

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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Tweets help criminals flee, police say



Aug 14 2014

SEATTLE - Police in Washington state are asking the public to stop tweeting during shootings and man-hunts to avoid accidentally telling the bad guys what officers are doing.

The "TweetSmart" campaign began in late July by a coalition of nine agencies, including the Washington state patrol and the Seattle police, and aims to raise awareness about social media's potential impact on law enforcement.

Some have called the effort a step that could lead to censorship; others dismissed

it as silly. Police, however, say it's just a reminder at a time when cellphones and social networks can hasten the lightning-quick spread of information.

A social media expert at the International Association of Chiefs of Police said she's unaware of similar awareness campaigns elsewhere but the problem that prompted the outreach is growing.

"All members of the public may not understand the implications of tweeting out a picture of SWAT team activity," said Nancy Korb, who oversees the Alexandria,

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Virginia, organization's Center for Social Media.

"It's a real safety issue, not only for officers but anyone in the vicinity," Korb said.

Korb said she is not aware of any social media post that has led to the injury of a police officer, but she said there have been a few close calls. Other times, tweets have interfered with investigations.

In those cases, police tweet back and ask people to back off.

Korb said citizen journalists generally respond well when the reasons are explained. "It's not that they don't want the public to share information," she said. "It's the timing of it."

Social media speculation and reports challenged Boston police during the search for the marathon bombers.

Two recent incidents led the Washington State Patrol to organize the "TweetSmart" campaign: the search for a gunman in Canada after three officers were killed and a shooting at a high school near Portland, Ore.

Calkins said police agencies can do their own preventative maintenance with social media by getting information out there when crime is happening.

"We have to respond with a smart phone almost as fast as we respond with a gun," said Calkins, who along with Korb commended the Seattle Police Department for its use of social media.

Department spokesman Sean Whitcomb said they use social media to engage the public and believe that getting public safety information out quickly will help minimize rumours and speculation.

"We recognize there's a responsibility to use every tool at our disposal to keep the public safe," Whitcomb said.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6, 2014

Aug 06 2014

MONTREAL - The city of Montreal plans to bill municipal employees' unions for the cost of removing union stickers that workers protesting against a pension reform bill have affixed to city vehicles and buildings.



"We're following the situation as it develops. The city of Montreal has taken this measure to protect its equipment, will follow up and intends to send the bill to the unions," city spokesperson Philippe Sabourin said on Tuesday.

If the bill is not paid, the city will file an officer's grievance with the unions, he said.

"We don't intend to pay anything," said Marc Ranger, president of the Coalition syndicale pour la libre négociation, an association of Quebec municipal employees' unions.

The stickers are protected by free speech, he said. And, according to Ranger, when ordering the stickers the coalition asked specifically for a type that was easier to remove.

"He can send all the bills he wishes. We won't pay," Ranger said of Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre.

This week, the coalition received a notice of grievance from the city related to a noisy protest on June 17, when workers — including firefighters and police officers — burned garbage and blocked a street near city hall.

During the protest, some police officers used police vehicles to block traffic while firefighters sprayed city hall with firehoses. The coalition later denounced the protest.

Coderre announced last week that the city also intended to bill the Montreal Police Brotherhood for the overtime hours needed to cover shifts when about 100 officers called in sick on the morning of July 26. (Montreal Gazette)

THURSDAY AUGUST 7, 2014

Aug 07 2014

TORONTO - An Ontario court has cleared the way for two class-action lawsuits by hundreds of people detained during the G20 summit in Toronto four years ago, saying it's important their allegations of police mistreatment be heard in court.

A proposed class-action suit related to the

summit was initially stalled last year when a judge ruled it couldn't proceed because its "broad, sweeping nature" was viewed as problematic.

But a Divisional Court panel hearing an appeal of that ruling determined this week that the proceedings could move forward in two separate, but related, class-action lawsuits.

One will deal with hundreds who were abruptly detained by police at five locations across Toronto, and another will deal with the treatment of those who were held at a "chaotic" detention centre set up during the summit.

"It is important to remember that the police cannot sweep up scores of people just in the hope that one of the persons captured is a person who they believe is engaged in criminal activity," Justice Ian Nordheimer wrote on behalf of the unanimous, three-member panel.

