

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

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Executive Digest

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New research published by an international team of psychologists has shown that people can suppress incriminating memories and thereby avoid detection in brain activity guilt detection tests.

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VANCOUVER - A dramatic spike in the number of overdose deaths in B.C. related to the drug fentanyl is causing alarm because users may be mistaking it for either heroin or other street drugs.

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BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

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Montreal Cable channel maintains 'the pillar of hope'



adr.tv

by P.A.Sévigny

Hope is the pillar that holds up the world. Hope is the dream of the waking man. -Pliny the Elder 23-79

Ten years after the ADR (Avis De Recherche) signal first went out over the city's cable network, Canadian police officials and other public security executives still can't understand why the nation's CRTC (Canadian Radio & Television Commission) still refuses to provide Canadian police and public security forces with the foundations for a public security information channel similar to what Montreal's ADR is doing for public security forces in Québec.

"ADR gives us a voice," said SPVM Police Commander Ian Lafrenière. "These guys know what police work is all about and

they're willing to keep working on the story long after the rest of the media have moved onto something else."

Following its humble beginnings when the cable carried little more than 30 second video clips of the usual inner city mayhem defined by a blurry images made up of young men wearing 'hoodies' while they're holding up a corner store at gunpoint, Montreal's SPVM (Service de la Police de Montréal) now considers the cable channel to be an invaluable resource by which the police can add their voice to the tsunami of media information that can often derail a police investigation.

While it's obvious that the channel is an effective resource especially when police are forced to post quickly and efficiently as in

An advertisement for the Garrett Styles Memorial Baseball Tournament. It features a baseball on the left, a portrait of a man in a police uniform in the center, and a logo on the right. The logo is a baseball with the name "GARRETT STYLES" at the top, "1405" in a blue banner across the middle, and "MEMORIAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT" at the bottom. Text in the center reads: "September 20 - 22, 2013 Newmarket, Ontario". Below that, it says: "Money raised benefits: Canadian Tire Jumpstart Register at 1405baseball.com".

the case of 'amber alerts' following the abduction of a child, Lafrenière believes ADR has become an invaluable education resource for both the public and the city's assorted public security sectors. After reaching into a file below his desk in the corner office of the SPVM's massive St. Urbain Street headquarters, he handed over a DVD which contained a number of episodes produced by an ADR camera team who covered the SPVM's mission in Haiti following the earthquake that shattered its capital city.

"Montreal may have its problems," said Lafrenière, "...but once you spend a few weeks working on the streets of Port-Au-Prince, it doesn't take much to realize how lucky we are to live in this country."

As the president of Montreal's Missing Children network, Pina Arcamone repeated what Commander Lafrenière had to say about ADR's efforts to keep working on a story long after the rest of the media have folded up their gear and moved on to their next stop.

"Vince (ADR President Vincent Géracitano) is fantastic," said Arcamone. "He's stubborn and he's determined and he never gives up on a story-especially when it's all about a missing child."

According to Arcamone, ADR is one of the main reasons people are still looking for Québec's young Cédrika Provencher who was only a child when she was abducted by a white man who was driving a truck when he told other children that he needed help to find his dog. Although the abduction happened five years ago, Arcamone said Géracitano insists that his reporters keep working on the story "...and he won't stop until they find out what happened to that little girl."

Aside from what Géracitano is doing to help recover missing children and teens who have fallen into the hands of Montreal's street gangs, Arcamone also mentioned how Géracitano's reporters often set the record

straight after false and usually salacious information sometimes manages to compromise a working police investigation.

Citing the sad and (relatively) recent case of David Fortier, a missing 14 year old who police believe was abducted on his way to school, Arcamone did say that the boy had to put up with serious bullying at school but that there was no evidence that he was gay and that there was no evidence that he was having trouble with his parents at home.

"Can you imagine what these people are going through," said the veteran activist. "Can you imagine how they feel when they read about schoolyard gossip about their son in the newspapers?"

Following a cursory investigation, ADR put the brakes on the rumor mill but the child is still missing and Arcamone is pleased to see that ADR is still working on the story. Aside from all the work being done to recover missing children, Arcamone is also grateful for the work ADR reporters did on the city's 'Enfants Avertis' production-an educational program aimed at children in order to promote what she described as 'street sense for kids' which is making its way through Montreal's inner-city primary schools courtesy of the SPVM's well developed social-community network. We're grateful for everything Vince is doing for us," said Arcamone. "...very grateful!"

