

That's because Orillia is located near Georgian Bay and suffers inclement weather because of its proximity to the large body of water.

Melanson told The Star he has heard of at least one instance in which the Sudbury-based helicopter had to be sent to Toronto to assist in a search and rescue because the Orillia 'copter couldn't fly out due to bad weather.

All three critics have said they fear lives will be lost in the North if the OPP aircraft is moved out of Sudbury.

OPP commissioner Vince Hawkes responded to criticism last week about the relocation of the Sudbury helicopter, saying the OPP is obligated to use all of its resources effectively to serve all Ontarians.

OPP helicopters are "not assigned to a single region or purpose," said Hawkes. The OPP has carefully studied helicopter use and determined Ontarians will be best-served if helicopter maintenance is centralized in Orillia.

A spokesman at OPP headquarters in Orillia said he wasn't aware of the events that occurred Sunday or how helicopters were dispatched, nor did he know the date the Sudbury chopper is to be relocated.

An OPP spokesman in Sudbury referred questions from The Sudbury Star about the two helicopter searches Sunday to OPP's central headquarters.

(Sudbury Star)

May 13 2015

WATERLOO REGION - Sgt. Peter Viol is waking up in the middle of the night these days with a lot on his mind. What about the grizzly bears, poisonous snakes and mountain lions?



Viol, a 17-year veteran of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, is going on the ride of his life - the Tour Divide, a 4,500-kilometre cycling mountain trek from Banff, Alta., to Antelope Wells, N.M.

The trail is a vigorous ride with long stretches of dirt road crossing the length of the Rocky Mountains. It crosses two Canadian provinces and five American states, travelling through mountainous terrain, deserts and southern climates.

The ride begins June 12 and goes along the Continental Divide, the area that separates the watersheds that drain into the Pacific Ocean and waters that flow to the Atlantic.

By the end of the month-long ride, cyclists will have climbed nearly 60,000 metres (200,000 feet), equivalent to climbing Mount Everest seven times.

"I'm not in it to win. I'm in it to finish," said Viol, although there are winners who finish the race in three weeks. About 140 riders

participate.

"It's something I can do and I'm reasonably good at it. I get to ride and see some really nice scenery," said Viol, who is using his vacation time for the ride. "It's completely removing yourself from your comfort zone."

Viol plans to ride 160 kilometres a day and be at the finish line in 28 days.

"There is no entry fee, no prizes and no support, so you're on your own," said the 61-year-old Guelph resident who's been cycling competitively since 2001. For the past five years, he's organized the annual 600-kilometre ride for cancer from Waterloo Region to Ottawa, which culminates on the day before the annual service at the Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Memorial, held on the last Sunday of September.

Viol said he's motivated by the reason he chose to participate in the Tour Divide in the first place. He's raising money for the Grand River Regional Cancer Centre.

Both his mother and father died of lung cancer and two high school friends also died of the disease. The money he's raising will assist those who need financial support, such as cab or bus fare to get to treatments.

Viol has a group of five committed volunteers who are helping with the fundraising goal of \$10,000 because he's busy getting prepared.

To make a donation, go to worldtravelermark.wix.com/great-divide-ride.

May 13 2015

UK police forces are taking action to improve officers' cyber crime-fighting skills, a freedom of information request has revealed.



According to figures obtained by web security firm Veracode, more than 3,800 police officers have enrolled in training designed to make them better at investigating cyber crimes.

The news comes after the head of MI6 recently warned that law enforcement and government intelligence agencies are engaged in a "technological arms race" with cyber criminals and terrorists whose methods are "unconstrained by consideration of ethics and law".

Veracode said its findings suggest the training will enable local police forces to better investigate cyber crime both inside and outside their jurisdiction, and better support National Cyber Crime Unit investigations into the most serious cases of cyber crime.

(Waterloo Record)

May 13 2015

MONTREAL - Help Wanted: Montreal police seeking a new chief.