"In essence, in this case, we have a broad class of persons who were allegedly arbitrarily detained in each instance by the police through the use of a single sweeping order."

More than 1,000 people were detained by police during the G20 summit in June 2010 after protesters using so-called Black Bloc tactics broke away from a peaceful rally and ran through the downtown, smashing windows and burning police cruisers.

The vast majority of those detained were released without charge within 24 hours.

The class-action proceedings that will now proceed involve "a very serious issue of access of justice," noted Nordheimer, adding that many of those involved may not be willing to put in the time and expense required for individual legal proceedings.

"The damage was made to the liberty interests of these individuals where the harm is, perhaps, easier to ignore and easier to minimize," he wrote. "It is a harm, however, that is nonetheless real and it is harm, if proven, that should not go unremedied."

None of the allegations made in the class-action lawsuits have been proven in court.

The Divisional Court ruling, released Wednesday, noted that the allegations of mistreatment by police that would be brought forward by the class-action proceedings were significant.

"If the appellant's central allegation is proven, the conduct of the police violated a basic tenet of how police in a free and democratic society are expected to conduct themselves," Nordheimer wrote.

"If that view of the conduct in this instance is made out, an award of damages to the individual citizens affected may be the most telling and lasting expression that such conduct should never be tolerated."

FRIDAY AUGUST 8, 2014

Aug 08 2014

WELLAND, Ont. - A 33-year-old Niagara regional police officer died in a head-on collision while driving his motorcycle home from work early Friday.

Const. Joe Mellen, whose motorcycle collided with a car on Highway 406 in Welland, Ont., was on his way home after a 12-hour night shift, said Chief Jeffrey McGuire.

"He was a good cop, a good hard-working civil servant, serving the citizens of the

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Niagara Region,” said McGuire.

“And he was also a great, fun guy to be around. So everything I have learned about him is that he was one of those guys who will be sorely missed.”

McGuire said Mellen, who had been with the Niagara police force for nine years, was recently divorced and was the father of two children - a son and a daughter.

A woman in the car, believed to be the driver, was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

McGuire says provincial police are investigating the collision and Niagara police are co-operating with them.

He said his force was grateful for the public support it received through social media from people across the country.

Aug 08 2014

VANCOUVER - A new trial has been ordered for an RCMP officer convicted of aggravated assault for shooting a suspect during a traffic stop on Vancouver Island.

The B.C. Appeal Court ruled the lower court judge made a mistake in excluding evidence from an expert witness when he determined Const. David Pompeo was guilty.

In a unanimous ruling issued Friday by a three-member panel, the judges said the lower court judge had taken an active role in questioning witnesses during the trial, compromising the appearance of fairness.

“Given that the judge, himself, developed theories that were detrimental to the defence, and that he elicited considerable evidence that he used to support the conviction, the appearance of trial fairness was, in my opinion, compromised,” wrote Justice Harvey Groberman.

In December last year, provincial court Judge Josiah Wood said the officer appeared to be a responsible member of the RCMP but he showed poor judgment when he shot William Gillespie in September 2009.

The trial heard that Pompeo, who worked in the Duncan, B.C., detachment, was with another officer when they began a brief vehicle chase after Gillespie. Pompeo said they were trying to stop the man for driving while prohibited.

Both officers pulled out their guns at Gillespie and his passenger, and Pompeo told his trial he shot the man because he thought he was reaching for a weapon in his pocket.

Pompeo claimed his use of lethal force was necessary to save his own life.

Wood sentenced Pompeo to two years probation and 240 hours of community work, saying a more severe sentence, such as jail time or a firearms prohibition, would have caused Pompeo to lose his job.

The appeal court judges agreed with the officer that the judge’s approach to the case was “problematic.” The appeal court said Wood engaged in lengthy questioning of one of the key witnesses.

The appeal court said the judge erred in finding that one of Pompeo’s witnesses, a police officer for 12 years, wasn’t qualified to be an expert. They said the judge appeared to

have rejected the officer not on the basis that he lacked expertise, but that another officer and witness had more expertise.

“I am not persuaded that the error is a harmless one,” Groberman said in his ruling.

