

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | January 2, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 1

2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dec 25 2014

MONTREAL - A pair of Montreal police officers helped a baby enter the world a little earlier than expected on Christmas morning. Just before 3 a.m. ET, a man frantically flagged down a patrol car in the city's north end and asked for help as his wife began to give birth in their car.

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VEGREVILLE, Alta. - The probe into an RCMP shooting of a man on Christmas Day in Alberta has taken an unusual twist, with investigators alleging the suspect called police on himself to report a phoney bank robbery.

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British researchers say they are replicating a landmark crime experiment involving police body-cameras with over 30 forces across the world.

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Dec 29 2014

ORILLIA - After three decades with the OPP, Insp. Malcolm Quigley is hanging up his cap. The 52-year-old commander of Orillia's detachment retires Dec. 31.

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Dec 31 2014

EDMONTON - An Edmonton man suspected of killing six adults and two children before taking his own life was well-known to police and had a lengthy criminal record.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Vancouver receives 2015 Best Dressed Vehicle Award



January 1, 2015

MARKHAM - *Blue Line Magazine* is pleased to announce the selections for the 2015 *Best Dressed Vehicles Award* in five categories;

The Vancouver Police Department will receive the top award for *Best Dressed Police Vehicle* for 2015.

The Vancouver Police vehicle redesign was selected top in category for not only possessing a look and style appropriate to the community and the policing function but also due to the added efforts in the areas of lighting, fuel economy and environmental concerns. This clearly shows the Vancouver Police Department as sensitive to the myriad of first nations communities in its midst but wishing to be a visible mentor to environmental concerns specific to that region.



Gatineau Police Service is to receive the *Best Dressed Police Vehicle* Second Place Award for 2015.

When the Service de Police de la Ville de Gatineau (SPVG) updated its vehicles to the new Ford Police Interceptor, it chose to also update graphics with this very eye-catching design.

The word "police" and the city name of Gatineau are both very prominently placed

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along the side, important in a region where multiple agencies patrol jurisdictions in close proximity to each other. We were immediately impressed by the design and especially the unique way the white bars break up the blue side stripes that help add to its identity as a police vehicle. The subtle but effective use of gold striping and double drop-shadow in the word POLICE add to that instant recognition.

Officer safety is among Blue Line's most important judging criteria, and one factor we like to see is directionality to the design. Citizens should be able to tell at a glance which way the vehicle is facing, day or night. During the day, the design looks much like an arrow when all the reflective decaling is lit up at night. It is one of the most effective and modern designs we have seen.



The **Saskatoon Police Service** will receive the *Best Dressed Police Vehicle Third Place Award* for 2015. The graphic design of their vehicles incorporate a lot of directionality in the decaling that is specifically contoured to follow the shape of the new body style of the Ford suburban utility vehicles. It makes effective use of the black front wheel well to form a streamlined teardrop shape; once again allowing citizens to see at a glance the direction of travel in all kinds of weather.

Auxiliary lighting consists of the latest LED technology, including dual white pillar-mounted spotlights and a dual-colour LED

light bar. It has a crisp light visible from a greater distance, and the entire front can turn into a full take-down light, producing a clear white floodlight. The rear dual-colour LEDs can be programmed into amber directional arrows to assist in traffic control.

Inside, auxiliary switches on the steering wheel allow officers to activate emergency lights and siren without having to look down or take their hands off the steering wheel. The vehicle also includes both a front and rear facing camera system, reverse camera, reverse sensing system and a blind spot monitoring system. The integrated centre console holds the radio, laptop base and all-important cup holders between the two front seats.

Officer safety is again emphasized, right back to the rear seat, with larger rear door openings for easier access, molded prisoner seats with recessed lower seat backs for easier handcuffing and a centre-mounted seat belt system that places the buckles on the outboard side of the seat.



Wilfrid Laurier University Constable Service will receive the *Best Dressed Law Enforcement Vehicle Award* for 2015. Wilfrid Laurier has campuses in Waterloo and Brantford and facilities in Kitchener and Toronto. The Wilfrid Laurier University Special Constable Service is responsible for the security of more than 100 buildings and campus properties, working closely with the Waterloo and Brantford police services to define operational requirements.

Special constables are sworn peace officers employed to preserve and maintain public peace and protect members and visitors to the university community. All vehicles are branded with a prominent Wilfrid Laurier University crest on the rear door and clear identification on the side. The colours in the graphic design pick up the colours from the crest, and the shape of the design duplicates the slope of the Ford's hood line. Reflecting the modern and progressive campuses that they patrol, the Special Constable Service design is both clean and bold.



The **St. Thomas Police Service** will receive the *Best Dressed Community Relations Vehicle Award* for 2015. A community relations vehicle should be as distinctive and different as the many police services that protect us across the

country. This category has seen everything from Hummers seized from drug dealers right up to full-on race cars. Given this criteria the brand new St. Thomas Police Service K-9 Unit meets the very definition of a community relations vehicle.

Built on a 2014 Ford Police Interceptor Utility, the K-9 unit is specially equipped for police service dog duties with a back up camera, American Aluminum K-9 insert, Ace K9 Hot-N-Pop Pro system to regulate the temperature in the canine area and a remote door opener feature, which allows the officer to unleash the dog from up to one kilometre away. D&R Electronics provided the metal storage container with pull out drawers in the rear trunk area and all installation brackets for the mobile data terminal and radio equipment.

The exterior graphics and decaling match the existing fleet but the main colour is silver grey instead of the dark blue and white of the fleet cruisers. This was done to soften the look and better show off sponsorship decals from the many community partners who helped make the K-9 unit and police service dog Trax a reality for the city's 38,000 residents.



The **Treaty Three Police Service** has been selected to receive the *Best Dressed First Nations Police Vehicle Award* for 2015.

Blue Line quickly recognized the instantly identifiable red outlining orange letters on a black truck. It illustrates how simple, modern and bold designs are timeless. You know immediately where this vehicle is from and its function.

Major updates to officer safety have been made. Radio and light controls are on the dash so officers can operate all equipment without taking their eyes off the road. The new Blac-Rac vertical weapons mount system, which securely grip patrol carbines with the receiver out and magazine in, allow room for top-mounted optics. The articulating mount can be opened with either a key or self-contained encapsulated power supply, reducing wear by eliminating bouncing around or rattling while in the rack.