As far as American television producer Bill Glasser is concerned, Canadians are lucky to have a working public security network like ADR that's continually available on the cable networks.

"It's like calling the firemen when your house is on fire," he said. "It's an emergency and you're glad they're there when you need them."

As the producer of the wildly successful "America's Most Wanted", Glasser said he had only a couple of hours per week while ADR has all the time in the world to research, develop and produce their content along with the immediate information that public security forces sometimes need to get out to the public.

While Glasser's television work led to a surprising number of arrests and assorted rescues due to the instant popularity of his program, this was one producer who had more than a few kind words to say about both a colleague and a friend.

"Vince [Géracitano] is one of the most determined guys I know," said Glasser during a long telephone interview in which he described how difficult it was to manage the legal hurdles that can derail a media investigation into criminal incidents. "As far as I can see, this is a guy who understands that a lot of routine police work can be compared to chipping away at a mountain with a teaspoon."

Aside from describing how difficult it is to produce a decent reality show about public security without getting sued, Glasser also repeated what both Lafrenière and Arcamone said about Géracitano's work.

"He doesn't give up on the story," said Glasser as he referred to the three Cleveland women who were recently rescued from their suburban prison following a decade of assorted

rape and abuse after all three were kidnapped by the same suspect who simply snatched them off the street as they were making their way home. "Sometimes guys like Vince [Géracitano] reflect the thin wedge of hope for the parents of a missing child who must contemplate the possible and probable truth that their child is dead and buried in a shallow, unmarked grave where no one will ever find her."

Following the recent CRTC hearings that were held a month ago in Ottawa, Glasser, Arcamone and Lafrenière all believe that Canadian and American television producers should take the time to visit Géracitano's office in order to learn how to produce top quality programming with little more than a shoestring budget combined with lots of hope and a few prayers. Following a cursory check on the internet, Glasser was amazed to see how Canada's Weather Network gets over \$23 million dollars per year in order to tell the Canadian public not to forget to put on their raincoat while Géracitano's ADR gets little more than \$1.7 million in order to produce programs that teach kids how to be street smart and why it's a good idea not to get involved with the local street gang.

"Once the Canadian people begin to understand what this guy is doing," said Glasser, "they're going to give him a medal."

(Blue Line Magazine)



OTTAWA - After months of public consultation and two months later than planned, Ottawa police will roll out an Ontario Human Rights Commission mandated race data collection project at traffic stops June 27, though the study continues to fall short among police and the man whose complaint prompted it.

The project, which will have officers mark what they perceive to be the race of the person they've pulled over in their in-cruiser computer system, will be the first effort to track race information on the people pulled over by a major police force in Canada.

"Racial and ethnic profiling, real or perceived, quickly erodes public confidence and trust," Insp. Patrick Flanagan, the Ottawa police lead on the project, said Thursday at a media update on the study.

The project is meant to be a step toward bias-free policing.

Officers will not ask people their race, rather they will indicate what they have perceived the driver's race to be through observation alone.

The argument is that bias begins at perception.

"When it comes to racial profiling and racial bias in general, the issue is always how other people see you," said Les Jacobs, one of three York University researchers involved in the study.

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GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
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The data collection will see officers input seven variables — race, age, gender, time of the traffic stop, where the stop occurred, reason for the stop and outcome of the stop.

Jacobs conceded that the observation of race, though central to the project, is still the most controversial aspect.

Ottawa police will choose one of seven categories based on their perception of the driver's race — Aboriginal, white, black, east/southeast Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern or other visible minorities. These categories are based on existing groups of race already used by police, but caused some concern over inclusivity at a public consultation in January.

"Nobody claims that racial categories couldn't be cut a different way," Jacobs said Thursday. "I think most of us appreciate that race is a social construction or invention."

Drivers stopped beginning June 27 shouldn't experience anything out of the ordinary.

Officers will go through the same steps such as entering licence plate numbers and locations. Officers will swipe licences, which will populate fields such as gender and age. Officers will then make a selection in a drop-down menu for race before entering the outcome of the stop. Most importantly, police will indicate whether they perceived the race of the driver prior to the stop, an option lobbied for by the police officers.

