

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

October 10, 2014 – Vol. 19 No. 41

Executive Digest

Oct 02 2014

York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe has admitted that the force's switch to a new digital and encrypted radio system that will block the media and public from listening in had at least something to do with the re-broadcasting of Const. Garrett Styles distress call in the days following his death.

Page 3

Oct 04 2014

TORONTO - As early as mid-December, 100 mini-cameras will be affixed to uniforms of front-line police officers across Toronto.

Page 6

Oct 07 2014

FREDERICTON - The RCMP's commanding officer in New Brunswick says the death of Cpl. Ron Francis, who helped draw attention to the issue of post-traumatic stress disorder, is a terrible loss.

Page 7

Oct 08 2014

WATERFORD - The owners of Bonnieheath Lavender & Winery shudder to think what lies beneath the soil of their farm south of Waterford.

Page 10

Oct 09 2014

TORONTO - Ontario's health minister is refusing to take a position on a call from Canada's largest mental health and addiction research centre to legalize marijuana.

Page 10

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

EMAILED EVERY WEEK
52 WEEKS - ONLY \$100⁰⁰

www.BlueLine.ca/Shop

RCMP investigating suspected extremists heading abroad



Oct 08 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP has about 63 active security investigations on 90 suspected extremists who intend to join fights abroad or who have returned to Canada, said Bob Paulson, commissioner of the national police force.

"The pace and tempo of operations is quite brisk," Paulson told the Commons public safety committee on Wednesday.

He quickly added: "It's nothing that I think that Canadians need to be alarmed about."

Paulson said the RCMP was "managing, through our collective efforts," a response that would be "appropriate" to the nature of

the suspected offences.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney conveyed a sterner message.

"Let me be clear: these individuals, posing a threat to our security at home, have violated Canadian law," Blaney told MPs on the committee.

The Mounties will "seek to put them behind bars where they belong," he added.

"Barbarity is not a Canadian value and will never ever be one."

A recent federal report said the government knew of more than 130 individuals with Canadian connections who were abroad and suspected of supporting terror-related activities.

THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

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 2015 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2015 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 28, 2015.

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

Applications for 2015 must be submitted by
February 15, 2015 to Leadership@blueline.ca



It said the government was aware of about 80 such people who had returned to Canada.

As extremists affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant wage guerrilla-style battles in war-stricken Syria and parts of Iraq, western nations are warning that combatants could arrive home harbouring violent intentions.

CSIS director Michel Coulombe noted that fighters from many western countries with trusted passports could enter Canada easily with the aim of carrying out an attack.

"We don't want to sound alarmist. We're telling people that they should go about their daily life, but we have to be vigilant," Coulombe said.

He said CSIS knows where the 80 returnees to Canada are. And while "all of them potentially could be a threat," some were involved not in armed conflict abroad but terrorist-related activities such as fundraising and propaganda in an array of countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Lebanon and regions such as North Africa.

"So I don't want people to believe that we have 80 returnees who were hard fighters in Iraq and Syria, because that is not the picture we have at the moment," Coulombe said.

Later Wednesday, an NBC News report quoted unidentified U.S. intelligence officials as saying Canadian authorities have heard would-be terrorists discussing potential ISIL-inspired "knife and gun" attacks against Canadian and U.S. targets in Canada.

Those targets ranged from an unnamed shopping mall to attacks on Americans or the U.S. Embassy, NBC said. In the mall plan, the group allegedly discussed mowing down people on crowded escalators until police arrived, but the NBC report said the plan was disrupted.

A spokesman for Blaney said in response to the NBC report that he could not comment on "operational matters of national security."

"I can say that security agencies are constantly evaluating the terrorist threat and taking action to protect Canadians," Jason Tamming told The Canadian Press in an email Wednesday night.

The federal government has brought in a law that allows police to arrest extremist travellers before they leave Canada. But sometimes authorities have to be creative due to lack of evidence, Paulson indicated.

Federal security agencies - including the RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency and Passport Canada - meet regularly to devise means of stopping these travellers, laying charges "against at least five individuals" for passport misuse, Paulson said.

The Mounties are also developing an intervention program that would engage police and local communities to deal with people at risk of turning to extremism.

A man from Timmins, Ont., who died in combat in Syria last year had taken part in a slickly produced video, widely circulated on the Internet following his death, with the aim of inspiring like-minded young people to wage jihad.

While offering no details, Blaney told MPs the government would bring forward new measures to help monitor suspected terrorists and deal with "those Canadians who have literally been brainwashed to take part in this evil cause."

"They will face the full force of the law."

Blaney provided no additional details after the meeting.

The government is more than three months late - with no revised deadline - on delivering a tracking system it has touted as a means of stopping homegrown terrorists from joining overseas conflicts.

Under the Canada-U.S. perimeter security pact, Canada promised to begin collecting records as of last June 30 on people leaving Canada on international flights. The Conservatives missed that deadline because legislative and regulatory changes are needed before the plan can take effect.

During the hearing, Blaney noted the Tories recently added ISIL to the federal list of terrorist entities, and have passed a law permitting the government to strip Canadian citizenship from convicted extremists.

The government is also investing in academic research to help better understand terrorist thinking, an ongoing project that flows out of recommendations from an inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing.

homes and two storage lockers in Edmonton last month.

One of the homes had a full-blown, industrial steroids manufacturing laboratory and was just metres away from an elementary school.

Tucker says more than 360,000 pills, 10,000 vials and over three dozen types of liquids and powders were seized. The value of the materials is pegged at \$9.3 million.

Police allege the illegal steroids were distributed as far away as St. John's, N.L., and possibly internationally.

"These individuals are allegedly responsible for a large, illegal, underground steroid distribution network that spans across Canada and these investigators have literally cut the head off the snake," said Insp. Darcy Strang said Thursday.

"We believe this has literally shut down the sale of steroids in Alberta, significantly."

