

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

Jan 16 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP commissioner has quietly warned Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney the government must do more to fight cybercrime - an expanding threat the top Mountie says is undermining the economy and putting Canadians at risk.

Page 2

Jan 16 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police have launched an internal investigation into the conduct of an officer who admitted in court to stripping “hundreds” of people naked as part of routine searches.

Page 3

Jan 16 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton Police say Segway usage in the city has been so successful, they are looking to add more to city streets.

Page 4

Jan 20 2014

TORONTO - The jury at an inquest examining the police shooting deaths of three mentally ill Toronto residents is being taken through some 220 proposed recommendations as closing arguments are delivered in coroner's court.

Page 7

Jan 22 2014

TORONTO - Ontario's top court has ruled that a man whose case prompted a constitutional challenge to a mandatory minimum sentence for a gun crime should not be sent back to jail.

Page 9

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Cameras show police have nothing to hide



Jan 20 2014

MONTREAL - In an age where nearly everyone has a camera on their smart phone, a growing number of police forces are looking to arm their officers with a recording device of their own.

From small town California to bustling London, England, law enforcement officials argue that body-worn video cameras will help improve transparency and restore public trust in the police.

The idea is gaining traction in Canada.

Calgary has used them in a limited capacity since last August and they have also been tested in cities such as Toronto, Edmonton and Ottawa.

Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto are considering their wide use.

The cameras are about the size of a smart phone and are clipped to the officer's chest.

In Montreal, the request for the devices came from the police officers themselves, who say videos posted online and spread on social media often fail to show the full exchange in an intervention.

“The goal of this is to show both sides of the story. What they are scared of is that people will only see part of the intervention,” said Ian Lafreniere, a spokesman for Montreal police.

“This is why police officers would love to have cameras, because you could see it exactly what happens. When you're working in Montreal, you know that you'll be filmed not only by personal cameras, but by surveillance

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cameras as well. ‘‘

Montreal police, like those elsewhere, have found themselves under increased scrutiny because of videos by citizens posted online.

Earlier this month, a cop was captured on video telling a homeless man he would tie him to a pole for an hour in the freezing cold if his behaviour didn’t improve.

The officer can be seen telling the man that if another citizen complained to police about him he would ‘‘tie him to a pole for an hour.’’

The introduction of the cameras is intended to restore trust in the police force.

For the pilot project in Calgary, officers began testing out the cameras in November 2012, with 50 cameras deployed across the police force.

Cameras were activated when officers were responding to a call or came across an incident requiring investigation. The city is planning to gradually expand the program.

Proponents of body-worn cameras point to a scientific study conducted in Rialto, California, where cameras were introduced in February 2012.

Public complaints against officers dropped by 88 per cent compared with the previous 12 months. The use of force by officers fell by 60 per cent.

Lafreniere said Montreal has been exploring the possibility of using the cameras for a year, and the major question now is whether its financially feasible.

‘‘Buying a camera is just one part of the deal,’’ he said, explaining that processing and storing such a massive amount of video could end up being far more costly.

‘‘We have to deal with all the footage afterward, because it could be required to deal with complaints and in court.’’

THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2014

Jan 16 2014

WHITBY, Ont. - Three police employees in Ontario are under investigation over a YouTube movie trailer spoof depicting them trying to be re-assigned from court services duty.

Durham regional police say the minute-long video shows the two constables and a special constable in uniform, inside Durham police facilities, and using police-issued equipment.

The video, produced to appear like a Hollywood trailer, says the three are ‘‘forced to serve prisoners’’ and depicts them mopping out cells and supplying a prisoner with toilet paper.

Another scene shows an officer advancing through a locker room brandishing an armed Taser.

Chief Mike Ewles says he is concerned by the video that was posted to YouTube on Wednesday and has launched an internal investigation.

‘‘One employee depicted is a supervisor and that’s even more troubling for me,’’ Ewles said Thursday, adding he was ‘‘disappointed’’ on a number of levels.

‘‘I have no idea what the motivation for producing this video would be, but I believe it is disrespectful to the hardworking men and women of this branch and embarrassing for everyone here at the DRPS,’’ he said.

Jan 16 2014

OTTAWA - The RCMP commissioner has quietly warned Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney the government must do more to fight cybercrime - an expanding threat the top Mountie says is undermining the economy and putting Canadians at risk.



In a letter to the minister, commissioner Bob Paulson notes one pillar of the government’s cybersecurity plan focuses on both providing the public with information to protect themselves online and strengthening the ability of law-enforcement agencies to fight cybercrime.

‘‘It is my view that the government needs to focus more on this pillar of the strategy,’’ Paulson says.

‘‘This growing threat significantly impacts the economic prosperity of our country, as well as individual Canadians.’’

The letter, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act, was prepared for Blaney as part of an extensive briefing package sent to the new minister, who was appointed in July.

Accompanying briefing notes say while efforts to secure the online world have progressed under the federal strategy announced in 2010, ‘‘a gap remains’’ concerning law enforcement’s ability to effectively tackle cybercrime.

The offences - which take on ‘‘a new scope and gravity’’ in cyberspace - include child exploitation, cyberbullying, Internet-based mass marketing fraud, identity theft, intellectual property infringement, money laundering and illegal goods trafficking.

However, ‘‘limited funding’’ - three per cent of the federal cybersecurity budget - had been earmarked to address cybercrime, the RCMP notes say.

‘‘There is a significant disparity between the criminal use of the Internet and information technologies and the RCMP’s ability to keep pace through effective investigations, targeted enforcement and other policing measures.’’

One complication is the ‘‘rising complexity and volume of digital evidence’’ generated by such investigations, taxing Mountie resources.

Last year an internal audit of the RCMP’s technological crime program found a backlog of requests to analyze computing devices - potentially vital pieces of evidence - at all five program units the reviewers visited.

There is also an increase in the use of technology by organized crime networks in Canada, and a need for more broad-based national and international police co-operation to combat cybercrime through joint operations, the newly released notes say.