While consultation with the force's members revealed that officers wanted the project to not get in the way of doing their jobs, the police union maintains that the process will be disruptive not only to policing, but also to the public's perception of officers.

"The project will end up being divisive," said the president of the Ottawa Police Association, Matt Skof, who has characterized the study as a lose-lose situation for police.

Without proper context, the union is worried the data, regardless of what it shows, will be misinterpreted to show bias or that officers improperly collected it.

Skof appreciates that officers will be trained to respond to drivers' questions about the project, but thinks race, if it were in the backs of drivers' minds during stops, will now come to the forefront.

"I think it has the potential to exacerbate things," Skof said.

"It'll cause division. It'll cause angst. It'll cause needless distraction."

The study was prescribed by the Ontario Human Rights Commission after Chad Aiken, then 18, said that police pulled him over for being black and driving his mother's Mercedes-Benz in 2005. Aiken said an Ottawa officer punched him and threw him to the ground after he asked for the officer's badge number. A passenger in the car recorded part of the exchange with her phone's camera.

In a settlement with the commission, Ottawa police agreed to undertake the two-year, \$400,000 study. Aiken was not available to speak to the Citizen, but a staff lawyer at the legal clinic representing him spoke on his behalf.

Virginia Nelder of the African Canadian Legal Clinic said Aiken's position on the study

hasn't changed since the spring of 2012 when police and the commission arrived at the settlement — one that Aiken was excluded from and didn't agree with.

The crux of the disagreement is that Aiken feels the settlement and study aren't doing enough to address the systemic issue of racial profiling. Nelder said Aiken wants race data collected for a minimum of three years, or ideally, indefinitely. He also wants pedestrian stops included in the study.

Once the settlement was reached, Ottawa police brought forward a motion to dismiss Aiken's complaint arguing that the settlement effectively dealt with the issue. In August 2012, the ACLC argued that motion and is awaiting a decision on whether they can present evidence on what the shortfalls are of the settlement and project.

The project will launch independent of that decision.

(Ottawa Citizen)

FRIDAY
MAY 24, 2013

May 24 2013

REGINA - Even in his death, Sam Steele remained a force to be reckoned with.

In 1919, as Sam Steele's funeral cortege made its way through the riot-filled streets of Winnipeg, the city's general strike came to a standstill as rioters took off their hats and paid last respects.

That's how influential Sir Samuel Benfield Steele, the subject of RCMP Heritage Centre's summer feature exhibit, was throughout the settlement of the West.

Steele's archival material, including letters, diaries, photographs, as well as some items from his fellow Mounties, makes up the exhibit Sam Steele: The Journey of a Canadian Hero.

The material is on loan from the University of Alberta, which acquired Steele's collection from his remaining family in England back in 2008.

Also in the exhibit are items of Steele's clothing, which are a part of the centre's permanent collection.

"I'm very moved to be working with actual pieces - the material culture of our history. Not just to only read about it but to look at that piece and say 'Sam Steele wore that,' " said Jodi Ann Eskritt, RCMP historical collections unit's curator.

"These are the pieces that were a part of their lives - that they touched. It's like touching the history and getting to see it, rather than just reading about it," she added.

Eskritt said it is a happy coincidence that the exhibit is being unveiled as the RCMP celebrates its 140th anniversary.

"But of course for us, Sam is an iconic figure and a natural subject for the anniversary year. He was one of those figures who we built our early reputation on. The mounted police reputation for integrity and law and order comes from guys like Steele," said Eskritt.

Born and raised in Simcoe County (hence the nickname Simcoe Sam) in southern Ontario, Steele was one of the original Mountie recruits in 1873 and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a second Sargent-major, and leading the second Canadian Division overseas during the First World War.

The exhibition covers six themes including his first military campaigns with the 1870 Red River Expedition, his early days in the North West Mounted Police, his service in the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush, the story of his love affair with his wife Marie, his time overseas in South Africa during the war, his First World War command, and his death in the United Kingdom during the influenza pandemic in 1919.

The exhibit opened Thursday and will remain on display until Sept. 2.