The lab that officers discovered contained a pill press, powder mixer, two fume hoods, a spectrometer, glassware and beakers and a large amount of packaging materials.

Inside one of the storage lockers investigators found nearly 100 barrels of unknown chemicals.

The drugs were being sold under the name USP, an acronym that stands for underground steroid pharmaceuticals.

Oct 02 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax police have apologized and dropped an assault charge against a union vice president after viewing a video of his arrest during a protest in front of the Nova Scotia legislature.

Jason MacLean, 41, was wrestled to the ground and handcuffed by a Halifax police officer during the demonstration by health workers and other union members on Tuesday.

MacLean, who is the vice president of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, said in an interview that he was relieved by the police decision.

He said he works as a corrections officer at a provincial jail and was concerned that the incident could result in his suspension. He also was considering launching a complaint against the police, but will first meet with the officers involved and hear their explanation.

MacLean was among hundreds of health-care workers voicing their opposition to a controversial Liberal government bill that would reorganize bargaining units in the health sector.

He was taken away in a police van and a police spokesman said initially he would be charged with assaulting an officer.

At the time, police said the officer who made the arrest thought he saw the protester assault another officer.

But police now say after seeing a video of the arrest, they decided to drop the charge.

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

ISSN 1704-3913
Copyright 2014

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 02, 2014

Oct 02 2014

EDMONTON - Four people have been arrested in what the police say is a record seizure of illegal steroids in Canada.

Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team spokesman Mike Tucker says the four were arrested following searches of three

Oct 02 2014

ORILLIA - For six years, members of Orillia's 'citizens on patrol' program provided police with an extra set of eyes on the street.

Equipped with complimentary coffee cards, volunteers cruised the city while searching for graffiti and reporting crimes in progress.

"They did amazing work," said Rick Fraracci, chair of Orillia's police services board. "They paid for their own gas, their own cars."

Despite its successes, the program has become a victim of dwindling interest.

"The stats that we have compiled over the past six months have shown a dramatic drop (in patrol hours)," said Fraracci.

With that in mind, Orillia's police services board recently agreed to disband the patrol at the request of the handful of remaining volunteers.

"The board left the decision up to the group whether they wanted to do continue," Fraracci said. "They decided not to. The consensus was that the interest was dwindling." (Orillia Today)

Oct 02 2014

York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe has admitted that the force's switch to a new digital and encrypted radio system that will block the media and public from listening in had at least something to do with the re-broadcasting of Const. Garrett Styles' distress call in the days following his death.



Jolliffe originally complained to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council after Global Toronto, CTV Toronto and CityTV broadcast Styles' final words after he was dragged and then pinned under a vehicle during a traffic stop.

Jolliffe was left disappointed by the ruling after the council decided the stations did not break any rules in airing the clip.

Despite Peel police already having switched over and Toronto police expected to do so in the new year, Jolliffe admitted on Tuesday that the issue played a part in the force choosing to encrypt all communication on the system.

"There were many factors involved in the decision to use the encryption feature," he said. "That includes an obligation to better protect the personal information of our citizens, officer safety in terms of tactics and locations in emergencies, as well as to prevent the re-broadcasting of police radio transmissions."

The new radio system, launched yesterday, will be carried by all officers and be part of the new dispatch centre at the force's headquarters near Leslie and Wellington streets in Aurora.

The previous analog radios used by York police allowed for limited encryption, meaning the public and the media were able to access information on emergency situations and stay updated on police activity. (Aurora Banner)

Oct 02 2014

HAMILTON - Hamilton police named Ken Weatherill the new deputy police chief on Thursday.

Weatherill was all smiles as he was introduced to a hearty wave of applause, calling it the moment he'd been working toward for his entire 28-year career.

"Thank you for this tremendous opportunity," Weatherill said during his official remarks at a special ceremony outside police headquarters.

"I couldn't be prouder than to be part of this team."

During his policing career, Weatherill has worked everyone from the traffic division to investigative services, and has worked as the superintendent of Division 3 since 2012.

Weatherill takes over from Ken Leendertse, who retires this year.

He officially starts his new role next Monday. (CBC News)

Oct 02 2014

DUBAI - Dubai police plan to issue detectives with Google Glass hands-free eyewear to help them fight crime using facial recognition technology, a police spokesman in the wealthy Gulf Arab emirate said.



The wearable device consists of a tiny computer screen mounted in the corner of an eyeglass frame and is capable of taking photos, recording video and playing sound.

The spokesman confirmed a report in Dubai's 7 Days newspaper that software developed by Dubai police would enable a connection between the wearer and a database of wanted people.

Once the device "recognized" a suspect based on a face print, it would alert the officer wearing the gadget.

The gadget would be used in a first phase to combat traffic violations and track vehicles suspected of involvement in motoring offences. A second phase would see the technology

rolled out to detectives, the spokesman said.

Dubai's decision appears in line with the authorities' determination to spare no expense in equipping the police.

Last year Dubai announced it would supply its police with \$400,000 Lamborghini sports cars for use at major tourist sites. Dubai's deputy police chief said the vehicles were in keeping with the Gulf capital's image. (Reuters)



Oct 03 2014

VANCOUVER - Greg Trammell's clear-eyed equanimity is hard to beat. Perhaps it's the wisdom of experience.

Pressed Metal Products has been making police badges in Vancouver for more than 80 years — since before Amelia Earhart flew solo across the Atlantic, before low-cost Asian factories stole much of Vancouver's manufacturing business, and long, long before ecommerce changed the face of retail.

Others may scramble to keep up with the times, but Pressed Metal is an old company that knows what it is, understands what it does and does it very well. And if continuing to do that means not changing with the times, so be it.

"The equipment is older than I am," quipped Greg's father and business partner Alan Trammell, 75. Alan bought the company from its original owners in 1976. "We've still got a lot of the original equipment from the '40s, '50s and '60s because it works," Alan said.

