four reserves are under 18 years of age.

**VANCOUVER - A pair of climate-change protesters wearing cheap, thrift-store dress clothing evaded RCMP officers tasked with protecting Stephen Harper during an event in Vancouver on Monday, walking onto a stage within touching distance of the prime minister before they were whisked away.**



The security breach happened at a Vancouver Board of Trade event at a downtown hotel, where Harper participated in a friendly question-and-answer session aimed at promoting his government's economic agenda.

Roughly a minute after Harper was welcomed to the stage, a man and woman walked behind the prime minister holding signs attacking the Conservatives' environmental record. One sign said Climate Justice Now, while the other featured a dark line crossed through the phrase Conservatives Take Climate Change Seriously.

The protesters were immediately taken off the stage and out of the room, prompting Harper to quip, "It wouldn't be B.C. without it," drawing laughter and applause from the audience.

A group affiliated with Brigitte DePape, the former page who walked onto the Senate floor holding a Stop Harper sign during a 2011 throne speech, immediately claimed responsibility, saying the stunt was designed to criticize Canada's environmental policies.

The event took place in a large hotel ballroom, where hundreds of people gathered for a breakfast event featuring the prime minister.

While reporters and TV camera operators were forced to have their equipment examined by a police dog, there appeared to be little in place - such as a security checkpoint to check credentials or ID - that would have prevented anyone from just walking into the room.

Indeed, one of the two protesters, local activist Sean Devlin, said he and his colleague weren't stopped or approached by security at any point before they walked on stage.

"We just happened to be wearing black dress shirts and black pants and black aprons that we bought at Value Village, and we simply walked into the hotel," Devlin said in an interview.

"As soon as we entered the room, people seemed to be treating us like we were supposed to be there. It was quite easy."

The outfit cost about \$7, he said.

Cpl. Lucy Shorey of the RCMP said the force would be examining what happened, but she declined to discuss the incident in detail.

Vancouver police say they won't be pursuing criminal charges against the duo.

**TUESDAY  
JANUARY 07, 2014**

Jan 07 2014

**VANCOUVER - A head on crash that killed two people in August 2008 would not have happened if RCMP had not chased after a driver bent on killing himself, a B.C. Supreme Court judge has ruled.**

Gerald Guliker and Viktor Bergen died after Guliker drove his car into Bergen's in the Fraser Valley community of Agassiz, east of Vancouver. Bergen's wife, three-year-old daughter and two friends survived the crash.

Inna Bergen and the two friends then filed lawsuits against Guliker and B.C.'s Justice Ministry, alleging RCMP negligence caused the collision.

The civil trial heard RCMP knew at the time that Guliker was suicidal, he planned to kill himself by running into traffic, and he was a flight risk.

A group of Mounties had initially planned to close in on Guliker, who was parked at a local farm. But when Guliker saw the police, he took off in a vehicle, the officers sped after him and he crashed minutes later into an oncoming car.

Justice John Savage said in a decision released Tuesday that even though Guliker was 80 per cent to blame for the collision, the RCMP officers involved were also liable.

"In my opinion, but for the RCMP's chase or pursuit of Mr. Guliker, the collision would not have occurred," Savage wrote.

The trial heard that on Aug. 10, 2008, police were told that Guliker breached his restraining order against his ex-wife, and he threatened to kill himself.

Tony Neels, who worked for Guliker also called 911, saying Guliker said he thinks the police are looking for him, he wants to commit suicide, and that the "police won't get him alive."

Even though Gulliger, who was on epilepsy and depression medication, often threatened suicide, "he's really hit the end of the rope today," Neels said in the court documents.

Guliker's cousin, Anton Guliker, also reported to police that Guliker mentioned "driving a car into traffic or jumping out into traffic."

The court heard five RCMP constables decided to head out in separate vehicles and surround Guliker, who had parked his car at a local farm to meet his ex-wife.

While the officers planned to "restrict the three avenues of escape by roadway that were available to (Guliker) from his location," they had not thought about what to do if Guliker tries to run, said Savage.