(Regina Leader-Post)

May 24 2013

TORONTO - An Ontario judge has ruled that hundreds of people detained during the G20 summit three years ago can't sue as a group.



ctvnews.ca

The \$45-million proposed class action lawsuit was spearheaded by Sherry Good, a 51-year-old office administrator who says she was corralled by cops for four hours when police in riot gear used a tactic called kettling.

But today a judge ruled that it can't proceed as a class action, saying its "broad, sweeping nature" is problematic.

A statement from lawyer Murray Klippenstein's office says they will appeal the decision.

More than 1,000 people were detained by police that weekend in June 2010 after protesters using so-called Black Bloc tactics broke away from a peaceful rally and ran through the downtown, smashing windows and burning police cruisers.

The vast majority of those detained were released without charge within 24 hours.

May 24 2013 A retired Vancouver police officer slain in Mexico is being remembered as a generous and loving woman who volunteered to help animals.

News reports in Mexico say Lynn Earle, who was 60, was found stabbed to death in her home in Playa del Carmen earlier this week.

Friend Lisa Edwards says Earle had a gigantic heart for humans and animals, and spent several years working with animal rescue agencies in Mexico.

Edwards says Earle, divorced with one child, loved living in the country and felt at peace in Mexico.

The West Vancouver Police Department issued a news release expressing condolences to Earle's family.

It says she worked her way through the ranks, first serving as a civilian employee, then a bylaw officer before spending three years as a patrol constable.

May 24 2013

VICTORIA - Police say 14 boaters are alive today thanks to the quick actions of some Vancouver Island residents, including an off-duty police inspector.

Insp. Andy Lacon of the Victoria Police Department and fellow residents of Youbou, B.C., heard cries coming across the water of Lake Cowichan just past midnight Monday.

Victoria police say local residents of the town, about 38 kilometres west of Duncan, called the RCMP before they sped to the rescue in their own vessels.

The rescuers found an overturned boat, nearly six metres in length, and 14 people in the water.

The boaters were from pulled from the water, ferried to shore and offered warm clothing, while members of the Lake Cowichan RCMP searched for anybody still left in the water.

The Lake Cowichan RCMP says all the boaters were safe, but one person had a dislocated shoulder.

May 24 2013

VANCOUVER - A public hearing will be held into allegations of abuse of authority, deceit and discreditable conduct against a member of B.C.'s Transit Police.

The police complaint commissioner announced the hearing for Const. Ken Jansen in connection with an incident in April 2010.

The commissioner says Jansen and a member of the RCMP are accused of using unnecessary or excessive force on a person at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

At an earlier disciplinary hearing, Jansen was handed an eight-day suspension without pay for abuse of authority and discreditable conduct, while the deceit allegations were dismissed.

But Jansen is entitled to a hearing and the police complaint commissioner has the discretion to either arrange a public hearing or to review the record.

The commissioner had decided on a hearing, saying that it may be necessary to examine and cross-examine witnesses. No date has been set for the hearing.

**SUNDAY
MAY 26, 2013**

May 26 2013

OTTAWA - Canada's spy agency clandestinely watched a navy officer pass top secret information to Russia for months without briefing the RCMP - a previously unknown operation that

raises questions about whether Jeffrey Delisle could have been arrested sooner.

The Canadian Press has learned that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation alerted the Canadian Security Intelligence Service to Delisle's illicit dealings with Moscow well before the Mounties took on the file in December 2011 and later brought him into custody.

CSIS ultimately decided not to transfer its thick Delisle dossier to the RCMP.

The spy agency, acting on legal advice, opted to keep its investigation sealed for fear of exposing a trove of Canadian and U.S. secrets of the intelligence trade in open court proceedings.

In a bizarre twist, it fell to the FBI - not CSIS - to send a letter to the RCMP spelling out how a Canadian was pilfering extremely sensitive information, including highly classified U.S. material.

The RCMP had to start its own investigation of Delisle almost from scratch, and the delay alarmed Washington as the geyser of secrets continued to spew.

**MONDAY
MAY 27, 2013**

May 27 2013

HALIFAX - No charges will be laid against a Nova Scotia police officer involved in a pursuit last year that ended with the crash of a fleeing vehicle.

The province's Serious Incident Response Team says the police officer in Annapolis Royal who followed the vehicle was driving slower than the car that crashed.

