

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK *Celebrating 20 Years*

A Chronicle of News for the Law Enforcement Community | January 9, 2015 – Vol. 20 No. 2

Executive Digest

Dec 31 2014

LAS VEGAS - A Las Vegas police helicopter crashed on a residential street Wednesday and two police officers were hospitalized with injuries, authorities said.

Page 3

Jan 01 2015

CALGARY - Reaching out to talk with Muslim youth who are at risk of being radicalized isn't enough to stop it from happening, say parents, clerics and police.

Page 2

Jan 05 2015

CALGARY - The arrival of Mexican drug traffickers, along with increased activity by outlaw motorcycle gangs, is changing the face of organized crime in Alberta.

Page 5

Jan 06 2015

VANCOUVER - The failure of Crown prosecutors to press a drug-addicted woman nearly murdered by Robert Pickton to testify against the serial killer has inspired new policy to support vulnerable witnesses.

Page 7

Jan 07 2015

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says it is taking the wait and see approach before moving forward with any plans of their own that would see officers mounted with body cameras.

Page 8

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Toronto suspends controversial carding



Jan 06 2015

TORONTO - A routine order issued Jan. 1 by Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair said carding will be “suspended until further notice,” according to Toronto police spokesperson Meaghan Gray, who said in an email that Blair would not be commenting on the decision until next month.

“The Chief will not be speaking publicly on the issue until he has had an opportunity to discuss it with the Board at the next meeting,” wrote Gray.

The move comes after a December police board meeting at which Mayor John Tory, in his first appearance at the board,

said the continuation of carding was “corrosive in a way that is fundamentally inconsistent with how we do things in Toronto and Canada. And how we live.”

The board passed a motion asking the chief to finalize carding procedures by Feb. 19 that are in line with the board’s new community contacts policy — which passed in April and emphasizes citizen rights, including the right of an individual to walk away from the encounter if the person is not being investigated for a specific crime.

Blair first floated the idea of suspending carding at a PACER advisory committee

THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

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meeting late last year, after he was called in to resolve an impasse between community members and senior police staff, who were resisting writing procedures that were faithful to the board policy.

Police have always defended carding as an invaluable investigative tool, a way to gather information, and PACER committee members said senior officers felt informing citizens of their rights would be a “burden.” The draft procedures also left out a narrow definition of when police could card, which was mandated by the board.

(Toronto Star)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 30, 2014

Dec 30 2014

VANCOUVER - Vancouver police officers spent more time than ever before in 2014 dealing with people who struggle with a mental illness and/or addiction.

VPD Const. Brian Montague said the department is still reviewing statistics for the end of December but he reported that the final number of VPD apprehensions under Section 28 of the Mental Health Act is going to be right around 3,025.

That’s more than eight arrests a day. It also marks a five-year high for apprehensions made under Section 28 of the Mental Health Act, which permits officers to detain individuals deemed to have a mental disorder and to pose a threat to themselves or others.

According to Montague, in 2013 there were 2,872 such apprehensions, in 2012 there were 2,636, in 2011 there were 2,489, and in 2010 there were 2,278 — an increase of between 100 and 200 per year.

Transit Police, a regional authority

responsible for areas covered by Trans-Link services, has reported a similar increase in interactions with people experiencing mental-health issues.

(Vancouver Straight)

Dec 30 2014

Nationwide, 126 US law enforcement officers died in the line of duty in 2014, including 50 officers killed by firearms, according to an annual report released Tuesday.

The 2014 figures represent a jump from last year’s historically low tallies, when 102 officers died, including 32 by firearms, but remain below the previous decade’s average, according to the report from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

On average, 166 officers died in the line of duty, including 57 killed by firearms, in the first decade of the millennium, said Craig W. Floyd, the fund’s chairman.

After firearm deaths, the second-leading cause of death in 2014 was traffic-related incidents, the report said, taking the lives of 49 officers.

California, the nation’s most populous state, led the country in officer fatalities with 14, according to the report. Texas saw 11 officers die in the line of duty, and New York had nine, which includes two officers assassinated as they sat in their squad car this month.

Floyd said he was alarmed by the 15 officer deaths that came as a result of ambushed attacks with a firearm, which matches 2012 as the most ambush attacks in a single year since 1995.

Floyd was particularly worried that more shooters could be inspired by high-profile killings, including those motivated by anti-government or anti-police sentiment. He noted the ambush killing of two Las Vegas officers at a pizza shop in June; the September shooting of two Pennsylvania state troopers, one of whom died; and the slaying of the two New York police officers Dec. 20.

“We are worried that the types of criminals the officers are having to confront are more brazen and cold-blooded than ever before,” he said.

Though police shootings jumped this year, they have been on the decline for decades, according to the report and law enforcement experts. The average number of officers shot and killed has decreased from 127 per year in the 1970s, to 87 in the 1980s, 68 in the 1990s, and 57 in the 2000s, according to the report.

The drop in deaths coincides with an increasing number of officers wearing soft-body armor, departments establishing specialized SWAT teams, and faster medical response times, said William Terrill, a criminal justice professor at Michigan State University.

Those advances have led to a small number of police deaths relative to the number of sworn officers in the country, which Terrill estimates at 800,000.