A new master kill switch protects the Fleet-net radios during vehicle boosts.

Treaty Three Police's 85 sworn members serve 18,550 residents in 28 First Nation Territories in the Kenora and Rainy River areas. The vast majority grew up in the area and all officers train with and meet Ontario police agency standards.

The service motto is "Policing for the people by the people." It now exclusively buys Sierra trucks for GMC's longer service life on remote roads, quick acceleration and fuel economy.

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In honour of Canadian Forces members serving around the world, we award **Canada's Military Police** with the *Best Dressed Police Vehicle Award* in the inaugural *Special Service* category. The G-Wagon—short for Gelandewagen—is the new Canadian Forces Light Utility Vehicle Wheeled (LUVW), for deployment and tactical transport for control, liaison, reconnaissance and military police.

Powered by a 2.7-litre, 5-cylinder turbo-charged diesel, it replaces the completely unprotected Ittis light utility vehicle. The army has ordered 1,200 G-wagons since 2003. There's three versions: the basic utility vehicle with large roof racks; a command and reconnaissance version with rotating gun-mount and the similar MP version with blue and red rotating beacons. Perhaps slightly less able to partake in high (or even moderate) speed pursuits, it nevertheless can go places previously accessible only to tanks and 8-wheeled LAV armoured vehicles. Even with its armaments and optional armoured kit, the G-wagon is still vulnerable to IEDs. Two MPs, Corporals Mathew Dinning and Randy Payne, were killed in Kandahar when their G-wagon hit an IED while serving with the inaugural Military Police close protection team.

While others in the trade may debate whether the Military Police should be considered 'Capital M' Military first, and 'small p' Police second or the other way around, Blue Line will always recognize the men and women of Canada's Military Police as "Capital M, Capital P."

Blue Line Magazine has been recognizing the best in police vehicle design and equipment for the past nine years. A formal presentation of plaques for all these agencies will be made at the awards banquet in conjunction with the *Blue Line Expo* on April 21st. The vehicle and agency profiles will also be the lead feature in the January edition of *Blue Line Magazine*.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2014

Dec 24 2014

OTTAWA - A man facing multiple charges for tying up and robbing a Second World War veteran in Ottawa has been remanded in custody for 30 days for a psychiatric assessment.

Ian Bush appeared in an Ottawa court on Wednesday following his arrest last week.

Bush will return to court Jan. 23 after the court-ordered assessment determines whether he could be held criminally responsible for the charges against him.

Ernest Cote, 101, had been tied up in his home and robbed by a man posing as a city employee last week.

The attack prompted widespread outrage, including that of Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino.

Cote is a D-Day veteran who landed on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944 and Fantino had travelled with him earlier this year for commemoration ceremonies in France.

Police had said Cote was alone in his apartment when a man claiming to work for the city asked to be buzzed in.

The phoney employee went to the apartment and asked for money at the door, then forced his way inside when his demands weren't met.



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Police said the intruder bound the man and took undisclosed items from the apartment.

Cote later managed to free himself and call police.

Bush has been charged with attempted murder, robbery with violence, forcible confinement, break and enter, and using a credit card obtained by crime.

Dec 24 2014

TORONTO - Edward Greenspan, one of Canada's most formidable criminal lawyers, was remembered as a force to be reckoned with by many in the legal community who mourned his death on Wednesday.



Greenspan's law firm, Greenspan Partners LLP, said the 70-year-old died peacefully in his sleep in Phoenix, Ariz., on Wednesday morning.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our senior partner, friend and father Eddie Greenspan," the firm said on Twitter, adding that a funeral was planned for Dec. 28.

Greenspan represented a number of high-profile clients, including one-time media baron Conrad Black, former theatre mogul Garth Drabinsky and German financier Karlheinz Schreiber.

Prutschi asked Greenspan once if he ever planned to retire and recalled the veteran lawyer's answer.

"He responded to me completely deadpan, competently serious, that his hope was to die in a courtroom immediately after hearing a jury return with the words 'not guilty,'" Prutschi said. "That just expresses the all-consuming passion that he had for criminal law."

Dec 24 2014

TORONTO - A mental health facility in Brockville, Ont., is facing five charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Act relating to alleged worker safety violations.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour says the charges against the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, operating as Brockville Mental Health Centre, follow a ministry investigation into an October incident.

A ministry spokesman says the Oct. 10 incident involved a nurse who was stabbed with a pen by a patient in the forensic treatment unit.

The ministry said Wednesday the centre had failed to provide sufficient information, instruction and supervision to protect an employee from workplace violence or the risk thereof from a patient.

It also accuses the facility of failing to implement safety devices, measures and procedures to protect an employee from workplace violence or risk from a patient.

Similar charges were announced Tuesday against the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health over an incident in January at a CAMH facility in Toronto, where a nurse was allegedly beaten by a patient.

Dec 24 2014

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has concluded there are no reasonable grounds to charge any Toronto police officer with a criminal offence in the shooting of a 34-year-old man late last year.

The incident happened around 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 30, 2013, when officers became involved in a confrontation with a man on the fourth floor of a downtown apartment building (at 177 Mutual Street).

The Special Investigations Unit says the man sprayed one of the officers with dog repellent and then struck him with a fire extinguisher, knocking him down a stairway.

The man ignored orders to drop the fire extinguisher and spray can and moved toward another officer - who was armed with a rifle - spraying the can in that officer's direction.

The SIU says that officer fired several rounds, paused briefly, then fired another series of shots, striking the man several times, and that a senior officer then fired a conducted energy weapon at the man.

SIU director Tony Loparco says it has been determined that the officers' actions were reasonable under the circumstances.

Dec 24 2014

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s police watchdog and the coroner are looking into why a 58-year-old woman died in the custody of Vancouver Police Department.

The woman was being taken to jail in a police wagon last week when officers noticed she was unresponsive.

She was taken to hospital by paramedics but passed away Tuesday - eight days after being arrested.

The Independent Investigations Office is probing the death, and will interview the officers involved.

IIO spokesperson Ralph Krenz told CTV Vancouver investigators would review video evidence as part of standard procedure.

