

# BLUE <sup>20</sup> YEARS LINE

Canada's National Law Enforcement Magazine

December 2008



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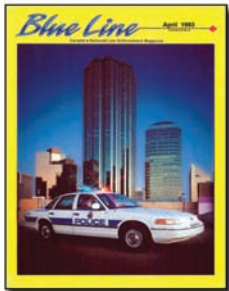
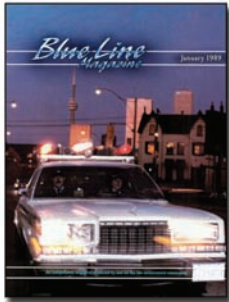
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## BLUE LINE

December 2008  
Volume 20 Number 10



"You should always look at the past with interest but never stare at it," a journalist suggested recently. "With very little effort it will consume you and become your only future." Wise words indeed, but it's still worth pausing to look back on the occasion of our 20th anniversary. We hope setting aside one issue out of 200 will not be considered staring!

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# A story to tell... 20 years later



by Morley Lymburner

I pointed an authoritative finger at a Plymouth speeding in a school zone. The front end of the miscreant's car nose-dived, indicating his initial compliance, if not terror. Somewhat more relaxed, I lowered

my arm and reflexively concentrated on the plate number. The front end immediately rose back up and there was the tell-tale sound of an accelerating motor as the car headed directly for me, a clear indication the driver did not want to speak to me.

I quickly dove into my scout car, dropping it in gear at the same moment the Plymouth came along side. Having many years of experience with motorists trying to run my radar location, I sensed trouble and caught up to the vehicle in no time. Activating my roof lights caused him to veer in front of another vehicle to turn down a side street. This driver obviously was experienced at eluding police and knew this maneuver would slow me down. His desperation to get away was puzzling, since he was driving a four-cylinder car. The dispatcher confirmed my suspicion that it was stolen.

We rolled around the circuitous subdivision streets at speeds which maximized the Plymouth's engine but hardly challenged my eight cylinder police car. The vehicle stopped suddenly in the middle of the street and the driver raised his hands in the air. I'd seen this many times before and opened my car door;



as expected, it was simply a tactic to get me out of my car. He took off again, made a few more quick turns, stopped again and then veered onto a cul-de-sac. "Okay," I thought. "Now it's my move."

He exposed the left side of the car as he spun into the curve of the dead-end street. I aimed for his front left wheel and the impact drove the vehicle onto the boulevard and against a hydrant. I jumped out with my gun drawn and ordered him out of the car. His hands dropped down and he lurched backwards. Surprised, I darted back to my scout car.

The battered vehicle was now driving on the brake drum, gouging the road surface. I quickly reversed, crashing into the back end. The driver's door flung open and the suspect dashed toward a fence, with me in hot pursuit. We both cleared it and ran across a back yard. He cleared the next fence, landing hard on some ice and falling. I slipped on the same ice and suddenly felt a sharp pain run up my left hip toward my spine.

I looked up and saw my suspect scramble toward the street and realized, to my horror, that in my haste I had left the scout

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car door open, keys in the ignition and gun on the passenger seat. My adrenalin surged as I realized my fate depended on my ability to catch this thief.

My pain became worse as I closed in and, with one last effort, lunged for his legs and tackled him. His head slammed down hard on the sidewalk and I could see blood flow from his face as he squirmed desperately to escape my grasp. I reached for his belt, raised myself up and fell on top of him as I grabbed for my handcuffs. I suddenly became aware of a man grabbing the thief and holding him down for me. I thanked him as I felt the pain in my back and hip increase.

“Do you know who’s yard that is?” the helpful neighbour asked with a smirk. “That’s your chief’s house – Jack Marks; he is away on holidays in Florida.” The irony of this would be magnified over the coming years.

I was diagnosed with a permanent disability and the future of my career was in doubt. Freedom of movement without excessive pain was to become a life-long limitation.

The Toronto Police medical bureau bogged me down with paperwork, reporting processes and medical tests over the next year. It first disallowed my claim; after considerable arguments in my favour from doctors and specialists, it then handed the case over to the provincial compensation system. Alarmed by an aggressive, adversarial compensation system, I felt my financial security was in peril. The future needs of my wife, two young children and myself were now at the whim and pleasure of the chief and police services board. The car thief got two years less a day but I got life.

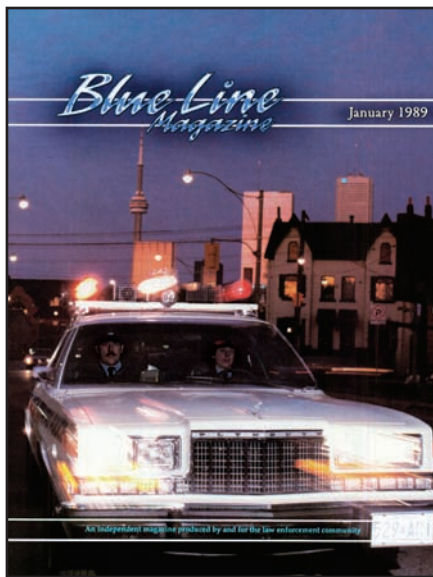
### Looming realities

Retirement was suddenly a clear and present reality and if I had any ideas about another career, they had to be kicked into high gear – there was no time to lose. Thus was the genesis of *Blue Line Magazine*.

It was initially only a dream and began as a hobby just to see if it could work. I was pleasantly surprised to find that it actually could and consulted with a few confidants within the department about applying for secondary employment. My most trusted adviser, S/Supt Mike Coulis, advised me to say nothing to anyone and simply begin publishing. I didn’t understand why but knew he was in the know. Over the next several years, unbeknownst to me, his hand quietly and anonymously supported me.

My biggest asset was Mary, my wife of 13 years, biggest ally and strongest supporter. There was no better business partner. An energetic self starter, she was well educated and had an extremely well developed business acumen. Shear energy and drive brought her through three university degrees, ten years of teaching, a decade as a retail merchant and a loving mother of our two daughters.

I explained the realities of our future; she paused for a few seconds and stared intently at me. I wondered what her next words might be. She simply shrugged and asked “well then – where do we start?” A 20 year history full of joys, angst, excitement, mystery and revelations ensued. To deny the Lord’s guid-



ing hand in my life would be a forced will of blindness.

We worked hard in our off hours to get it all together. I had the knowledge, background and connections from my past. Before becoming a police officer, my chosen career interest was journalism. I worked briefly with a weekly newspaper and absorbed enough ink in my veins to decide it would be an ideal retirement job. As a training constable I was given the job of publishing our district newsletter, working on the photocopied journal for about four years before moving on to other tasks.

### Defining the needs

We decided on a few concepts for *Blue Line* before beginning. Editorially, it had to be directed at the front line officer, with the goal of encouraging loyalty to the profession and not necessarily the patch on the sleeve. The need to understand police work was too important to be left to haphazard agency training courses. Many police officers across the country received little or no information beyond basic training and, for the most part, the idea of keeping abreast of new industry developments was absent.

The next decision was frequency of publication. Early on we decided that there was more than enough information to fill a monthly publication. The big question, of course, was whether we could afford to put out a monthly magazine. Production, printing and postage costs were the big hurdles we had to clear.

*Blue Line* had to survive as a monthly, we concluded. Anything less would not satisfy our readers’ needs. We tipped the usual publishing paradigm upside down. Most magazines look for copy to fill the white space between the advertisements, but our challenge was to find advertising to support the large volumes of copy we wanted to print.

How would the new publication be received, we wondered. Although wanting to go national, we decided to err on the side of caution and begin with an initial print run of 1,200, confining distribution to Ontario. It was January 1989 and I was working at Toronto Police headquarters when the first

edition landed on the desks of every police service in southern Ontario, including mine – and the chief’s.

A senior member called to say the chief wanted to see me and the meeting that followed was surreal. Bracketed by S/Supt Don Banks and Public Affairs Manager Adrienne MacLennon, Marks began speaking to them about the concepts behind the magazine and the dangers lurking for the department’s image if it messed up.

To my relief, both senior members defended me well, regardless of any reservations they may have had. I was ordered to submit an application for secondary employment and have it approved. A half-hour after returning to my desk a smiling Supt Bob Brown dropped a paper on my desk and told me to take it upstairs to the chief. I was astonished to see it had been signed and approved up through the chain of command in less than 30 minutes. I never saw nor heard anything about it again. Legend has it that it went into the chief’s top drawer, to be acknowledged at a later date – if I screwed up.

### A reality finally seen

A hunger for the publication developed quickly. After the next edition it became clear that it must go national in scope. Every penny of profit for the next four years was pumped immediately back into the publication.

I continued working for the police service, engaged in a peculiar dance between vocal supporters and secret naysayers. Many saw my permanent disability as an excuse to publish a magazine. Few held a sympathetic ear to an injured worker who appears to be taking care of his own future. Although all saw the advantages of the publication, both management and association were torn about what to do with this potentially dangerous and/or embarrassing lone wolf.

I now completely understand their dilemma and finally see why no one was eager to find me a job which suited my injury. They could not tell nor order me to leave. With almost 23 years service, numerous letters of commendation, two merit awards and an exemplary service medal, the police association simply told me to go home. It and management were at an impasse about what to do with me. For the next two years I received no pay and was marked AWOL. The association insisted they were filing grievances on my behalf but nothing came of them – a sort of mutual consent or detente existed with my file.

My actions alone were my self-fulfilling prophecy of sorts, and the magazine’s popularity on a national scale placed everyone in a tough box that only I could correct. My wife and I realized that continuing with the police service was no longer a viable option; the magazine would have to take over our interests on a full time basis.

I left behind two years of lost pay but hold no regrets or grudges – the only pain which remains is from that car thief more than 20 years ago.



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# JEERS & CHEERS

## The negatives

Although *Blue Line Magazine* succeeded beyond anything imagined, it wasn't without a few bumps in the road. Our phones were secretly tapped, computer systems probed and individuals assigned to watch closely for mistakes. We had no secrets to worry about so we ignored the taps, changed service providers when we discovered the probing and owned up to our mistakes and apologized quickly. We consciously got into this business and understood there would be some rocky roads when dealing with organizations who wield power.