Among the emerging RCMP concerns is criminal exploitation of the growing popularity of mobile smartphones, which sometimes place speed and convenience ahead of protective firewalls, anti-virus software and encryption.

The RCMP’s criminal intelligence program has warned that new criminal opportunities will emerge as more people use the handy devices to make online payments.

The newly released notes say the RCMP identified elements that would better help it address cybercrime during a Public Safety-led ‘‘gap analysis’’ last March. It recommended:

- Bringing new technical skills to high-priority investigations that affect national security and economic integrity, including threats from organized criminal networks;
- Working with Internet service providers to eliminate cybercrime websites and

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email accounts linked to widespread on-line offences;

- Expanding technical facilities to support cybercrime investigations and improving training.

The RCMP used the analysis as a springboard to begin working on a full-fledged cybercrime strategy for presentation to the government.

The Public Safety Department declined to answer questions Thursday, referring them to the Mounties.

The RCMP had no immediate comment on the status of its plans.

Jan 16 2014

TIMMINS - Child-sex charges against a veteran police sergeant in Moosonee have been withdrawn.

Detective Sgt. Randy Cota was charged a year ago with sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching.

The offences were alleged to have occurred in the Toronto area over a period from 2000 to 2006.

However, the prosecutor withdrew the charges on Monday at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing which was held at Old City Hall in Toronto.

David Bayliss, Cota's defence attorney, said, the "Crown withdrew the charges because there was no reasonable prospect of conviction. There never had been and it took them a year to do the right thing."

Cota, who has been with the OPP since 1987, was working in Moosonee when he was arrested and charged by the Metropolitan Toronto Police in the early part of last year.

Since then, he had been suspended from active duty with pay.

"Randy's case is a very sad example of how a person's life and career can be destroyed by an incompetent investigation and prosecution," said Bayliss. "I was convinced from the very first moment that I met Randy that he was completely innocent of this crime.

"I just hope he will be able to recover from what's been done to him."

Brendan Crawley, spokesman for the attorney general, stated in an email to The Daily Press, "As in all cases, the Crown has a duty to assess the strength of a case throughout a prosecution, and is duty bound to withdraw charges if there is no reasonable prospect of conviction, or if it is not in the public interest to proceed.

"The Crown carefully examined all aspects of the evidence in this case, including witnesses' testimony, and the applicable law. After completing that review and giving the matter very careful consideration, the Crown was of the view that there was no reasonable prospect of conviction and accordingly, the charges were withdrawn."

(The Timmins Press)

Jan 16 2014

TORONTO - Toronto police have launched an internal investigation into the conduct of an officer who admitted in court to stripping "hundreds" of people naked as part of routine searches.

On Thursday the Toronto Police Services Board demanded a report from Chief Bill Blair into the actions of Cst. Sasa Sljivo.

The investigation began after the Star reported Sljivo's testimony at the trial of Lerondo Smith, where the officer told court he stripped Smith naked, despite police policy stating that must not be done.

Sljivo then told court that was how he always performed strip searches because

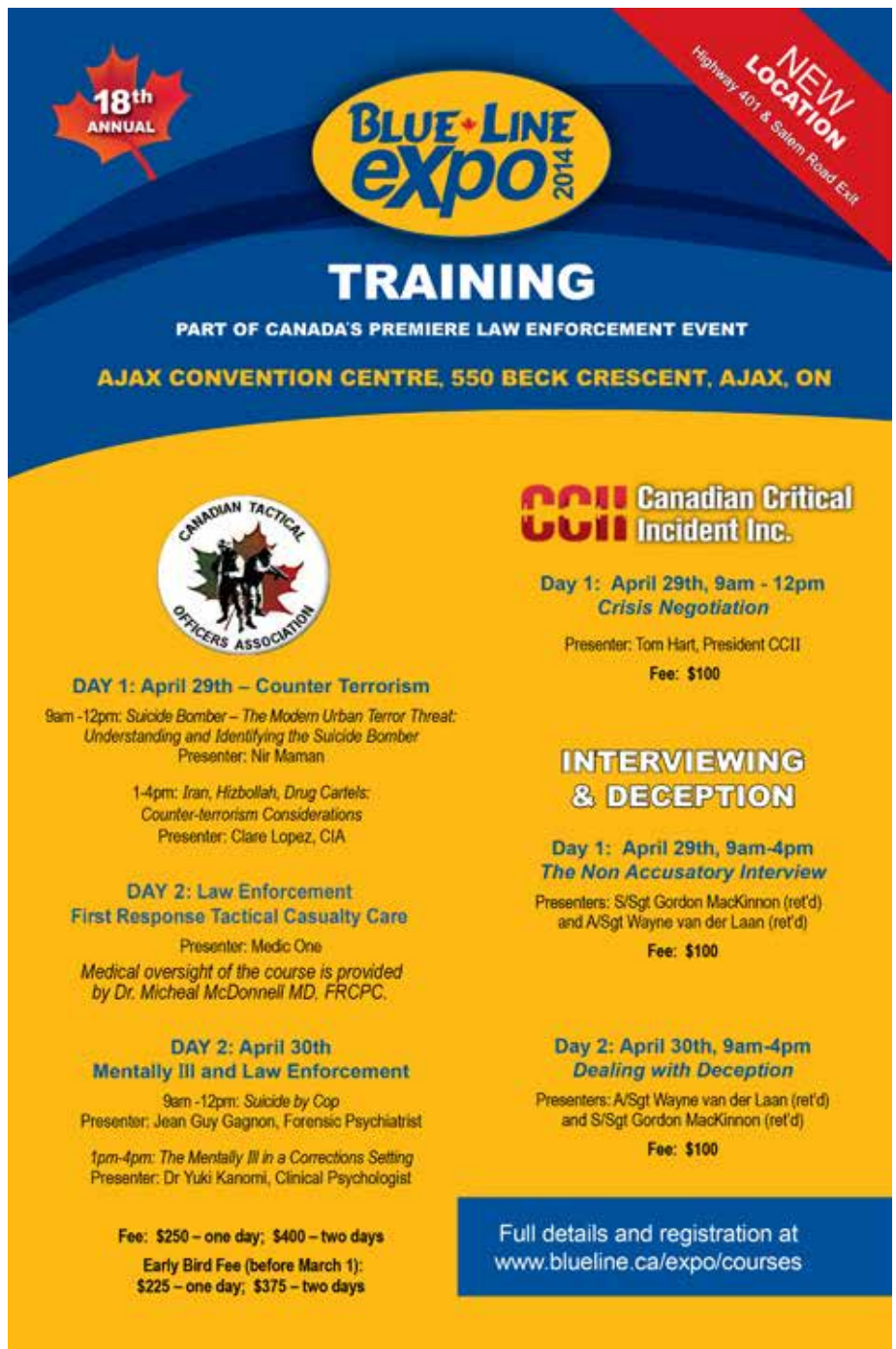
that's how his coach officer, a police mentor, taught him.