"At this point, it was reasonably foreseeable that Mr. Guliker would flee when approached. The RCMP's additional knowledge that Mr. Guliker was suicidal and had stated an intention to jump into traffic only served to heighten the likelihood that Mr. Guliker would flee," the judge said.

"I can reach no other reasonable conclusion than that the RCMP plan at that moment was captured by words, 'If he runs, we'll chase him.'"

Savage said it was obvious that what the police officers should have done was conduct a proper risk assessment and realize that since Guliker was a flight risk, the lives of other people on the road would be endangered if they pursue him.

Savage said the officers should have called off the chase and consider their options. Instead, their actions led to the deadly crash.

"I have concluded that the RCMP were negligent, their negligence was a cause of the collision, and liability should be apportioned 20 per cent to the RCMP and 80 per cent to Mr. Guliker," he said.

Jan 07 2014

**It's a police ticketing device that's been curbing motorists' hopes of dismissed traffic fines — and it could soon be headed to Alberta.**



An e-system that automatically transmits ticket data — drawing rave reviews from Mounties in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan — cuts down on paper work, time expended and errors that lead to millions of dollars in voided traffic tickets, said Sgt. Sam Hewson of Alberta RCMP.

"Ten to 30% of traffic tickets are no good," said Hewson, who'll be lobbying the province to have the devices adopted by RCMP and sheriffs here.

By comparison, the computerized system negates the need for written tickets and instantly enters their details that can illegible or inaccurate when logged by hand, said Hewson.

"It uses GPS, it knows where you are, it's got the date, it figures out the fine calculation and it pre-files that data," he said.

In Nova Scotia, where the devices have



been tested, it's cut officers' ticket-writing time from 15 minutes to two, he said.

"It's an incredible amount of labour that's just saved...the guys on the street, they love it."

Information is transmitted to court within 10 minutes of the ticket being issued, while printing a summons for the suspect driver in the cruiser.

That's the only paperwork for officers and administrators who normally labour to keep track of the offences, said Hewson.

RCMP in Alberta would have to get clearance from both provincial and federal officials, said Hewson, who believes the system will be adopted here by both Mounties and sheriffs within two years.

"New Brunswick and Alberta are next in the queue," he said.

The only physical drawback is finding space in already technology-crammed cruisers for the printer and paper, said Hewson, who couldn't give a cost estimate on adopting the system.

(Sun Media)

Jan 07 2014

### The father of a Saskatoon child who was killed on the weekend found out about the tragedy when the boy's grandmother in Delisle saw it on the television news 17 hours later.

Zita Vetter said Monday she was watching the late-night news when she saw a report that named Kellie Johnson, 35, as the person charged with first-degree murder of her son, five-year-old Jonathan, around 5:30 a.m. Saturday in Saskatoon.

The report caused alarm and confusion because the child's last name was wrong, but all the other facts matched those of Vetter's grandson and his mother.

"I put two and two together. Myron didn't even know anything about it," Vetter said, referring to her son, the father of victim Jonathan Vetter.

Myron refused to believe what she was telling him, she said.

"I watched that program over and over and over again ... what a way to find out," she said.

It was about midnight when Myron Vetter called the RCMP and then the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS), who confirmed the dreaded facts.

Johnson's two other children, who did not live in the same household as Jonathan and his older brother, learned of their brother's death on Facebook, Zita Vetter said.

Saskatoon city police did not release or confirm names until Sunday, after the next of kin were notified - but in this age of social media, people have other ways of finding out information, spokesperson Alyson Edwards said Monday.

"We have a society that exists on social media. You have reports and information flying around. It happens so quickly. It's

challenging for the police to get there fast enough," she said.

The SPS sent a request to the RCMP at 10 a.m. to notify the father, but that message apparently failed to reach the Warman detachment's day shift.

The RCMP informed SPS at 2:30 a.m. Sunday that they had spoken with Vetter, Edwards said.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Weber said Monday he was still piecing together the chain of events that led to the unusual delay. Such requests normally go through Regina on weekends, he said.