"We would prefer to keep people employed than go to the expensive automated route, which is a different skill-set and might affect positions," Greg said.

When Pressed Metal's 19 employees make badges and insignia for police departments as far apart as Victoria, B.C., and Truro, N.S., they start by hand, sculpting designs in Plasticine.

They use a 75-year-old punch press — basically a giant green cookie cutter — to stamp out each badge shape in metal. Then comes the 50-year-old pneumatic drop hammer. Its 600-pound head forces each cold metal badge cut-out into its mould. It's a slow and noisy process, but the ridges on the badge design come out crisp and detailed.

Polishing each police badge takes 10 to 15 minutes per piece. Finally, when a badge is gleaming like a piece of fine jewelry, the sharpest-eyed, most nimble-fingered of the staff painstakingly tip in minuscule bits of epoxy or enamel colour. The bits of colour are so tiny, there's no point dropping in the colour before polishing — the colour might get polished right out.

A typical police badge is made of solid brass, although some are gold-plated, and is expected to last 25 to 30 years. After that, it is refurbished as a keepsake for the police officer who carried it, Vancouver Police Union

DON'T WASTE ENERGY ON ENERGY-WASTING CARS.



NEW-GENERATION
2015 OUTBACK

An easy way to limit your expenses is to make sure your employees drive fuel-efficient cars. If you opt for the brand new and redesigned 2015 Subaru Outback, they will. They're also going to be able to count on renowned safety features and a legendary all-wheel drive system.



SUBARU

Confidence in Motion

To consult our Fleet ordering guide or for more information fleet.subaru.ca or call 1 877 293-7272

president Tom Stamatakis said.

Pressed Metal focuses on quality work and service for those who appreciate it. (Vancouver Sun)

Oct 03 2014

WINNIPEG - A terminally ill Winnipeg man has been sentenced to three years in prison for leading police on a dangerous, high-speed chase in a stolen vehicle as part of an attempted "suicide by cop."

Michael Grozelle appeared in court Friday for what was an emotional sentencing hearing.

His lawyer, Don Mokriy, asked for mercy from the court on the grounds his client has advanced cancer and not long to live.

As well, he noted Grozelle committed the crime after attending a joint funeral for his father, who had just died of cancer, and his brother, who had committed suicide.

However, the Crown pointed out Grozelle is a career criminal with 23 adult convictions dating back to 1979.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Oct 03 2014

OTTAWA - From investigating a major security breach at a federal agency to sifting through tons of emails in the Senate expenses probe, it's been a busy year for the RCMP's national cybercrime team in Ottawa.

So busy, in fact, that the Integrated Technological Crime Unit is looking to grow. While officials won't say so publicly, a source told Postmedia News that the RCMP is seeking to almost double the size of the 12-member team.

While most RCMP divisions have cybercrime units, the one located in National Division is unique in that it specializes in responses to security breaches involving federal departments and assists in "sensitive" investigations of national interest.

Insp. Jeff Beaulac, officer in charge of technical investigation services at National Division, said he couldn't discuss expansion plans but acknowledged that the team is in high demand.

"In the past we would seize one computer and analyze the data, now we deal with a multitude of devices and the data examination has grown substantially. We've gone from gigabytes to terabytes," he said.

One crisis the team had to respond to was a major data breach in April at the Canada Revenue Agency due to the Heartbleed bug. More than 900 social insurance numbers were taken during a six-hour window.

Within four days, police had traced the source to a university student in London, Ont. Stephen Arturo Solis-Reyes, 19, was charged with mischief to data and unauthorized use of a computer. The case is back in court Oct. 10.

Digital forensics — the process of sifting through data and extracting the parts relevant

to an investigation — is the biggest part of what the cybercrime unit does.

Within their workspace is a metal-pannelled room called a radio-frequency shielded enclosure — dubbed the "cage" — that allows investigators to analyze a mobile device without outside interference.

Cybercrime investigators are required to complete a two-year understudy program, which involves a mix of classes at the Canadian Police College and work experience under a certified mentor.

France Thibodeau, director of the college's Technological Crime Learning Institute, said the school offers advanced-training workshops and reaches out to experts in law enforcement and the private sector to stay current. But she acknowledged that "it is a challenge to maintain an up-to-date curriculum."

Even as technology and threats evolve, one thing hasn't changed, Beaulac said.

Cybercriminals "still make mistakes."

(Post Media)

Oct 03 2014

HAMILTON - Hamilton police just got a pretty imposing new recruit — he's about six foot two, over 250 pounds of pure muscle, and made a living for decades throwing criminals through walls while playing the green embodiment of rage.

Film and TV star Lou Ferrigno — best known for his iconic portrayal of the title hero in the classic 70s show The Incredible Hulk — was sworn in as an honorary police constable in Hamilton on Friday.

Ferrigno is already a deputy sheriff in California and Ohio, but this is the first time he's been given the honour in Canada.

"I was always fascinated with law enforcement, because it's all about protecting life and property," Ferrigno told CBC News, just before being sworn in by Hamilton Police Chief Glenn De Caire.

"That's why I've played a sheriff in my career as a film actor," Ferrigno said. "But I've always wanted to do the real deal."

And in the U.S., he is. Ferrigno, much

CHIEF'S GALA
in support of
victim services toronto

www.chiefsgala.com

Chief of Police Gala
in support of Victim Services Toronto

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014

Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex | 25 British Columbia Drive (Exhibition Place) | The Governor's Room

Reception - 6:00 p.m. Dinner - 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment | Silent Auction

TICKETS:
call: (416) 808-7933 fax: (416) 983-7191
email: chiefsgala@torontopolice.on.ca
online: www.chiefsgala.com

COLE HOST - CARLA COLLING

@ChiefsGala @ChiefsGala facebook.com/Chiefs-Gala

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE - CALL (416) 808-7933

GOLD SPONSORS

DIMEDIA AND MICHAEL DAVIDSON

Established 1959
Tom's OF CANADA

HARBOUR SIXTY STEAKHOUSE

PLATINUM SPONSOR

GLOBAL BENEFITS

MEDIA SPONSORS

BLUE LINE NATIONAL-POST

SILVER SPONSORS

BMO Financial Group

HUMBER

TIAN

like Steven Seagal before him, does real police work stateside, like criminal investigations and weapons training. His new honorary constable status in Hamilton is a more symbolic gesture, as the hulking bodybuilder won't actually carry out any real police work here.