Terrill said he feared the uptick of shootings and ambushes in 2014 could further ingrain an “us versus them” mentality among

some police officers. “Police officers will be more apt to be more suspicious of citizens and that may cause them to be more aggressive,” he said.

Terrill said that as officer deaths have been on the decline, shootings by police officers have been on the rise, according to data voluntarily submitted by local police agencies to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

There were 461 justifiable homicides by law enforcement officers in 2013, according to the data, up from the mid to high 300s during the 2000s. But the data are incomplete because departments volunteer the information, Terrill said, and the actual number of police shootings is likely much higher.

(New York Times)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31, 2014

Dec 31 2014

TORONTO - With a grief-stricken family looking on, Toronto police investigators released the fifth and final set of clues in a ground-breaking social media campaign meant to dredge up leads about the suspects in the stabbing death of 24-year-old Mike Pimentel in Liberty Village on New Year’s 2012.

At a press conference on Wednesday just steps from the murder scene, homicide detectives Tam Bui and Jeff Tavares revealed three grainy CCTV images of a white man of medium height in his 20s with a slim build and short hair who wore a fur-trimmed hoodie and white shoes on the night of the attack. Mr. Pimentel and some friends had been at the Liberty Grand and were heading back to an apartment.

“Think about who you were with in the Liberty Village area, think about who you saw that evening,” said Det. Tavares, who added the investigators want to hear from people across Canada. “Try to think back and see if you remember this man.”

The images posted on social media on Wednesday were the latest, and most explicit, bits of evidence made public by Det. Bui over the past 2 1/2 weeks in an investigative effort that drew comparisons to the popular podcast Serial and has attracted international attention.

Police have tweeted photos of objects found in the area – a blond hair extension, a pocket-knife, a stylized key chain and a pair of high-heeled pumps – as well as an image of a woman in a short skirt. The tweets, with the accompanying #mikepimentelmurder hashtag, have been widely disseminated.

The decision to post the suspect’s image on New Year’s Eve is not just about marking the third anniversary of the crime. Det. Tavares pointed out that people come in to the city from all over Southern Ontario and even across the country to celebrate, and the publicity is intended to reach the same kind of broad audience.

“It’s quite possible this couple or an individual has come in from somewhere else,”

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK Celebrating 20 Years

ISSN 1704-3913

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

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added Det. Bui, who declined to comment on whether investigators obtained useful DNA samples from the hair extension.

While Mr. Pimentel was murdered three years ago, the investigation was active until last summer, when Det. Bui's team "exhausted a number of leads." Working with the Toronto Police Service's corporate communications and social media strategists, Det. Bui decided to aim for a media blitz for New Year's.

He also solicited advice from Twitter Canada executives about social media tactics. The tweets have featured photos, hashtags and leading questions. "Chris last saw Mike piggybacking a blond woman north on Dufferin from this bridge," according to one. "Who is she, what did she see?"

Det. Bui, who is a devoted Serial fan as well as a voracious reader of detective novels, even tweeted the Scottish crime writer Ian Rankin for thoughts on what his fictionalized gumshoe, Detective Inspector John Rebus, might do. "Hmm," replied the best-selling author. "I have mixed feelings. Might be a lot of dreck to sift through. On the other hand, last chance saloon."

The high-profile campaign has generated a wave of feedback on Twitter and to Det. Bui's e-mail account, including benign details about the items in the photos, as well as more specific leads and likely red herrings. "Frankly, we've created a lot of work for ourselves," he said in an interview.

With the final clue out there, investigators on the case noted that they will likely go silent now as they sift through the tips. But Constable Scott Mills, who established the TPS social media presence several years ago, said he is pleased with the attention that has been generated around a stubborn cold case. "What Detective Tam Bui is doing is a dream of mine."

(Globe and Mail)

Dec 31 2014

LAS VEGAS - A Las Vegas police helicopter crashed on a residential street Wednesday and two police officers were hospitalized with injuries, authorities said.



It wasn't immediately clear what caused the Hughes 530 helicopter to go down just before 1:30 p.m. northeast of downtown Las Vegas.

The aircraft didn't catch fire, and the Federal Aviation Administration reported that the injuries to the two people aboard the aircraft weren't life-threatening.

Police Officer Laura Meltzer said there were no reports that anyone on the ground was hurt.

The wreckage came to rest in a neighbourhood

of single-story homes.

At least one of the four main rotor blades appeared to be missing and a landing skid broke, leaving the white helicopter with a red tail and green and gold stripes incapacitated in the street.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor in Los Angeles said the agency would investigate the crash.

It wasn't immediately known if weather was a factor. The crash happened on a cold day with overcast skies and occasional snow flurries in mountain elevations, but no flakes accumulated in the downtown and Las Vegas Strip area. Winds were light, about 16 km/h.

The helicopter is one of five operated by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

The Hughes is routinely used for patrol and as an aerial observation platform.

(AP)

Dec 31 2014

If there's one company that's gotten a bit of good press from the Sony Corp. hacking scandal, it's BlackBerry Ltd.

The beleaguered entertainment company dug up old BlackBerrys to use after Sony's computers and landlines went down and company e-mail was unusable after a cyber-attack that began last month, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The emergence of the old devices as a haven for Sony executives has served as a free advertisement of sorts and bolstered BlackBerry Chief Executive Officer John Chen's focus on security to win government and business customers. The fact that Sony had to unearth devices long relegated to storage also highlighted that BlackBerry's share of the global smartphone market has fallen to less than one percent as iPhones and Android devices have gained ground.