"We obviously take these things seriously and try to get on them right away, notify the family as soon as we can," Weber said.

(Star Phoenix)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**JANUARY 08, 2014**

Jan 08 2014

**NEW YORK - One retired police officer who told the government he was too psychologically damaged to work ran a martial arts studio, prosecutors said. Another claimed his depression was so crippling it kept him house-bound, but he was photographed aboard a watercraft, they said. A third man who said he was incapable of social interactions manned a cannoli stand at a street festival.**



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.



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All were wrongly receiving thousands of dollars in federal disability benefits, prosecutors said Tuesday in announcing a sweeping fraud case involving scores of retired officers, firefighters and jail guards. The retirees faked psychiatric problems, authorities said, and many falsely claimed their conditions arose after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The brazenness is shocking," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said.

More than 100 people were arrested, including 72 city police officers, eight firefighters, five correction officers and one Nassau County Police Department officer.

Four ringleaders coached the former workers on how to feign depression and other mental health problems that allowed them to get payouts as high as \$500,000 over decades, Vance said. The ringleaders made tens of thousands of dollars in secret kickbacks, he said.

The four - retired officer Joseph Esposito, 64; detectives' union disability consultant John Minerva, 61; lawyer and former FBI agent and suburban prosecutor Raymond Lavallee, 83; and benefits consultant Thomas Hale, 89 - sat stolidly as they pleaded not guilty to high-level grand larceny charges. All were released on bail, ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

Defence lawyers said the four staunchly denied the accusations, and some noted their clients had legitimate jobs helping people seek benefits.

The applicants were taught how to fail memory tests and how to act like people suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress disorder, and their applications were filled with strikingly similar descriptions - "my (husband or wife) is always after me about my grooming," "I nap on and off during the day" - in what appeared to be the same handwriting, prosecutors said.

Esposito, advising one applicant preparing to meet with Social Security Administration officials, told her to make mistakes in simple spelling and math exercises, prosecutors said in court papers.

"You don't have any desire for anything," the papers quote Esposito as telling her, and "can you pretend you have panic attacks?"

If applicants claimed to be traumatized by Sept. 11, "they were instructed to say that they were afraid of planes or they were afraid of tall buildings," Assistant District Attorney Christopher Santora told a judge.

Police Commissioner William Bratton said the arrests represented an effort to ensure "the memories of those who did, in fact, contribute their lives or their physical well-being to dealing with 9-11 are not sullied."

Over 26 years, the workers arrested collected about \$22 million in bogus benefits, authorities said, and more arrests could follow. Prosecutors estimate hundreds more people and as much as \$400 million may be involved.

Among those arrested, former police officer Louis Hurtado taught martial arts in Odesa, Fla., according to his studio's website, which touts the black belts he's trained. In another photo, a smiling, tanned Glen Lieberman, a retired officer, gestures obscenely at the camera from aboard a watercraft. Online photos showed another benefits recipient, Joseph Morrone, smiling at the cannoli stand during a TV interview at the San Gennaro Festival in 2009.

Morrone pleaded not guilty and was released without bail. There was no answer at Hurtado's listed number in Florida. The Associated Press couldn't locate a home phone number for Lieberman.

The defendants said they couldn't drive, shop or handle their finances, yet one piloted a helicopter and another played blackjack in Las Vegas, prosecutors said. One travelled to Indonesia and boasted on YouTube about his investment prowess, they said.

Jan 08 2014

**WINNIPEG - Auto thieves in Winnipeg appear to be getting a helping hand from drivers who feel the need for heat during biting cold weather.**

Police say that in about one third of the 166 auto thefts last month, the vehicles were left running and unattended when thieves made off with them.

In about 20 per cent of the cases, the keys to the stolen vehicles had been taken from jackets, backpacks or purses left unattended in public places

In another nine per cent, the vehicles were taken by using a spare key left inside the vehicle.