The judges ruled that they would allow the appeal on that issue alone. But they also noted the judge seemed to take an active role in developing evidence, from which he discounted the officer’s claim that Gillespie appeared to him to be fleeing from police during the vehicle chase.

“The trial judge’s interventions in the case before us were extensive and frequent. While I do not call into question the impartiality of the judge, his active participation in the trial went well beyond the norm,” the appeal judge said.

The conviction has been set aside and the court ordered the case go back to provincial court for a new trial.

Aug 08 2014

REGINA - Regina police are investigating after an off-duty police dog bit a man.

Apparently a police officer took the dog for a run early Friday morning at the city’s exhibition grounds.

Police say the dog ran off toward a building and bit a 38-year-old man on the arm.

He was taken to hospital for medical treatment.

Police say the victim was not the subject of a police investigation.

Aug 08 2014

CAMBRIDGE - For more than a decade, Steven McKenna laced up his skates and spent most of his time on the ice.



The former National Hockey League player had eight seasons with the Los Angeles Kings, the New York Rangers and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

On Friday, 40-year-old McKenna joined the ranks of the Waterloo Regional Police Service. He was among seven officers who became full-fledged constables in a badging ceremony at Cambridge City Hall.

The constables were the first officers to be hired since 2012, said police spokesperson Insp. Shaena Morris.

McKenna, who’s six-foot-eight, towered over his colleagues and interim Chief Steve Beckett, along with police board chair Tom Galloway and Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig, as they inspected the officers and their uniforms.

McKenna loved his time in the profes-

sional league and coaching in Russia and Australia, but said he was ready to come back home and “start a new adventure.”

McKenna, born in Toronto, came to Cambridge when he was three and spent most of his growing-up years in the region before going to college in Massachusetts.

“It’s always been a dream to be a police officer. I always had the fire burning,” said Galt Collegiate Institute graduate.

“Hockey went in a positive direction for me,” he said. “I know I couldn’t play forever.”

(The Record)

SUNDAY
AUGUST 10, 2014
Aug 10 2014

SURREY - Police staffing levels in Surrey has become a hot election issue.

Last week, former Surrey mayor (and mayoral candidate in November’s election) Doug McCallum issued a media statement claiming that of the 673 officers employed by Surrey RCMP, only 36 are available for shifts on any given day of the week.

McCallum called the stats “absolutely shocking” for a city of Surrey’s size and population.

The statement caused considerable debate over the weekend, and forced the RCMP detachment to issue a statement.

Superintendent Trent Rolfe, the acting officer in charge of Surrey RCMP, claims the numbers were not released by the detachment and said they “significantly” understate the number of police resources available to the city.

The numbers only include general duty officers, and not those in specialized investigative, traffic, bike, drug, gang and robbery units.

A recent poll, conducted by Insights West, identified crime as the number one issue in the Surrey election.

Forty-five per cent of residents that responded to the poll said it was their top concern.

(Metro)

MONDAY
AUGUST 11, 2014
Aug 11 2014

THUNDER BAY, Ont. - Ontario’s police watchdog is investigating after a man died in hospital following his arrest in a domestic incident in Thunder Bay that left a girl dead.

Local police say they were called early Monday morning to an apartment, where they found a woman with minor injuries and her critically injured daughter.

The girl, 8, was rushed to hospital, where she was declared dead.

Police say a suspect - who they described as the woman’s ex-boyfriend - fled the scene but was located hours later and arrested after

a standoff.

They say the 38-year-old man had injuries that appeared to be inflicted prior to his arrest and was later pronounced dead.

No names have been released and the Special Investigations Unit is investigating his death.

(The Canadian Press, CKPR)

Aug 11 2014

MEAT COVE, N.S. - Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team is investigating the arrest of a 57-year-old woman in Cape Breton.

The police watchdog says RCMP from Ingonish responded to a residence in Meat Cove on Sunday after a report that a firearm had been pointed.

During a struggle with the arresting officer the woman injured her arm and it was later determined to be broken.

The woman was taken to a hospital in Sydney for treatment.

SIRT says two of its investigators will travel to Cape Breton today to begin the investigation.

Aug 11 2014

MONCTON, N.B. - Justin Bourque admits he targeted police officers on the evening in June that he fatally shot three Mounties and injured two others in Moncton, N.B., using a semi-automatic weapon.