The cause of the woman's death is unknown. Her name has not been released.

(CTV Vancouver)

Dec 24 2014

EDMONTON - Alberta's top court has dismissed an appeal by a Calgary man who claimed his burping before taking each of two breathalyzer tests adversely and unfairly affected his blood-alcohol readings.

In its decision, the Alberta Court of Appeal concluded there was no evidence that any mouth alcohol was created from the burping

by the driver, Udell So, that would affect the accuracy of the instrument if the technician did not delay the test.

"Had there been evidence raising a reasonable doubt that the appellant's burping might have generated mouth alcohol and that the proper delay for dissipation of that mouth alcohol was encroached, there would be no added requirement to show that blood alcohol greater than the legal limit resulted," wrote appellate justices Jean Cote, Patricia Rowbotham and Paul Jeffrey.

Court heard that So consumed nine alcoholic drinks between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m., followed by two slices of donair pizza, before driving. He was stopped by police and gave two samples of his breath, at 4:10 and 4:35 a.m., which recorded his blood-alcohol level to be .14 and .13 — well over the legal limit of .08.

"The appellant burped in the police car and in the holding room before each breath test, in each case unnoticed by police," wrote the court.

"The burping was discreet and fairly quiet. He did not tell the breathalyzer technician or any other police officer about it, nor was he asked. Sampling was not additionally delayed as a result."

The court noted that the appeal was to consider whether statutory presumptions in the Criminal Code, which led to So's conviction, were available to the Crown for trial.

Defence lawyer Tim Foster said there was "evidence tending to show" that the breathalyzer was operated improperly because the portion of the instrument's operator's manual that was admitted into evidence obliged the breathalyzer technician to delay taking and testing his breath samples in his situation, since he had been burping.

The technician did not know of the burps and did not delay testing.

The manual states that "before a sample is collected, the technician must be sure that the subject's breath is free of mouth alcohol. Sources of mouth alcohol include recent drinks, breath-freshener sprays, inhalers, mouthwashes and other medicinals."

"The subject must not use any of these within 20 minutes of the test," the manual says. "Burping, belching and vomiting are also sources for mouth alcohol. If the subject does any of these, the technician must delay the test for the proper time until the mouth alcohol has dissipated."

However, the court agreed with the trial judge that he had no evidence that the driver would have any alcohol in his stomach at all and absent that evidence, Mr. So's burping may be irrelevant to the reliability of the breath test.

"We agree with the conclusions of the trial and summary conviction appeal judges," wrote the appellate court. "There was no evidence relating to the reliability of the test results to any deficient delay in sampling the appellant's breath following the burping. Nor was there evidence that the timing of taking the appellant's breath samples following his burping was in fact deficient."

(Calgary Herald)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25, 2014

Dec 25 2014

MONTREAL - A pair of Montreal police officers helped a baby enter the world a little earlier than expected on Christmas morning.

Just before 3 a.m. ET, a man frantically flagged down a patrol car in the city's north end and asked for help as his wife began to give birth in their car.

The officers helped the woman deliver her baby in the car near the corner of St-Laurent and Gouin boulevards in the Ahuntsic neighbourhood.

The 32-week, premature baby boy was safely delivered and put into an ambulance with the mother.

A police escort brought the family to Sacré-Coeur Hospital.

Their four-year-old son was also in the car during the delivery.

Later in the morning, Const. Jean-Pierre Brabant brought stuffed bears for the boy and his newborn brother.

Both mother and baby are reportedly doing well.

(CBC News)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26, 2014

Dec 26 2014

VEGREVILLE, Alta. - The investigation into a Christmas Day shooting by police in Alberta will be handled by the province's police watchdog.



The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says in a news release that RCMP officers shot a lone male on Thursday morning in Vegreville when they were investigating a complaint about a robbery at an ATM machine.

They say one shot was fired, and that the male suffered a non-life-threatening gunshot wound.

The provincial team says a replica firearm has been recovered from the scene, but they say the initial complaint about the robbery appears to have been false.

They say RCMP are handling the investigation into the false robbery complaint.

The news release says the identity of the person who was shot is not being released.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27, 2014

Dec 27 2014

OTTAWA - Police say a Boxing Day shooting at a west-end Ottawa outlet mall was a targeted attack involving members of the same gang.

Staff-Sgt. Ken Bryden of the guns and gangs unit says officers are seeking two "persons of interest" in Friday's attack at the Tangers Outlets mall, and one of them may be the shooter.

He says the victim, a man in his early 20s, has been released from hospital after being

shot in the foot.

Two men were arrested at the scene and released without charges.

Bryden all five are affiliated with the Crips street gang.

He says the victim is being "extremely unco-operative" with investigators, who are also interviewing witnesses and reviewing security footage.

Dec 27 2014

VEGREVILLE, Alta. - The probe into an RCMP shooting of a man on Christmas Day in Alberta has taken an unusual twist, with investigators alleging the suspect called police on himself to report a phoney bank robbery.



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.



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RCMP say the officers were called to the TD Bank on Thursday in Vegreville, where police say they were forced to shoot a man.

A provincial watchdog agency is investigating the shooting and said on Friday that a firearm recovered at the scene turned out to be a replica and the robbery report was false.

The agency said Mounties would continue to handle the investigation into the false report.

RCMP now say they've charged the 22-year-old man with possession of weapon dangerous to the public and public mischief.

His injuries were not life-threatening and police say he will appear in court in Edmonton on Monday afternoon.

Const. Jason Curtis said the public mischief charge stems from the alleged fake robbery report.

"I can't guess as to what his intention was," Curtis said on Saturday when asked about the possible motive.

Police said the man, who they have not identified, is expected to be released from hospital soon but that he will remain a prisoner until his court appearance.

Curtis said he was not aware if the man was previously known to police.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team, the watchdog agency, said the man was alone and that RCMP fired one shot.

RCMP said the provincial team would also investigate another police shooting on Dec. 26 where police say two Mounties fired their weapons during a traffic stop in Whitecourt, Alta. Police say the suspect vehicle fled and collided with another vehicle, where the driver was arrested and taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

They say no other members of the public were hurt.