It says the officer received a report of an impaired driver and was making a reasonable attempt to stop the vehicle on Highway 1 in Annapolis Royal late at night on Dec. 23.

The suspect vehicle went through an intersection and left the highway just outside of the town limits, flipping onto its roof in a ditch.

SIRT says the male driver was injured in the crash and a 16-year-old passenger, who was nine months pregnant, lost her unborn child.

May 27 2013

OTTAWA - Public Safety Minister Vic Toews won't say why Canada's spy agency stood back and let the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation brief the RCMP about navy spy Jeffrey Delisle.

Toews came under fire in question period about a Canadian Press report that said the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had Delisle under surveillance for months in 2011 before the RCMP stepped in to build a criminal case.

In an unusual twist, the FBI sent the RCMP a detailed letter outlining Delisle's activities because CSIS feared sharing its file could result in sensitive trade secrets spilling out in open court.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair pressed Toews on whether the FBI - not CSIS - informed the Mounties about Delisle.

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Toews would only say that he doesn't get involved in operational security matters and that the conclusions drawn in the report were totally incorrect. His office declined an interview request and did not immediately respond to followup questions.

Delisle, arrested in January 2012 by the RCMP, was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to passing classified material to Russia in exchange for cash on a regular basis for more than four years.

May 27 2013

REGINA - A police dog with royal ties is retiring from her duties at the RCMP's Regina Depot.

Suzanna, who was named by the Queen, was a gift from the monarch about four years ago.

The golden lab has been acting as a four-footed ambassador at the training centre for new recruits ever since.

She has been living with assistant commissioner Roger Brown, who has been the academy's commanding officer.

Brown has taken a new role with the RCMP in New Brunswick and Suzanna will be accompanying him and his family to his new post.

Brown says he had become attached to the dog and it didn't seem fair for Suzanna to have to get used to new owners transferring in all the time.

The dog has an interesting back story.

She was originally trained to be more of a traditional police dog-one that could detect drugs or bombs.

"That wasn't her fit. She came to Depot as a mascot and she's made a nice difference for the time that she was here," Brown said.

Suzanna has often been seen approaching and interacting with guests on base to watch a parade or attend a function. She has even gone on off-base visits that have included stops at schools.

Brown said Suzanna also served as a morale booster for homesick cadets.

"It's just another way of trying to make life at Depot a more memorable experience," he said. "They'll miss her no doubt."

(CJME)

May 27 2013

VICTORIA - Crown prosecutors in British Columbia say they won't approve charges against a Mountie who was involved in a crash with a motorcyclist last December.

The accident took place Dec. 2, 2012 in Campbell River, B.C., while the officer was responding to a report of a speeding motorcyclist who failed to stop for police.

The province's Criminal Justice Branch says the officer stopped his vehicle, straddling the lane in which the oncoming motorcycle was travelling.

The motorcyclist drove onto a gravel shoulder but lost control, sending his bike into a ditch and himself underneath the front of the police vehicle where he suffered significant injuries.

The branch says based on a report from the Independent Investigations Office, there's not a substantial likelihood the officer would be convicted under the Criminal Code or the Motor Vehicle Act.

However, prosecutors have approved a number of driving-related charges against the motorcyclist.

May 27 2013

EDMONTON - An Edmonton police officer with more than ten years on the force has been fired for his role in an incident dating back five years.

Frank Quaidoo, who was a constable, was charged with two counts of deceit, and one count of unlawful or unnecessary exercise of authority for an incident at Eastglen High School in May 2008.

Police responded to the school after a school resource officer had been knocked unconscious.

Two people were arrested, and one later accused Quaidoo of punching him in the head while he was in the back of a police cruiser.

The police commission found that Quaidoo punched the suspect and then tried to cover it up.

Quaidoo's termination after a disciplinary hearing is disappointing for the Edmonton Police Association, and the Edmonton police.

(CTV Edmonton)

TUESDAY
MAY 28, 2013

May 28 2013

KELOWNA, B.C. - At his lowest moment, the commander of the Merritt, B.C., RCMP detachment stood in front of another officer with two bags of white powder sticking out of his pockets.

Staff Sgt. Stuart Seib was on a four-week bender, taking cocaine seized as evidence from his detachment's exhibit locker and snorting it when he got home.