"It's proven that BlackBerry devices and the server are a lot more secure than any other solutions out there commercially available," Chen said in a CNBC interview Dec. 19.

He declined to comment on whether Sony would have been protected against the hackers if it had been using BlackBerry's services because he didn't know the specifics of the attacks. Representatives for BlackBerry didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Data on a BlackBerry is encrypted and secured on the device, and the Waterloo, Ontario-based company operates a network of servers on behalf of its clients.

The cyber-attack that crippled the computers at Sony's entertainment division stemmed from the studio's film "The Interview" - a farcical comedy about a US TV crew that is recruited to kill North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

While it's not completely clear who carried out the attacks or how they gained entry to Sony's confidential documents and correspondence, the FBI has linked the hacking group to North Korea.

(Bloomberg News)

THURSDAY
JANUARY 1, 2015

Jan 01 2015

CALGARY - Reaching out to talk with Muslim youth who are at risk of being radicalized isn't enough to stop it from happening, say parents, clerics and police.

Those leading the charge against radicalization say more has to be done to find and deal with the recruiters who convince vulnerable young people to give up their personal belongings, follow the teachings of the Islamic State and even travel overseas to fight and die on its behalf.

"There is something going on behind the scenes which is hidden. Unless we know the hand that is behind this recruitment it will be almost impossible to stop this recruitment and this radicalization," says Calgary Imam Syed Soharwardy, the founder of Muslims Against Terrorism and the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada.

"I have no doubt that there are people in this country who are facilitating and funding the travel to Syria and Iraq. Those people need to be exposed. We just blame the Internet and social media, but I think that is very shortsighted."

A handful of Calgary youth have already reportedly gone to the Middle East to fight for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The federal government's annual national security report said at the start of 2014, it knew of more than 130 individuals who were abroad and suspected of terror-related activities. About 30 people with Canadian connections were suspected of terror activities in Syria.

Calgary's deputy police chief says his department has had success working with Muslim groups to find young people who are "vulnerable." But Trevor Daroux agrees it is essential to find the people who are influencing those most at risk.

"There has to be concerted efforts to find and identify those who are ... trying to exploit others through radicalization. The partnerships within the law enforcement community are really the answer to that," Daroux says.

"Calgary, as well as every other city in this country and around the world, has to be very much aware that there are those individuals who will actively, face-to-face, try and radicalize those individuals."

Jan 01 2015

CALGARY - Police say a person wounded in mass shooting at a New Year's house party in Calgary has died in hospital.

Police say an autopsy will be done Friday and the person's identity won't be released until then.

Six others suffered injuries that range what police describe as minor to serious.

Those shot include both male and female who are in their 20s or 30s.

Calgary police are trying to speak to as

many witnesses as possible to piece together what led to the shootings.

Police say they don't know how many suspects are involved nor do they have any idea of motive.

FRIDAY JANUARY 2, 2015

Jan 02 2015

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says a female officer was injured after being dragged by a fleeing vehicle while responding to a break and enter.

Police say the incident occurred after officers responded to an alarm in St. John's around 5:20 a.m. today.

Police say a suspect was inside, but left the building and jumped into a vehicle parked nearby.

An officer tried to stop the vehicle, but it drove off and dragged her to a nearby intersection where she managed to break free.

Police say the officer was taken to hospital where she is listed in stable condition.

Her injuries are reported as not life-threatening.

Jan 02 2015

EDMONTON - What was it that made Phu Lam so angry that he killed eight people?

The Edmonton maintenance man had been accused two years ago of abusing his wife and lashing out when he realized their eight-year-old son wasn't his biological offspring. He shot them both Sunday, along with other members of his wife's family, including a three-year-old niece. Yet he spared two other children who had also been in the north-side home - his toddler daughter and an infant nephew.

Lam dropped the two kids off at a relative's home the next day, then visited with other family before driving to another house to kill one last target. When that person wasn't at home, he shot dead an innocent woman who happened to be there.

Police revealed the details Friday and said they are still working to piece together the complex case and explain what turned 53-year-old Lam into a cold-blooded killer. All they can say for now is that it involved domestic troubles.

Court documents show Thuy Tien Truong, 35, had tried to escape her marriage to Lam before.

He had emigrated from Vietnam in 1979 and was visiting his home country when he met Truong in a coffee shop in 2000. They married six months later and she came to Canada in 2003.

Truong said in a 2012 application for an emergency protection order that her husband became controlling shortly after she landed here. Lam changed her phone number because he didn't want her to have friends. He wanted to choose her clothes. He didn't want

her to work, but she got a job anyway.

Then he hit her. Once, he choked her so hard she thought she was going to die, she said. He threatened to kill her if she called police.

Truong said in the document that she was so unhappy she had sex once with another man. Lam became suspicious and a DNA test proved that their son, Elvis, was not his.

Lam planned "to actually kill off her whole family and he was going to look for a gun, but no one would sell it to him," a court interpreter said while translating Truong's testimony during an emergency protection hearing.

"He asked his ex-wife if she could find him a gun ... but the ex-wife told him not to do it because he has two kids with his ex-wife too."