"I was disturbed by the article," said board chair Alok Mukherjee, who immediately sent Blair a memo seeking answers. "There is a clear policy that must be followed. The officer said he wasn't aware of the case law.

Mukherjee told the Star he believes the report will be made public.

The board implemented a policy on "level 3" strip searches that dictates when and how a search is conducted, as laid out by the Supreme Court in 2001. Any evidence discovered during a fully naked search can be deemed a breach of Charter rights and tossed from court, thereby jeopardizing a case.

There must always be a piece of clothing



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Presenter: Clare Lopez, CIA

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DAY 2: April 30th Mentally Ill and Law Enforcement

9am -12pm: *Suicide by Cop*
Presenter: Jean Guy Gagnon, Forensic Psychiatrist

1pm-4pm: *The Mentally Ill in a Corrections Setting*
Presenter: Dr Yuki Kanomi, Clinical Psychologist

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DAY 2: April 30th, 9am-4pm Dealing with Deception

Presenters: A/Sgt Wayne van der Laan (ret'd) and S/Sgt Gordon MacKinnon (ret'd)

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on the person being searched. For example, if the pants and underwear are off, a shirt must be on, and so on.

Board member Counc. Michael Thompson brought the issue forward at the monthly board meeting Thursday.

"I'm concerned, this board should be concerned," Thompson told the board. "If this is done in a way to intimidate the public, if that's the case, then it shouldn't be done."

Deputy Chief Peter Sloly, in place of Blair, told the board the force has received the full transcripts of Sljivo's testimony and reassured the board that the force follows the proper procedures.

"We take this very seriously," Sloly said. "We will report back to the board on this in very short order."

The report will be presented at the next board meeting on Feb. 13.

"Our expectation that in the training that is built into that. This cannot be casual. It must be legally defensible. There are also requirements of approval, so there is a question of supervision . . . and not just casually getting or giving a signature.

Sljivo couldn't be reached for comment Thursday.
(Toronto Star)

Jan 16 2014

A former Toronto police officer and his wife were sentenced to five and a half years in prison in Norfolk, Va., on Thursday for tricking victims into paying them more than \$1-million for forged banking documents.

Cullen Johnson, 66, and Elaine White, 70, were extradited from the Turks and Caicos Islands in April by the Internal Revenue Service. They had been on the run since pleading not guilty to fraud charges in Newmarket in 2009.

In a statement of facts signed by Johnson in September 2013, he acknowledged that he and White provided clients in Canada and the United States with fabricated banking records purporting to show that their family members or estranged spouses had stolen money from them.

An Ontario Superior Court found that former Ontario MPP Eric Cunningham was victimized by the firm, finding that it produced "fraudulent" records that purported to show he had \$2.3-million in offshore bank accounts as part of a messy divorce action.

Johnson and White are alleged to have worked with Theodoros (Terry) Grontis, a Toronto-area private detective who is reported to have fled to Greece.

The Ontario Provincial Police plan to prosecute White and Johnson in Canada after they finish their sentences in the United States, the Virginian-Pilot newspaper reported Wednesday.
(Postmedia News)

Jan 16 2014

EDMONTON - A former chief Crown prosecutor has been named the vice-chairman of the Edmonton Police Commission.

Gary McCuaig was unveiled as the new vice-chairman Thursday evening, replacing Cathy Palmer. Real estate agent Shami Sandhu was re-appointed as the chairman of the police oversight body, a position he accepted last year.

McCuaig spent 30 years with Alberta Justice, 10 of those years as a chief Crown prosecutor. This is his second two-year term on the police commission.
(Edmonton Journal)

Jan 16 2014

EDMONTON - Edmonton Police say Segway usage in the city has been so successful, they are looking to add more to city streets.



Costing about \$7,600 per machine, Edmonton Police say they plan to add four more machines for officers in the future.

"It's an amazing tool that at first you might not realize its potential until you get on it," said Sgt. Phillip Cutting with EPS.

Forty officers in five divisions have already been trained to use the Segways, costing about \$100 per officer.

It costs about one penny to operate them and they can last five hours on one charge, making them efficient modes of transportation for city officers, according to EPS officials.

"I've yet to have a police car beat me to a call," said Sgt. Maurice Brodeur, who is part of the Whyte Avenue police beat with EPS. "This thing is phenomenal. I can go anywhere with this thing."

EPS are hoping to add the machines to other parts of the city to help with policing efforts, adding other provincial policing divisions have inquired about the machines.
(Metro Edmonton)



Jan 17 2014

MONTREAL - A senior security guard at an elite Quebec private school is facing criminal charges in Illinois after

more than \$1 million worth of cocaine was allegedly found in his vehicle.

The state attorney's office says Sylvain Bergeron was arrested last week in suburban Chicago after police allegedly discovered he was transporting more than 900 grams worth of cocaine.