The veteran Mountie met the other officer outside his Merritt home in January 2012, days after he admitted to removing the drugs. A clear plastic bag containing an ounce of white powder fell from his pocket.

Another bag sticking out of his jacket had the word "evidence" written on it.

It contained 23 grams of what appeared to be coke. After his arrest, Seib confessed he'd snorted the powder in one of the bags, but it wasn't cocaine because it failed to get him high.

Lawyers told a sad tale of addiction, depression and post-traumatic stress at Seib's sentencing hearing in Kelowna for breach of trust on Monday.

Now 54, Seib was burned out from attending too many suicides, horrific accidents and sudden deaths, his lawyer Neville McDougall said.

He started waiting until his colleagues left work and helped himself to the coke locked up in the storage area for exhibits. He used cocaine

because he'd heard it helped ease depression.

"I can't even begin to say how sorry I am for my actions," Seib told Judge Jane Cartwright. "I know I've hurt many people I've loved . . . and the young (RCMP) members I worked with. It was a horrible example to them. I take full responsibility for what I did."

A thin, tall man and father of four, Seib worked for eight years in Clearwater before he was promoted to detachment commander in Merritt in late 2011. He'd filched drugs from an exhibit locker before the move, but his addiction crested during his two months at the helm in Merritt.

The last straw came when he snorted coke from the detachment, went back for more and the shame overcame him, said Crown counsel Sheryl Wagner. He returned home and told his wife. Then, he phoned his second-in-command late that evening and apologized.

Seib started using drugs on the job while on patrol in Clearwater in 2010, he told investigators. He came across young men in a parking lot who dropped a three-ounce bag of coke as they fled. Instead of lodging it as an exhibit, he kept it.

"He made the decision to use the cocaine to get him out of the doldrums he felt he was under at that time," said Wagner. "He chose to use it instead of seeing a physician and getting an anti-depression prescription."

He was stressed out, working long hours to make up for a staffing shortage, court heard. He used all the crack and powder cocaine he could find, but was careful to choose exhibits destined for destruction. During his final binge, he'd use the drug until 3 or 4 a.m., sleep a few hours and drive to work.

He started suffering depression after leading a drug-awareness workshop in Clearwater in 2002. Court heard a 12-year-old girl complained to him about her mother's abusive boyfriend. Days later, Seib attended a horrific traffic crash that killed all three of them.

He went into detox days after his arrest and completed a two-month residential treatment program. He resigned from the RCMP before officers could hold a discipline hearing. He still regularly sees a psychiatrist and psychologist.

Seib and his wife, who held hands during Monday's hearing, now operate a 100-acre farm outside Clearwater. He has no intention of returning to police work, McDougall said, and has no cravings for coke.

The maximum sentence for the indictable offence is five years.

The Crown is seeking a conditional discharge with two years of probation, so if Seib obeys his conditions he'd have a clean record.

McDougall asked for an absolute discharge or a 12-month conditional discharge. He discouraged a condition that Seib mentor other officers or do community work because he has withdrawn from the community.

The judge has reserved her decision until July 2.

(Kelowna Daily Courier)

May 28 2013

MONTREAL - Dr. Arthur Porter has 15 days to fight his extradition to Canada

following his arrest this week in Panama.

The former head of Canada's spy-agency watchdog and his wife, Pamela, have been arrested by authorities in the Central American country.

Quebec police announced months ago that they wanted to charge him in connection with the province's ongoing corruption scandals.

A spokeswoman for Quebec's anti-corruption police unit says the pair may oppose their extradition to Canada - where they would face multiple criminal charges, including fraud.

Anne-Frederick Laurence says Porter and his wife, Pamela, are being detained in a Panama City jail.

She says an international warrant on Interpol called for Porter's arrest.

WEDNESDAY
MAY 29, 2013

May 29 2013

SECHLT, B.C. - A sentencing date has been set for July 31, for an RCMP officer on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast.

Cpl. Murray McNeil was in provincial court in North Vancouver earlier this week and pleaded guilty to assault causing bodily harm.

The charges stem from an altercation on June 28, 2011 as McNeil carried out a traffic stop near Sechelt, northwest of Vancouver.

The person arrested during the incident took the case to the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP, and a code of conduct investigation was also launched.