What follows are a few of the bumps from which we have recovered:

...

A major agency once banned us because they thought we were a union magazine. A major police association bans us to this day because they think we are a management magazine.

...

One agency banned us because we showed its former chief, who was not popular with the current chief, wearing a police hat. For more than eight years we managed to sneak enough magazines in to keep most of the 1,000 plus officers covered.

...

Other senior members of the same agency asked *Blue Line* to run a cover story showcasing their hosting of a conference. We complied but were kicked out of parts of the event. The ban continued for a further two years before the chief retired and we were put back in their good graces.

...

For our first two years, one chief thought a troublemaker in his department wrote for us and ordered all copies burned. I heard about this and told him this particular person had never, ever written for us. He grumbled but stopped his incineration. That agency has been featured on four of our covers.

...

One rather large agency told its corporate suppliers that it would view advertising in *Blue Line* as reason to pull their contract bids. We are unsure if the policy still exists but a very few companies prominently supplying this agency have never advertised in 20 years. We still work with this agency and have written many stories beneficial to them because they do a lot of things right and our readers benefit from their willingness to share.

## And the positives

After five years of publishing *Blue Line*, we realized a void existed in supplying news in a timely fashion specifically targeted to the concerns of labour and management police executives. There was a clear need for a weekly news source in addition to *Blue Line's* monthly feature stories, editorials and columns.

The solution was to negotiate a contract with The Canadian Press to develop *Blue Line News Week*. We were pioneers in this area and our proposal involved copyright and royalty payments for news transmitted in an electronic format. Canadian Press accepted our offer and *Blue Line News Week* began in 1996. Its circulation is currently 650 e-mailed copies per week.

...

Recognizing the importance of electronic information sharing, *Blue Line* also began its presence on the Internet in 1996. Innovative additions to blueline.ca have included the *Blue Line Forum*, with its public and private sections intended for free discourse and dialogue between the public and law enforcement practitioners.

...

Some book titles are not popular with the main line chains and many readers in remote areas have no access to these stores. To fill this gap, *Blue Line Marketing* was

created 20 years ago to supply this small niche market. A full page display ad in each issue of the magazine shows the array of products and titles available.

...

The *Blue Line Trade Show*, began in 1997, was another exciting enhancement. The two largest police oriented trade shows involved events produced by police chief associations. Both are travelling road shows with varying restrictions on admission by rank and file officers and civilian personnel. Members of many parallel enforcement branches, with similar interests in goods and services, were barred entirely. Our advertisers asked us to develop a vendor driven event designed to attract all law enforcement personnel and we met the need. Held on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of April in the same Toronto area location, the *Blue Line Trade Show* has grown to include training seminars.

...

Our first anniversary issue noted that *Blue Line* had published 322 articles and feature stories related to the law enforcement profession and the total circulation was 26,400. At the close of our 20th year, *Blue Line* presented some 423 articles and features and circulated 120,000 magazines across Canada.

...

Over the past 20 years, *Blue Line* has produced and distributed more than 2,330,000 magazines.

*Blue Line* has been hated, forgiven, tolerated, endured and loved by a profession which sees the need for an independent voice that speaks up and clues everyone in for the greater good. The best part is that we do it all at no expense to taxpayers; we have never accepted any government grants or subsidies. Even Maclean's and Chatelaine can't say that.

*Blue Line* is custom crafted exclusively for Canadian law enforcement professionals.

## THE BLUE LINE TEAM



Tom Rataj



Dave Brown



Dorothy Cotton



Brian Ward



Erin Oliver



Mike Novakowski



Dannette Dooley



Elvin Klassen



Bob Murray



Mark Giles



Mary Lymburner

Kieran Huggins

Kathryn Lymburner

Mark Reesor

Morley Lymburner

Jolene Lymburner

Bob Rodkin

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# 1989

January

- The first Issue of Blue Line Magazine is distributed.

## February

- Metro Toronto Police introduce PC Cops, an automatic dialer system to link the community and police using powerful computers.
- The decision to use deadly force "presents a weighty responsibility and calls for great discretion," noted Peterborough police officer Robert Hotson in his lead article. He called for officers to be taught how to recognize violent situations as they develop through realistic street training so they can "assess how they feel and how they would respond."

## March

- With the RCMP's help, Metro Toronto Police purchases a "DeLaRue Printrak Corporation" AFIS computer. The Peel homicide bureau uses the Dr. Watson case management system to computerize its files.
- Thanks to a generous donation, OPP cruisers province-wide are be equipped with Teddy bears, to be given "only in those cases where a child desperately needs a friend to hug," noted OPP S/SGT Irena Lawrenson.

## April

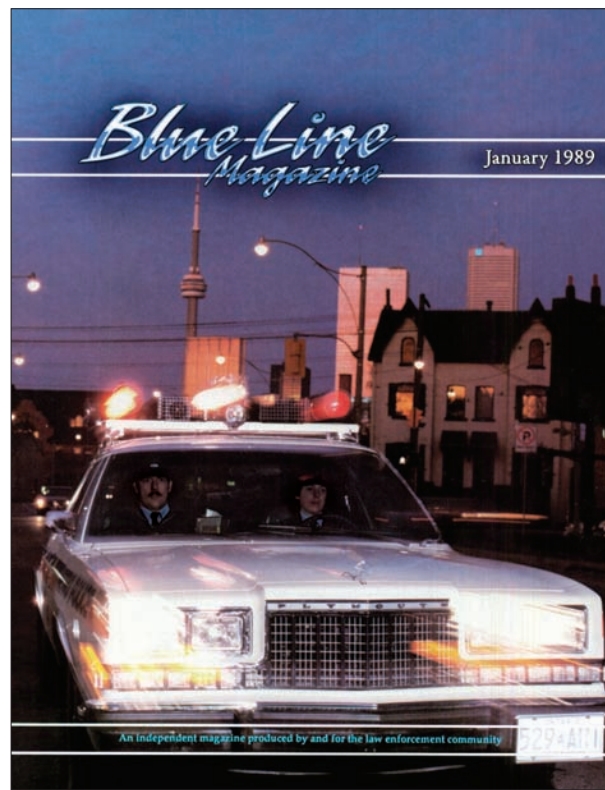
- A profile of Metro Toronto Police S/Supt Jean Boyd, the highest ranking female police officer in Canada and one of only 385 women on the 5,621 member Toronto force. "There is no end to opportunities for women today," Boyd noted. "All you need to do is apply yourself and build up credibility."
- All 18 members of the Montmagny Police Force are to be vaccinated to protect them from Hepatitis B after two officers come into contact with a suspect's infected blood.

## May

- In a "radical change in policing policy," Windsor Police open a combination mini precinct/drop in centre. Specially trained officers patrol on foot and on bicycle, directly interact with residents.

## June / July

- The New Brunswick Highway Patrol is disbanded a year short of its 10th anniversary after a study concludes the force is too expensive. Former members were hired by the RCMP and municipal forces.
- "The once simmering cauldron of discontent" among New Brunswick RCMP officers "is now beginning to boil" as members prepare to challenge the federal language policy.
- OPP Commissioner Thomas O'Grady announces the appointment of



its first female commissioned officer. Cst Gwen Boniface's promotion to inspector is the first step of her eventual rise to commissioner.

## August / September

- Police "must be a model to all of us," noted the Ontario Task Force on Race Relations and Policing. Recommendations included mandatory minority hiring and quick promotions, quotas, improved race relations training and the establishment of a race relations and police review board.

## October

- CP Police officer Craig Best observed in his article on handgun retention that officers need to be trained so they react instinctively when attacked and techniques need to be kept simple so they can be easily remembered under extreme duress.
- Durham Region Police Force Chief Dave Edwards' 10 hour "get to know your police force" course proved so popular that a second class had to be added.

## November

- Some 30 RCMP and city police emergency response officers sporting M16s, shotguns and pistols guarded a special convoy transporting seven accused South American drug smugglers to court, after police were tipped of a possible rescue operation by a heavily armed underground Colombian organization.
- Sleep researcher John Shearer suggests no 12 hour shifts and no more than six days work in a row; the longest day off should be after the night shift; officers working "war zones" should be given lots of help and time off for breaks.

## December

- The Vancouver Police Department forms a committee to investigate why so many officers are leaving to work at other agencies.
- "Police others as you would have them police you," suggests Chris Braid-en in part two of his series extolling the benefits of community policing.



Blue Line Magazine is created as an independent publication designed to inform, entertain, educate and upgrade the skills of those involved in the law enforcement profession. With no direct control from an enforcement agency or association, Blue Line Magazine is able to deliver timely information, free from union or management perspectives.





# 1990

## January

- Summerside Police set up a computerized system to monitor Citizen's Band (CB) radio transmissions after a report CBs were used by culprits in 13 arsons. The computer also records date, times and channels and can print transcripts of transmissions.

## February

- A Barrie-area community policing experiment develops into a province-wide policy for the Ontario Provincial Police. A community officer is assigned to each area program to speak to community groups.
- Ontario introduces "Canada's toughest pursuit procedure," requiring officers to make public safety their "paramount consideration" in deciding whether to pursue a vehicle.
- From all our tests and periodic simulations we know we have to hold out for a maximum of 17 minutes before armed police can arrive," Ontario Hydro's head of security at Bruce Nuclear tells *Blue Line*. "We are quite confident that we can do that." Arming the officers would almost be a betrayal of the Canadian way of life, he says.

## March

- Dartmouth Police receive a "rash of calls" after offering a self defence course for women, to provide them with options they can use when attacked.
- Only seven to 10 of every 100 people applying to be dispatchers at Canada's busiest police department are hired, the cover story on police dispatchers notes. Lives depend on their ability think rationally, move quickly and react precisely. The often unheralded "pressure cooker" job requires "a tremendous amount of patience, stamina and mental discipline" to cope with the some 22,500 calls flooding in each week.

## April

- Police leaders are paid to lead but "with some notable exceptions, few have done so," writes Chris Braiden. "Instead most have chosen to bury themselves in bureaucratic memo writing and paperwork. Paperwork can be delegated; leadership cannot."
- The Supreme Court's Duarte decision requiring court consent to gather electronic evidence will severely hamper police ability to gather evidence, predicts Al Porter.