Police told an Illinois newspaper, The Herald-News, that the estimated street value of the load was about \$1.3 million.

A spokesman for Stanstead College says Illinois police called a school official to inform him of Bergeron's arrest.

Ross Murray says the 43-year-old Bergeron is in charge of nightwatchmen at the \$20,000-per-year secondary school, which is about one kilometre from the Quebec-Vermont border.

Murray says Bergeron has been a fine, loyal employee at the school in Stanstead since he was hired in 2006.

Jan 17 2014

MEDICINE HAT, Alta. - An Alberta agency that investigates the actions of police in serious matters has ruled that officers did not cause the death of two people in a car crash following a high-speed chase.

Clif Purvis with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says there is evidence a woman was taken against her will from a home in Medicine Hat in November.

City police followed a suspect vehicle and, as the chase continued outside the community, RCMP got involved.

Purvis says the vehicle was travelling up to 177 km/h before it turned onto a secondary highway, then suddenly veered into the path of a semi truck.

Branden Anderson, who was 27, and his passenger Crystal Trotchie, who was 33, were killed.

The truck driver received minor injuries.

Jan 17 2014

WINDSOR, Ont. - A Windsor police officer has been demoted for 15 months for an incident involving stolen lottery tickets.

Constable Timothy Kettlewell is going from first class constable to second class constable - a demotion that'll cost him \$12,000.

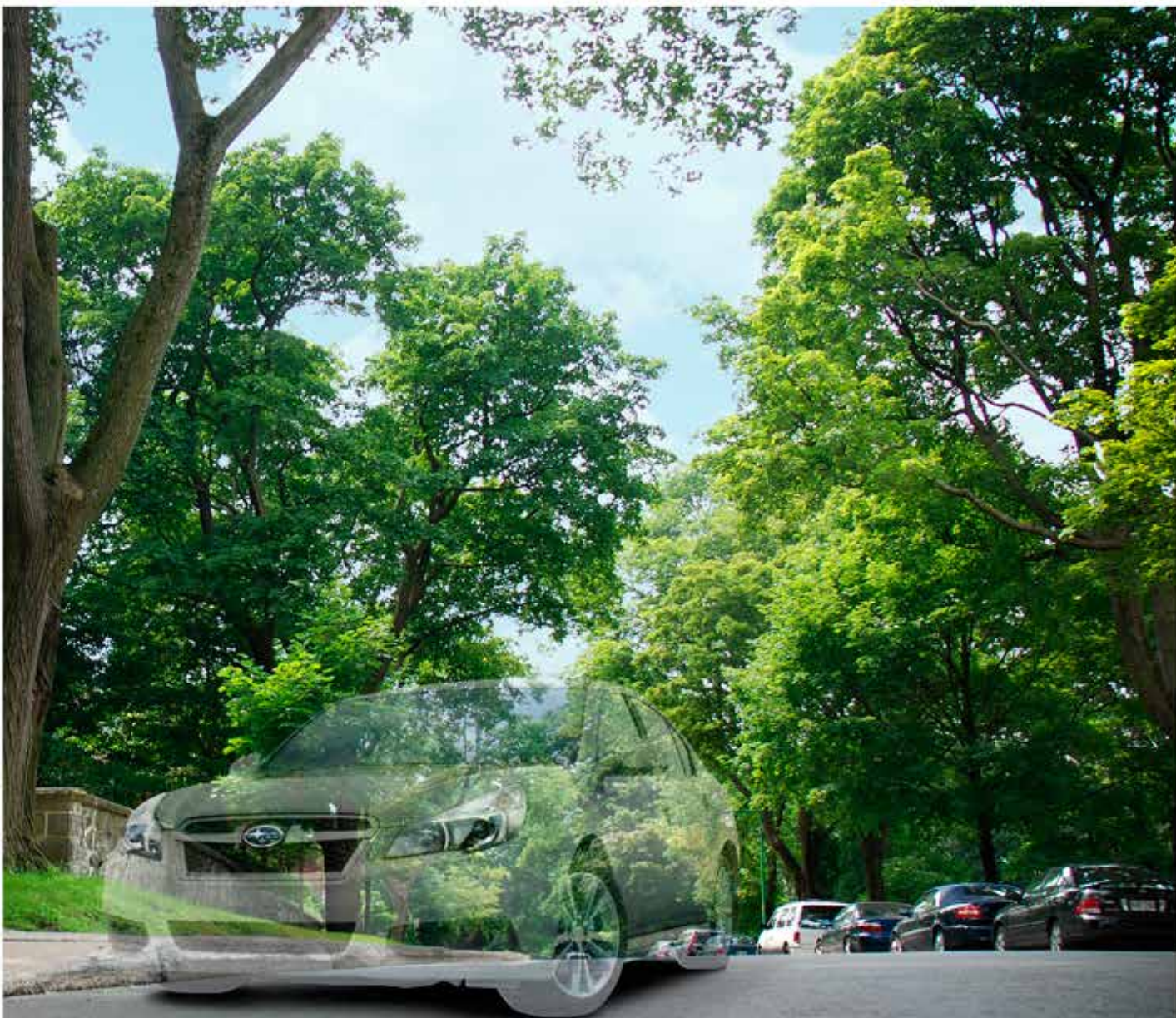
The 38-year-old pleaded guilty Friday to two counts of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act.

Last April, Kettlewell found two lottery tickets while investigating the recovery of a stolen or lost bag, put them in the visor of his cruiser and later pocketed them.

Kettlewell had argued it was an honest mistake and he mistook the tickets as his own.

He pleaded guilty last August in criminal court to possession of stolen property and received a conditional discharge.
(AM800)

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Cst. Sam Cote believes Haiti is moving in the right direction, and the Halifax Regional Police officer thinks the bike patrols he's helping to implement there are beneficial.



Now in his second United Nation's mission to the earthquake-ravaged nation, Cote is part of a team that is training Haitian cops to work with people in their communities, often from the seat of a mountain bike.