Brian Smiley, a spokesman for Manitoba Public Insurance, says auto theft is a crime of opportunity and the bitterly cold weather is causing people to make unwise decisions.

Since 2009, an average of 132 vehicles have been stolen in Winnipeg during the month of December.

(CJOB)

Jan 08 2014

**HINTON, Alta. - Police in Alberta say they have charged a man and rescued a four-year-old girl following a child pornography investigation.**

The Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team's Internet Child Exploitation unit says the case involves a girl from Hinton and a 52-year-old man who was arrested last month at a work camp.

Kenneth McKinley faces sexual assault, sexual interference and child pornography charges.

He was to appear Wednesday in Hinton provincial court.

The team that worked on the investigation is made up of RCMP, Edmonton police and other law enforcement officials.

RCMP Sgt. Mike Lokken says police



began investigating after receiving a tip from the RCMP National Child Exploitation Centre in Ottawa about images that suggested that the girl was being abused.

He said the suspect is not related to the girl and she is safe with her family.

"We have been able to identify a young victim of child exploitation and hold the person who was allegedly doing it accountable so this doesn't happen to her again," he said.

Jan 08 2014

**MONTREAL - A retired Montreal police detective accused of selling sensitive police information to criminal biker gang members has waived his right to bail.**

Benoit Roberge appeared in a Montreal courtroom this morning and is set to return on Jan. 23.

He has been behind bars since his arrest in October.

He has gone through five defence lawyers, with some having to recuse themselves because of a possible conflict of interest.

Roberge, a high-profile investigator and biker expert, is facing one charge of obstructing justice, one of breach of trust and two related to gangsterism.

Because of his past role as a police officer who regularly dealt with Montreal-area prosecutors, one from Quebec City has been called in to handle the case.

Jan 08 2014

**MONTREAL - The idea of issuing Montreal police officers with personal cameras is being raised again, following the emergence of two videos shot by passers-by in recent weeks showing police acting aggressively towards civilians.**

One shows an officer threatening to tie a homeless man wearing only a t-shirt to a pole in frigid temperatures, the other a violent confrontation with a group of young men in a McDonalds.

But the force says its officers won't be wearing cameras any time soon.

Police spokesman Ian Lafreniere says many officers like the idea, since it can show the whole story behind controversial videos.

But he says there are many issues to deal with before the project - which has been under consideration for almost a year - can be given the green light.

Among them are privacy and personnel concerns.

"One city in the States, when they introduced the new model, they [assigned] two officers to look through the footage. Now they have 26," he says. "For them it's a monster."

He says police in several cities in the US, the UK, France and Belgium are already equipped with body-worn video. Police in Calgary recently completed a pilot project involving cameras and are expanding the practice.

(CJAD)

Jan 08 2014

**MONTREAL - The Montreal police officer at the centre of a controversial video involving a homeless man has been demoted by the police service.**

A passerby took the video showing the man wearing only shorts and a t-shirt on a day when the windchill approached -40.

The officer is shown pointing his finger at the man, telling him he is going to tie him to a pole if he doesn't go inside.

He had been a senior constable, but sources tell CJAD he lost his senior ranking.

Montreal police would only say the officer has been disciplined, but by law, they aren't able to say how.

Dominique Peschard of the League of Rights and Freedoms says there needs to be more transparency in these kinds of cases.

"In terms of an internal administrative procedure, which is not accountable, it is not made public," Peschard said. "It's not going to increase the confidence from the public and given the fact also that police can get off the hook."

(CJAD)

Jan 08 2014

**TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog says it's investigating the circumstances that led to a 22-year-old woman falling to her death in Toronto on Wednesday afternoon.**

The Special Investigations Unit says Toronto police officers went to an apartment building (at 330 Dixon Road) to speak with a woman on the 25th floor.

The SIU says at some point, the woman fell from the apartment unit to the ground.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Jan 08 2014

**ST. CATHARINES, Ont. - A southern Ontario police constable who leaked confidential information and police documents to the Hells Angels is headed to prison.**

Const. Dean Rudge was convicted last August of breach of trust by a public officer for passing information to the motorcycle club between August 2004 and September 2006.