RCMP E Division spokesman Sgt. Rob Vermeulen says in addition to criminal sentencing, McNeil must also undergo a formal disciplinary process.

McNeil had remained on duty while the matter was before the courts but Vermeulen could not comment on the officer's status in the wake of the guilty plea.

(CKAY)

May 29 2013

WINDSOR, Ont. - The Mounties in Windsor, Ont., are warning of a new twist on a long-running "letter scam" in which a fraudster pretends to be a member of the RCMP in order to gain the victim's trust.

They say an Essex County resident was recently defrauded of about \$500,000 after getting a letter from someone posing as a lawyer in Spain, who claimed a distant relative had died, leaving behind a sizable unclaimed estate.

Police say the victim, although unaware of any distant relative in Spain, contacted the author of the letter and began negotiations for the release of the funds.

It's alleged the victim was told to send small amounts of money to pay back taxes and other fees blocking release of the estate, and later sent substantial funds to an overseas bank account as the scheme progressed.

Police say someone claiming to be an

RCMP officer also called the victim to say the situation was legitimate, and that the victim's call display showed the RCMP's general inquiries phone number in Ottawa.

The Mounties say an investigation has shown the call to the victim was not made by the RCMP but likely by someone using a technique known as "spoofing" in order to display that particular number.

May 29 2013

MONTREAL - Authorities say they've put a dent in the next generation of organized crime with a sweeping series of drug-trafficking arrests Thursday.



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Police say the 20 people arrested in raids had been plying their trade in Montreal's east-end and were looking to grow their business.

Cmdr. Ian Lafreniere described the group as up-and-comers, with the average age of those arrested being around 30.

"We are talking about young people who are taking the place of other people that have been there," said Lafreniere, a senior Montreal police spokesman.

The other notable element is that, while the group is allegedly linked to the Italian Mafia, he said it doesn't have any affiliation to a specific clan, like the Rizzutos.

Lafreniere said the arrests demonstrate a sharp change in how organized crime is functioning in the city. In the past, police have been able to identify individuals as being part of a certain group - be it a particular street gang or organized crime clan.

Now, Lafreniere said, it's all about money and greed and affiliations change quickly.

The drug-trafficking network operated in Montreal and two communities on the city's North Shore. Roughly two dozen warrants were executed in east-end Montreal, Laval and Terrebonne.

Lafreniere said officers have also seized 29 weapons and will analyze them to see if they are linked to any crimes.

Several police forces are involved in the raids including Montreal police, the RCMP and Quebec provincial police. Other municipal forces were also involved.

Police began knocking on doors about 5 a.m. and they said the operation remained ongoing with further arrests possible.

May 29 2013

REGINA - The Saskatchewan government says it is indefinitely delaying plans for a new remand centre in Saskatoon - even though a government report said it would be built.

Deputy corrections minister Dale McFee acknowledges there is an overcrowding problem at the Saskatoon Provincial Correctional Centre, where people on remand are held.

But McFee, a former Prince Albert police chief, says putting up a new remand centre is a narrow approach.

He says the province is working on a plan that includes repurposing other facilities and programs to keep people out of trouble.

The provincial government said in 2009 that it would build a new \$87-million remand centre in Saskatoon to address overcrowding.

That was in response to an investigation into the escape of six inmates from the Regina correctional centre in 2008.

May 29 2013

New research published by an international team of psychologists has shown that people can suppress incriminating memories and thereby avoid detection in brain activity guilt detection tests.



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Such tests, which are commercially available in the USA and are used by law enforcement agencies in several countries, including Japan and India, are based on the logic that criminals will have specific memories of their crime stored in their brain. Once presented with reminders of their crime in a guilt detection test, it is assumed that their brain will automatically and uncontrollably recognise these details, with the test recording the brain's 'guilty' response.

However, research by psychologists at the universities of Kent, Magdeburg and Cambridge, and the Medical Research Council, has shown that, contrary to this core assumption, some people can intentionally and voluntarily suppress unwanted memories - in other words, control their brain activity, thereby abolishing brain activity related to remembering. This was demonstrated through experiments in which people who conducted a mock crime were later tested on their crime recognition while having their electrical brain activity measured. Critically, when asked to suppress their crime memories, a significant proportion of people managed to reduce their brain's recognition response and appear innocent.