"I've always been a big fan of bike patrols," he said in a recent interview from his home outside Dartmouth.

"There's no better tool to improve police visibility and accessibility. That's the Phase 1 of our project there, ... to try to start building a trusting relationship between the population and the local police."

Cote, who was in Nova Scotia during a recent break, first applied to work in Haiti about two weeks after the devastating Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake. He arrived that August for a nine-month mission.

"I knew that I could help down there. It was chaos really."

His first mission focused on providing basic police services for displaced people who'd lost their homes in the disaster. Tent cities were erected in open spaces, such as a nine-hole golf course. He did camp patrols and later was put in charge of the patrols at one specific camp.

He returned to Halifax in May 2011 and resumed patrol work here.

"It's kind of a slap in the face to come back to normal work when you're involved in such an intense situation," he said. "You see things a different way."

A frequent traveller, Cote worked for another year in Halifax before he applied for another UN mission, this time to the Congo. He applied, was accepted and went through training only to learn the mission had been abandoned two days before he was due to go.

He was given priority status by the UN and was soon offered the chance to return to Haiti. He was happy to go back but did not know what his duties would be until he arrived there.

By then, most of the temporary housing sites had started closing and the missions were changing.

A police officer from Montreal was starting bike patrols and Cote, a former member of bike patrols in the Montreal Police Service, got into that program.

Cote said Haitian police traditionally focused on the minority of people who commit crimes and never engaged law-abiding people. He said police usually stayed at their checkpost stations and did not do routine patrols. Citizens never grew to trust officers.

The bike patrols are considered a major component of a shift toward community policing, he said.

With equipment provided by Montreal police, four people started in the unit. They started training Haitian officers, some of whom had never ridden a bike.

Cote said it didn't take long for officers to start talking with citizens, who soon started chatting with police.

"The Haitian population is really easy to approach. They're very curious and easy to talk to. I think they've just been waiting so long to have some sort of ... an approach from the police.

"Sometimes, we can't even ride the bikes for very long because we're surrounded by people who are asking questions about it."

Eventually, people started reporting crimes to police and Cote thinks that wouldn't have happened without the program.

It's a huge challenge, he admits.

Haitian police earn the equivalent of about US\$400 a month, Cote said.

"That would be a middle-class salary," he said, adding that Haiti doesn't have many middle class salaries.

People are mostly poor or occasionally rich, he said.

Haiti's biggest city, Port-au-Prince, can have more than 300 homicides in three months, Cote said. It's a very complex situation where political protests can turn deadly.

Cote will soon be back in Haiti for the last four months of this mission, which will likely be his last there.

Since he's been there, all new police officers have started getting bike-patrol training and now some experienced Haitian bike-patrol officers have reached the point where they can train their fellow recruits.

(Chronicle Herald)



Jan 18 2014

SASKATOON - Saskatoon police are more likely to charge someone caught with small amounts of marijuana than authorities in any other big city.

Incident reports obtained from Statistics Canada for 2012 show that police in Saskatoon laid marijuana possession charges in more than 82 per cent of incidents involving possession of less than 30 grams.

That number contrasts drastically with more lax jurisdictions such as Halifax,

where simple cannabis possession resulted in a charge only 18 per cent of the time. In Vancouver, a city seen as having liberal drug policies, police laid possession charges 20 per cent of the time.

The national average is 47 per cent, according to data from Statistics Canada.

The patchwork of possession charge rates across the country comes at a time when the marijuana debate is again heating up.

Simple possession has been legalized or decriminalized in multiple states south of the border. Colorado, for example, recently legalized recreational marijuana use.

But it's not just Americans looking to loosen up on people lighting up. While marijuana arrest rates have increased under the Harper government, earlier this year the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police proposed a ticketing system for pot, saying criminal charges place a significant burden on police and court resources.

Cities closer to Saskatoon's percentage include Winnipeg (79 per cent), St. John's, Nfld. (71 per cent) and Edmonton (70 per cent).

(Star Phoenix)

Jan 18 2014

TORONTO - Toronto Police are downsizing. Most of its big Ford Crown Victoria cruisers - which have not been built since 2011- will likely be retired by 2016.

Until then, Cst. Wendy Drummond said officers will road test smaller cars and SUVs to determine the best type of replacements.

Despite being on the road for months, many people have not seen the Toronto Police-marked test autos.

Drummond said four Taurus "Police Interceptors" and two Ford Explorers are driven on regular patrols, which allow "for the collection of data."

To maintain its fleet, Toronto Police paid \$5 million for 300 Crowns in 2011.

The bulk order provided "\$1.5 million in savings," Drummond said. Stored and regularly test-run, "we were able to deploy those vehicles over the last three years."

Other forces have bought competitors' smaller vehicles for several years, including the OPP, who also use SUVs.

In 2009, GM announced a new Police Patrol Vehicle (PPV). Based on the Holden Caprice, the V-8 powered four-door Chevrolets are imported from Australia.

Chrysler's new rear-wheel-drive, V-6 or V-8 Dodge Charger hit the road in 2006.

Some officers complain of feeling cramped due to their bulky personal equipment plus computer consoles. Many don't like front-wheel drive while others have lauded the smaller cars.

Drummond said a decision on new replacement cars is expected in November.

(Toronto Sun)

Jan 18 2014

OTTAWA - Canada's secret eavesdropping agency has been reviewing its policies on sharing information with the Americans and other key partners.

A newly declassified memo says the move was prompted by the massive intelligence leak by former US spy contractor Edward Snowden.

The memo from Communications Security Establishment Canada chief John Forster says the breach also sparked a CSEC examination of its practices for protecting the privacy of Canadians.

Obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act, the memo was prepared last year after Snowden's leaks began making global headlines.

The leaks revealed the US National Security Agency had obtained access to a broad spectrum of emails, chat logs and other information from major Internet companies, as well as data about a huge volume of telephone calls.