Hamilton police Const. Greg Slack orchestrated the 62-year-old actor's new police status as part of the local Crime Stoppers "be a hero" campaign, which works to stamp out crime and bullying.

"When we came up with the hero campaign a year ago, never in my wildest dreams did I think we'd be endorsed and backed by a Marvel superhero," Slack said.

"It blows my mind. I feel like a little kid today."

Ferrigno is from Brooklyn, New York, and his father was an NYPD lieutenant. Not long after he was born, Ferrigno suffered a series of serious ear infections that robbed him of 75 per cent of his hearing.

The bullying he faced from other kids because of his speech and hearing pushed him into bodybuilding, and eventually, made him the perfect choice to play one of the Marvel comics universe's most iconic characters because of the way he could emote without speaking.

That, and the fact that he's huge.
(CBC News)



Oct 04 2014

VANCOUVER - A British Columbia man alleging he suffered brain damage after being roughed up in a jail cell has expanded his lawsuit.

Robert Wright initially sued the RCMP and provincial government over his 2012 arrest in Terrace for suspected drunk driving.

A video obtained from the RCMP shows an agitated Wright swearing as one of three officers throws him to the floor.

On his way down, Wright hits his head on a bench or the floor leaving a pool of blood.

Wright has included new allegations in his lawsuit, accusing an officer, Constable Brian Heideman, of steroid use that fuelled the violence.

Wright's lawyer, Scott Stanley, says the amendment was made after unrelated allegations surfaced about Heideman's use of steroids.

Heideman and the RCMP have not commented on the steroid allegations, which haven't been proven in court.

But in an earlier court filing the RCMP denied its officers were to blame for Wright's current health problems, suggesting a prior injury or condition was the cause.

Wright says he's been unable to care for himself since the incident.

Oct 04 2014

VANCOUVER - Police say homicides related to organized crime are down by nearly half in Metro Vancouver despite a recent string of shootings that have raised concerns about gang-related murders.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pound of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Unit says 21 per cent of homicide investigations between January and September were connected to organized crime compared to 41 per cent during the same period last year.

Pound says most of IHIT's investigations this year have not been related to organized crime and that motives primarily involved altercations, followed by domestic-related issues.

Recent shootings have led to concerns about a return to a gang war in the Vancouver area, where shootings spanning several years were a regular occurrence and included the 2007 slayings of six people in a Surrey high-rise condo.

Oct 04 2014

OTTAWA - An Ottawa police constable who underwent six surgeries after a serious crash in August 2012 ran 76 kilometres on Saturday, from the nation's capital to Montebello, Que.

Const. Sylvie Reaney was hit by a pickup truck while running along Wellington Street in Ottawa on her way back to the police station.

The crash broke both her kneecaps, shattered her wrist, fractured her skull, broke her nose, shattered her cheekbone and caused other serious head injuries.

On Saturday, two years and six surgeries later, Reaney's goal was to run 100 kilometres from Ottawa to Montebello — her longest run ever — to raise money to help end children's cancer.

On Saturday evening, she said she had to stop after reaching the 76-km mark.

"My surgeon is totally blown away that I'm even running 5 kilometres, let alone 100 kilometres," she said before her run, which began at about 7 a.m. ET Saturday.

To put this feat into perspective, the traditional marathon runs about 42 kilometres. Reaney normally runs distances such as 50 kilometres or a marathon-and-a-half, but she wanted to test herself in the 100-km ultramarathon.

Her colleague and friend, Const. Nicole Gorham, admitted many fellow officers were just happy to see Reaney alive after the crash. She spent three months in hospital, in a wheelchair, then began to run again before a year passed.

Reaney said her next goal will be to return to her job on the force.

Oct 04 2014

TORONTO - As early as mid-December, 100 mini-cameras will be affixed to uniforms of front-line police officers across Toronto.

So far, the cameras are only part of a year-long Toronto Police pilot project. The service hasn't yet picked the kinds of cameras

its going to test.

And while the service will get a chance to recommend body cameras in a report to the police services board in 2016, there is no absolute guarantee the technology will be well-suited for Toronto.

"We're going to honestly evaluate these devices," said Staff-Sgt. Michael Barksy, business manager for the Toronto project.

In October, the force is expected to meet with vendors and pick three different devices to test in four areas: 55 Division's front-line primary response unit, 43 Division's community response unit, a TAVIS rapid response team and traffic services.

"We could have it on a motorcycle officer or we could have it on a community response officer on a bicycle," Barksy said.

Expected benefits include being able to provide best evidence to court, he added.

"It also gives confidence to our officers that, on those rare occasions when somebody alleges inappropriate action by the officer, the camera can simply be looked back at to reflect actually what happened," Barksy noted.

Even temporarily introducing body cameras to cops comes with its fair share of headaches: Toronto Police have to draft policy on when the camera can turn on and off, how the data is collected and stored and who has access to it.

The public may not see storage capacity as a hurdle, Barksy said, but "there is a cost to that."

Mike McCormack of the Toronto Police Association also shared concerns last month on officer privacy and whether body cameras are even the best use of police resources.

"We've been advocating for years for officers on the front line to have access to Tasers, for instance," McCormack has said previously.

Barksy agreed it's "unfair" to expect cops to be recorded 24/7 but said good policy will address those concerns.