The protection order was granted. It was revoked two months later when Truong failed to show up at court. Criminal charges against Lam - assault, sexual assault and uttering threats - were stayed. Prosecutors have said she and other witnesses recanted their stories.

The couple eventually had another child, but other court documents filed when Lam declared bankruptcy indicate they separated as early as February 2013. Police said they were trying to determine if Lam and Truong were still living together. Lam was listed as the owner of the home and police said he probably had a key.

Acting deputy chief Mark Neufeld told reporters Friday that autopsies confirmed that all eight victims were shot to death, but he refused to give further details.

He said investigators have received valuable help from the Vietnamese community, but added they may never fully understand why Lam exploded to violently.

"We struggle to try to put some sense to something like this," Neufeld said.

"We will chase down everything we can to try to find out the reasons why, because I think it's important.

"But at the end of the day you try to impart rational thought into an irrational act and, a lot of times, it just never comes."

Jan 02 2015

GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta. - Alberta's police watchdog has taken over the investigation of the fatal shooting of a robbery suspect.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says Mounties in Grande Prairie were called to a report of an armed robbery at a convenience store early Friday.

They confronted a man at the scene, shot him, and he died later in hospital.

RCMP say the man was 19 and that he was armed.

Police say no one else was injured.

Jan 02 2015

CALGARY - While we're not quite living in the era of bionic coppers just yet, technology did take a front and centre role in the tools used by Calgary's Finest in 2014.

And there's no sign of that stopping: Intelligence-based software, facial recognition

tools and body-worn cameras will continue to see play in 2015.

Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson says he's very excited to see the future is now.

"Technology is not going to slow down and we can't afford to slow down," he says.

Hanson says the intelligence-based software allows what would have taken analysts days to be done in a fraction of the time.

The force's new facial recognition software spares people holding a suspect picture up to a suspect and squinting between the two, instead automating the process.

As for body-worn cameras, Hanson admits that one's maybe a bit more controversial, but he stands by their integration, pointing south of the border.

"It's put us slightly ahead of the wave that's sure to come," he says.

"There's still resistance, but the resistance now is starting to look pretty insignificant compared to the value of body-worn cameras."

(Sun Media)

Jan 02 2015

EDMONTON - The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is investigating after a 19-year-old was shot and killed by police in Grande Prairie.

Grande Prairie RCMP say officers responded to a reported armed robbery at a convenience store at around 1 a.m. Friday. When they arrived, officers were involved in a confrontation with the suspect. He was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds and later died.

ASIRT says the 19-year-old had a replica handgun at the time of the incident.

"It actually looks like a real firearm," said Sue Hughson, Executive Director of ASIRT. "If you compare it to the firearms that our officers carry, it's very similar."

"Whether it's capable of firing anything or not, we will determine as our investigation continues."

No one else was injured.

ASIRT is still investigating the circumstances that resulted in the shooting.

(Global News)

SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2015

Jan 04 2015

SURREY, B.C. - Mounties in the Metro Vancouver city of Surrey, B.C., say three police cruisers have been rammed by a stolen vehicle but nobody has been hurt and a suspect is in custody.

The incident took place just before noon Sunday in an area between the town centres of Newton and Whalley.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Murray Hedderson says police were looking for the vehicle because its occupants had been observed breaking into parked automobiles in another area of the city.

He says officers found it, but as more members arrived in the area, the stolen vehicle drove off, ramming three police cars and severely damaging two of them.

Hedderson says while the passenger fled

the vehicle before it stopped, the 23-year-old driver was arrested at the scene and will appear in court on Monday.

Police are looking for those who may have had property stolen from their vehicles as well as witnesses of the collision.

MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2015

Jan 05 2015

GOULDS, N.L. - Police say another Newfoundland officer has been dragged by a vehicle while trying to arrest the driver.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says officers spotted a stolen vehicle Sunday night in Goulds.

Police say while attempting to arrest the driver, an officer was dragged a short distance before the driver lost control of the vehicle and flipped.

The officer was not injured.

Police say the vehicle's two occupants were arrested, with the driver facing charges including possession of stolen property, assaulting a police officer and assault with a weapon.

Investigators say the vehicle's passenger was arrested on an outstanding warrant and breach of court orders.

Jan 05 2015

MONTREAL - Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney says 51 criminals on the Canada Border Services Agency's wanted list have been intercepted since the program was set up in 2011.

Blaney says more than 30 of them were identified in the last 12 months.

He told a news conference in Montreal this morning that the agency's program has helped locate 59 individuals in Canada, with 51 being removed.

Blaney also said more than 150 convicted U.S. sex offenders have been denied entry to Canada in the last three years.

Jan 05 2015

CALGARY - The arrival of Mexican drug traffickers, along with increased activity by outlaw motorcycle gangs, is changing the face of organized crime in Alberta.

Mexican cartels have long played a role in exporting narcotics that end up in Canada, but the RCMP's commanding officer in Alberta says the syndicates are now basing people here to import and distribute cocaine and other drugs.

"That's a very interesting development because they've essentially eliminated the middlemen. Those people are directly from Mexico, they're key players in a Mexican cartel who have established themselves in Alberta, and that's a concern," said Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan.

In Calgary, the FOB gang and its rivals, the FOB Killers, had been responsible for bringing large amounts of cocaine into the city. The FOB Killers (FK) were closely

aligned with Vancouver's United Nations gang, which for years sent members to Mexico to do business with the drug cartels.