Jan 18 2014

SURREY, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog confirms that it has been called to investigate a shooting incident that left one man dead in Surrey.

The Independent Investigations Office says Surrey RCMP reported that its officers responded to a call to check on an adult male on Friday night.

The IIO says police went to the man's residence and during the course of events the man was shot by an officer.

The man was taken to the hospital but did not survive.

The IIO was notified at around 10:15 p.m. and sent investigators immediately.



Jan 20 2014

TORONTO - The jury at an inquest examining the police shooting deaths of three mentally ill Toronto residents is being taken through some 220 proposed recommendations as closing arguments are delivered in coroner's court.

Royal Jardine-Douglas, Sylvia Klabin-gaitis and Michael Eligon were all gunned down after approaching officers with edged weapons in separate but similar incidents.

The province's police watchdog cleared authorities of wrongdoing in all three cases, prompting calls for justice from the families of those killed.

The coroner's counsel has been reading a list of proposed recommendations that include suggestions from the victims' families that police consider a person's state of crisis

when encountering an emotionally disturbed person with a weapon.

The inquest has heard that when an officer is faced with an individual advancing with a sharp object, their response is based on the person's behaviour and not their mental state.

The inquest also heard from the officers who fired the shots in the three cases being examined, and all of them said they feared for their lives before they pulled the trigger.

The inquest's five-member jury - which began hearing testimony last October - is not tasked with finding fault or laying any blame.

Jan 20 2014

TORONTO - A lawyer for the Ontario government says the public was put at "undue risk" when a review board granted community privileges to a man who killed a Toronto police officer with a snowplow.

The Crown argues that the Ontario Review Board made a mistake by ruling that hospital staff were allowed to escort Richard Kachkar on trips into the community of Whitby, Ont.

Kachkar was found not criminally responsible for killing Sgt. Ryan Russell and has been detained since the verdict last year at the psychiatric hospital Ontario Shores.

Crown attorney Eric Siebenmorgen says doctors can't agree on a specific diagnosis for Kachkar, so not enough is known about his condition and what triggered his psychotic break to be able to manage his risk in the community.

Siebenmorgen says if there was an altercation during an outing, hospital staff wouldn't be allowed to physically intervene and they would have to call police, which would again put Kachkar in conflict with an officer.

Kachkar's lawyer says the psychotic break that led to the death of Russell didn't come out of nowhere, rather he appeared to unravel over about two weeks, so hospital staff would be able to assess his condition before any outing.

Jan 20 2014

EDMONTON - A man is in critical condition after he crashed into the back of a large dump truck after fleeing from police in Edmonton.

Investigators say officers were in a north-end neighbourhood Sunday night when they tried to pull over a car that had allegedly been stolen.

The 31-year-old driver stopped briefly and a passenger got out before the vehicle sped away with police in pursuit.

A police helicopter was tracking the car with no cruisers in sight before the driver tried to change direction and suffered multiple injuries when he slammed into the back of a semi involved in snow removal.

Jan 20 2014

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - A police officer in London, Ont., has been charged with dangerous driving following a crash last fall that left two pedestrians hurt.

The Special Investigations Unit says a London Police Service officer was travelling to a robbery-in-progress call around 11 a.m. on Oct. 6 when the cruiser hit another car.

The SIU says that car then hit two people.

A 23-year-old woman was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and the second person was released with minor injuries.

Cst. Leah Constance Laari is set to appear in court on Feb. 27 to face the charge of dangerous driving.

Jan 20 2014

TORONTO - Target says cross-border shoppers may have been impacted by the massive credit and debit card security breach at the retailer over the holiday season.

The Minneapolis-based company says that some Canadians had their names and contact information stolen when they shopped at U.S. stores between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15.

But the company says unlike its U.S. customers, it believes only personal information was stolen, not payment data for their debit and credit cards.

Target sent an email to some Canadian customers on Monday saying that the stolen information could include a person's name, address, email or phone number.

Spokeswoman Lisa Gibson says the email was only sent to shoppers who Target believes could have had information taken.

The security breach is believed to have involved 40 million credit and debit card accounts and the personal information of 70 million customers.

Jan 20 2014

WINNIPEG - A Winnipeg police constable is no longer facing child sex-related allegations.

Lawyer Hymie Weinstein said Crown prosecutors dropped their case against Cst. Kenneth Jack Anderson at a brief provincial court hearing in Stonewall on Monday.

Anderson, who is 53, agreed to enter into a peace bond to keep the peace and avoid contact with a male youth who RCMP alleged was inappropriately touched when he was 10 years old in 2006 in the RM of Rockwood.

Weinstein said the peace-bond agreement is not a finding of guilt and will not register as a conviction against the veteran officer.

Anderson was appearing for the start of his preliminary hearing after previously entering not guilty pleas to charges of sexual assault and sexual interference.

RCMP arrested and released Anderson in December 2012 after a complaint was

forwarded to them by the child protection branch in Winnipeg months earlier; he was formally charged last February. (Winnipeg Free Press)

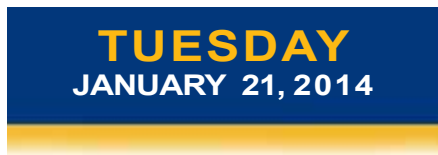
Jan 20 2014

TORONTO - The public is being invited for the first time to nominate Greater Toronto Area police officers, firefighters and paramedics for "hero" awards sponsored by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute.

The awards, administered by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI) since 2011, are also for the first time recognizing "public heroes" from the Greater Toronto Area – Durham, York and Peel – as well as Toronto. In the past, they focused on Toronto Police, Fire and EMS, and the nominees were chosen by a committee of community leaders.

This year, four candidates from each category will be nominated for each region for displaying these qualities: altruism, dedication and community involvement. Nomination forms can be found at publicheroes.org. The deadline for nominations is March 22 and the awards will be handed out on April 23 at Toronto's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

IDI is a non-profit group that promotes understanding and respect between people of all faiths and cultures through discussion and personal interaction. (Globe and Mail)



Jan 21 2014

HALIFAX - Halifax police are warning all Nova Scotia residents about a man who is deemed a high risk to re-offend after serving a seven-year sentence for impaired driving causing death.