"(When) an officer's just having their lunch, or an officer's having a conversation with their partner, is that an appropriate time to have this sort of technology activated?" he said. "I don't think so and I don't think our governance will suggest that for a moment."

At first glance and in conversation with other police forces using the cameras, the immediate benefits seem to indicate the cameras — which can cost anywhere between \$120 to \$2,000 each — are worth it.

In 2013, Calgary Police Service tested lapel cameras on their officers for eight months, and found complaints were "very limited."

"To my knowledge, I do not recall a complaint where the body worn camera was used," CPS Supt. Kevin Stuart said.

That's one reason why CPS is in the process of acquiring 550 body cameras for 1,000 front-line officers by the end of 2014.

There would be enough to equip any front-line cop on duty at any given time.

"When an officer goes into a public place right now, the officer is the only one that's not videoing the situation," Stuart explained. "Everybody else is. It's important to get that

evidence and show what the officer saw in a certain situation.”

Paul McKenna – a lecturer at Dalhousie University who studies Canadian policing – said a study of body-worn cameras used in Rialto, California saw a “60% reduction in use of force incidents in one year” and an “88% reduction in citizen complaints.”

“That implies that there is some misbehaviour when they’re not being watched that will be remedied when they are being watched,” said McKenna.

(Toronto Sun)

MONDAY OCTOBER 06, 2014

Oct 06 2014

An Igloolik, Nunavut, man is facing five charges in relation to a shooting incident in the community over the weekend.

Donovan Iyerak has been charged with four counts of attempted murder and one count of reckless discharge of a firearm.

RCMP say Igloolik officers responded to a call at about 9 a.m. Saturday about a man armed with a rifle. When they arrived, their vehicles were shot at by a man who then fled the area.

Later, shots were fired at the RCMP detachment and other buildings in the community.

One officer was shot and received a non-life-threatening wound. RCMP say he was medevaced to Iqaluit where he received medical treatment and then on to Ottawa where he was treated further and is recovering.

The RCMP emergency response team was sent from Iqaluit to detain the shooter. A man gave himself over to police around 2 p.m. and was taken into custody.

Igloolik’s assistant senior administrative officer Celestino Uyarak says the community is relieved the incident is over but is concerned about why it happened.

“These are the questions that are in my mind, and I’m sure that the community probably wants to know the same. Mayors, councillors, this is probably everyone’s concern: what triggered this?” said Uyarak.

He says while the incident was still happening, members of the community spoke with the shooter to try and calm him down.

Uyarak says RCMP investigators are now working from the hamlet office because the detachment was damaged from the shooting. He says RCMP are also borrowing hamlet trucks because two of their trucks were also damaged.

(CBC News)

Oct 06 2014

MONTREAL - Montreal police are asking the Essential Services Commission to order the city of Montreal to provide proper training in the use of their firearms by the end of December.

The union of Montreal police says an untenable and dangerous situation has

developed with the closure of most of the local training facilities where officers can practice and update their target shooting — meaning that at the end of 2013, only five per cent of Montreal police had met the qualifications for target shooting.

Four of the training facilities were closed for all of 2013, one opened and closed again, and only one is in operation now, according to Martin Desrochers, director of research and communications for the Montreal Police Brotherhood, which has about 4,500 members.

The closures were because of alleged lead contamination, but the union says there is still no action plan to address the situation.

“The city has invested in IT systems to track traffic tickets and revenue, but it neglects the training of police with their service weapons,” union president Yves Francoeur said in a statement. “That says a lot about the vision of the city and its new director general. This is totally indefensible.”

The union said the lack of training in an essential skill is especially troublesome considering that coroner Jean Brochu, upon investigating a police shooting, noted that Montreal police are involved in about 80 per cent of the exchanges of gunfire with suspects each year, but they have the lowest rate of qualification of Quebec police officers.

“We consider that the people of Montreal have a right to have their police trained according to the proper norms,” Desrochers said in an interview. “Now we are waiting to hear if the city will be forced to take action.”

Police say that according to the standards of the National Police Academy in Quebec, police officers who carry a service weapon are supposed to requalify at least once a year.

(Montreal Gazette)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 07, 2014

Oct 07 2014

VANCOUVER - It’ll be up to an adjudicator to decide how long of a suspension a Vancouver police constable should receive for shoving a disabled woman to the sidewalk.

In June, 2010, Sandy Davidsen - who has multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy - was pushed while walking in the city’s Downtown Eastside.

Constable Taylor Robinson admitted yesterday during a disciplinary hearing that he abused his authority and used unnecessary force when he pushed Davidsen.

His lawyer, David Crossin, says a two-day suspension would be punishment enough for a young officer who has already learned from his mistake.

But the province’s police complaint commissioner wants a suspension of eight to 10 days, while Davidsen’s lawyer wants to see 15 days.

Robinson had only graduated from his police training about six months before the

incident and the officers he was with had been on the force a few years each.

The incident raised questions about how police view the Downtown Eastside, which has many low-income residents, many with issues related to physical health, mental health or addiction.

Adjudicator Wally Oppal will decide on Robinson’s punishment at a later date.

Oct 07 2014

FREDERICTON - The RCMP’s commanding officer in New Brunswick says the death of Cpl. Ron Francis, who helped draw attention to the issue of post-traumatic stress disorder, is a terrible loss.



Assistant commissioner Roger Brown says it is unfortunate that post-traumatic stress disorder consumed Francis, even though his goal was to raise awareness and try to make sense of it.

Brown says Francis was found dead Monday at the Kingsclear First Nation.

He says it appears no one else was involved in his death but he wouldn’t provide any more details about the circumstances of how Francis died.

Francis, who served with the RCMP for 22 years, made national headlines last year after he complained that he wasn’t allowed to smoke medicinal marijuana for PTSD while in uniform.

He pleaded guilty last month to assaulting four fellow RCMP officers.