## May

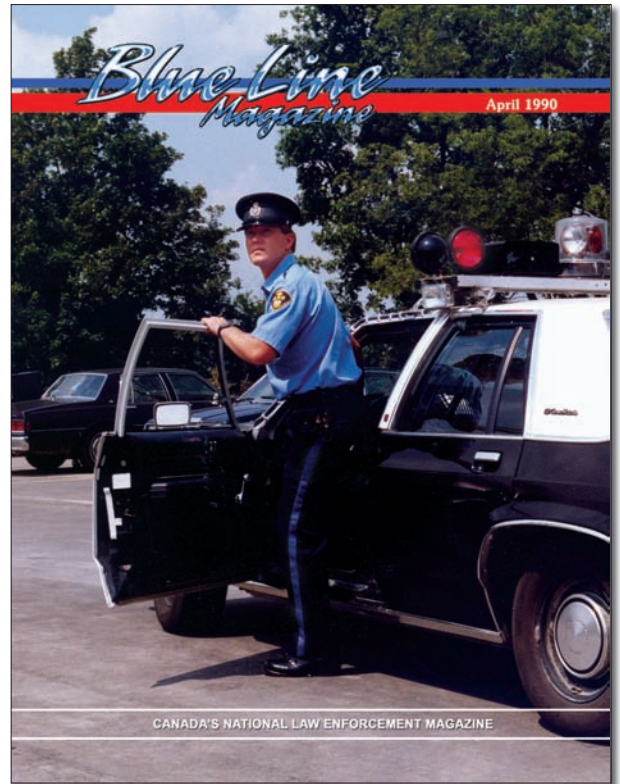
- Ontario is one of the largest consumers of pornography, says the head of Project P – and that won't change until penalties offset the profits, says Sgt Bob Matthews.
- Police must "get out of their cars and meet ordinary people under normal circumstances, on a regular basis and get to know each other as individuals," Chris Braiden urges. Familiarity is the key and "front line patrol officers must start walking again," handling calls for service, doing paperwork; "the objective... is not to be different from mobile patrol but rather to do more with the uncommitted time experienced by both."

## June / July

- After starting out as a corporate security service, the BC Transit Police become a fully accredited police department.

## August / September

- Lack of training, poor communication equipment, inappropriate dress, lack of recognition and poor interforce co-operation were among the shortcomings identified by an Ontario review of tactical units.



## October

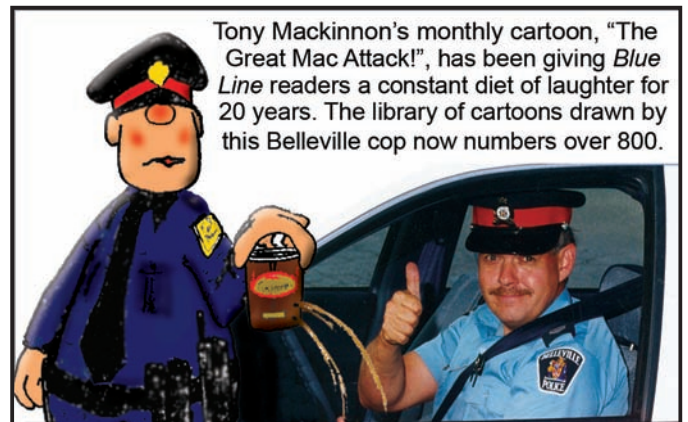
- Voice writing may be the next big thing, the Gloucester Police Force proclaims. Officers can dictate reports six to ten times faster than writing them by hand.

## November

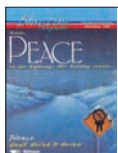
- More than 8,600 police officers at 23 municipal agencies and 82 OPP detachments are using the Ontario Municipal and Provincial Police Automation Co-operative system to access and share information.

## December

- Leaving officers in high stress assignments such as the drug squad is dangerous, argued Port Hope Police Chief Ron Hoath, who suggested rotations every two to three years.



Tony Mackinnon's monthly cartoon, "The Great Mac Attack!" has been giving *Blue Line* readers a constant diet of laughter for 20 years. The library of cartoons drawn by this Belleville cop now numbers over 800.



# 1991

## January

- *Blue Line's* subscription price is \$25 a year – and that is where it has stayed for more than 17 years!
- “The only people held accountable are the victims of crimes and the officers who deal with them,” fumed Morley Lymburner after the Supreme Court stayed thousands of charges due to unreasonable trial delays. “It’s the 18th Century court system, not police, which is to blame.”

## February

- A newly elected NDP government proclaims the Ontario Police Services Act, making municipal police service boards mandatory, requiring enhanced officer training and clearly defining the role of officers, chiefs and local police services boards. The act also mandated an accountable, province-wide public complaints system, gave first nations constables legislative recognition and introduced the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services and a special investigations unit.
- Morley Lymburner’s five rules of traffic direction: Be seen, wear a hat, use a whistle, clear signals and CYA.

## March

- Policing “is in great need of a few six year olds who will blow the whistle on some of the senseless things we do,” argues Chris Braiden. “Surely no one can believe that driving around in a police car for six or seven hours serves any useful purpose... or that policies or procedures can give you quality work. Policing is “obsessed with efficiency at the expense of effectiveness. Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things.”

## April

- Canada is 20 years behind Britain when it comes to police dive teams, two visiting constables are told. Cst Rick Rozoski, co-ordinator of the International Divers Symposium, is determined to change this.
- Constables “are the salt of the earth; without us, there is no need for... the whole realm of the upper ranks,” advises “W.T.” on dealing with the nagging feeling that you have missed the “promotional boat.” He urges constables to accept their “career constable” status and the peace of mind and renewed desire to police that comes with it.

## May

- Targeting ‘professional’ criminals is crucial to crime reduction, wrote Ron Hoath. “We can no longer afford not to lock (them up); the most effective method of significantly reducing crime is to rid ourselves of the source of crime, the career criminal.”
- Why stop with banning guns, wonders Rock Dueck. “The whole household kitchen could be banned with this type of logic. After all, a knife does the same job, as would a fork or spoon... if used with imagination!”



Since 1991 CAPS has been designing and selling firearms judgment training systems and providing firearms training to those who dare to prepare. [www.caps-inc.com](http://www.caps-inc.com)



## June / July

- The bike program “has become a marketing dream for our police service,” noted Cst Garry Coles of the Halton Regional Police Service. “Children and teenagers are constantly around us asking about the equipment and how we do our job.”

## August / September

- Rather than relying on behavioral scientists to explain what causes police officers stress, some US departments decided to actually ask their officers! The court system was judged the most stressful, followed by dealing with administrators, equipment problems, the non-criminal public and coping with the demands of shift work.

## October

- Police officers are having difficulty parting with their trusty revolvers, Calgary Police S/Sgt Michael Dungey wrote. He went on to clear up a variety of misunderstandings about pistols – that officers may ‘spray and pray’, or small handed officers may have trouble with a pistol’s larger grip.
- Problem-oriented policing recognizes “what police really do,” observed Renee LaPierre. It turns the organizational chart upside down, putting citizens on the top, followed by frontline officers, supervisors and managers and “especially the sergeants.”

## November

- “Giving officers a couple of days of defensive training and then expecting perfection is like telling a new law student to watch a video and then... pass the bar exam,” said Craig Best. Building the necessary knowledge and physical capability to perform well in stressful and violent confrontations requires three levels of training intensity.
- Tom Rataj wrote his first technology column – part one of a series on computer woes.

## December

- Metro Toronto Police Service Det/Sgt Mark Thorpe heralded Airborne law enforcement – but the TPS is still well grounded in their thinking about it.
- “Dialing 9-1-1... Northern Style”, written by Bob Perry, describes how an emergency call in the high arctic has challenges unseen by southern neighbours.



# 1992

## January

- Some things have changed. Tom Rataj suggests solutions in part three of his computer woes series. Don't cheap out and buy industry standard hardware, he advises, including a 386 computer with 5MB RAM, VGA colour monitor, 9600 baud modem and Word Perfect 5.1.
- "Some officers lack the ability to handle their weapons with enough competence to safely use live ammunition," Craig Best observed in advocating better police firearms training.

## February

- A cop "finds his life has changed when he takes his partner home," the article begins. Valerie Hill is profiling Toronto canine officer Cst. Kerry Grant and his two dogs. Morgan was Toronto's only drug detection dog and had recovered more than \$300,000 worth of narcotics.

## March

- Realizing how useful a dog can be, Ottawa Police begin their own canine program, beginning with five dogs. Suspects "are more afraid of a dog than a gun," one new member observed. "They know we won't shoot them (but) they don't know what the dog might do."
- "Peel formed his police to replace soldiers; convention emulates them," wrote Chris Braiden. "Conventional policing is bureaucracy-based; it needs to be community-based."

## April

- Many police officers put on a mask to show those around us, the person we would like them to see, wrote Neil Thomson. The price of holding it in place is high though – denial and never being able to reveal true selves, he explained in *Mechanisms of failure*.

## May

- Spas for cops is the newest trend out of California. San Diego entrepreneurs are considering developing a camping resort for active, retired and reserve police officers so they wouldn't have to worry about being "next to a bunch of bikers or people doing dope."
- A "user friendly crime fighter" that pays for itself is the way Toronto Police Service Det/Sgt Gene Pankewich described the force's new AFIS system.

## June / July

- Female police officers in Suffolk, England decide they should be issued night sticks – by a vote of 48 to 38 (44 abstained). The police federation also wanted another permission for male officers to pull out their truncheon before, rather than after, they are attacked.
- New Westminster police celebrate the 10th anniversary of the department's youth summer soccer school program, designed to break down the barriers between youth and police.

## August / September

- Fallen Canadian police officers are recognized for the first time at the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial ceremony in Washington.

## October

- There's no such thing as "routine patrol," OPP Cst Scott Couse discovered after being shot from less than three feet away during a routine traffic stop. Doctors told him his protective vest saved his life. The suspects, arrested the next day, were linked to the murder of two men earlier that day.