Qualified candidates are asked to send their curriculum vitae to 275 Notre-Dame St. E., care of Denis Coderre.

The mayor is calling on members of the Montreal Police Department's command who are interested in applying for departing police chief Marc Parent's position to write to him expressing their interest.

Coderre made the announcement at the end of the public portion of the weekly executive committee meeting at city hall on Wednesday.

Parent announced on May 7 that after five years in the position, he will not renew his mandate as chief.

Coderre, who saluted Parent's work, said his departure will be effective in September.

In the meantime, the city will waste no time initiating the selection process for his successor, he said.

"There will be a process," Coderre said. "In the meantime, I would ask the members of the command of the Montreal Police Department who can apply for chief of police to send me a letter ... I think it's important to see who's interested in this nomination. So first of all, send me this letter. There'll be a process after anyway."

Coderre specified that aspirants should state in their letter "why you're interested, and we can look at it."

Parent was appointed in 2010 following a process that involved vetting by a selection committee named by the mayor and composed of elected representatives of the city of Montreal and the island suburbs. The Montreal Police cover the territory of the island. The committee received applications, narrowed their number to a few candidates who were then evaluated by a recruiting firm.

While the choice of the Montreal police chief is inherently political, involving a vote of the Montreal executive committee, Montreal city council and the agglomeration council, Coderre's call for applicants to address him directly drew criticism from the official opposition at city hall.

"The process should be more serious than that," said Projet Montréal councillor François Limoges, vice-chairman of council's public-safety committee. He added that Coderre is "politicizing" the process.

"The law is clear. It's the Quebec gov-

ernment that names the chief of the Montreal Police on the recommendation of city council and the public-safety committee," Limoges said. "So it's not a prerogative of the mayor. ... Second, it's a process that should be more open, more serious, more rigorous than that." (Montreal Gazette)

May 13 2015

MONCTON, N.B. - The cost of additional policing in the aftermath of last June's murder of three RCMP officers has been estimated at \$9 million.

Coun. Charles Leger, a member of the Codiac Regional Policing Authority, said in



an interview that the numbers were released at the authority's meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

The city councillor said the regional policing authority will absorb \$3.5 million in costs, with \$1.5 million of that coming from a special contribution from the City of Moncton, and the towns of Riverview and Dieppe.

The costs included the investigation of five different crime sites, the salaries of additional police officers, the cost of overtime for backfilling while officers were on leave, as well as meal and accommodation costs during the emergency.

Leger said Ottawa is providing \$1 million under policing agreements with the province, while police services that sent in officers have absorbed \$1.5 million in costs, and the province is absorbing other costs.

The councillor said the expenses didn't include the costs related to the regimental funeral, which were covered by the federal government.

"There was a lot of co-operation in everything that happened," said Leger.

"When the shooting occurred, resources poured in and there were no questions asked and when it came time to tally up the financial costs those same parties were there again."

May 13 2015

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. - Police say murder charges are pending against a 21-year-old man in a triple homicide last month in Lethbridge in southern Alberta.

The man was arrested Wednesday without incident.

On April 28, police found the bodies of Kyle Devine, 27, Clarissa English, 24, and Dakota English 18, in a townhouse in the west end of Lethbridge.

Police had responded to the residence after a concerned neighbour requested officers check on the welfare of the occupants.

The three died from multiple stab wounds.

**THURSDAY
MAY 14, 2015**

May 14 2015

OTTAWA - The RCMP is looking for 30 officers to join a new unit that is set to take control of security on Parliament Hill, CBC News has learned.



CBC News obtained an internal RCMP memo sent to all of its members, in which the force puts out a call for regular members to become a part of the newly created Parliamentary Protective Service.

CBC News has also learned that new division will assume control of the parliamentary precinct in June.

The memo said all non-commissioned ranks will be considered for the new unit and anyone interested must commit to a minimum of three to five years in the position.

Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the safety of members of Parliament, Senators and the general public.
- Patrolling the parliamentary grounds.
- Assisting with visits by foreign heads of state.
- Providing assistance to the House of Commons and Senate security staff when needed.

The memo goes on to say the Parliamentary Protective Service "will report to [RCMP] National Division within its protective operations mandate, with accountability to the Speakers of the House of Commons and the Senate."

There is still no decision on who will head the team. The director of the new service will be a member of the RCMP and will lead the integrated security operations, but will take policy direction from the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons.

The new service was created in the wake of the Oct. 22 shooting on Parliament Hill, when gunman Michael Zehaf-Bibeau ran onto the grounds of parliament hill, hijacked a ministerial car and stormed centre block with a hunting rifle and knife.

Before Zehaf-Bibeau was killed, he shot one guard in the foot and came dangerously close to the room where Prime Minister Stephen Harper was meeting with his Conservative caucus and another room where NDP MPs were holding their weekly meeting.

Following the attack, there was criticism about confusion and lack of security coordination on that day. The RCMP was responsible for the security on the grounds of Parliament Hill, while the House of Commons and Senate had separate protec-

tive services inside the building.

One month later, a Joint Advisory Working Group on Security recommended the integration of security services under a single senior executive who would report to both the House and Senate speakers. A motion to make that happen passed in February.

The April federal budget committed \$36 million over two years to improve security on Parliament Hill.

(CBC News)

May 14 2015

OTTAWA - The federal information commissioner says the Conservative government is setting a "perilous precedent" by retroactively rewriting the law to absolve the RCMP of wrongdoing.



Suzanne Legault tabled a special report in Parliament on Thursday revealing that she recommended almost two months ago that charges be laid against the RCMP for its role in withholding and destroying gun registry data.

But instead of Justice Minister Peter MacKay moving on the recommendation to lay charges, the Harper government rewrote the law, backdated the changes and buried the amendment in an omnibus budget bill last week.

Legault says the omnibus budget bill "sets a perilous precedent against Canadians' quasi-constitutional right to know."

And she's going to Federal Court in an effort to preserve the rights of the complainant in the case, who had been seeking copies of the now-defunct, long-gun registry.

In a letter to the Speakers of both the House of Commons and the Senate, Legault said she was submitting her special report "in the hopes that parliamentarians will carefully consider the implications of Bill C-59," the omnibus budget implementation bill.

The RCMP responded to the report by stating it felt it had fully complied with provisions of the Access to Information Act.

"The RCMP would vigorously defend against any accusation of unlawful conduct in respect of the handling of this Access to Information request," spokesman Sgt. Harold Pfleiderer said in an email.

Under the provisions in Bill C-59, the Mounties won't have to defend anything.

The omnibus budget bill exempts any "request, complaint, investigation, application, judicial review, appeal or other

proceeding under the Access to Information Act or the Privacy Act,” related to those old records.

No charges have ever been laid under the Access to Information Act, let alone convictions, despite past findings of blatant and illegal political interference in the workings of the system designed to inform Canadians about the activities of their government.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the Mounties were just obeying the will of his Conservative majority government.

“The government, the Parliament of Canada, has already decided to abolish the long-gun registry,” Harper said at an event in Windsor, Ont. “The RCMP have acted fully within Parliament’s intention in destroying the data in the long gun registry.”

Harper asserted that the dispute is over contradictions between the Access to Information Act and his government’s legislation to end the long gun registry. That is not the case.

In fact, the dispute revolves around the RCMP refusing to disclose gun registry data while the Conservative bill was still being debated and not yet law.

The complainant in the case had been seeking a complete list of the long-gun registry data - with names and other personal identifiers redacted under the Privacy Act.

Legault found that when the RCMP eventually delivered the more than eight million files, it had deleted some categories of information that should have been provided under the Access to Information Act.

May 14 2015

QUEBEC - The Quebec government wasted little time in acting on a report saying only police officers should be allowed to conduct strip searches of students.