However, the environment has dramatically changed in recent years: UN gang leader Clay Roueche is serving a 30-year drug trafficking sentence in the United States, and several other key members have been imprisoned or killed — including three murdered in Mexico. In Calgary, a long-running war between FOB and FK was responsible for at least 25 homicides between 2002 and 2009, and many veteran members who haven't been killed are now behind bars in connection with the violence.

A warning by Calgary police in November that Mexican cartels were attempting to establish a foothold was followed a month later by an announcement that authorities had arrested four people allegedly connected to La Familia, a Mexican drug gang. Police said the suspects were supplying drugs in Edmonton, as well as several communities policed by the RCMP: Fort McMurray, Drayton Valley, Lloydminster and Red Deer.

"I do think that says something. I hope that's a trend we can stay on top of," Ryan said. (Calgary Herald)

Jan 05 2015

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - A new police chief in Lethbridge is to be sworn in today during a ceremony at city hall.



Robert Davis was unanimously chosen for the job by the nine-member Lethbridge Regional Police Commission.

Davis is coming from Dryden, Ont., where he was the police chief since 2011.

He replaces Tom McKenzie, who retired in October after more than 38 years of police service.

Jan 05 2015

TORONTO - A 24-year-old Toronto man faces more than a dozen charges in connection to an incident in the city's east end where police allege a plainclothes officer was struck by a stolen vehicle.

The incident happened Dec. 23, when police say plainclothes officers were investigating reports of a stolen vehicle (in the Markham Road and Eglinton Avenue East area).

Police say the officers approached a vehicle parked at an apartment building and that a passenger in the vehicle surrendered without incident.

It's alleged that the driver of the vehicle then drove away, striking one of the officers with the vehicle while fleeing.

The vehicle was found abandoned a short distance away. The officer suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Kirisanth Pathmanathan faces 13 charges, including assaulting a peace officer, assault with intent to resist arrest, assault with a weapon, dangerous driving, theft of a motor vehicle and failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

Jan 05 2015

SASKATOON - Sentencing has been postponed for a Saskatchewan man who admits he killed an officer who was redirecting traffic after a highway accident.

Blaine Thomas Taypotat was to face a sentencing hearing in court today in the death of Justin Knackstedt.

But the defence requested that Taypotat be allowed to participate in a restorative justice process first.

The approach is more in line with traditional aboriginal justice, focuses on healing for victims and offenders and often leads to reduced or no jail time.

Knackstedt, who was 23, was a conservation officer and was run over after he stopped to help following a crash near Saskatoon in May 2013.

Taypotat pleaded guilty in December to manslaughter and impaired driving causing death.

The new sentencing date is April 8. (CJWW)

Jan 05 2015

DAUPHIN, Man. - Two inmates are back in custody after running away from a jail in western Manitoba.

RCMP say two men escaped Sunday night from the Dauphin Correctional Centre by jumping a fence.

Manitoba Corrections officers and RCMP started searching for the pair and recaptured them about an hour later.

The wind chill at the time was around -40 C.

Skyler Cook, who is 20, and Courtney Miles, who is 23, have each been charged with escaping lawful custody and were to appear in court Monday.

They were originally being held on charges including robbery, mischief, and possession of a weapon.

Jan 05 2015

BARRIE, Ont. - Police in Barrie, Ont., say a waitress won't be getting a nearly \$99,000 tip left by a patron.

Police say they were called to a downtown bar on Sunday night because a man was having difficulty paying his bill.

Police say the man bought a sandwich and after paying the \$7 cost, left the waitress a tip of \$98,931.87.

Investigators say the 35-year-old Angus, Ont., man was found to be intoxicated in violation of a recognizance and was held for a bail hearing.

Unfortunately for the waitress, police say the man's credit card was rejected and thus no tip was left.

Jan 05 2015

VERNON, B.C. - Police have issued a warning after two people died of drug-related deaths while four others overdosed in Vernon, B.C.

RCMP spokesman Gord Molendyk says a 49-year-old man who was known to use drugs died of asphyxiation and a 29-year-old man was found dead in his bed with drug paraphernalia next to him.

He says three other men are recovering in hospital after overdosing and a woman at a shelter overdosed on what's believed to be a mixture of heroin and fentanyl.

Molendyk says all six cases occurred in the last week.

He says there appears to be a potent batch of street drugs and users should be cautious.

He says police are urging friends and family members to speak to drug users about the potential risks involved.

(CICF)

Jan 05 2015

REGINA - Regina Police have asked for an independent investigation into an allegation that officers mistreated a woman who had been taken into custody.

Police say officers found a 16-year-old girl and a 25-year-old woman outside an apartment early Sunday morning.

Officers say the two were extremely intoxicated and the girl was transported to hospital.

Police say they arrested the woman, who had no jacket or shoes, and held her in custody until she was sober.

The woman's mother posted a complaint on Facebook saying her disabled daughter was driven outside the city by officers, had her coat and boots taken away, and was later tortured while in custody.

Police have asked Saskatchewan's Public Complaints Commission to review what happened, including GPS information from the police cruiser and video recorded in the police detention area.