Oct 07 2014

OTTAWA - The Conservative government has introduced new legislation that would ease restrictions on transporting firearms.

The Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act would also make firearms-safety courses mandatory for first-time gun owners and prevent people convicted of spousal assault from legally owning guns.

The bill would also give gun owners who allow their weapon permits to lapse a six-month grace period to renew them.

While their permits are expired, firearms owners won’t be allowed to buy new guns or ammunition, but would no longer face possible jail time as a result of the expiry.

The government also plans to combine two licences currently needed to own and use firearms - the possession and acquisition licences.

Once the law is passed, there will be just one licence required.

Oct 07 2014

AURORA, Ont. - Provincial police are blaming distracted driving, speeding, impaired driving and failure to buckle up for the majority of road deaths in Ontario this year.

The OPP says these are the “Big Four” in terms of contributing factors in 168 of the 216 road deaths investigated by the force so far in 2014.

As of this Sunday, speed was a factor in 51 of the 168 deaths and distracted driving was in second place with 45 deaths.

Lack of occupant restraint is in third place, causing 38 deaths, and impaired driving in fourth, with 34 road deaths.

The OPP notes that the four factors are also the leading causes of collision deaths throughout Canada.

To reduce road deaths, the provincial force is joining other police services across the country for Operation Impact, a national road safety enforcement and education campaign.

“Drivers have it within their means to end road deaths that fall into these four categories because these are not accidents that occur through no one’s wrongdoing,” said OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair.

“These collisions only occur when motorists drive aggressively, while impaired, while distracted or while they or their passengers are not buckled up.”

Oct 07 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta Mounties have unveiled a plaque at their headquarters in Edmonton to mark the first anniversary of a police dog’s death in the line of duty.

Quanto, an Edmonton Police Service canine, was stabbed Oct. 7, 2013, in the RCMP headquarters parking lot while he was helping to apprehend a fleeing suspect.

Efforts to save the dog were unsuccessful and Quanto died of his injuries.

Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, who is commanding officer of the RCMP in Alberta, Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht and employees from both agencies were at the unveiling.

The plaque hangs by the employee entrance of the headquarters, about 100 metres from where Quanto was stabbed.

The federal government has introduced a law named after Quanto that would make it a criminal offence to injure or kill police dogs or other service animals.

“Police dogs are loyal partners who do what is asked of them. A year ago today, Quanto did what was asked and died because of it,” said Ryan.

“Quanto’s death was a loss felt by the entire Canadian police community across Canada, and particularly here at K Division, where it hit very close to home.”

The man who killed Quanto was sentenced last February to 26 months in prison for a string of criminal offences, including animal cruelty. He was also banned from owning a pet for 25 years.

Oct 07 2014

ORILLIA, Ont. - Police say 18 females have been rescued from the sex trade during a nationwide human-trafficking investigation.

Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant Peter Leone says vulnerable groups, like newcomers to Canada, are often the targets of exploitation and all the victims were forced into the sex trade.

Nine people are facing 33 charges, including forcible confinement, making and distributing child pornography, assault, trafficking in persons, withholding or destroying documents, living off the avails, uttering threats, obstructing police and failing to comply with court orders and conditions of bail and probation.

Police in Durham, near Toronto, who were among those involved in the investigation say the Criminal Code section refers to this activity as human trafficking but the public may better understand it as “sex slavery.”

A total of 26 police forces were involved in the operation last week, including those in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Halifax, Quebec City, Toronto and 14 in other parts of Ontario.

A police news release had said those rescued included a 12-year-old girl but Winnipeg police later said that girl had been interviewed as part of a separate investigation.

Oct 07 2014

REDCLIFF, Alta. - Investigators have seized a gun they believe was pointed at an officer who shot and wounded a man at an RCMP detachment in southern Alberta.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says the weapon was a black Smith and Wesson 122-calibre BB gun.

ASIRT says a man walked into the detachment in Redcliff on Monday and pointed what appeared to be a firearm.

He was taken to hospital after he was shot and remains there in critical but stable condition.

The RCMP have charged 33-year-old Bernard Norman of Redcliff with possession of a weapon dangerous to the public and assault on a peace officer.

A court appearance has yet to be determined.

(The Canadian Press)

Oct 07 2014

LONDON, Ont. - The lawyer for a man whose violent arrest at Western University in London, Ont., was caught on video says a settlement has been reached in an excessive-force lawsuit against the school.

Footage of the 2009 incident posted to YouTube shows then-student Ines Zeljkovic being pummeled by half-a-dozen campus and London police officers in the hallway of a university building.

Zeljkovic subsequently filed a civil suit against the school seeking \$950,000, and his lawyer Phil Millar says a settlement was

reached in the case Tuesday, 1 1/2 weeks after the trial began.

The lawyer says terms of the deal which comes nearly five years to the day of the incident will not be released.

Court heard Zeljkovic, now 27, was suffering from a major mental health episode when campus security wrestled him to the ground in front of several onlookers.

A review of the incident done for the university by a former Ontario Provincial Police commissioner recommended campus security take part in awareness training on de-escalation skills to assist in dealing with mental health issues.

(CJJK, AM980, Blackburnnews.com, The Canadian Press)

Oct 07 2014

BURNABY, B.C. - A B.C. coroner’s jury hearing evidence into the death of a Mexican woman who hanged herself while in custody says Canada’s border agency should create and staff a dedicated holding centre within a 30-minute drive of Vancouver’s airport.

The suggestion follows a six-day inquest into the December 2013 suicide of Lucia Vega Jimenez who was found inside a shower stall in the holding cells at Vancouver’s airport.

The jury also says border-agency officials should monitor airport holding cells by video. It says legal counsel and non-governmental officials should be allowed into the facility, and bathrooms and sleeping rooms should be made self-harm proof.

The jury’s job was to make recommendations that could prevent future deaths but it could not lay blame or find fault.