Education Minister Francois Blais says school officials will soon be banned from carrying out these searches.

The report was ordered after a 15-year-old girl suspected of selling drugs was strip-searched in February at a Quebec City school.

No drugs were found and the girl later said she felt violated by the search.

The school board said it was only following government policy drafted in 2010 but family lawyer Francois-David Bernier maintained the high school misinterpreted those guidelines.

Fabienne Bouchard, a former prosecutor and retired lawyer hired to conduct the

probe, wrote that a school that has serious grounds to believe a student is involved in drug trafficking should call police.

May 14 2015

TORONTO - The Toronto Police Service’s marine unit came to the rescue of a tiny gosling they say was struggling to swim Wednesday.

Officers told CTV News they feared the baby bird would drown after they found it swimming in circles. They decided to scoop the bird up and nurse it back to health.

Officers later released the gosling back into Toronto Harbour. Photos gosling

“I put it back in the water and as our boat was starting to back away, this poor little guy is swimming back towards his lifeline, which was us and that was probably the hardest part for me,” Const. Jeff Clarke told CTV Toronto Wednesday.

Police say the bird was taken in by a group of Geese. (CP24)

May 14 2015

MOOSE JAW, Sask. - A Saskatchewan judge has ruled that simply looking at a cellphone while behind the wheel does not violate the province’s distracted driving law.



The recently released online decision from provincial court Judge Margaret Gordon involves a man who was ticketed for using an electronic communication device in Moose Jaw last May.

The police officer who issued the ticket testified at trial that he saw the driver holding and looking at a cellphone while he was operating his vehicle.

The accused told court he had just received a text message from his daughter and had briefly looked at his cellphone to see who it was from, but didn’t read the message or respond to it.

He told the court the text was on a locked screen and he did not touch or use the phone at all.

The Crown argued that the purpose of the law is to deal with distracted drivers, including those who take their eyes off the road to answer or look at their cellphone.

In ruling that the man did not break the rules, the judge said the law only applies to people who actually use an electronic device.

“In my view, the definition of use in the legislation is not so encompassing so

as to prohibit looking at your electronic communication device,” said Gordon. (CTV Regina)

May 14 2015

CAA Manitoba and RCMP say they spotted more than 300 drivers not moving over for roadside tow trucks and emergency vehicles yesterday alone, despite legislation requiring motorists to slow down.

The two agencies observed 316 vehicles driving by a CAA tow truck that was on the side of the Trans-Canada Highway near St. Francois Xavier, Man., to help a stalled vehicle on Wednesday.

Almost 99 per cent of the drivers failed to slow down and move to another lane as they drove past the staged scene, CAA Manitoba said Thursday.

No tickets were handed out during Wednesday’s CAA and RCMP assessment.

The agencies also found that on Wednesday:

*Almost 11 per cent of drivers didn’t move over at all. Those drivers were going at an average speed of 98 km/h. *Almost four out of five drivers did move over to the next lane, but most of them didn’t slow down; they went at an average speed of 101 km/h. *One motorcycle passed by the scene at a speed of 123 km/h. *One semi-trailer passed by the scene at 107 km/h.

“It’s so important that drivers slow down and move over for all emergency workers, like law enforcement, fire paramedics and tow trucks,” Insp. Joanne Keeping, who heads up the Manitoba RCMP’s traffic services unit, said in a news release.

“It only takes a few moments to do so, but can be the difference between life and death for these workers and the citizens they are assisting.”

CAA Manitoba president Mike Mager said tow truck drivers, like other emergency workers, deserve to be safe on the job.

“We’ve lobbied for this legislation for six years, but it means nothing if drivers aren’t following the letter of the law,” he said.

The two agencies are reminding motorists to slow down and move over for emergency vehicles, especially with many people expected to go camping or to their cottages on the May long weekend. (CBC News)

International Police Association
Canadian Section

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