(The Canadian Press, CJME)

Jan 05 2015

VANCOUVER - Drug charges have been laid in British Columbia against two men accused of trying to import 29 kilograms of cocaine from the United States.

RCMP Sgt. Laurie White says the United States Border Patrol notified Surrey Mounties on Nov. 8 about two men wearing camouflage clothing and helmets who crossed the border illegally by foot.

She says members of the Surrey and Langley detachments responded, arresting the two men and seizing the drugs.

White says 39-year-old Victor Peal of Bellingham, Wash., and 24-year-old Kyle Provo of Surrey are charged with importation and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

She says both men are also under

investigation by the Canada Border Services Agency.

RCMP Insp. Rob Parker says the case is another example of the effectiveness of integrated municipal, federal and international policing.

Jan 05 2015

PETERBOROUGH - Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett says a guilty verdict from the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) sends a disturbing message to the province about freedom of expression.

After holding a tribunal in Peterborough last year, the OCPC found Mayor Bennett guilty of 11 counts of misconduct as a member of the police services board. He was suspended from participating on the board in September, 2012 - when the investigation into his behaviour was made public.

He suspects that as a penalty, he'll be removed from the board (which no longer exists) and will be banned from participating on a police services board in the future.

The Peterborough-Lakefield Community Police Service disbanded as of Jan. 1, and is now run solely by the City.

The mayor says he sees the OCPC's decision as an attempt to block an elected official from speaking their mind.

"I have no reservations out expressing either my own opinion, or the stated opinion of council," he says. "That is an important part of what I do."

He adds it's important for residents to remember the City has a responsibility manage all costs on their behalf, including that of policing.

"If I am a conscientious whistleblower, then so be it," he says. "We will always support our police...but we should always do so in ways that permit the interests of taxpayers to trump those of any institution that simply wants to go its own way."

While he says the allegations against him aren't as profound as the question of freedom of speech, since the tribunal dealt mostly with who he communicated with and when, as well as what he said.

"In my opinion, none of these things present any threat to the integrity of the normal discourse we enjoy in a democratic society and none of these should rise to place a chill on any elected official who wishes to speak his or her mind."

Mayor Bennett isn't able to say whether he'll appeal the OCPC's verdict, since he's still reviewing their decision, which is detailed in an 80-page document.

However, the previous council did approve a number of recommendations that were sent to Queen's Park regarding how similar situations are dealt with in the future, including the need to challenge closed-door meetings and maintain innocence of the accused until proven guilty.

"We have heard nothing of our request and I doubt that we will," Mayor Bennett says.

(Peterborough This Week)

TUESDAY
JANUARY 6, 2015

Jan 06 2015

EDMONTON - Mounties have again apologized to the family of an Alberta woman killed by her drunk boyfriend despite a 9-1-1 call for help.

Superintendent Jodie Boudreau made the apology yesterday - the same day an inquiry report into Brenda Moreside's killing was released.

Moreside dialled 9-1-1 in February, 2005 to say her boyfriend, Stan Willier, had broken into the home through a window and wanted him out.

The operator who took the call argued with Moreside, who had been drinking, and didn't pass important information to Mounties in High Prairie.

A junior officer tasked with the case decided it wasn't necessary to intervene in the couple's dispute and didn't go to their home.

Twelve days later, acting on a tip, officers found the 44-year-old woman dead in her pyjamas near the door of the house.

Boudreau says Mounties want the family to know police have put more checks and balances in place to ensure what happened to Moreside never happens again.

Provincial court Judge James Wheatley listed seven recommendations in his fatality report, but said many have already been addressed.

Wheatley added that civilian operators are much more educated now and the calls they take are scrutinized more.

He also said Alberta's police risk and threat assessment centre should continue to be funded, noting training has diminished over the years as police turn their attention to an increase in gang and property crime.

Jan 06 2015

DRYDEN - The Dryden Police Service has a new interim police chief.

Derek West, a former officer with the Thunder Bay Police Service, was sworn in on Monday on an interim basis as the Dryden Police Services Board conducts a search for a permanent replacement for former Chief Rob Davis, who has moved to Lethbridge, Alta., for a similar enforcement position.

Members of city council, local police, the Thunder Bay Police Service, Treaty Three Police Service, Anishinaabe Aski Police Service and Ontario Provincial Police attended the swearing in ceremony to welcome West to Dryden.

(Chronicle Journal)

Jan 06 2015

OTTAWA - An internal audit says better oversight, training, and detection technology are needed to keep illicit drugs and other contraband from slipping into the country in air cargo.

The Canada Border Services Agency audit says the findings are significant because

commercial air cargo accounts for about one-quarter of all arriving shipments.

The auditors say there is no national electronic system for recording the results of aircraft examinations.

In addition, the availability and usefulness of tools to help with examinations vary across the country.

The audit, dated last July, was only recently made public.

Portions of the document were considered too sensitive to release.

Jan 06 2015

VANCOUVER - The failure of Crown prosecutors to press a drug-addicted woman nearly murdered by Robert Pickton to testify against the serial killer has inspired new policy to support vulnerable witnesses.

B.C.'s criminal justice branch has implemented a series of new regulations that will help victims participate in criminal prosecutions, fulfilling a key recommendation made by the public inquiry looking into Vancouver's missing women.