Dec 27 2014

Police from Canada are among the thousands of officers who gathered in New York Saturday for the funeral of Officer Rafael Ramos, who was gunned down along with his partner by a man who had promised revenge for the deaths of two black men at the hands of police.



Several dozen Toronto officers made the trip to Queens, N.Y., in order to show solidarity with members of the New York City Police Department, said Mike McCormack, head of the Toronto Police Association.

RCMP officers were also present, as was noted by New York media on Twitter. Members of the Montreal Police and Sûreté

du Québec, the province's police force, also attended the funeral.

McCormack described the funeral as the biggest he has ever attended, and said there was a "different tone" from most police funerals. "Not only of the loss and the grief, but also a little bit of underlying tone of anger and frustration," he said.

Tensions have been growing in New York following the deaths of Ramos and his partner Officer Wenjian Liu on Dec. 20. The two men were the first officers to die in the line of duty in New York since 2011.

Comments made by Mayor Bill de Blasio before Ramos and Liu were killed angered many officers, who turned their backs to the mayor when he visited the hospital where the two men were pronounced dead. The same gesture was repeated Saturday by hundreds of officers who had gathered outside the funeral service.

"Pretty well every officer turned and gave their back," McCormack said Saturday. "And that's due to inflammatory comments that the mayor has been making around police and relations with the community."

"Rightfully so," he added.

In early December, de Blasio told ABC News that he asks himself each night whether his son Dante, who is black, would be safe not just from crime, but from police.

"What parents have done for decades who have children of colour, especially young men of colour, is train them to be very careful when they have an encounter with a police officer," de Blasio said.

He later said that there are a series of things that need to be done to address systemic racism in policing, including retraining police forces and giving officers body cameras that would record their interactions with the public.

The gunman in the attack, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, killed himself after ambushing the two officers. Police said earlier that day he had shot and wounded an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore.

Before the attack, Brinsley had referenced the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner in a series of online posts. Both the Brown and Garner cases have prompted protests in New York City, and across the U.S.

(CTV Toronto)



Dec 28 2014

LONDON, Ont. - A London, Ont., man is charged with drunk driving and other offences after police say he crashed into a police cruiser near a parked car he'd allegedly struck earlier.

Police say the man struck the parked vehicle early Sunday morning and took off.

They say that as officers were investigating that collision, the man returned to the scene and slammed into their cruiser.

The man and an officer suffered minor injuries.

Forty-four-year-old John Sharpe is charged with impaired operation of a motor vehicle, failing to provide a breath sample and failing to remain at the scene of a collision.

Dec 28 2014

ABBOTSFORD - It could be weeks before experts finish reconstructing a Boxing Day crash in Abbotsford that killed a teenage longboarder and involved an off-duty police officer driving his own car, according to B.C.'s independent police watchdog.

Until then, the Independent Investigations Office cannot determine whether the officer may have committed a criminal offence in the crash that killed 14-year-old Marcus Larabie. Witnesses have told investigators that the officer wasn't speeding or running a red light at the time of the crash outside Sevenoaks mall, IIO spokeswoman Kellie Kilpatrick said.

"We have independent witness observation that lead us to believe that alcohol was not a factor," added Kilpatrick, who wouldn't confirm whether the officer was given a breathalyzer test. "We have a very comprehensive and confirmed timeline of the officer's whereabouts throughout the day and the hours leading up to the crash."

Kilpatrick said her agency is still trying to figure out what the victim was doing in the lead-up to the fatal crash, which happened at about 6:15 p.m. next to the mall bus loop.

Kilpatrick said her agency is mandated to investigate any severe injury or death "involving an on or off-duty police officer."

"Other jurisdictions have that discretion (not to investigate), we have absolutely none," she said.

(Postmedia News)

Dec 28 2014

British researchers say they are replicating a landmark crime experiment involving police body-cameras with over 30 forces across the world.

The team from the University of Cambridge recently published the first full scientific study of an experiment it conducted in Rialto, Calif. in 2012.

The researchers say the knowledge that events are being recorded creates "self-awareness" in all participants during police interactions, and is the critical component that turns body-worn video into a "preventative treatment."

During the 12-month Rialto experiment, the group says use-of-force by officers wearing cameras fell by 59% and reports against officers dropped by 87% against the previous year's figures.

The dramatic reduction in both use-of-force incidents and complaints against the police during the experiment led to Rialto's police department implementing an initial three-year plan for body-worn cameras, the study says.

When the police force released the results, they were held up by police departments,

media and governments in various nations as the rationale for camera technology to be integrated into policing.

"Body-worn-video has the potential to improve police legitimacy and enhance democracy, not least by calming situations on the front line of policing to prevent the pain and damage caused by unnecessary escalations of volatile situations," Cambridge's Dr. Barack Ariel said.

The study was published in the Journal of Quantitative Criminology.
(QMI Agency)

Oct 28 2014

CALGARY - A Calgary lawyer wants whistleblower protection for police but according to the president of the Edmonton Police Association, it isn't needed.



Pat Knoll wrote a letter to Chief Rod Knecht and Police Commission Chair Shami Sandhu, that says his call stems from the case of a former Edmonton police Constable who claims he was treated like a rat after making abuse allegations against fellow officers.

Sgt. Tony Simioni says police have a legal obligation to be whistleblowers and there are some pretty severe consequences if they aren't.

"It is redundant," explains Simioni. "Police officers by law, as we speak, under the police act are required when interviewed to tell the truth and come forward if they witness anything criminal."

He says you'd be surprised how many officers already file complaints.

"20 per cent of all police complaints in the city of Edmonton and the police service of Edmonton have come from police officers against other police officers," explains Simioni. "I don't understand what the pressing need for new legislation is and I think it is redundant and I think it is unnecessary."

Simioni says under the current law EPS officers are required to be truthful about incidents, even if it gets a colleague in trouble.

"There is a natural tendency of every occupation to protect each other and I'm not certain that police are any different but there are some pretty severe consequences if you are found to be holding back evidence or covering up evidence."

Knoll refers to the "code of silence" in law enforcement and says a whistle blower policy would be a first in English Canada to address" this very harmful practice.

"It is legislation for the sake of the legislation," Simioni remarked.