- Ontario's 22,000 police officers are set to declare a political war against Bob Rae's New Democratic Party government, who the Ontario Police Association accuses of endangering lives with "knee jerk responses" to crises.

## November

- Fort Lauderdale, Florida residents can now talk directly to an officer for non-emergency calls rather than having to go through a dispatcher. Community police officers were issued cell phones under the test program and 200 minutes a month of free airtime – and residents in 11 neighbourhoods were given stickers with the cell phone numbers.

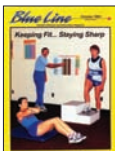
## December

- "Hey Bob and Susan (that would be Bob Rae and Susan Eng), wake up!" urges Doug Ramsey of the Metro Toronto Police Association. "The police are not the problem, they are part of the solution. We serve all the community. When are you going to do the same?"
- RCMP Commissioner Norman Inkster is elected as the second Canadian president of Interpol.



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# 1993

## January

- Police forces in Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto are finally replacing their revolvers with pistols – and not just any pistol – they’ve begun “an extensive refit into 21st Century technology” by deciding on the Glock Model 22!

## February

- The huge growth in cell phone adoption has presented police with a new problem – combating a rapidly growing cell phone fraud industry. “Sophisticated computer hackers and highly paid software engineers” present a major threat to both the industry and police, an industry spokesman warned.
- The first Canada-wide firearms amnesty is a big success, resulting in the recovery of almost 20,000 firearms.

## March

- Newly minted Chief of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, Larry Gravill submitted an article about an innovative project which was designed to reduce overtime costs and, more importantly, to introduce a participative management process called “One Page Planning.”

## April

- The cost of entering the CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) program is less than a new squad car, observed Edmonton Police Service (EPS) Insp Roger Simms. The EPS became the first Canadian police agency to earn accreditation in 1988 and hosted the first CALEA international conference in 1993.
- The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime sets up shop in Montreal.

## May

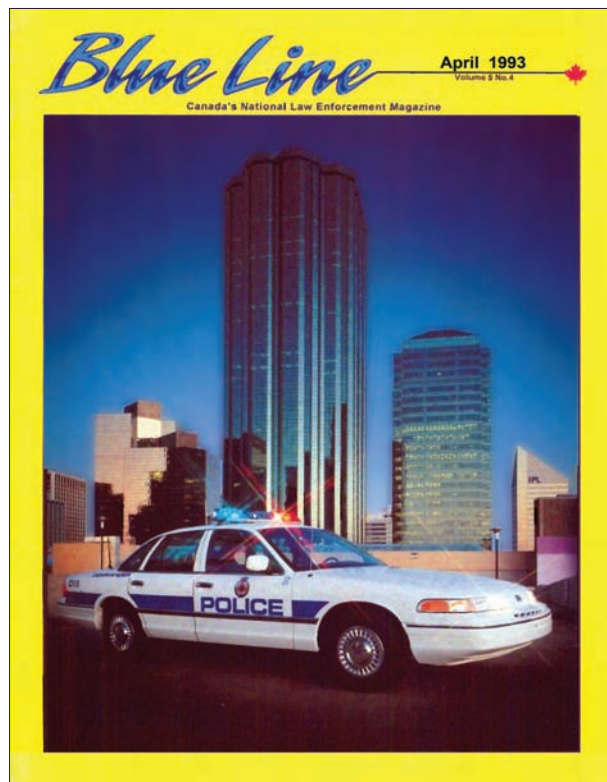
- The RCMP takes delivery of its ninth helicopter, adding to a fleet of 28 fixed wing aircraft at 25 stations across the country. The new bird, which is based in Vancouver, sports pop-out floats for water landings, an ambulance kit and a dual UHF/VHF radio system.

## June / July

- “Leadership” is a word on everyone’s lips,” is the way Anthony J. Schembri began Over managed and under led. The young attack it and the old grow wistful for it. Parents have lost it and police seek it. Experts claim it. Commissions investigate it and prosecutors indict it. The subject of leadership seems to gather a mist that discussion serves only to thicken. If there was ever a moment in history when a comprehensive strategic view of leadership was needed, it is now. It is the pivotal force behind successful organizations.



Dalhousie University’s Police Leadership Program begins its unique distance education program with the purpose of assisting officers from across the country in their professional development.



## August / September

- “Don’t procrastinate, computer disasters are waiting to happen to you!” warns Tom Rataj in a column about the threats posed by computer viruses. “Security should be an integral part of your computer’s operation.”
- There is “life after law enforcement,” Chris Tiller assures in an article which suggests retiring police officers may want to consider working as paralegals, company reps, insurance or legal investigators or private security officers.

## October

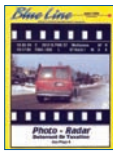
- The “monumental task” of moving the RCMP “O” Division from Toronto to its new headquarters in London is well underway. The move was complicated by the closure of the force’s Oakville detachment and Hamilton subdivision officers and the elimination of detachment designations in Mississauga and Oshawa. Staff became part of larger detachments in Newmarket, Milton and Bowmanville.

## November

- No more Mr. Nice Guy: Detroit city police who routinely make traffic stops or write tickets are ordered to stop saying “Have a nice day” to motorists. The force’s deputy chief issued the order after receiving several complaints, noting the phrase could add insult to injury or come across as sarcastic. Still acceptable, apparently: “I hope the rest of your day will be better” and “Thank you for stopping.”

## December

- Although a “normal part of policing in Europe,” helicopters are something of a rarity in Canada’s largest city. *Blue Line* arranged with Eurocopter to fly in a helicopter from Fort Erie to give a visiting German police chief an aerial tour of Toronto. With the OPP’s helicopter soon to move to Orillia, Metro Toronto Deputy Chief David Boothby suggested Southern Ontario forces could pool their resources on a two or three helicopter fleet.



# 1994

## January

- The Ontario Ministry of Labour declares the standard issue .38 revolver unsafe, paving the way for police forces to transition to pistols. Specific problems identified included ease and time involved in reloading and occasional and involuntary cocking and accidental discharge.

## February

- Revenue Canada is turning customs officers into "Grocery Police," more concerned with collecting revenue than nailing criminals and illegal immigrants, says Canadian Police Association President Neal Jessop. "I have watched in anger as murderers, rapists, bank robbers, gun runners, crack cocaine and heroin dealers have traversed our US border. If we were serious about interdiction of criminals at the border, we'd have armed border guards and officers would have access to CPIC."

## March

- Ontario police forces will transition to either 9mm or .40 calibre pistols over a five year period. Officers will receive "no less" than 28 hours of training and must fire 1,000 rounds. The revolver controversy is now replaced by concerns about bullets; hollow points would be much more suitable and safer than the 'truncated cone' round chose by the province, experts tell *Blue Line*.

## April

- Although heavily criticized by the media as just another tax grab, "it is quite apparent" that photo radar works both as a deterrent and labour saving device for police, *Blue Line* publisher Morley Lymburner concluded. Citizen's lives are being sacrificed because there's not enough money to pay for proper traffic enforcement, he argued, and better technology and appropriate regulations are the only alternative.

## May

- "Many presume the titles police officer and law enforcement officer are synonymous," writes Chris Braiden. "They're wrong. One is much more than the other. Call a homemaker a housemaid; you'll see what I mean. Law enforcement professional is a contradiction in terms. One cannot be a professional functionary, no matter how well one performs the function.... Law enforcement locks on efficiency. Policing seeks effectiveness before it concerns itself with efficiency."

## June / July

- Durham Regional Police open their first Learning Centre in conjunction with Durham College in Oshawa. This "new phase" in police learning saw all in-service training for the 700 member force transferred to the college facility. The partnership with Durham College placed the police service on the leading edge of police education, as the first service in Ontario to become involved with a college or university this extensively.

## August / September

- Deputy Commissioner Joseph Murray is appointed to take over from retiring Norman Inkster as the new commissioner of the RCMP.
- Three police associations join the battle to "dump the bullet," saying the truncated cone threatens the safety of officers. An immediate switch to hollow point ammunition is necessary.

## October

- The RCMP prepares to release version 1.0 of CPIC for Windows, Tom Rataj reports – but make sure you have a 486 computer with at least 8MB RAM to run it!



## November

- "Police and government regulatory agencies have been technologically behind the times for several years," stated an article in the November edition. RCMP S/Sgt. Jan Wolynski warns that internet related investigations are hampered by outdated legal processes to find internet stalkers. In the same edition Peel Regional Police Sgt. Paul Beatty and Tim Devlin show how multimedia training on computers can give cops more street time.

## December

- Toronto's new police chief designate says he is "absolutely and categorically committed" to the community policing philosophy, including officers walking the beat and meeting people. Boothby took over from Bill McCormack, who retired after a 40 year policing career.
- RCMP and fisheries officers take to the seas aboard a naval destroyer to patrol around Vancouver Island, a coastline ideal for drug smugglers.



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# 1995

## January

- Carefully balance your needs, wants and budget when selecting fire-arms, urges Dave Brown in his first *Blue Line* column. Tactical shotguns are the most effective and least understood weapon, he writes, before disassembling the multitude of myths surrounding their use and encouraging readers to give them another look.

## February

- There can be few things worse than sitting down at the old thump-o-matic special and pounding out a case preparation after the "pinch of the week," writes Tom Rataj, especially when you finish and realize you left a few words out and have to pound it all out again. The answer? Computerized case management systems.

## March

- The Anishinabek Police Service becomes the first Ontario police agency to switch to hollow point bullets, defying a provincial ban. "We must take into consideration officer safety first," said Chief Glen Bannon, adding the full metal jacket, truncated bullet's ability to stop an armed and dangerous assailant is questionable at best.

## April

- *Blue Line* publisher Morley Lymburner's first reference to "the pristine beauty of traffic."
- Northstar unveils a prototype police cruiser so advanced the company says it could be renamed "the mobile sub-station." The vehicle has a 'heads-up' display, integrated radar, night vision camera, video recording and navigation systems, and built-in communications, computer, printer and fax machine. The cost? \$50,000 if mass produced.