A 1997 trial against Pickton that may have stopped his killing rampage years earlier was called off when the Crown decided the woman he attacked was unreliable as a witness because she was a heroin addict.

The new policy recognizes that for cases involving allegations of serious personal injury, vulnerable victims require ongoing support and their participation in the justice system needs to be encouraged.

Missing women inquiry commissioner Wally Oppal says the new policy is right on, noting a major downfall in the Pickton case was that women distrusted police and that meant authorities sometimes missed crucial information.

Pickton was originally charged with killing 26 women, most of them from Vancouver's impoverished Downtown Eastside, but the remaining charges were stayed when he was convicted of killing six women.

Jan 06 2015

VANCOUVER - A former Mountie convicted of first-degree murder whose parole has repeatedly been suspended or revoked for "being deceitful" has been granted escorted, overnight leave privileges.

Patrick Kelly was convicted in 1983 for throwing his wife off the 17th-floor balcony of their Toronto apartment.

Kelly was originally granted day parole in 2003 and in the years since has had his parole granted and revoked several times for failing to disclose financial dealings or relationships with women.

A board decision dated in November, but just released to the media, says Kelly is manipulative and greedy, has used the Internet to develop female friendships even though he's been banned from computers and continues to push the boundaries with his supervisors.

Despite that, the board concluded that he

doesn't present an undue risk and can remain on day parole, but his request for overnight leaves to attend medical treatments in B.C.'s Lower Mainland will have to be escorted.

Jan 06 2015

EDMONTON - Police and community agencies say the recent mass murder of eight people in Edmonton underlines the need for more public awareness of domestic violence.

Staff Sgt. Sean Armstrong with the Edmonton police domestic offender crimes section told reporters Tuesday that family abuse is "everyone's responsibility" and doctors, neighbours and co-workers need to look for warning signs that someone might be in danger at home.

He also said there are many supports available for victims, if they really want help.

"You don't have to wait until things get out of control to contact someone," said Armstrong. "Don't wait until there's bruises and broken bones. Reach out ... There are plenty of resources to assist you, not just police."

Edmonton police receive about 7,600 calls of domestic violence each year. Armstrong said while that number has remained static, the level of violence seems to be increasing.

The weekend following the mass murder, police received 15 domestic violence calls from across the city. Some involved alcohol and weapons, and in two cases there were very serious injuries, said Armstrong.

Jan 06 2015

SURREY, B.C. - British Columbia's police watchdog says an RCMP dog handler did not break the law when he shot an intoxicated, suicidal Surrey man who fired his shotgun during a confrontation a year ago.

The names of the officer and man were not included in the report by the Independent Investigations Office, which noted the Jan. 17 incident occurred in foggy conditions, in a dimly lit cul-de-sac and near a ravine in the city's north.

IIO chief civilian director Richard Rosenthal says the man wrote a suicide note, said his goodbyes to his family, left his suite armed with the shotgun, waited for police and discharged his weapon before being shot and bitten by the police dog.

He says a toxicology report indicated the man would have been impaired at the time of his death.

Rosenthal says no witnesses saw the shooting, but police and civilians told him what they heard and investigators analyzed radio, video and forensic evidence, so he will not forward a report to Crown counsel.

The officer did not provide a voluntary statement, which was his charter right, and Rosenthal says he decided not to identify anybody involved based on advice from the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 7, 2015

Jan 07 2015

VANCOUVER - The man who led an inquiry into Vancouver's missing women is lauding new provincial guidelines for dealing with vulnerable witnesses.

The new policy states vulnerable victims need ongoing support and their participation in the justice system needs to be encouraged.

The guidelines were driven in part by a witness in the case of serial killer Robert Pickton.

One decade before he was convicted, prosecutors called off an attempted murder trial against him because the witness was a heroin addict and deemed unreliable.

Former missing-women's commissioner Wally Oppal says a major downfall in the Pickton case was that vulnerable women distrusted police.

He says that meant authorities sometimes missed gathering crucial information.

Jan 07 2015

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog has been called in to investigate after an armed man was shot by police responding to a holdup in downtown Toronto.

Authorities say shots were fired during the incident after officers were called to the area for a reported hold-up at a pharmacy.

Police confirm that the province's Special Investigations Unit has been called in.

Officials say the man has gunshot wounds to his torso and leg but there's no immediate word on his condition.

The SIU is called in to investigate incidents involving police where there has been serious injury or death.

Streets in the area were shut down for the investigation.

(680News)

Jan 07 2015

ORILLIA, Ont. - Provincial police say 593 impaired driving charges were laid during the annual holiday season crackdown on impaired driving.

The OPP says it is disappointed to see there was little change from last year, when 587 impaired driving charges were laid during the same period.

A total of 485 warn range suspensions were also issued during the RIDE campaign between Nov. 24 and Jan. 2 this year compared to 504 warning suspensions during the 2013-2014 campaign.

One person died in an impaired-related collision on a provincially patrolled road on Dec. 20, while three people died in impaired-related crashes over the 2013-2014 campaign.

OPP say officers conducted more than 8,000 RIDE check stops throughout the province this season.

Jan 07 2015

WATERLOO REGION - Waterloo Regional Police Chief Bryan Larkin has a beef with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, which wants police services to pay for the photocopying

of disclosure materials and copies of audio and video statements when cases are prosecuted in federal court.