An agreed statement of facts filed with the Court of Queen's Bench says Bourque used a Poly Technologies Model M305, 308-calibre Winchester semi-automatic rifle in the shootings that happened between 7:18 p.m. and 8:13 p.m. on June 4.

Bourque pleaded guilty Friday in the Court of Queen's Bench in Moncton to three charges of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

The 24-year-old returns to court Oct. 27 when victim impact statements and pre-sentencing documents will be filed with the court.

The document obtained by The Canadian Press says Bourque understands that he and the prosecutor may introduce further facts at the sentencing hearing.

Justice David Smith told the court Friday that the Crown has given notice it will seek three consecutive life sentences on the first-degree murder charges, which means Bourque would not be eligible for parole for 75 years.

Constables Dave Ross, Fabrice Gevaudan and Douglas Larche were killed after responding to a report of a man with firearms in a residential neighbourhood in the northwest area of Moncton.

Constables Eric Dubois and Darlene Goguen were wounded and later released from hospital.

Bourque was recently found competent and mentally fit to stand trial after undergoing a psychiatric assessment. Details of that assessment have been sealed by the court.

The agreed statement of facts says Bourque meant to cause the deaths of the three

police officers and that "his actions were both planned and deliberate."

It also says he meant to kill Goguen and Dubois and continues: "Justin Christian Bourque specifically targeted the victims because he knew they were police officers."

Gevaudan died from two gunshot wounds to the chest, Ross from a gunshot wound to the head and Larche from a gunshot wound to the head and "left flank," the document says.

It says Goguen and Dubois sustained "significant injuries" as a result of being shot by Bourque.

Bourque was arrested following a manhunt that spanned 30 hours and brought the city of 69,000 to a virtual standstill.

Prior to the psychiatric assessment, Victor Bourque provided the court with a two-page affidavit that said his son was ranting against authority just days before the shootings.

He said his son went from living with his parents and six siblings in Moncton to buying a gun, getting kicked out of the house, and becoming depressed and paranoid.

Aug 11 2014

LONDON - The head of London's police force decided to take matters into his own hands Monday morning, when an alleged theft happened right under his nose.



London's Metropolitan Police Service commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe was in the middle of an interview with a local radio station Monday in the city's north end when a cab driver approached him and complained that his passengers were refusing to pay their fare.

According to police, the four men inside the vehicle jumped out the cab and fled. Jumping into action, Hogan-Howe and another officer set off in pursuit of the men.

The officers caught up with one suspect, a 17-year-old youth, inside a nearby railway station, where an officer arrested him.

But the drama didn't end there. Hogan-Howe then got into a police car to hunt for the other suspects.

Catching up with a second man some distance away, Hogan-Howe arrested him on suspicion of theft and making off without payment.

Metropolitan Police later confirmed that the commissioner himself had arrested a 19-year-old man.

In an interview with the radio station, the driver, identified as Mohammad, said he didn't even know he had approached the city's top cop when he had sought help.

After the arrest, Hogan-Howe said it was a "disgrace" that having served on the force as commissioner for the past three years, he had not made an arrest sooner.

"That's very slack, it's a disgrace, but today we have put it right," he said.

Hogan-Howe also said that he has now made an arrest at every rank in his policing career.

(CTV News)



Aug 12 2014

OTTAWA - The federal government is developing a commission to help restore public confidence in the RCMP - but it will be shrouded in secrecy.

Planning documents for Public Safety indicate anyone working for the RCMP's new Civilian Review and Complaints Commission will be required to take an oath of secrecy.

"This oath ensures that these persons pledge not to disclose any information that they come across in the course of their duties to anyone not legally entitled to that information," the document reads.

The federal government is revamping the complaints commission, it says, by bolstering its investigative powers.

But if this new complaints commission is meant to restore the public's faith in the red serge, some find this gag order an odd way to start.



This new gag order could last forever. "If an oath does not specify time, it may last a lifetime," Public Safety spokesperson Jean Paul Duval wrote in an email.

The move to drape the complaint commission in a cloak of secrecy follows other similar moves.

In March, for example, a regulation passed imposing a lifelong gag order on federal employees and lawyers handling sensitive information dealing with national security.