Simioni says in every occupation you may try to protect your coworkers but when you are an officer you have a legal obligation to take action and report any activities that need to be reported.

(630 CHED)

MONDAY DECEMBER 29, 2014

Dec 29 2014

EDMONTON - It's been another busy year for Edmonton city police.

Last year, Chief Rod Knecht was wondering whether the organization was going to have 5,000 more calls for service than the previous year. He soon got his answer when the service reached an additional 6,300 calls.

In 2014 that number continued to grow, reaching 154,854 calls for service by mid December. Police were dispatched to 145,533 of those calls.

Calls for service aren't the only thing going up.

Edmonton is the only major city in Canada where crime is on the rise — increasing by about 1.4 per cent. Downtown has seen the most significant increase at 12 per cent, and property crime is also up about 4 per cent overall due to theft from and theft of vehicles. In 2013, there was a 4 per cent reduction in violent crime, but a significant increase in vehicle thefts.

Knecht said the increase in violent crime is likely due to the city growing by about 60,000 people over the last two years. A lot of the demographic that's moving to or through the city includes 18- to 34-year-old males, which studies have shown are the most likely to be victims of or perpetuate violent crime.

CANADA'S PREMIERE LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENT



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“Most of them are here to contribute, to do work and to live here, move their families here and live a good life, but you do have that segment of society that’s coming here to be predators and prey on the most vulnerable, traffic drugs,” said Knecht.

Despite the city’s rapid growth and shadow population moving back and forth, Knecht said the fact that violent crime has gone up only 1.4 per cent is a sign that the city police violence reduction strategy is working.

In response to the city’s record-breaking 48 homicides in 2011, Knecht introduced the violence reduction strategy. The plan focuses on four priority areas – alcohol and drugs, weapons, distressed communities and social disorder.

Since then, the number of assaults have been relatively stable, along with robberies. Homicides have also been trending down rapidly.

When Knecht arrived in Edmonton in 2011, the city recorded 48 homicides. Now that number is at the average of 25 to 30 per year.

“I think that’s part of the aggressive violence reduction strategy, where we focused on prolific offenders and that’s paid huge dividends,” said Knecht, adding police have received tremendous cooperation from the community that’s helped solve crimes.

“We get so much help from people giving us licence plate numbers, descriptions.”

Two areas that remain a concern for Knecht are domestic violence and sexual assaults. Every weekend, six to seven serious sex assaults are reported in the city. Police have seen a steady rise in both crimes during the last few years, sparking a number of public awareness campaigns.

(Edmonton Sun)

Dec 29 2014

ORILLIA - After three decades with the OPP, Insp. Malcolm Quigley is hanging up his cap.

The 52-year-old commander of Orillia’s detachment retires Dec. 31.



“I joined at the age of 21, so I was a baby,” he said. “This is almost 31 years, and it’s been a great ride, but I think it’s time to get off and try something different and allow young men and women opportunities to come in and experience things that I’ve had the good fortune of doing.”

Born in Brantford and raised a “big-city boy” in Oakville, Quigley preferred policing “small-town Ontario” where front-line officers can develop connections with residents.

“Working with the community is a big part of what the OPP do,” he added.

Quigley is most proud of a community mobilization foot-patrol strategy that was adopted in early June.

It encourages greater interaction between officers and the public, with the aim of identifying and addressing concerns ranging

from property crime to drugs.

“Everybody has information,” he said. “That is how we prevent crime, that is how we solve crime, and more importantly, that is how we can help people.”

Mayor Steve Clarke and councillors Ralph Cipolla and Pat Hehn – all members of the police board – will participate on a joint selection committee for a new detachment commander, with individuals nominated by the OPP commissioner.

(Orillia Today)

Dec 29 2014

SURREY, B.C. - The death of a distraught man in a grocery store in Surrey is prompting renewed scrutiny of police training and the jurisdiction’s unusual policy of allowing transit officers to carry guns.

Transit police responded Sunday to a call about a disturbance in a Safeway store in the north Surrey community of Whalley. The officers fired their guns at a man who later died of his injuries.

B.C.’s police watchdog, the Independent Investigations Office, is investigating the shooting and is releasing few details. But on Monday, Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner said she wants to target the root causes of crime, including mental health and addiction.

“We can see even some of the recent examples (have) elements of mental health attached to them,” she told reporters at a news conference.

Hepner called for a new mental health facility in either a hospital or stand-alone building. She also said she has increased Car 67 teams, which respond to mental health incidents and are made up of an RCMP officer and a psychiatric nurse.

The newly-elected Surrey mayor was responding to a recent spate of crime in the city, including the murders of two teenagers in separate attacks.

Metro Vancouver’s transit police became the first of its kind in Canada to carry guns in 2005. Transit police have the authority to conduct investigations, enforce outstanding warrants and make arrests outside transit property. They receive the same amount of training as all other B.C. officers, including in firearms handling and mental health.

Spokeswoman Anne Drennan said it’s “completely appropriate” for transit police to carry guns.

“We deal with the exact same kinds of situations that municipal officers do, and in some cases more situations that are extremely volatile,” she said.

Drennan said transit officers received a call at about 8 a.m. Sunday that a man had gone behind the counter of a convenience store just 300 metres from Surrey Central SkyTrain station and demanded a knife.

Officers then responded to the disturbance inside the nearby Safeway after hearing about it on RCMP radio. She said she could not comment on what occurred inside the store due to the IIO’s investigation.

B.C. Attorney General Suzanne Anton was unavailable Monday for an interview. A spokesman with the Ministry of Justice said

that in response to growing concerns about police interacting with people in crisis, the province has made training in this area a “priority.”

In 2012 the province launched a new mental health training program for all officers in B.C. that consists of a four-hour online course and seven hours of classroom instruction. Officers are trained to identify mental health disorders, build a rapport and use calming techniques.

A Mental Health Commission of Canada report published in June 2014 said B.C.’s training model “appears to be a successful learning program.”

(CKNW)

Dec 29 2014

ANAHIM LAKE, B.C. - Six people have been charged with offences ranging from first-degree murder to manslaughter following a double homicide in British Columbia’s northern Interior on Boxing Day.

Two men were found dead late Friday night in a rural residence in the small community of Anahim Lake, located roughly 400 kilometres northwest of Vancouver.