## May

- Referring to the movie *Top Gun*, Dave Brown noted, "There is a valuable lesson taught here for anyone going into a combat situation. What you practice, right or wrong, is how you perform on the street. Train like you will fight, because you will fight like you've been trained."

## June / July

- Small town Manitoba police forces are more efficient than their larger counterparts, according to a study by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

## August / September

- After a year-long fundraising campaign that raised more than \$1.5 million, the Calgary Police Service buys Canada's first patrol helicopter, HAWC 1. The new bird proved useful immediately, assisting in ending a car chase



- and nabbing the suspects during a company demonstration flight!
- Calgary hires Christine Silverberg as its new police chief.
- The newly elected Harris government keeps its promise and approves police use of hollow point bullets in Ontario.
- The RCMP purchases 17,200 Smith & Wesson 9mm pistols and 16,100 units of Barrday body armor.

## October

- "Policing the Internet just could be the final frontier for cops," writes Tom Rataj. "The technical challenges facing investigators, along with legislation that is always two steps behind, make this the biggest challenge in modern law enforcement."
- "Simply put, to succeed in a media situation, you need to remember that there are no bad questions, only bad answers," suggests Paul Kellis. Confronting the media has become one of the more important tasks of modern policing, he notes.

## November

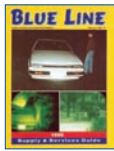
- The history of the German Shepherd begins just 150 years ago when one man sets out to breed the perfect utility working dog, writes Kerry Greene. Max Emil Friedrich von Stephanitz took a little known native hunting breed from obscurity to the world stage, wrote Greene, creating an obedient, faithful dog well disposed to harmless people "with a boundless and irrepressible zest for life... a fulfilment of the dog enthusiast's fondest dreams."

## December

- What do cops want, the public deserve and administrators need? Dynamic simulation training, wrote Joel Johnston. It takes officers out of the 'comfort zone' and into the 'stress zone,' helping them "make the mental, psychological and physical transition from the classroom to the real world... Accountability is greater now than it has ever been before."
- Canadian police donate their used body armour to their British counterparts, where more than 100,000 officers patrol the streets unprotected.



Prairie Geomatics Ltd is founded by Art Dalton focusing on geomatics consulting, and quickly expands to include GPS and accessories. Weather meters (for traffic accident investigation), waterproof cases and personal satellite trackers are later additions to our product line.



# 1996

## January

- Windows 95 changes everything, Tom Rataj proclaims. Whether you are new to computers or ready to change, "you should go for this new operating system," he urged.
- The .40 calibre pistol "has become the darling of the Canadian law enforcement community," *Blue Line's* first Cross Canada gun survey concludes.

## February

- Publisher Morley Lymburner recalls the sage advice of Winnipeg Police Superintendent Bruce Taylor.... In his statement to the media about their officers getting more powerful weapons he stated; "We chose the 40-calibre semiautomatic pistol for its flesh-tearing characteristics. To be morbid about it, the only thing that stops a person is the size of the hole"... This (is) the statement of the year for 1995 and I would congratulate Taylor for his forthright honesty.

## March

- "While crime remains high on the public's list of concerns, governments have been making cuts to policing services *Blue Line's* first Cross Canada Policing Survey found.
- Computer viruses "have now advanced through numerous levels of complexity, and have generally moved towards the destructive realm, where they do a lot of damage," warns Tom Rataj. He strongly urged all computer users to buy anti-virus software.

## April

- There were more than 1,000 CN/CP Railway Police officers deployed across Canada in 1960. That number dropped to just over 200 by 1996 and Peter DeLong of the CP Police Association worried that soon policing may become another piece of railway nostalgia.

## May

- "Since its beginning in 1988, ambulance members of the Metro Toronto Public Order Unit have drilled regularly with the police component of the unit, and receive identical crowd control training," wrote Morley Lymburner and John Moir. They also are issued police style equipment.
- Community policing "represents an evolution, not a revolution," wrote London Police Chief Julian Fantino. "We must stop the rhetoric and exaggerated expectations (of the spin doctors)... However defined, however implemented, community policing remains a philosophy that simply must respect the traditional police mandate as being crucial to the task at hand; that being 'community safety.'"

## June / July

- A *Blue Line* nationwide survey of employee assistance programs (EAP) found that they were, for the most part, in a state of turmoil. Most officers knew little or nothing of their agency's program and, equally disheartening, some agencies had made little effort to institute a sound program.

## August / September

- The disadvantages of the traditional 5-8 shift pattern, which range from an unhealthy sleep schedule to increased overtime costs, are well known, wrote criminologist Todd Shissler. He advocated agencies consider adopting the 3-12 pattern, citing productivity increases of more than 50 per-cent and better officer retention.

## October

- The "very special pride that is the essence of the policing profession" has become "dulled, somewhat old fashioned, or even worse, no longer important," wrote London Police Chief Julian Fantino. That pride needs to be reawakened, and the process should begin with recruits.



## November

- Police officers are eight times more likely to die by their own hand than by homicide, a University at Buffalo study has found. UB professor John Vioanti advised police agencies to include suicide awareness training in their stress management programs and make counseling readily available.
- The OPP Highway Ranger traffic enforcement program is proving effective, writes OPP Toronto Regional Commander Bill Currie. "They are setting new standards, bringing new ways of looking at issues; all this and actually having fun at the same time. Complaints against the team members have been nil. Just think, 42,000 contacts and not one complaint."

## December

- Calgary's police helicopter responded to more than 2,300 calls for service in its first year of service, writes Blair McQuillan, and was the first unit on the scene 65 per cent of the time. It was involved in 13 pursuits, all of which resulted in the apprehension of the driver and no injuries to police or civilians.



*Blue Line News Week*, a digest of law enforcement news from across Canada, began publishing, first in a printed format called *Ten-Seven*. Currently the publication is emailed to all police executives every Thursday afternoon.



# 1997

## January

- "You're never a fool for checking" to make sure there's a round in the chamber, Calgary police officer and firearms instructor Robin Stoney wrote. "I had one student recently who respond, 'I'd bet my life on it,' so I asked him if he would bet his partner's life on it. The look from his partner apparently convinced him that to visually confirm a round in the chamber after loading wasn't too much to ask!"

## February

- Support for the Metro Toronto Police Service's Civilian Police College has been overwhelming, both internally and externally. Courses are booked full and there are long waiting lists filled with residents wanting to learn more about their local police force.
- Preparing for a sudden emergency requires a good understanding of more than the basic technical skills of target shooting, writes firearms editor Dave Brown. When was the last time you practiced shooting from proper cover positions using real vehicles instead of wooden barricades, he asked. How about practicing dim-light and night shooting techniques with flashlights?

## March

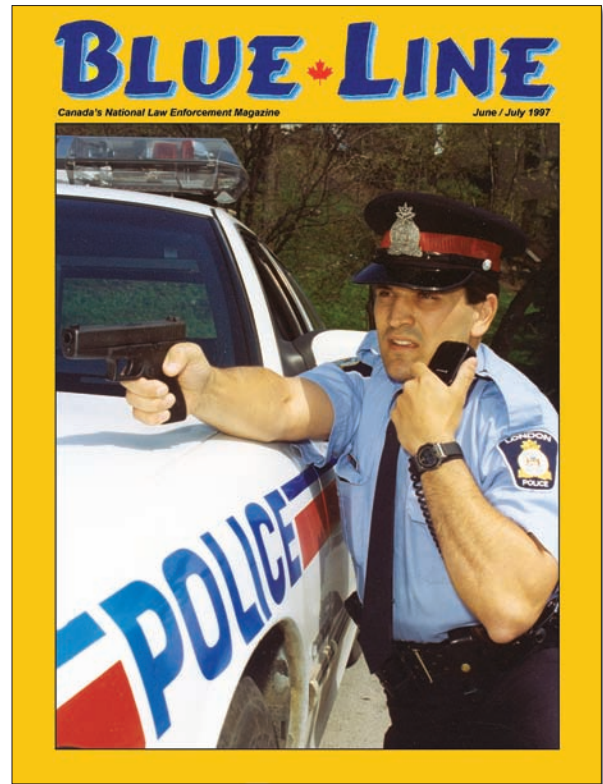
- Police officers should keep the parole board in mind when writing reports. Information about the accused "may be read and utilized by literally scores of people," writes columnist Gary Miller. It "may be anecdotal, hearsay, it may be totally unacceptable for admission into the trial proceedings, yet it may be very pivotal in determining whether an accused receives early parole or any parole at some later date."

## April

- "Many roads lead to Response 97," later to become the Blue Line Trade Show. Dave Brown was prominently featured at the inaugural event, demonstrating ways to conduct firearms training on a shoestring budget. Ron Beer presented a safe and effective defense for an officer on the ground.
- Canadians spend three cents of their tax dollar on police, courts and correctional services, according to Juristat, slightly less per person than was spent in 1990-91.

## May

- The federal government decides to disband the ports police and hand over the responsibility to municipalities. "This questionable move disregards the highly specialized knowledge required for this type of duty and the importance of the mentoring processes required to make dedicated specialized police functions," wrote a disapproving Morley Lymburner. The Canadian Police Association was also concerned. "Remember, what passes through the ports ends up on the streets of our cities," warned CPA president Neal Jessop.



## June / July

- London was still basking in its *Financial Times* ranking as the best run city in Canada when *Blue Line* profiled the London Police Service. The agency's strong, technologically innovative style focused on reducing officer paper work and report writing, and the city's new, state of the art voice and data communications also helped increase the service's efficiency.

## August / September

- New Brunswick sets province-wide standards setting guidelines for all facets of police work, in an effort to ensure all forces work effectively and provide the same level of service.

## October

- Chief (Ret.) Robert Lunney begins his series of commentaries on policing issues and service delivery. His initial column, entitled "Bandwagons," ran for several years. Bob has continued supplying his insights into police management styles and innovations from across Canada and around the world, becoming one of *Blue Line's* most knowledgeable and trusted advisers.
- While police struggle to raise money for air support programs, Canada's first private security helicopter takes to the air. The Halton Alarm Response & Protection (HARP) new air division supplies 24 hour contract response to alarm companies.