Anyone caught violating that oath of secrecy could face up to 14 years in prison.

Members of the RCMP are already bound to secrecy, due to the sensitive nature of much of their work.

Since the department considers placing a gag order over the new commission "administrative in nature" they successfully argued there is no need to consult the public — the very people the complaints commission is intended to serve.

The RCMP and the existing Commission for Public Complaints were consulted, according to the Public Safety document.

A commission spokesperson said she can't comment on the oath of secrecy because it isn't yet under the commission's purview, and referred all questions back to Public Safety.

She did confirm that existing commission employees don't take any special oath of secrecy, just the same affirmation all federal public servants have since 2006.

The federal department, however, wouldn't provide details on the new gag order either, saying the work toward establishing the commission is still under way.

Duval wouldn't say either exactly when the new commission will get off the ground, only that it and the regulations are "expected in due course."

Because of legislation passed in June 2013, the new complaints commission will be able to access more classified information than its predecessor.

That access is part of the reason for the cloak of secrecy, says Paul Kennedy, who chaired the commission from 2005 to 2009 and fought for more independence and better access to secret documents.

(Shaw Media)

Aug 12 2014

EDMONTON - With a massive recruiting drive underway, Edmonton Police believe the force can handle the flood of new officers ready to join the ranks.

The force is hoping to add as many as 180 officers per year over the next five years, to help deal with attrition and growth in the city.

Sgt. James McLeod, who oversees recruiting, said despite that push they expect the officers can be spread out across the force's division that no individual squad will be flooded with new recruits.

"Some squads may not even receive a recruit until the later part of the year," he said.

McLeod said the training is top notch and more than anything he's concerned about the workload on the trainers who will have a lot to deal with over the next few years.

"They're going to be worked harder," he said. "There's going to be an emphasis, with more recruits going through, on making sure that they have all the right tools in their tool belt."

Sgt. Tony Simioni, with the Edmonton Police Association, said there will be a lot of experience leaving the force, but it's manageable.

(Metro Edmonton)

Aug 12 2014

EDMONTON - The death of celebrated comedian Robin Williams on Monday, and five unconnected deaths in Edmonton in the 24 hours since, is bringing a hard discussion into the news: suicide.

Veteran EPS members say they cannot recall another night like it with suicides in North, West, Southeast, Southwest and Downtown divisions.

Police report no common thread in the deaths, and that the victims range in age from young to old.

There are a variety of risk factors, and suicidal thoughts can strike anyone at any age, but statistically, middle-aged men are most at risk.

Olsen says there were 377 suicides in Alberta in 2009. Danger signs of suicidal thoughts include giving away of possessions, withdrawal from enjoyable activities, and for people with depression, a sudden, unexplained positive change in mood could also indicate a decision to commit suicide.

(INews880)



Aug 13 2014

KAMLOOPS, B.C. - A cartoon character from the popular TV series Family Guy has helped solve a crime in Kamloops, B.C.

Twenty-year-old Devon Lynn was convicted of attempted robbery on Monday after admitting he pepper-sprayed a 13-year-old boy working a cash register and his sister.

Stewie Griffin, the talking baby character from the long-running animated series, is tattooed across the side of Lynn's neck.

The BC Supreme Court heard on Monday the tattoo made it easy for Mounties to track Lynn down after the June 30th attack.

Crown lawyer Tim Livingston says Lynn ate a buffet meal at a Chinese restaurant, then went to the till and demanded money from the boy working at the front.

The boy left and came back with his sister and Lynn pepper-sprayed both of them and ran out of the restaurant.

Lynn pleaded guilty on Monday to attempted robbery and theft under \$5,000.

(Kamloops This Week)

Aug 13 2014

WINDSOR, Ont. - The man who calls himself the "Prince of Pot" is on a mission to make legalizing marijuana a key issue in the next federal election.

Marc Emery returned to Canada yesterday after serving five years in an American prison for selling marijuana seeds to customers across the border.

He told a crowd of supporters that Stephen Harper wants to portray marijuana use

as a sin, and implored pot smokers to back the Liberals, whose leader Justin Trudeau supports legalizing weed.

The Tories were quick to fire back, with Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney putting out a statement slamming both Emery, who he called a "convicted drug trafficker," and Trudeau.