Investigators have released few details about what happened. They have not said how the two men died, nor have they speculated on a potential motive.

Tyreman said it appears the victims knew their attackers, though he did not elaborate.

“The only information I have is that these people were known to each other,” he said.

Anahim Lake, which is west of Williams Lake and east of Bella Coola, is home to about 360 people, according to a provincial government travel website.

Dec 29 2014

CALGARY - For the wounded and broken who come to this fourth-floor office in northwest Calgary, from newborns up to age 18, this is their safe haven.

The waiting area is known as Child Space and there are toys and games to share, books to read and videos to watch. It is a comforting room with natural lighting and expansive views of downtown Calgary and the Rocky Mountains. And it’s here that more than 95 professionals – from members of the Calgary Police Service and the RCMP to Crown prosecutors; from health experts to child services – work together to assess, treat and seek justice for physically and sexually abused children.

While there are other centres in Canada helping kids, the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre is unsurpassed in scope and efficiency with its highly co-ordinated, fast-track approach that eliminates bureaucratic hurdles to do what is best for children, 24/7. This approach is drawing interest from across the country as all levels of government seek better ways to address a costly problem.

“If we can reach kids and deal with the abuse now, we’ve got a better chance of turning their life around,” Kennedy says.

Here’s how it works: Each morning at the

centre, representatives from the on-site organizations review new referrals reported to the Calgary Police Service, RCMP, Child and Family Services and Alberta Health Services. Following this triage meeting, case plans are developed with police and child protection and health services, and include the initial interview with the child.

As the child is being interviewed by one police officer, another officer and a Crown prosecutor watch via a monitor in an adjacent room and are able to feed additional relevant questions so the child is only interviewed once.

Once the interview is over, the child is taken to a small room filled with toys, stuffed animals and Calgary Flames merchandise. "We tell them, 'You're welcome to select and bring home whatever you like,'" says Detective Andy Nguyen, one of two officers assigned to the centre. "It gives the child control."

The Sheldon Kennedy centre not only has services assembled in the same location, but changes to the province's Children First Act made it possible for those services to share information. It's a radical shift that both protects the child's privacy and prevents revictimization.

"When I was in the Child Abuse Unit, the police would do their interviews with the child. The social workers would do their own interview. Then I'd contact the clinician ... then they would contact a physician. Each agency had its own policy procedures for sharing information. And every time a child is asked what happened, it retraumatizes them," Nguyen explains.

"We operate by putting children in the centre, then building around them and their needs," says Bonnie Johnston, the Sheldon Kennedy centre's chief executive officer. Since its opening in 2013, the centre has seen an average of 122 a month.

Dr. Amy Ornstein, medical director of the Child Protection Team at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, hopes to emulate the approach at the Sea Star Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.

In October, Sea Star received \$339,000 from the federal Department of Justice to bring health and police services together, making it the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada. "In Nova Scotia, the Department of Community Services and law enforcement were already working together with joint protocol. It just wasn't broad enough," Ornstein says.

With 10 specialists, the Sea Star program has seen 360 children in less than two years. The goal is to reach even more.

"There's no question there's a need for this," Ornstein adds.

Kevin Berube can attest to that. He is the director of treatment services with the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, which works with 31 First Nations communities in Northern Ontario. He was contacted by the Ministry of the Attorney-General's Ontario Victims Service Secretariat and asked to conduct "a needs assessment for a CAC."

With a feasibility report completed, the health authority is now preparing a proposal for the development of a child and youth

advocacy centre, which Berube hopes would receive some of the \$10.5-million in federal funds allotted in 2010 for "new or enhanced Child Advocacy Centres."

"The Sheldon Kennedy centre is a model that can be used in other parts of the country in the development of new Child Advocacy Centres," Berube says. "We're hoping that the federal government will consider full or partial funding for a CAC, but we're not at that stage yet."

While Calgary has set a high standard for CACs in Canada, it is not a finished project. To further improve how it operates, and to set transferable standards for measuring success, the Calgary centre has brought in

management-consulting firm KPMG. In March, representatives from advocacy centres across the country will convene in Calgary with Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre representatives to establish national CAC standards for child interviews.

Kennedy himself continues delivering speeches and connecting with business leaders, telling them that what works in Calgary can work elsewhere – and should.

"This was about creating a different culture, a different environment, a different practice and a different outcome for kids," Kennedy insists.

"You have to keep pushing all the time."
(Globe and Mail)



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Dec 30 2014

TORONTO - Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair says he's "optimistic" about the force under a new board, and is making plans for his own future after policing - saying he'd like to continue serving the public and is not ruling out the possibility of a career in politics.



Chief Blair made the comments in a year-end interview with *The Globe and Mail*, where he reflected on his handling of some of the year's biggest events and described learning in July that the police board had decided not to renew his contract for a third term, revealing that he was given just one minute to prepare before it was announced publicly.

"I'm optimistic about the future," Chief Blair said on recent changes to the police board. After his election, Mayor John Tory appointed himself, along with city councillors Chin Lee and Shelley Carroll, to the seven-member board. That move was intended to address months of simmering tensions between the board, chief and union.

"I don't think it's appropriate for the chief of police to comment on the function or dysfunction of the board," the chief said Tuesday. "But I can tell you from my experience that good governance is a prerequisite to good policing."

He said that such governance will be necessary in the coming months - his last four months as chief - as the board is tasked with resolving three major issues facing the force: completing the police budget process, contract negotiations and finding a new chief.

As for his own future, the chief said his focus remains on the force, but acknowledged that he's begun "making plans" beyond April, when his contract runs out.

"I have spent my life in public service. I am going to try to find a way to continue to serve," the chief said Tuesday.

A Liberal Party source told *The Globe* that senior party strategists have discussed recruiting Chief Blair as a candidate for the coming federal election, though it is unclear whether the chief has been involved in or is aware of these discussions. A separate Liberal source said, "as far as I know, everyone wants Chief Blair."

The chief also said Tuesday that even as he put in his request in late July for a third

term, he knew there was a good chance he'd be told no.

"It was a political decision, and I was familiar with the political environment in which the decision would be made," Chief Blair said - a reference to tensions between several of the board members and the chief leading up to the decision.