The jury heard from witnesses who knew the 42-year-old hotel worker in the three weeks before her death, including private security guards and two imprisoned women who befriended her.

Jimenez was stopped for transit-fare evasion in early December and then arrested by the border agency after they discovered she was deported from Canada previously after a failed refugee claim.

Oct 07 2014

Sometimes, good detective work and weeks of investigation are needed to nab suspected criminals. But other times all investigators need is 30 minutes to listen in on an accidental pocket dial to a 911 dispatch centre.

That’s the reason 55-year-old Donna Knope, 32-year-old Jason Knope and 41-year-old Thomas Stallings spent their weekend in a Florida jail on drug charges.

According to Volusia County deputies, one member of the Deltona, Fla., trio accidentally dialed 911 about 12:30 a.m. Saturday. When the dispatcher answered and tried to get details about the potential emergency, there was no response.

Instead, she overheard a discussion about drugs.

Deputies say the dispatcher kept the line open and fed details to investigators from the

three who were unknowingly being recorded. At one point, the dispatcher reported hearing bubbling noises as if something was cooking.

Using cellphone locator data, deputies tracked the origin of the call to a shed behind a home in Deltona where Donna and Jason Knope lived.

When deputies arrived, the three were actively cooking a batch of methamphetamine, investigators say. Also found were many of the household items found in meth labs such as lighter fluid, coffee filters, a butane torch and batteries.

(Orlando Sentinel)

Oct 07 2014

The Northwest Territories' RCMP have once again been charged with contempt.

Last month, the police force was charged after it failed to arrest a man who turned himself in.

Now, a territorial court judge has found the RCMP in contempt again, after two inmates were six hours late for their court appearances.

The two inmates were scheduled to appear in court in Fort McPherson on July 30.

Both were in custody at the North Slave Correctional Facility in Yellowknife.

The judge says it was the RCMP's responsibility to transport the inmates from Yellowknife to Fort McPherson.

But two days before the court date, the RCMP plane that was supposed to take them had mechanical trouble and couldn't make the trip.

An officer in Fort McPherson emailed a staff sergeant with the Yellowknife detachment to see if an officer could accompany the men on a commercial flight.

He got an email back saying the staff sergeant was out of the office.

So the RCMP sent an officer from Inuvik to escort the inmates.

The judge says the RCMP didn't try hard enough to get the inmates to court on time.

She will hand down the sentence for the contempt charge on October 17.

The sentence could range from a fine to jail time.

(CBC News)



Oct 08 2014

MEDICINE HAT, Alta. - A judge in southern Alberta wants the RCMP to better train its officers to identify a medical condition called excited delirium.

It's one of five recommendations made in a fatality inquiry report into the 2009 death of a man in Brooks.

The report says Grant William Prentice had high levels of cocaine in his system when he was found staggering door-to-door, asking people for help.

When police arrived, it took several officers to restrain the 40-year-old, who seemed to have super-human strength.

He then went limp and turned blue and

later died in hospital.

Experts testified that Prentice showed signs of excited delirium and early medical intervention, such as the use of sedatives, may have saved him.

"It cannot be stressed strongly enough the importance of time when dealing with a person in this situation," wrote Judge Eric Brooks. "Firsthand observations and impressions provided to an attending physician might well make the difference between life and death."

The judge also heard evidence that officers fired a Taser while trying to subdue Prentice but its cycle of electricity lasted only one second and was stopped unintentionally during the struggle.

Prentice's official cause of death was listed as acute cocaine toxicity combined with excited delirium syndrome.

The judge said excited delirium is still considered a new area of study, but all first-responders should be aware of it.

He also recommended dispatchers for police and ambulances receive annual training on the syndrome and adopt a common terminology to talk about it.

Oct 08 2014

TORONTO - Police are searching an area near Barrie, Ont., for a Toronto girl who vanished 29 years ago.

They say the renewed search for Nicole Morin follows a tip.

Nicole was eight years old when she disappeared in July 1985 after leaving her west-end apartment to go swimming with a friend.

About 40 Toronto and provincial police officers along with dogs are doing the search of ditches in Springwater Township.

They describe the search as very preliminary at this point.

In July, police released a re-enactment video in hopes of jogging memories or clues to Nicole's disappearance.

Oct 08 2014

VICTORIA - Justice Minister Suzanne Anton is getting tough with distracted drivers in British Columbia.

Anton says that effective Oct. 20, new laws will ensure motorists get three penalty points if they're caught talking on a mobile

device while driving.

She says the points are in addition to the current \$167 fine for drivers caught talking on a cell phone while behind the wheel.

Drivers ticketed for texting while driving already get three penalty points, along with a fine of \$167.

Anton says the government will examine increasing the fines for distracted driver offences, but that Ontario's fines of \$1,000 seem too high.

Anton says distracted driving is the second-leading cause of driver deaths in B.C. while speeding is the top reason for such deaths, with an average of 105 fatalities every year.

Oct 08 2014

Replica firearms look so authentic that police plan to discuss regulations into their sale, because of the dangers created when they're mistaken for the real thing.

On Sunday, more than 40 Edmonton police officers were called to a gun complaint near a south end school. The "gunman" turned out to be a teenager with a fake firearm who was playing a game near the school.

The next day, RCMP in Redcliff shot a man who allegedly pointed a gun at officers. The weapon turned out to be a Smith & Wesson BB gun. The man remains in hospital in critical but stable condition.

Sgt. Steve Sharpe of the Edmonton Police Service says any gun complaint calls must be treated seriously.

He wants more regulations on the sale of replica firearms.

"Regardless of your age, you can go in and purchase these," he said. "There is nothing criminal that we can do to prevent that from happening."

For its part, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police says it will discuss the issue of replica guns at its meeting in January.

While replicas can be used to commit robberies and other crimes, they are also used in airsoft games — a combat activity much like paintball.

Unlike paintball, airsoft guns shoot pellets and appear more authentic.