## November

- In the first of a four-part series, Dee Kramer delves into radical changes in Ontario policing, interviewing numerous police personalities. The "Megataro" series revealed the new concept of lowest bidder policing, whereby larger agencies gobble up their smaller counterparts to cut costs to the community.

## December

- The RCMP reports on its development of a conceptual design for smaller detachments. A major portion of its some 750 detachments are in small or rural communities and typically have two to eight employees.

## BLUE LINE Trade Show & Courses

In 1997, after receiving industry requests, Blue Line Magazine Inc created a trade show for the entire law enforcement community, with the purpose of bringing readers in direct contact with companies' products and services. Response '97, later renamed Blue Line Trade Show, was born.





# 1998

January

- *Blue Line* celebrates its 10th anniversary. "We are particularly proud of the fact that we have never missed an issue," writes publisher Morley Lymburner. "On many occasions it was difficult but we continued on regardless because we had faith in our readers... An up-to-date informed law enforcement community is our objective – and our reward."
- "There's a bidding war going on out there," Dee Kramer reports, and the OPP is making sure its bids are the lowest, even if that means having to revise its quotes.

## February

- "It's the same old story," writes 'forensic occultologist' Bill Harris. "Damned if you do - damned if you don't. Law enforcement agencies face a familiar frustration when investigating doomsday cults such as the Solar Temple and Heaven's Gate. The public are enraged when deaths occur, and with the benefit of perfect hindsight, are sometimes highly critical of police response. Police should look at risk factors such as leader status changes, member defections, stockpiling of supplies, spiritual isolation, enclosures, sudden relocations and violent theology, he suggests.

## March

- "The Star Ship Enterprise," the affectionate name for the OPP's new, 580,000 square foot Orillia headquarters building, is one of retiring OPP Commissioner Tom O'Grady's proudest achievements. "There were a lot of people involved though," O'Grady is quick to add. Concluding a 42-year career in policing, O'Grady wanted to be remembered as someone who tried "to support my people," he said.

## April

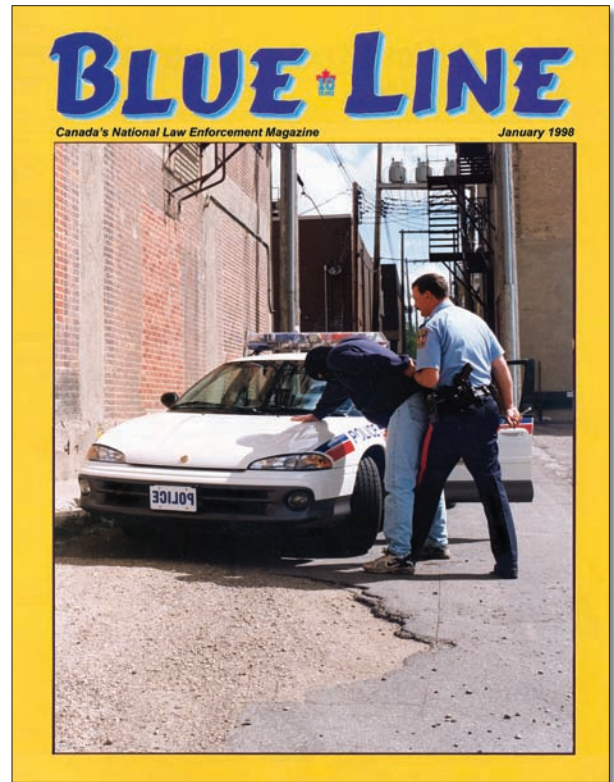
- The Durham Police Learning Centre has fast gained a national following in its short life. Although open less than four years, similar centres are already being set up in western Canada and the Ottawa area. The idea behind the centre is to ensure all officers are trained and kept at the same high standards as recent graduates of the police college.

## May

- Ontario police agencies form a special joint task force to slow down the "dreaded" Hells Angels expansion into the province. The new squad uses officers from more than 40 forces and is designed to head off the violent biker wars which occurred in Quebec.
- The Montreal Urban Community police service lease a surplus RCMP helicopter formerly operated in Newfoundland. The initial agreement is for 12 months, with an anticipated 300 hours of aerial patrols.
- The RCMP revokes the right for its BC auxiliary officers to carry sidearms.

## June / July

- "Make no mistake; policing is in deep trouble," warns Robert Lunney. Globalization and the competitive process are demanding efficiency and economy from the public sector, and police are no exception. With private security assuming an ever expanding role, the challenge is clear, writes Lunney. "If policing is to survive as a full-service public institution of government, methods must be found to reduce the costs of labour. The challenge of delivering on demands for economy and efficiency must be met on its own terms."
- The OPP swears in Gwen Boniface as its first female commissioner.



## August / September

- Issuing external carriers for soft body armour "is purely a Canadian invention," writes Brad Fawcett. External carriers are worn in the US exclusively by tactical teams. "We try to talk them (Canadian police agencies) out of it (external carriers)," said a sales rep for one major US manufacturer, "but how do you tell a client, 'you're nuts.' If we don't supply them, somebody else will."
- For the first time in its 127-year history, Royal Newfoundland Constabulary members are wearing firearms rather than carrying them in their cruiser trunks.

## October

- The first female RCMP officer to rise to the ranks of inspector, superintendent and chief superintendent continues to make history. Beverley Busson was named the commanding officer of Saskatchewan's F Division and promoted to assistant commissioner. She is the first female to hold either position.

## November

- Broadcasting 24/7 to a police-only audience, the Toronto Police Video Services Unit's Live Link Television Network delivers training, officer safety bulletins, wanted pictures and joint teleconferences with the RCMP and FBI. Sent to 120 locations, the encrypted Live Link service is a cost efficient way of delivering mandatory training without having to pull officers off the street, said unit manager John Sandeman.

## December

- "Hope for the best – and plan for the worst" when policing a rock concert, advises RCMP Sgt Eric Davidson, who had plenty of experience with both scenarios. Charged with policing an annual Manitoba rock concert which sees a small town's population swell to become the province's third largest city, he stresses the importance of co-ordination, planning and daily meetings.
- The RCMP temporarily closes its training depot in the face of a \$13 million dollar budget shortfall and a surplus of officers.



# 1999

## January

- Credibility, like reputation, takes time to develop but can be ruined in an instant by being caught in a lie, writes Gary Foo. Hold off on public announcements until you're sure of the facts and certain the issue really matters, he suggests. Avoid off the cuff remarks and don't use your platform to bad mouth others or equipment.
- A federal/provincial working group advises against creating a national sex offender registry, worrying it would just drive offenders underground.

## February

- "Ontario is in the midst of an ongoing turf war," writes Blair McQuillan, but rather than criminal gangs, this battle involves battles for policing contracts and jobs. "It's almost like they (municipal authorities) have created an environment of bidding wars and competition," said Bill Baxter, president of the Police Association of Ontario. "The fear that we have is that the ultimate decision will be based on the dollar factor rather than who can provide an adequate service."

## March

- Statements from elderly eyewitnesses are often less detailed than those from younger people but they are not necessarily less accurate, writes TPS Det Kerry Watkins. Interviewers often perceive older people as less capable of remembering and expressing what they have seen, but adapting your questioning style is all that is required for effective communication.

## April

- The Victoria Police Department begins a six month trial of Tasers. It used them three times in the first two months, reports Sgt Darren Laur, preventing a suicide and an attack by a woman high on drugs. A suspect prepared to fight with officers asked what the two dots were. "That's where you're going to be hit with 50,000 volts," the officer replied, totally changed the individual's attitude. He was arrested "without further problem!"

## May

- The federal government unveils its long awaited Youth Criminal Justice Act and promises more than \$200 million to help the provinces meet the new act's objectives.
- Six Ontario police services announce plans to use patrol helicopters by the beginning of the summer.
- The RCMP reopens its training depot after a six month hiatus and cuts training time from 26 to 22 weeks.

## June / July

- Looking for a fun summer vacation? How about spending time in the forests outside Vancouver digging up graves, crawling through arson



scenes and assembling skeletal remains? That's what forensic science students planned for a five-day course. Students came away with the knowledge, skills and ability to fully document and process an outdoor homicide scene.

## August / September

- "Handling your sidearm an extra few minutes a day can add years to your life," Dave Brown notes in *The 10 minute survivor*. Why? "You are reacting to someone else's actions (during an altercation). If all factors between you and your assailant are equal, the simple law of action time versus reaction time tells us you will likely lose." The solution – hone your skills so that all factors are no longer equal!

## October


- "Wow," an American tourist exclaimed upon spying the "Established 1996" portion of the logo on a Halifax Regional Police cruiser. "I can't believe you've only had police here for three years!"

## November

- Cst. Dave Mounstevan owes his life to his partner, who was badly injured helping to take down a suspect, giving Mounstevan a chance to escape the man's punishing blows. The suspect was never charged for the assault, however, because Mounstevan's partner, Chase, is a police dog. They "go out and serve the public every day just as an officer does," he notes. "They deserve some protection under the law."

## December

- "The choice between a service based or a commerce based public security system is for the police to win or lose," writes Robert Lunney. "Probity, integrity, and accountability are half the accounting. The second half is fair treatment and respect for the humanity of all persons and considerate, measured judgment in the application of powers of arrest, search and seizure and the use of force. When you can control the consequences by tempering your own behaviour, the choice seems obvious."



*Blue Line* is no longer just a magazine – it's also a textbook for Niagara College's Police Foundations and Law & Security Administration students. Case Law and other articles are used as reference material to give students an "educated perspective of Canadian law enforcement," says program co-ordinator Gino Arcaro.



# 2000

## January

- Many tactical training programs assume the intimidating presence of a heavily armed entry team will immediately compel all to comply, writes Joel Johnston. Not teaching realistic close quarters control tactics to handle non-compliance or aggression is a mistake, he warns, and can cause a "critical mental 'reactionary gap'... as you attempt to recognize and identify the threat and formulate a plan to deal with it."

## February

- "Brutality is in the eye of the beholder," comments Morley Lymburner. As a police officer, "I (always) tried to follow several simplified rules of conduct... (including) to never strike someone in anger. Strike only in fear; fear for yourself or for another under your care." The fear is often accompanied by a lot of adrenaline though, he admits, making it "quite a balancing act to determine if the force being used is acceptable to those casually watching."