Justice P.B. Hamby sentenced Rudge - a Niagara Regional Police officer - to four years in prison at a sentencing hearing on Wednesday.

Police Chief Jeff McGuire says Rudge's future employment with the force will be addressed through the discipline process under the Police Services Act.

Rudge had been suspended with pay since April 4, 2007, and McGuire says now that he has been sentenced, Rudge is suspended without pay.

McGuire says his force will now continue to work to restore the trust that has been

damaged by Rudge's actions.

"Whenever a police officer is involved in a criminal act, or any other act that violates their sworn oath of office, the reputation of the service is tarnished and public trust is lost," McGuire said.

Jan 08 2014

**SEATTLE - A former Mountie who pleaded guilty to smuggling cocaine across the Canada-U.S. border resented the RCMP so much that he turned to his previous adversaries in organized crime and sold them his specialized knowledge, court documents say.**

Rapinder Singh Sidhu is expected to be sentenced to eight years in prison on Friday in Seattle.

U.S. District Attorney Jenny Durkan said in the pre-sentencing documents that Sidhu also contributed to the corruption of a fellow law enforcement officer who sabotaged his own career by becoming involved in the drug-smuggling scheme.

While Sidhu is accused of being a leader in the operation that began at an unknown time and ended in May 2008, Durkan said the ex-Mountie continues to blame others for his crimes and maintains he was merely a pawn in the operation run by others.

"Rapinder Singh Sidhu was a high-ranking member of a well-organized, long-running international conspiracy that was responsible for the transportation and exportation of enormous quantities of cocaine from the United States to Canada," Durkan said.

She said that when Sidhu, who was nicknamed Pony Tail, made the decision to become an international cocaine trafficker, he knew the harm he would cause and the risks he'd face if he were caught, unlike others he recruited as an underworld law enforcement adviser.

"He was specifically trained in investigating exactly the type of criminal he later became," Durkan said of the former RCMP investigator. "He used his special knowledge and skills, obtained through that privileged position, to earn for himself and his criminal associates large sums of money in the international cocaine trade."

Sidhu, who quit the RCMP in 2003 over "his perceived mistreatment," according to Durkan, had an outstanding warrant issued against him in February 2012 for obstructing an officer in Montreal. The documents also say he was convicted of fraud in 2005.

The American case involves the seizure of two loads of cocaine - in July 2007 in Orange County, Calif., where 270 kilograms were hidden in a recreational vehicle, and 208 kilograms stashed inside luggage in a mini van in May 2008 in Everett Wash.

In the Everett seizure, a Canadian border inspector hired by Sidhu allowed the vehicle to enter British Columbia without inspection.

Durkan said the drivers of the California load received 12 years behind bars and that there's no justice in the six- to eight-year plea deal bargained for Sidhu.

"The United States has never conceded that a six-year sentence is appropriate and, indeed, believes that a sentence of eight years is the absolute minimum sentence that satisfies the law in light of the specific facts and circumstances of the case," she said, adding Sidhu should be supervised for four years following his release for being a leader, manager and supervisor of a border inspector and four drivers.

"Without Sidhu, there is no question that this conspiracy could not have successfully smuggled these hundreds and hundreds of kilograms of cocaine through the international border without detection," Durkan said.

Sidhu was indicted by a grand jury in August 2011 and arrested in Canada a year later before being extradited to the United States in March 2013, six months before he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to export cocaine.

Jan 08 2014

**VANCOUVER - The RCMP says it has identified and fixed the "mistake" that allowed two climate-change protesters to walk onto a stage within touching distance of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, but the force isn't revealing the flaw or what has been done to address it.**

Two activists walked on stage during an event at a downtown hotel Monday as Harper settled in for a question-and-answer session with the head of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Vancouver police have said there won't be any charges related to the incident, but the security breach has led to questions about how two activists could get so close to Harper before the prime minister's personal RCMP security detail intervened.