(CBC News)

November 19–20, 2014 | Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel

The Canadian Institute's Conference On

The LAW of POLICING

Hosted by:



REGISTER NOW 1-877-927-7936 | www.CanadianInstitute.com/PoliceLaw

Priority Service Code: 254DX01B

WATERFORD - The owners of Bonnieheath Lavender & Winery shudder to think what lies beneath the soil of their farm south of Waterford.



The neighbourhood has become a battle zone as residents try to convince Norfolk council to shut down the OPP shooting range in the Bonnieheath gravel pit. On that count, winery co-owner Anita Buehner has the bullets to prove it.

“On Sept. 29, an experienced metal detector operator scanned a small section of our vineyard with these results,” Buehner said in a bombshell presentation to council Tuesday.

“Twelve bullets found in 60 minutes – a rate of one every five minutes. On Oct. 2 – in 30 minutes – an additional six bullets (were found). This was, of course, an extremely disturbing find, especially considering the distribution was over two grape rows equating to less than a fifth of an acre. We had been assured that we had been safe all those years ago. My question at this time is can anyone really ensure that?”

The Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Police began firearms training at the old gravel pit in the mid-1980s. The Norfolk OPP have since taken over and train there along with OPP from Brant, Haldimand and Oxford counties. Training that was once sporadic has become regular and systematic, with nearby households complaining about noise and now stray bullets.

Police have had the run of the pit all these years without a lease or written conditions. Norfolk staff has produced a draft lease that addresses the oversight but council hasn’t decided what to do.

Norfolk council invited the OPP to address the new information at next week’s meeting. Following Buehner’s presentation, Insp. Zvonko Horvat, chief of the Norfolk OPP, expressed skepticism about the new bullet evidence. Horvat has not examined the bullets and has no forensic proof they were located in the manner described.

“I have full confidence that we don’t have stray bullets there due to the safety protocols we have in place,” the chief said. “Our safety standards are second to none for both the officers and the public. If one of the officers breaches any of the safety protocols on the range, they are removed from the facility and disciplined.”

The OPP confirmed Tuesday that provincial headquarters in Orillia will cover

the estimated \$900,000 cost of removing accumulated lead from the embankments at Bonnieheath. OPP no longer train with bullets containing lead, but thousands of lead-based rounds were fired into the soil at Bonnieheath in the years before the transition. Duncan McLelland, a manager in the OPP’s facilities branch in Orillia, said the clean-up is slated for 2015.

(Simcoe Reformer)

Oct 08 2014

OTTAWA - Canada’s prison watchdog says too many inmates are being released into the community without adequate preparation.

In his 2013-2014 annual report, Howard Sapers says more offenders are staying longer in higher security prisons where access to reintegration programs is the most restricted.

The majority leave prison by way of statutory release at the two-thirds point of the sentence, rather than on parole, which means they get limited supervision - if any.

Sapers says it’s less costly and more successful to reintegrate offenders into the community via graduated and structured releases.

He says it’s in no one’s interest to return offenders to the community when they are embittered by their time in prison, rather than provide them with opportunities for positive change.

The report’s key recommendations include equipping so-called community correctional centres, where offenders reside while being conditionally released into the community, with nurses, social workers and psychologists.

Oct 08 2014

SASKATOON - Police in Saskatoon are investigating the sudden death of a woman in the cell area of the Sandy Bay RCMP detachment in northern Saskatchewan.

A police release says the 39-year-old woman was in custody when she became unresponsive Monday night.

Medical assistance was sought, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

The RCMP requested that the Saskatoon Police Service major crime unit conduct an independent investigation.

The Mounties have also requested that the Justice Department appoint an independent observer.



Oct 09 2014

ORILLIA, Ont. - Provincial police say they are stepping up their use of social media like Twitter to get more information out quickly to the public.

Many OPP officers and detachments are already using Twitter but the force says it will now have staff designated for the task in its provincial communications centres.

They will now be sending “time-sensitive” information to the public via Twitter - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Tweets will cover weather emergencies, hazardous conditions, missing persons, road closures and other public safety updates.

The move coincides with the Thanksgiving Day long weekend and the launch of Operation Impact, a national road safety enforcement and education campaign.

The OPP is reminding motorists to keep their full concentration on their driving and to avoid all distractions.

“Providing 24-hour-a-day public safety messaging on Twitter will have great value for both police and the citizens we serve to protect,” said OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair.

“The OPP will continue to move forward with social media and other technologies that support our commitment to safety,” he said.

Oct 09 2014

TORONTO - Ontario’s health minister is refusing to take a position on a call from Canada’s largest mental health and addiction research centre to legalize marijuana.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health says making cannabis legal with strict regulations is the most effective means to reduce the harms associated with its use, such as respiratory diseases and impaired cognitive abilities.

But Eric Hoskins says he doesn’t want to wade into the debate over legalizing marijuana, which he repeatedly called a federal issue.

However, he says the federal government should take a look at the question of legalization in light of the CAMH report.

Hoskins also refused to say if he’d ever smoked marijuana in the past, calling the question irrelevant to his role as Ontario’s health minister and to the legalization debate.

The Canadian Public Health Association welcomed the CAMH call to legalize pot, saying the war on drugs has failed and done more damage than any possible good.

Oct 09 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that threats of violence in themselves are a form of violence and can be used to determine whether someone should go to prison indefinitely.

The court has overturned lower-court rulings in the case of John Steele, a Winnipeg man with a long criminal history, who was convicted in 2010 of robbing a drugstore.

Steele told the cashier he had a gun, even though there was no evidence he had one.

The Crown sought to have Steele declared a long-term or dangerous offender, based on a section of law that says an attempted use of violence can qualify someone for such status.

But the trial judge and the Court of Appeal ruled the threat of violence did not qualify as an attempted use of violence.

The high court has overturned those rulings and has ordered that Steele be assessed for dangerous or long-term offender status.