He also shed new light on the manner in which the board's decision was made public, saying that when board chair Alok Mukherjee called to tell him, he gave the chief just one minute to prepare before announcing it publicly.

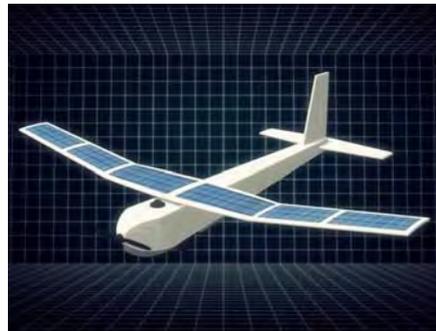
"I received a phone call from the chair advising me that they had a special meeting and made a decision, and they were going to release a press release in one minute stating that I was not going to be renewed," the chief said.

He quickly called his family to notify them.

(*Globe and Mail*)

Dec 30 2014

The RCMP is exploring an array of uses for unmanned aircraft - from aerial traffic surveillance to reconnaissance missions during hostage crises to perimeter security at major events - and some divisions appear willing to pay big bucks for new drone technology, internal documents show.



Mounties in Alberta are looking at acquiring a fixed-wing drone - costing at least \$350,000 - to respond to search and rescue missions and other emergencies.

But the expanded use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are raising concerns about "mission creep" among privacy advocates and with regulators at Transport Canada who, according to the documents, have recorded "airspace violations" by some police agencies.

Drones have become increasingly popular among hobbyists, businesses and the police. The RCMP's 60-plus drones are used primarily for aerial photographs to aid in collision investigations and the reconstruction of car accidents.

But documents obtained by Ottawa researcher Ken Rubin through access-to-information laws show that uses are expanding.

In January, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's security detail got a demonstration of a UAV's "capabilities for perimeter security," according to the documents. The

demonstration took place at Meech Lake in Gatineau Park in Quebec.

Drones could also be used to support emergency response teams during hostage takings or incidents involving barricaded individuals. UAVs can conduct a "reconnaissance of the emergency situation by taking video and still shots... pinpointing danger areas and locating potential safe entry routes," says an RCMP report.

Mounties in Alberta are considering the purchase of at least one fixed-wing drone capable of "long endurance flights" for search-and-rescue missions and natural disaster response, the documents show. Unlike the current fleet of RCMP drones, which are typically rotor-propelled and cost tens of thousands of dollars each, fixed-wing drones cost \$350,000 to \$1 million.

Mark Hovdestad, base manager of the RCMP Edmonton Air Section, said in an interview that the division is looking for funding sources for one fixed-wing drone to use on a trial basis. If the pilot project goes well, they could end up getting a handful of them.

Hovdestad acknowledged that the units are not cheap. But for complex missions, an aircraft is needed that can stay in the air longer and carry larger, more sophisticated cameras, he said. "You won't get that out of a hobby store."

One model Hovdestad is eyeing is the Puma, a UAV with a three-metre wingspan made by California-based AeroVironment, Inc. The Puma is used by the U.S. military, as well as by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for environmental management and wildlife observation and by oil giant British Petroleum (BP) in Alaska to get 3-D images of pipelines and other infrastructure, said Steve Gitlin, AeroVironment's vice-president of marketing.

Transport Canada requires that UAVs be flown in the line of sight. But internal RCMP emails show that some members believe this could change in the future.

In an email to a colleague in April, Hovdestad wrote that Pumas would be "capable of taking us beyond line of sight when that becomes our reality."

In another email, members of K Division's traffic services team wrote that five years from now, fixed-wing drones could be used to monitor the roads for reckless drivers from 1,000 feet in the air, where they would be "virtually invisible."

RCMP policy states that UAVs "shall not be used for surveillance of persons or vehicles except in exigent circumstances where there is an imminent risk to life or safety." The policy further states that UAVs "may be used as an investigative aid when there is no expectation of privacy or when required judicial authorizations have been obtained."

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Greg Cox said Tuesday an example of an exigent circumstance would be an active-shooter scenario. Asked if the RCMP would ever use UAVs to monitor a large public protest, Cox



said, "it would depend on situational factors and available intelligence."

The RCMP documents state that the force has so far seen no need to carry out a privacy impact assessment of its use of UAVs. Cox said one was not required because of the restrictions the RCMP has imposed on their use.

The documents also reveal that Transport Canada officials have expressed "great concerns" about UAVs being operated without direct oversight from aviation experts and that some police agencies have committed "airspace violations."

Transport Canada has "clearly communicated their preference" for a structured UAV program versus an ad hoc approach, the documents say.

Transport Canada spokeswoman Andrea Moritz was unable to provide any information Tuesday about the violations. "Police forces, like any other UAV operator must comply with Transport Canada regulations and obtain a (permit)," she said.

(Postmedia News)

Dec 30 2014

SURREY - They are usually out on the road to catch people who drink and drive, but tonight Surrey RCMP will also be rewarding drivers who chose to get their friends and family home safely.

Officers will be handing out \$2 coffee cards to people who identify as designated drivers during tonight's enforcement campaign.

They call it "positive ticketing."

"Too many innocent people are being injured or killed in collisions related to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs," says Surrey RCMP Cpl. Bert Paquet. "We are looking forward to being able to reward people who are choosing to be designated drivers."

With New Year's Eve celebrations coming up, the Surrey RCMP and the Fraser Valley Integrated Road Safety Unit (IRSU) are partnering with ICBC for the unusual campaign.

Alexa's Bus, a new mobile impaired driving education and enforcement vehicle dedicated to the memory of four-year-old Alexa Middelaer who was killed by a drunk driver in 2008, may be at the road check site as well.

Mounties are reminding revelers to plan for a designated driver, call a taxi, take transit or use Operation Red Nose before heading out.

Operation Red Nose, which gets

volunteers to drive a person's vehicle home for them, is still looking for volunteers this holiday season.

(Global News)

Dec 30 2014

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - The Prince Albert police have laid a criminal charge against an officer after a multi-level review and investigation.

In July, they looked into the alleged use of pepper spray by an on-duty female officer against a man being held in their detention area.

Deputy Chief Kelly Stienwand declined to name the officer but says she has been charged with assault with pepper spray.