## March

- The media shows up and there's no one else on scene to talk to them. "Your first burning question is, 'What the heck do I do now?'" writes John Muldoon. He suggest five don'ts: Don't speculate, don't discuss investigation details without a senior officer's approval, don't give personal opinions, don't allow reporters to interrupt (a favourite trick!) and don't repeat a reporter's words or phrases (a favourite TV and radio trick!)

## April

- It was the news Isobel Anderson was hoping to hear – she wasn't HIV positive. The 41 year old Ottawa police constable and mother of three had lived in fear for months, concerned that she had caught the disease after being pricked by a suspect's bloody needle. Anderson began a campaign for legislation requiring suspects to be tested so other first responders will not have to endure the nightmarish wait that she did.

## May

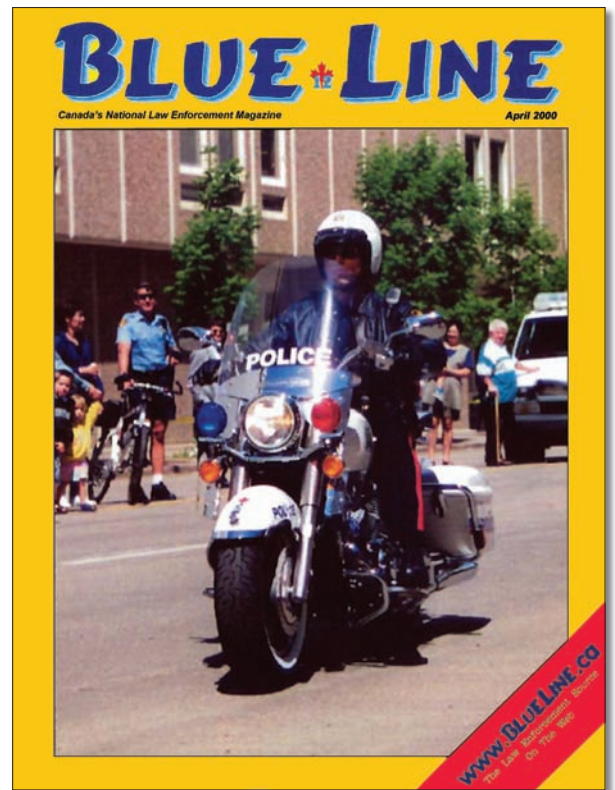
- "There should be one basic rule when it comes to arming peace officers in Canada," opines Morley Lymburner on the issue of arming park wardens. "If they want it, they get it. By default no peace officer in this country should have to justify why they need to carry a firearm. The onus should be completely on the government side to present a convincing argument why they should not. Even then it should be brought to a vote by the concerned officers and if the majority say yes – then guns they should get."

## June / July

- The signs of senior abuse are often subtle – watch for complaints of financial abuse, suspicious signatures on cheques or other documents or unusual banking withdrawals. These are among the tips in *Dear Blue Line: Abuse and neglect of older persons*. The writers of the training video looked at the problem through the eyes of a retired police officer writing a letter to the editor of *Blue Line*.

## August / September

- Officers on one Ontario police force get a new, non-lethal tool to assist them in dealing with the public – customer service training. "We wanted to add another set of skills that officers could draw upon to de-escalate a



tense situation before the use of force was needed," said Guelph Police Chief Lenna Bradburn. "It helps an officer deal with the public and their own colleagues more effectively," she explained to Les Linder.

## October

- The OPP announces plans to amalgamate its communications system into five strategically located centres and begin converting to a common network shared with other government agencies.
- The Toronto Police six month pilot helicopter project officially gets off the ground.
- The RCMP announces that it may begin charging tuition and has cut its \$249 weekly training allowance.

## November

- "You don't have to be sick to get better," writes Robert Fitches on police ethics and integrity, "The goal is not curing a problem – the goal is achieving excellence in ethics." There's always room for improvement, even for "truly exceptional police services."
- Bob Wasylshen takes over as Edmonton's top cop after former chief John Lindsay accepts a buyout package.

## December

- Stetson-wearing Mounties who pose for tourists to take photos are now seeking compensation for the time and efforts they are putting forth. Overwhelmed with requests, officers in Banff have asked Ottawa for permission to charge companies for the modelling service and pay members overtime.
- Waterloo police officers can now grow beards and goatees, as long as they're neatly trimmed and not more than 3.5 centimetres long.



# 2001

## January

- Toronto police Staff Sgt. Heinz Kuck, presents the first of an annual series on urban graffiti and its affect on society.
- Joel Johnston filed a submission on the quest for less lethal response options with an overview of options available and examines the consequences of using.
- Dave Brown, *Blue Line's* tactical firearms editor, published the top 10 tips for effective shotgun training.

## February

- The Blue Line Forum on the [www.blueline.ca](http://www.blueline.ca) domain is introduced. It is an internet chat area for everything about Canadian law enforcement, most topics are open while some have restricted access by job function.

## March

- In an exclusive cover feature, Wayne Frechette, chief of the Barrie Police Service talked about his history with the Ontario Provincial Police, his decision to become the head of the Barrie police force and his leadership philosophy.
- Also featured are: bloodstain pattern analysis, forensic art, media relations and low light shooting techniques.

## April

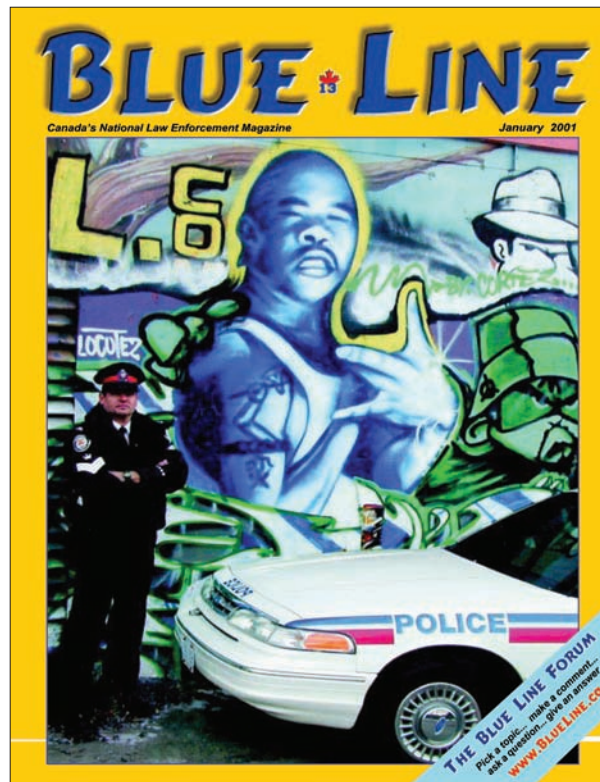
- Blair McQuillan profiled three RCMP officers who are working in one officer detachments in the small communities of Nunavut. A second article discussed the pressures placed upon them to work alone.
- Keith A. Gehrand examined the definition of a pursuit, attitudes towards them and the liabilities involved.

## May

- Shift work survival tactics was the lead story and extensive information was shared from the National Sleep Foundation on how to cope, exercise and eat your way to better shift work.
- Other features included: transit security, the OPP's computerized quartermaster system, and developing a firearms instructor model.

## June / July

- The Peel Regional Police profiled their advances in Internet safety for children. Sgt. Doug Wilson explained how the service's Internet safety program works and what the nation can expect from it in the future.
- Other topics included a caution regarding manpower shortages with an aging population and the psychological influence of the police uniform.



## August / September

- Saskatoon, the Paris of the Prairies, was originally policed by the RCMP, but the history of the Saskatoon Police Service is not well known. Kathryn Lymburner profiles their enduring police presence in the community.
- Blue Line's western correspondent, Elvin Klassen, contributes his first article, "Drug abuse resistance education at Topham School in British Columbia."

## October

- Toronto Police Service hosted the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, only the second time it was held outside of the United States. Events of 9/11 overshadowed the conference. As stated by the publisher, "New York and indeed the world must mourn these losses. But we must get back up, as the American people have shown us so many times before, and move courageously onward."
- Dr Dorothy Cotton contributes her first article on psychology. She is known for her no nonsense style of writing and unique insights into the behaviours of cops.

## November

- The Fredericton Police Force's 150th anniversary celebration is profiled.
- In his commentary Morley Lymburner explained the Canadian government's aversion to firearms is keeping those who protect our borders unarmed. He pointed out the stark differences in border protection by the Americans and suggested Canada is living a wonderland dream.

## December

- The lead story profiles Chrysler's new "intrepid" prowler ready for the street plus an historical overview of Chrysler police vehicles.
- A cautionary overview in the use of new anti-terrorist legislation is detailed.

## BLUE LINE FORUM

*Blue Line Magazine* introduces the Blue Line Forum at [www.blueline.ca](http://www.blueline.ca). This Internet chat area is for everything about Canadian law enforcement. Most topics are open to all law enforcement while other areas are restricted by job profile.



# 2002

## January

- Toronto's Graffiti Eradication Program has been under a national spotlight after it was deemed a huge success. In this story "Taking back the streets one wall at a time" Heinz Kuck describes the processes and the players in this campaign.

## February

- Other than the annual Supply & Services Guide a major feature in this edition was a report on Canada's internationally recognized national DNA databank. Its success was highlighted when the databank linked over 100 cases to convicted criminals the year before.

## March

- Chatham-Kent's police Chief John Kopinak, was the focus of the cover story. The police service was formed Sept. 1, 1998 amid the turmoil of a restructuring which had amalgamated 110,000 people in 22 separate communities into a single municipality. A big part of the success was created through the leadership of Kopinak.
- *Blue Line's* east coast correspondent, Danette Dooley, was introduced.

## April

*Blue Line's* staff worked together to write up the first April Fools story. The story was about the acquisition of a surplus naval vessel for the OPP's mobile police station. The name of the vessel? The HMOS Boniface of course.