In 2014, the local police service paid an extra \$872.08 in transcription costs.

Larkin said he's concerned that the costs associated with providing copies of transcripts could skyrocket because they can be unpredictable depending on the complexity of the case.

And this being budget season, Larkin said he's worried about adding extra costs to an already streamlined budget.

"This is an unknown," he said. "How do you find another way?"

Most drug cases come before federal prosecutors.

At a police board meeting last month, board members agreed to have Larkin speak to other chiefs at their national association meeting about the download of costs and how to find a solution that wouldn't leave police paying the entire cost.

Last February, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada said it would no longer pay for costs associated with materials and recordings that are needed as part of disclosure to the defence. Copies of materials that are needed to prosecute a criminal charge were provided by the federal agency.

In a letter written to police this past summer, a chief federal prosecutor with the Public Prosecution of Canada said the costs of transcripts and audio and video statements are the responsibility of police.

If the copies of the transcripts and other materials are not provided by police, it could affect whether the case goes ahead.

Provincially, a memorandum of understanding exists between the crown and the police to share costs associated with disclosure materials.

"It's an excellent example of sharing costs," said Larkin.

(The Record)

Jan 07 2015

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. - A Saskatchewan Corrections officials says an expansion of a jail in Prince Albert will open later this spring.

Heather Sriver, executive director of custody services with the Ministry of Corrections, says the new section at Prince Albert Correctional Centre has had some construction delays.

She says the expected opening date is April or May.

The expansion was originally set to open in March 2015.

The expansion means an addition of 144 beds, or 72 new cells.

Currently there are 314 inmates at the centre.

Jan 07 2015

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary says it is taking the wait and see approach before moving forward with any plans of their own that would see officers mounted with body cameras.

RNC Deputy Chief Jim Carroll told CBC News bringing body camera technology to the RNC would require an "astronomical amount" of human resources.

Carroll's comments come on the heels of the RCMP contracting a Newfoundland company for eight body cameras, as part of an RCMP national pilot project.

Carroll said the RNC will monitor how the RCMP deals with its pilot project before making a decision.

"It would result in a minimum of 300,000 to 500,000 hours of data a year collected," Carroll said, referring to what giving each RNC officer in the province a body camera would create.

"Then if [footage] is required for court, it would have to be transcribed, one hour of data recorded takes eight hours to transcribe it," said Carroll.

He added there is a long list of other technologies the RNC is interested in before they would consider body cameras.

A Mount Pearl company has been awarded a national contract as part of a RCMP study that will put mounted body cameras on police cadets who are training in Saskatchewan.

It's not known yet whether the technology — which has become a matter of debate because of high-profile cases involving alleged police misconduct — will be used in other jurisdictions.

As part of the body worn video [BWV] project, the RCMP purchased eight cameras from Compusult Ltd. in Mount Pearl, at a total cost of \$3,751.60.

(CBC News)



Jan 08 2015

A Sûreté du Québec officer has been charged with assault after video showed him roughing up the head of the Rock Machine biker gang during his arrest.

Bruno Landry will appear in court on February 9.

On October 5, Rock Machine leader Jean-François Énard was arrested during a routine traffic stop when patrol officers found methamphetamine in his car. A cellblock

surveillance video shows Énard being punched multiple times after an exchange with the officer.

Landry was suspended from duty with pay after the incident.

(CJAD)

Jan 08 2015

OTTAWA - Wednesday's terror attack on a Paris weekly newspaper is France's 9/11, says an Ottawa woman who moved from that country 15 years ago.

Florence Saint-Claire, 54, was one of about a dozen people who braved the bitter cold on Wednesday to attend a vigil outside the French Embassy to honour the victims killed in the attack. Saint-Claire said it's important to stand up for freedom of speech.

"If they started to kill this kind of freedom of speech, you just don't know what kind of society we are going to be."

Alexandre Vulic was getting his children ready for school early Wednesday when he checked the news sites he monitors as deputy head of mission at Ottawa's French Embassy.

That's how Vulic learned of the horrific attack on the offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris, which occurred about 6 a.m. Ottawa time. Vulic was shocked but, he said in an interview, it wasn't a complete surprise.

"France has unfortunately been targeted and has been dealing with terrorism for decades now," he said. "There's a sense for a long time that we're all threatened and anything can happen at any time."

With Ambassador Philippe Zeller en route back to Ottawa from Paris on Wednesday, Vulic was the senior official at the Ottawa embassy, which lowered its flags to half-mast after the attack. Very quickly, information began flooding in from many sources, including instructions from the foreign ministry in Paris.

Following the Oct. 22 assault on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, security was tightened around the French embassy, as it was at all foreign missions in the city. It has remained at a heightened level, so there was no need to take further precautions Wednesday.

The attack on Charlie Hebdo was "a very clear and direct act against freedom of expression," Vulic said. The magazine is well known and widely read in France, he said. "Everybody looks at it."

When it comes to the magazine's "biting humour," Vulic said, there are no sacred cows. "They regularly make fun of anybody." That makes the magazine a real symbol of freedom of expression, he said.

(Ottawa Citizen)

THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

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

The 2015 award recipient will be recognized in the April 2015 issue of Blue Line Magazine and will receive the award at the Blue Line Awards Gala held in conjunction with the Blue Line EXPO, April 28, 2015.

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

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