She has been placed on administrative leave with pay.

Stienwand says the investigation started when "we ourselves reported this alleged conduct of the officer" to the Saskatchewan Public Complaints Commission in July.

He says it was done to ensure an independent review was conducted.

The Ministry of Justice recommended the assault charge.

"This process will balance both the public interest and the fairness for the member until the process takes its course," said Stienwand. "The evidence will be presented in a public forum and she is entitled like anyone else before the courts to a presumption of innocence through that process."

(CKBI)

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Dec 31 2014

EDMONTON - An Edmonton man suspected of killing six adults and two young children before taking his own life was well-known to police and had a lengthy criminal record.

But police Chief Rod Knecht told a news conference late Tuesday night that there is no suggestion of gang involvement and the motive for the "senseless mass murder" appears to have been "planned and deliberate" domestic violence.

"It's terrible for the city," said Knecht. "The scene ... has been described as chaotic, horrific. Particularly when there's children involved, it has a tremendous impact on our folks."

Although he did not release the name of the suspect, Knecht said the man had a criminal record dating back to September 1987 involving drugs and violence.

Cyndi Duong, 37, was fatally shot in a home in south Edmonton on Monday while two men and three women between the ages of 25 and 50, and a girl and a boy - both under the age of 10 - were found dead a few hours later at a home in the northeast.

Investigators have determined the 9 mm handgun used to kill Duong was a registered

weapon that had been stolen in Surrey, B.C., in 2006.

The suspect was found dead by his own hand in a restaurant in the Edmonton bedroom community of Fort Saskatchewan on Tuesday morning.

Autopsies will be conducted on Thursday.

Knecht said it all started when police responded just before 7 p.m. Monday to a report of a man entering the south-side home, opening fire and fleeing. That's where Duong's body was found.

An hour and a half later, officers responded to reports of a suicidal man at a northeast residence, the same home where a man had been arrested in November 2012 and charged with domestic and sexual assault.

Family members reported in the call that the man was "depressed and over-emotional."

When officers arrived, Knecht said, no one answered the door. They searched the exterior of the home but found nothing overtly suspicious and did not go inside.

"We can't just arbitrarily go into that residence," explained the chief. "(Officers) did a walk-round, looked in a window and checked a door."

Hours later police were contacted by a second person and returned to the residence. When they went inside, what they found was carnage.

Neighbour Moe Assiff watched what unfolded as police arrived on scene the second time.

He said a man and a woman sitting outside the house in a white car seemed very concerned. He said he went up to the car and talked to the man to see if everything was OK.

"He looked very shaken up like he had seen a ghost. He paused and he said, 'No, it's personal,'" said Assiff.

He saw officers come out and talk to the woman in the car.

"She just let out a hysterical scream. It was eerie," he said.

"She was screaming about her kids: 'My kids! The kids!,' grabbing her hair and trying to pull her hair out."

The suspect's body was found hours later at the VN Express Asian restaurant in Fort Saskatchewan after police brought in tactical-team officers, surrounded the area and reportedly smashed through the front of the restaurant with a vehicle. The front door of the building was knocked out and pieces of the metal frame hung from above.

Knecht said the man had a business interest in the restaurant, but would not say if he was the owner.

Outside, was parked a black SUV police say was seen near the first shooting is southwest Edmonton.

Alberta Premier Jim Prentice said in a statement that he trusts the police investigation will provide answers as people struggle to understand what happened.

"In this season of peace and goodwill, this act of violence is all the more difficult to comprehend. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those involved

at this very difficult time. May they find strength in knowing that Albertans share in their loss.”

Dec 31 2014

OTTAWA - A man faces several firearms charges following a Boxing Day shooting at an Ottawa mall, the first of three shootings in the city in less than a week.



The record-high level of shootings in the nation’s capital has prompted fears of escalating violence among the city’s gangs.

On Boxing Day, a man in his 20s was treated in hospital after being shot in the foot at the crowded Tanger Outlet Mall in the city’s west end.

Police have said the incident was a targeted shooting and involved members of the same gang.

Yaqoub Ali, 26, was arrested on Tuesday and police say he faces a slew of charges, all firearms offences.

On Monday morning, a man was wounded by gunfire at a downtown intersection and later that day, numerous shots were fired in a suburban neighbourhood and a male under 20 years old was wounded.

The city has now recorded 48 shootings in 2014, up from 30 the year before.

Ottawa police say they made 83 arrests of gang members in 2014 and seized 53 guns, more than half of which were handguns.

Dec 31 2014

TORONTO - Ontario’s police watchdog says it is investigating the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting of a 33-year-old man in Toronto early Wednesday.

The Special Investigations Unit says police responded to a 911 call just after midnight regarding a reported robbery at the Warden subway station.

It says officers arriving at the scene located a man matching the description of the alleged robber outside an address nearby.

The SIU says there was “an interaction” between the officers and the man, and the suspect was fatally shot.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The watchdog agency says it has designated one subject officer and two witness officers.

Eight investigators and three forensic experts have been assigned to the case.

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HENRY HIGHDRIVER
-KESWICK

“That bed was definitely no Sleep Number” USER RATING ★★★★★

Some hotels offer comfortable sleep number beds for their guests. YRP's beds only offer a zero. Zero comfort, zero cushion and zero warmth. Not to mention, I was vastly disappointed with their policies. Most hotels charge after checkout, but I was charged exorbitantly upon arrival. Wouldn't recommend.

OLIVER OVEREIGHTY
-MARKHAM

“Accomdated my dietary preferences” USER RATING ★★★★★

I'm gluten free, which is why I avoided beer on NYE and chose to drink copious amounts of red wine before driving. Thankfully, the staff were kind enough to take the bread off of the egg sandwich for me. Almost made up for the bedroom, which was also the bathroom...and dining area...

DIANE DEATHWISH
-VAUGHAN

“Complimentary shuttle service lacked leg room” USER RATING ★★★★★

The free shuttle to the suite was convenient after my car had been impounded, but it was an uncomfortable ride. Not only was I handcuffed, but once crammed into the back of their car, my knees were up near my chin. Thankfully, the concrete bed in the suite allowed me to stretch out...

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