Aug 13 2014

TORONTO - Mayor Rob Ford's brother issued a public apology to Toronto's police chief Wednesday and retracted comments that prompted the chief to threaten legal action.

Coun. Doug Ford said he decided he was "taking the high road" two days after Chief Bill Blair filed a defamation notice which demanded a public apology and retraction in an agreed upon forum.

"I apologize to the chief and, he feels I've impugned his reputation, by no means am I doing that and I retract my statement," Ford told reporters at city hall. "We're going to move forward with the business of the city."

Neither Blair nor his spokesman were immediately available for comment and it was unclear if Ford's apology was accepted.

"It will be up to the chief if he wants to move forward with this," Ford said. "But honestly, deep down, I don't think the chief wants to move forward with it. He wants an apology that I am doing."

Ford had suggested two weeks ago that Blair helped leak information that police were preparing to subpoena the mayor in an ongoing investigation as "payback" - although he did not elaborate on what he meant.

At the time, Blair said Ford was lying and warned he was prepared to take legal action.

Ford said he "personally called" Blair on Wednesday.

"I talked to him. I told him that I apologize," he said.

The dispute stemmed from a Toronto Star report, published Aug. 1, which cited sources saying police were preparing to subpoena the mayor to testify at a preliminary hearing for his friend Alexander (Sandro) Lisi, who is facing drug and extortion charges.

Ford blamed the apparent leak on Blair, calling it politically motivated.

"When you tell the media there's a subpoena and don't tell anyone else? That alone says it all right there. That says it all," he had said at the time. "It's disappointing that the police chief, in my opinion, would condone this behaviour from his own department."

Aug 13 2014

CALGARY - A judge says police need more training on how to respond to people who act in such a threatening way that officers are forced to kill them.

Judge Judith Shriar also recommends that police consider ways to get a person's mental health information more quickly in such a situation.

Shriar headed a fatality inquiry into the deaths of Walid Maragan and his wife Sabah Rizig in Calgary almost six years ago.

Maragan stabbed his wife to death and then called police and said: "I just killed my wife, you guys."

Officers said he threatened them with a knife when they arrived, so they tried to use a Taser on him, but it didn't work.

Maragan became more aggressive and, since the Taser could not be used a second

time, police shot and killed him.

Shriar agreed with a decision by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, which cleared the officer of wrongdoing.

Shriar also recommended that dispatch and communications staff be taught about the "suicide by cop" phenomenon so they know to obtain enough information from callers to give officers a full understanding of the circumstances.

While a police investigation concluded it couldn't be known what Maragan was thinking, the judge noted that the Calgary case was consistent with studies about the phenomenon.

"The individual is usually armed, and almost all are non-compliant and exhibit aggressive behaviour toward the police," Shriar wrote in her report released Wednesday.

"Most make no attempt to flee, and, as here, many permit the police easy access to their premises, apparently inviting the confrontation."

Aug 13 2014

QUEBEC - Quebec is losing its top cop. Mario Laprise, who was appointed in 2012 by the then-Parti Quebecois government to head the provincial police force, is leaving.

Public Security Minister Lise Theriault said today Laprise told the new Liberal government he wanted to return to Hydro-Quebec, where he used to be in charge of security.

There have been rumours that relations were strained between Laprise and the Liberals.

Some had said it was felt his allegiances lay with the previous government.

Premier Philippe Couillard said in his first news conference after taking power earlier this year that the provincial police leader's job would very likely be one of those that would be re-evaluated.

Aug 13 2014

VANCOUVER - An adjudicator with B.C.'s Police Complaint Commission says a Vancouver police officer used excessive and unnecessary force when he punched a driver three times during a traffic stop.

Const. John Gibbons and another officer approached a BMW that was stopped at a red light in June 2012, when they realized the car was associated with a prohibited driver.

Adjudicator Alan Filmer says in a written decision, that both officers walked up to the vehicle and ordered the driver, James Feng, to roll down the windows, but Feng appeared to ignore them, so Gibbons smashed out the passenger side window and entered the car.

Filmer says Gibbons then punched Feng in the head three times, and one of the blows was so hard that Gibbons broke his hand and Feng's scalp was split.