RCMP Cpl. Lucy Shorey said the force has already implemented changes to ensure it doesn't happen again.

"The review of the incident is still ongoing, however, we've identified the mistake and have implemented necessary changes to prevent a repeat occurrence," Shorey said Wednesday in an interview from Ottawa.

"We can't get into the details of (the prime minister's) security, and discussing the mistake would, in fact, be discussing security details."

Shorey said protecting officials such as the prime minister requires a balance between the duty to protect elected leaders and public's right to free speech and to access politicians.



Jan 09 2014

**HALIFAX - The federal government is going to use television and online advertising to raise awareness about cyberbullying and the possible legal consequences of tormenting people.**



Justice Minister Peter MacKay says the national campaign he announced today at a school in Halifax is aimed at protecting children online.

The first phase of the campaign, called Stop Hating Online, includes television and online ads that focus on when cyberbullying amounts to criminal activity.

The federal government introduced a wide-ranging bill in November designed to make it illegal to distribute "intimate images" without consent and easier to get such images scrubbed off the Internet.

The legislation would also give courts the power to seize computers, cellphones and other devices used in an offence, and help victims recoup part of the cost of removing the images from the Internet.

The bill applies to adults and young people alike who find themselves targeted for on-line harassment or intimidation.

In introducing the bill, MacKay said Canadians have been touched by a number of recent cyberbullying suicides, including the death of Rehtaeh Parsons, the 17-year-old Halifax girl who died in April after trying to take her own life.

Police initially rejected demands to pursue the Parsons case, but eventually charged two teens in August with creating and distributing child pornography.

Jan 09 2014

**SARNIA, Ont. - Sarnia, Ont., police are asking for the public's help solving a mystery.**

They say they've received hundreds of 911 calls from the same cellphone since Christmas Day but they don't know who the caller is.

There have been more than 360 calls - including one day when there were 58 - and police say it's likely a Rogers customer on a phone that has no SIM card.

When the call is answered, police say there's a garbled message from someone believed to be a small child or possibly someone with a disability.

They say it's possible someone got a new phone for Christmas and gave their old one to a child without realizing 911 calls can still be made on cellphones that have no SIM card or service.

It's been determined the calls are being made within a one-kilometre radius in the southwestern Ontario community. (BlackburnRadio.com)

Jan 09 2014

**MONTREAL - The Montreal police department has opened an internal investigation into a company that supplied a dozen limousines for the recent funeral of reputed mob boss Vito Rizzuto.**

The company is owned by a former police officer, Marcel Auger and his two sons, Stephane who is a lieutenant-detective in the organized crime division and Daniel, a civilian employee.

The senior Auger says his company does business with dozens of funeral homes and doesn't check who's being buried.

By law, a police officer has to declare his holdings in outside business interests every year and the Journal de Montreal says that Stephane Auger complies with the requirement.

Marcel Auger says his company supplied a dozen cars, drivers and pallbearers for the Rizzuto funeral. (CJAD)

Jan 09 2014

**WINNIPEG - City council members will soon consider a second call to audit the Winnipeg Police Service headquarters project and a demand to release details about its \$75 million worth of cost overruns.**

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry) and Coun. Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood-Tuxedo) will make a second attempt to secure an external review of the project at council's Jan. 29 meeting. A 9-7 council vote defeated an earlier audit request in November.

"I'm very hopeful that we'll see a shift. It's a \$75-million cost overrun and we don't have the answers," said Havixbeck.

"I continue to believe that this should undergo the proper auditing process," agreed Gerbasi.

Originally expected to cost \$135 million, the facility and construction are now expected to cost around \$210 million.

Opponents, however, say answers about how the cost overruns occurred were already divulged through a city staff report, which blamed much of the problem on a guaranteed maximum price based on design drawings that were only 30% complete.

"There was an explanation as to why the cost is what it is," said Coun. Mike Pagtakhan (Point Douglas).