The police force issued a statement under its high risk offender protocol saying 55-year-old Michael Gerard Cooper is expected to move to the Halifax area after his release today from New Brunswick's Dorchester Penitentiary.

Cooper's case attracted national attention after the parents of a teenager who died in a 2007 collision with Cooper's vehicle asked Nova Scotia authorities to post pictures of Cooper in liquor stores and bars.

After Cooper's conviction, the Parole Board of Canada said he told them he would not stop drinking and driving, which prompted the board to deny him an early release.

As part of his release, Cooper must meet several conditions, including a lifetime driving ban and a two-year order to abstain from buying and drinking alcohol.

Cooper was convicted in 2007 of two counts of impaired driving causing death

following a crash in Cape Breton that killed Angela Smits, 19, and her 20-year-old boyfriend, Michael MacLean.

Jan 21 2014

CALGARY - A routine traffic stop in Nevada more than a year ago has led to charges against three Calgary men allegedly at the centre of a multimillion-dollar smuggling and trafficking operation.

The Jan. 15 arrests are the result of a joint investigation between Alberta law enforcement teams and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Charges against the trio include conspiracy to import cocaine, conspiracy to traffic cocaine, possession, trafficking, and possession of proceeds of crime.

Officials say the investigation began in Nevada in October 2012 when a traffic stop found 45 kilograms of cocaine packaged in vacuum-sealed bundles in a hidden compartment beneath a pickup truck.

Investigators believe the suspects are behind the drug-trafficking operation.

The three are believed to be a major cocaine distributor in southern Alberta and are alleged to have routinely used couriers to import cocaine from the southern U.S.



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

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

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



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

Applications for 2014 must be submitted, by February 3, 2014, to Leadership@blueline.ca

Jan 21 2014

OTTAWA - Canada's highest court has ruled that a group of Hells Angels members who received a stay of proceedings because of lengthy delays in their case will not have to stand trial anew.

The hearing took place before the Supreme Court of Canada today, with the ruling coming directly from the bench.

Quebec Superior Court Justice James Brunton ordered the stay of proceedings for 31 Hells Angels members and sympathizers in 2011.

They had been arrested as part of the 2009 police sweep dubbed SharQc and were charged with various drug-related offences.

The Supreme Court ruled that Brunton did not err in exercising his discretion to order a stay in the case.

It agreed that defendants would be prejudiced by the lengthy delays and that they would not face a trial in a reasonable delay as required by the law.

Jan 21 2014

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer will be in court next month for allegedly punching a suspect.

Police say a man placed under arrest on Dec. 29 allegedly attempted to break police property, and spat on the arresting officer.

Investigators say the 32-year-old officer is alleged to have punched the suspect several times.

Cst. Gary Gould - an 11-year veteran of the Toronto police - is charged with assault.

Gould is scheduled to appear in court in Feb. 28.



Jan 22 2014

MONTREAL - A judge has prevented Montreal police from getting their hands on a confidential academic video interview with accused killer Luka Rocco Magnotta.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers welcomed the Quebec Superior Court decision, saying it upholds researchers' rights to protect confidential information needed for their academic work.

The association's executive director says in a statement the ruling represents the first court recognition of researcher-participant privilege.

Montreal police had sought to gain access to a copy of the interview for evidence they're still gathering against the 31-year-old Magnotta, who is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying and dismemberment of

Chinese engineering student Jun Lin.

Lawyers representing University of Ottawa criminologists had argued the 2007 interview with a subject known under the pseudonym "Jimmy" should be kept confidential.

The attorneys said Magnotta participated in the study as part of a survey of sex workers under the condition his interview would remain confidential.

Jan 22 2014

TORONTO - Ontario's top court has ruled that a man whose case prompted a constitutional challenge to a mandatory minimum sentence for a gun crime should not be sent back to jail.

Leroy Smickle was in his cousin's house in his boxers, posing for a Facebook picture with a loaded handgun, when police burst in with a search warrant for the cousin, who they believed had illegal firearms.

Smickle was convicted of possession of a loaded prohibited firearm, but the trial judge ruled a three-year sentence - the mandatory minimum enacted in 2008 - would be cruel and unusual so she declared it unconstitutional and gave Smickle a one-year conditional sentence.

Late last year, Ontario's Appeal Court struck down the mandatory minimum as unconstitutional but said Smickle's sentence was "totally inadequate" and ordered his lawyers to return to court to argue his sentence.

In a ruling released today, the Appeal Court says Smickle completed his sentence long ago and has spent the last two years as a law-abiding father supporting his family.

The court says Smickle should have originally been sentenced to two years less a day, but it has imposed a permanent stay of the sentence, meaning Smickle won't be sent back to jail.

"When, as in this case, the sentencing of an accused has been delayed by a lengthy appellate process, and the accused has served the sentence imposed at trial, the imposition of a 'just sanction' demands that those factors be taken into account," the court wrote.

"The respondent completed the sentence imposed on him long ago. He has spent the last two years in legal limbo uncertain as to whether he would be required to return to jail and, if so, for how long. Those hardships must be taken into account."

Smickle is now working two jobs, developing his own business, has a "stable, loving relationship with his fiancée" and a close relationship with his two children, who he supports financially, the court noted.

Jan 22 2014

OTTAWA - The Supreme Court has

ordered a new trial for a man who was shot and wounded by Edmonton police.

Percy Davis was holding a butcher knife when he was shot twice in the parking lot of a mall in northeast Edmonton in 2008.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team ruled the officer was justified in firing his gun.

Davis was convicted of assaulting a police officer, assault with a weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon.

He received a suspended sentence and one year of probation.

The high court recently ruled the trial judge made an error by ruling Davis had the burden of proving that the officer had used excessive force.