Feng was then arrested and searched, and the officers determined that he was carrying false identity papers and was prohibited from driving.

Filmer says while the two officers had reasonable grounds to make a traffic stop and arrest and search Feng, there was no need for Gibbons to beat Feng because he could have

spoken with the driver first, or taken the vehicle out of gear to stop him from fleeing.

Aug 13 2014

TORONTO - The police marine unit's headquarters is so full of barn swallows that officers have to keep the unit's 1941 Taylorcraft wood boat covered with a tarp to prevent droppings from crusting on the hull.

The birds have nested each year since about 2008, setting up in the rafters of the downtown base for the summer. The police first asked the city for help in 2012, according to police board minutes, requesting that mesh be installed to prevent the birds from nesting and protect not only the boats but also officers' health. Two years later, the birds are still free to nest in the rafters of the building.

"Obviously, left unaddressed, the issues with the swallows and droppings become very problematic. (The wood boat) would be covered within a day," said Staff Sgt. Greg Macdonald. "The point is that, to date, the issue is still as it was two years ago. To date there's been no further update that's been brought to our attention."

The police are tenants in the building at 259 Queens Quay, which is owned by the city, he said. The building has large garage-style doors that allow boats to dock directly inside it.

The department in charge of managing the property has been pondering the request for at least two years. Deterred by the high cost of the netting, pegged at more than \$100,000, the city washed the facility in the winter of 2013, while the birds were south. According to Wynna Brown, manager of media relations and issues management with the city, that approach did not work and they're looking at other options.

"Staff are currently working on an RFP to engage a wildlife consultant to develop a strategy to address this issue and oversee the registration and application process with the ministry of natural resources. The RFP will be issued as soon as possible," Brown wrote in an emailed response.

It's a sensitive issue because there's been a rapid drop in the population of barn swallows and the species is threatened, but the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is able to grant exemptions that would allow the city to prevent birds from nesting in the marine unit.

The endangered birds have been nesting in the marine unit headquarters since 2008, but came to the attention of the police board in 2012, when a report warned of the possibly toxic effect that dust from the droppings could have on officers.

(Toronto Star)



Aug 14 2014

CRANBROOK, B.C. - Two leaders of separate religious factions charged with practicing polygamy in British Columbia are expected to appear in

provincial court in October.

Winston Blackmore and James Oler were each charged yesterday with one count of polygamy.

Oler and two others were also charged with unlawfully removing a child from Canada for sexual purposes.

Both men were charged with polygamy in 2009 involving the community of Bountiful, which practices a fundamentalist form of Mormonism, but the case was thrown out.

At issue was uncertainty over whether the Criminal Code section banning polygamy violated religious rights.

In 2011, a BC Supreme Court judge ruled that the law was constitutional, and that the harms of polygamy outweighed any claims to religious freedom.

Blackmore is accused of having 24 marriages, while Oler is accused of having four.

Aug 14 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has granted oral hearings to a B.C. bong shop owner and his employee who expected undercover police officers to respect a posted sign ordering police to stay away.

Timothy Felger and his employee Natasha Healy were charged after a sting operation at the shop in Abbotsford, B.C., in 2009.

Undercover officers bought marijuana on five separate occasions and also saw other customers making similar purchases.

Felger and Healy argued at trial that a posted sign instructing police to stay out without a warrant meant the sting amounted to an unreasonable search.

The trial judge ruled the evidence could not be used and acquitted the pair in 2012, but the B.C. Court of Appeal has ordered a new trial.

The court says in a written decision that the store was a public place, meaning the police were free to investigate marijuana sales there.

Aug 14 2014

TORONTO - Toronto's top cop has decided to accept an apology from Mayor Rob Ford's brother.

Chief Bill Blair had initially declined Doug Ford's public apology, saying through a spokesman that it didn't meet the terms laid out in a defamation notice he filed against the city councillor.

But the chief changed his mind today after receiving a written apology from Doug Ford in which he retracted his comments accusing Blair of leaking information about an investigation involving the mayor as "payback."

In the letter, Ford says he had no information that would suggest the chief knew about the leak and he's sorry if his comments implied differently.

Blair had threatened legal action after the councillor's remarks, which Blair says were "false and slanderous" and attacked his reputation.