This finding has major implications for brain activity guilt detection tests, among the most important being that those using memory detection tests should not assume that brain activity is outside voluntary control, and any conclusions drawn on the basis of these tests need to acknowledge that it might be possible for suspects to intentionally suppress their

memories of a crime and evade detection.

Dr Zara Bergstrom, Lecturer in Cognitive Psychology at the University of Kent and principal investigator on the research, said: 'Brain activity guilt detection tests are promoted as accurate and reliable measures for establishing criminal culpability. Our research has shown that this assumption is not always justified. Using these types of tests to say that someone is innocent of a crime is not valid because it could just be the case that the suspect has managed to hide their crime memories.'

Dr Michael Anderson, Senior Scientist at the Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge, commented: 'Interestingly, not everyone was able to suppress their memories of the crime well enough to beat the system. Clearly, more research is needed to identify why some people were much more effective than others.'

Dr Anderson's group is presently trying to understand such individual differences with brain imaging.

Dr Jon Simons, of the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge, added: 'Our findings would suggest that the use of most brain activity guilt detection tests in legal settings could be of limited value. Of course, there could be situations where it is impossible to beat a memory detection test, and we are not saying that all tests are flawed, just that the tests are not necessarily as good as some people claim. More research is also needed to understand whether the results of this research work in real life crime detection.' (EurekAlert)

labs have made them confusingly similar to other less potent but equally dangerous drugs, the provincial health ministry said in a statement Thursday. And it warned that first responders treating for a suspected overdose may have to increase the dose of a counteractive agent, naloxone.

"Fentanyl is an opioid. However, it can present a significantly higher risk of overdose. Should regular heroin users inadvertently take it instead of heroin, it could cause overdose and death," the ministry said in its statement. "Fentanyl produces symptoms and signs that are indistinguishable from overdoses of other opioids and, while the treatment of patients with a fentanyl overdose is essentially the same as for other opioids, it can require significantly higher doses of naloxone."

Police have seen a rise in the availability of fentanyl on the streets, the ministry said Vancouver police seized a large supply recently following two overdose "events".

"Fentanyl is very dangerous, and people taking it might be under the impression that they are taking either heroin or oxycodone," the ministry stated.

Earlier in May RCMP in Prince George also warned of the dangers of fentanyl after seizing a quantity of homemade products following two overdose deaths.

The B.C. Coroners Service recently conducted a review of overdose deaths in B.C. between 2005 and 2010. It showed that 61 per cent were accidental and related to the use of prescription drugs.

It identified as the leading cause of drug-

related deaths the following: codeine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, morphine and oxycodone.

The study found that during the same period, 34 per cent of deaths associated with prescription drugs were classified as suicides.

The review found that 58 per cent of those who died from prescription drugs were between the ages of 40 and 59.

It also found the mortality rate from such overdoses was almost twice as high in the Interior as in other parts of the province, with a death rate of 2.8 per 100,000 compared to 1.3 per 100,000 in Metro Vancouver. (Vancouver Sun)

May 30 2013

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - Ontario's police watchdog says a charge will be laid against a former Peel Region police officer in connection with allegations of sexual assault against a 23-year-old woman.

The Special Investigations Unit says the alleged incident took place on Dec. 14, 2012, when the officer was still a member of the police service.

Former constable Abel Gomes was arrested Thursday by members of the SIU and charged with sexual assault.

He was released on certain conditions, including that he refrain from communicating with the complainant, and is scheduled to appear in a Brampton, Ont., court on June 24.

The SIU says it will not comment further on the investigation as the matter is now before the courts.

THURSDAY MAY 30, 2013

May 30 2013

VANCOUVER - A dramatic spike in the number of overdose deaths in B.C. related to the drug fentanyl is causing alarm because users may be mistaking it for either heroin or other street drugs.



civnews.ca

In the first four months of 2013 there have been 23 overdoses related to fentanyl, compared to 20 in all of 2012. The unexpected rise in deaths has caused the province to issue an uncharacteristic warning for health care providers, first responders and police to be on the look out for suspicious overdoses.

And it says the danger of fentanyl, an opioid, poses should not be under-estimated. In 2006 a fentanyl epidemic in Chicago killed 342 people.

The danger apparently lies in the fact drug-dealers making the product in their own

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