Davis had argued his Charter of Rights were violated.

"The appeal is allowed and the appellant's conviction is quashed," wrote the court.

"As the parties have requested in such an event, a new trial is ordered on the same charges."

Court previously heard Davis, then 26, was holding the knife while riding his bike in the parking lot, when a police car showed up. He charged at the open window on the driver's door with his knife raised.

The officer inside ducked, got out of the car and demanded Davis drop the knife.

Davis walked away and headed towards the mall. The officer followed him and decided to shoot when it became clear that Davis would not drop the knife.

Davis was hit in the neck and right chest and reportedly lost the use of a lung and an arm.

The man's father, an evangelical pastor, said at the time that his son was a loner who had grappled with anger issues. He said the officer should have been carrying a Taser to subdue his son.

Jan 22 2014

SAINTE-ADELE, Que. - A 17-year-old boy died on Wednesday after being shot by Quebec provincial police north of Montreal.

A police chase began early in the afternoon after reports of a stolen car.

Montreal police said the teen was heading toward the patrol car in a vehicle he was driving and was putting the officer's life at risk when the shooting occurred.

The incident occurred in the community of Sainte-Adele in the Laurentians.

It happened near a secondary school but Montreal police said that at no time were the lives of students in danger.

Because of local police involvement in the incident, Montreal police were called to the community north of the city to investigate.

Jan 23 2014

BUFFALO, N.Y. - The owner of an Ontario trucking company has pleaded guilty to smuggling hundreds of kilograms of cocaine across the border in his trucks.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Buffalo says 39-year-old Parminder Sidhu of Brampton, Ont., pleaded guilty to conspiracy in federal court Wednesday.

Investigators say that between 2009 and 2011, Sidhu's trucks - equipped with false compartments - were used to smuggle more than 1,700 kilograms of cocaine into Canada.

He faces at least 10 years in prison when he's sentenced in May.

Two co-defendants have been convicted of similar charges and will be sentenced in April.

Jan 23 2014

CALGARY - The Calgary Police Service is trying to entice people from all communities to get involved in the organization.



The force hosted an open house at its northeast headquarters on Wednesday night, drawing hundreds of Calgarians.

"Whether as an officer or civilian member, volunteer, or participant in one of our youth programs, there are many ways to join our team," police said in release.

Amina Gillani, who has volunteered with the service for eight years, says she is able to reassure people who are afraid of the police.

"I come from a country where there is a very poor perception of the judicial system. So when there is a crime in Pakistan people are scared to report the crime because there is so much corruption there versus here," she said.

CPS recently dropped its three-year residency requirement for volunteers in a bid to be more inclusive of new members of the community.

Sgt. Bill Dodd said the police service has

to reflect the community.

"They bring a whole different set of language skills, a whole set of skills to understand other people, a whole set of cultural knowledge and background."

That includes different ethnicities, religions, disabilities and the LGBT community, Dodd said.

"I think it's important to reflect the community that you're policing," said Kirk Lawrence, who is finishing a justice studies degree and hopes to become a police officer.

"It helps especially with victim relief, victim assistance if you feel more comfortable around people you can relate to."

Jessica Mardones is from Chile and hopes to become a volunteer to build bridges from her community to the police force.

"You know we might be able to see you know some difference in them and more trust because that's the word, is trust."

(CBC News)

Jan 23 2014

WINNIPEG - Winnipeg police have arrested a robbery suspect - six years after someone left false teeth at the scene of the crime.

Police say a woman with a knife held up a Winnipeg convenience store in October 2007 and stole an undisclosed amount of cash.

Officers say she dropped her false teeth as she fled.

The teeth were seized as evidence and DNA testing eventually led them to a suspect.

An unnamed woman was arrested Wednesday and charged with robbery.

Jan 23 2014

CALGARY - Officials have concluded a Calgary officer was justified in shooting a driver who struck two pedestrians as he was fleeing police.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says the uniformed officer probably saved the married man and woman, both 78, from more serious injuries.

Police were investigating a case outside a bank last May when a man started driving away, hit a parked police car then struck the seniors on a sidewalk.

The driver had reversed and was driving towards the couple again when the officer shot him in the head.

The 38-year-old driver survived but is permanently blind.

The female pedestrian underwent surgery for a broken elbow and hip and her husband wasn't seriously injured.

Jun 23 2014

L'ISLE-VERTE - Thirty elderly people are unaccounted for after an intense night-time fire destroyed a Quebec seniors' residence that was only partially equipped with sprinklers.



And many of the missing had limited movement and were confined to wheelchairs and walkers, according to a local official.

The blaze began during a bitterly cold night at Résidence du Havre, a 52-unit home for senior citizens in L'Isle-Verte, in the Lower St. Lawrence, 230 kilometres down river from Quebec City.

The front part of the residence, which was built in 1997 and got heavily damaged in the fire, didn't have sprinklers, unlike a newer wing that was added five years later.

A witness described a dramatic scene, with firefighters struggling to help seniors with limited mobility, some residents jumping from the second and third floors and children trying to rescue their parents from flames that was fanned by wind gusts.

Most of the residents were over 85. They either required wheelchairs or walkers or suffered from Alzheimer's disease, acting mayor Ginette Caron told reporters.

"The rest were semi-autonomous, practically no longer autonomous," Caron told a news conference. "Wheelchairs, walkers, people who can't move around. People with Alzheimer's, in the last stages of life."

Local resident Mario Michaud, who lives across the street from the residence, said in an interview Thursday morning that he saw one of his neighbours try in vain to bring a ladder to rescue his mother from a second-floor balcony inside the complex.

Mr. Michaud said his neighbour was able to place the ladder but couldn't get to his mother because the flames were too intense.

"He couldn't reach her. She burned on the balcony. Her boy, he broke down. It wasn't pretty," Mr. Michaud said.

The neighbour had to be taken to hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation, his brother said in an interview.

(Globe and Mail)