## May

- Edmonton residents didn't hesitate when asked to help their police service get a helicopter. In the cover story it was pointed out that their faith wasn't misplaced — in its first eight months of operation, the helicopter was involved in 1168 calls, 191 vehicle stops and helped end 22 pursuits.

## June / July

- "Perhaps it's time to look at the jury system in Canada," stated *Blue Line* publisher Morley Lymburner. The option for trial by jury should be taken away from organized crime figures and terrorists who have long reaches capable of revenge. "Society can no longer afford the luxury of jury trials in these situations. Italy has proved it... Canada should adopt it," he concluded.
- The Ontario Provincial Police was featured with an overview of reassurance to the community regarding their capabilities to keep Ontario communities safe.

## August / September

- The Quebec City Police Service graced the cover of *Blue Line* and a profile of the founding city of Canada was presented by Mark Reesor.
- Also featured was a story about coping with school violence and one community's response to bullying.

## October

- Firearms editor Dave Brown profiled the Dakota Ojibway Police Service and pointed out that it is one of the most successful First Nations police agencies in the country. A second profile involved the St. Thomas Police Service.
- *Blue Line Magazine* became part of the curriculum taught at Niagara College to all students involved in law enforcement related courses. Gino Arcaro, Coordinator of Police Foundations, advised that not only was the publication up-to-date but fulfilled the needs of a lot of subjects from psychology to sociology. "It actually gets them in tune with law enforcement right from the start," he said.



## November

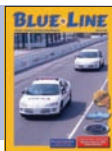
- The Owen Sound Police Service was featured in this edition. Innovations included co-operative efforts with auxiliary police as well as traffic enforcement and court security supplied by retired officers wishing to make some extra retirement income. This was off-balanced by a feature from a discussion paper entitled "Blurring the line between private and public policing."

## December

- The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and a historical perspective of their early beginnings, was the cover story.
- This issue also featured a history of the Borkenstein Breathalyzer, and the first training description of Extraordinary Rapid Deployment in school shooting incidents.
- Dave Brown illustrates some tips to help you nail the front sight onto your target faster.



With their slogan, "Proud of our Past," Brantford Police Service celebrates its 125th anniversary with a gala evening and raises money for five local charities.



# 2003

## January

- *Blue Line Magazine* commences its 15th year of publishing.
- News editor Les Linder, profiled the Ontario Police College's spike belt safety course which emphasizes safety in deploying tire deflation devices.
- Ford, Chrysler and Chevrolet are reported as being the three most sought after fleet vehicles and this edition reported on the performance and suitability of each brand for police work.

## February

- "Unmasking urban graffiti" was the cover story and S/Sgt. Heinz Kuck supplied an article which got to the bottom of the problem. Kuck described what motivates these urban artists and measures required to eradicate and re-direct their work.
- In another feature Heather Gray delves into the career altering experiences which can result from work place bullies.

## March

- Moose Jaw Chief of Police Terry Coleman and his police service was profiled.
- *Blue Line* surveyed Canadian police services on their use of body armour. The survey indicated that every agency made body armour available, however there was no uniformity as to how they are to be worn.

## April

- Metro Toronto Police S/Supt Jean Boyd, becomes the highest ranking female police officer in Canada and one of only 385 women on the 5,621 member Toronto force. "There is no end to opportunities for women today," Boyd noted. "All you need to do is apply yourself and build up credibility."
- All 18 members of the Montmagny Police Force are to be vaccinated to protect them from Hepatitis B after two officers come into contact with a suspect's infected blood.

## May

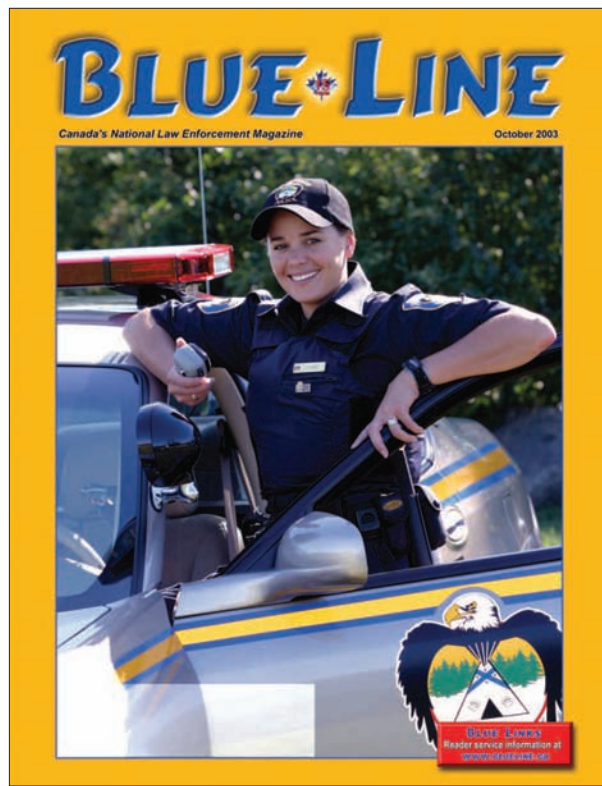
- The post 9/11 era brought Canadian Nuclear power facilities under the microscope. Durham Regional Police took over the job of providing a higher level of security for two plants in their jurisdiction. As S/Sgt Tim Knight noted they really had no choice but to supply the service. They owed that level of protection to their community.
- In a second article *Blue Line* took a look at what every police officer should know about radiation.

## June / July

- The York Regional Police Service has grown from a collection of small-town police forces to a modern, progressive service of 1,000 officers policing almost a million people. A story in this issue highlighted how this agency embraced modern policing tools, including a state of the art mobile command centre and helicopters for patrol.
- Firearms editor, Dave Brown, wrote about design flaws demanded by the RCMP for their firearms.

## August / September

- A co-operative spirit is nothing new for the police agencies serving the Halifax area, reported Public Affairs Supervisor Theresa Rath Brien in her story about the Halifax Region. The 402 officers serving this region of a quarter million people come from both municipal police and the RCMP.
- Other stories dealt with conflict resolution programs in Calgary and pedophile lures used to seduce children.
- BC implemented Canada's first province-wide, online police information system called PRIME.



## October

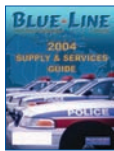
- Canada's newest police agency, The Treaty Three Police Service, was the cover story in this edition. The service's first priority, it was reported, is to be a responsive, community based agency that's not only accountable but in touch with the people it serves. As Chief Brian Rupert noted, he was ordered to "do it right or don't do it at all — and so far I think we're doing it right."
- All Ottawa Police Service officers, civilian and volunteer staff are trained to save lives using Automated External Defibrillators.
- The profile on Delta Police Department looked at the leadership style of the chief and how they developed a strategic plan and established their vision with a focus on restructuring, decentralization, problem solving ownership and technology.

## November

- A lead story on the Winkler, Manitoba Police Service shed light on how smaller police services are faced with unique challenges. Dave Brown described the co-operation between the police services of Altona, Winkler and Morden.
- Crossing the line between public and private policing models is a concern addressed by Ted Carroll.
- Carl Mason addressed the biggest health hazard to cops — the 12-hour shift. He relates a serious concern for this popular trend and attempts to bring a reality check for those considering the shift cycle.

## December

- Seven years after *Blue Line* conducted its first Canadian firearms survey, a second one was published to see if the results had changed. Firearms editor Dave Brown discovered, most were largely satisfied with the choices they made.
- Both Manitoba and BC appeal courts unanimously upheld the validity of investigatory detentions and searches incidental to them.



# 2004

## January

- Policing Canada's only privately-owned toll road can present some challenges for a public police service. Perception can be a problem, for example, since motorists often perceive officers as toll collectors or agents for the owners. Publisher Morley Lymburner rode with one of the 33 Ontario Provincial Police officers who patrol Hwy. 407, just north of Toronto, and editor Mark Reesor looked at the technology behind the high tech highway.

## February

- Handcuffs have been around for thousands of years and now publisher Morley Lymburner's research highlights the intriguing history about this indispensable utensil appliance.
- Readers are introduced to the Segway and its many applications to police work.

## March

- After a panel of judges reviewed many candidates, the Police Leadership Forum (PLF) selected OPP Chief Superintendent Kate Lines as the fifth recipient of the Police Leader of the Year Award. Lines was the fifth recipient of the Police Leader of the Year Award which was started in 1998. *Blue Line Magazine* had been a sponsor of the award since it was initiated.

## April

- Things have changed a lot since CN Police were founded in 1923. West coast correspondent Elvin Klassen wrote how officers have protected railway property, passengers, and the public through the years and utilized the three E's to reduce railway accidents: education, enforcement and engineering.

## May

- Earning the trust of Old Order Mennonites and Amish, who still use horse and buggies, reject modern conveniences and practice non-resistance, can be a challenge. To learn about policing "the quiet of the land", publisher Morley Lymburner went on a ride-along with an officer from Waterloo Regional Police's Elmira detachment, which patrols areas with large populations of Old Orders.

## June / July

- Staff writer Les Linder supplied readers with a realistic overview of current studies of anti-terrorism preparations in Canada.
- *Blue Line* writer Kathryn Lymburner provides an overview of several aspects of campus security at one of Canada's largest universities.

## August / September

- West coast correspondent Elvin Klassen talked to Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Chief Jamie Graham and profiled the force with some of its innovative programs.
- In a second profile Klassen wrote about the 157 officers of North Vancouver's RCMP detachment who patrol "from sea to sky."
- Mark Giles begins writing a regular column on media relations.

## October

- York Regional Police Children's Safety Villages was featured with a focus on how this environment teaches elementary children a broad variety of safety techniques in a kid-sized version of a town complete with electric cars, streets and traffic lights.
- Toronto Police Association member Doug Ramsey wrote an overview of the style of labour relations practised in this city.



## November

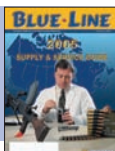
- In a *Blue Line* exclusive, Fotios Nassiakos, head of the security operations for the Athens Olympic Games was interviewed and told readers how law enforcement agencies prepared themselves to handle the myriad of possible threats.
- Staff writer Ryan Siegmund discovered how new policies for Corrections Canada officers reflect increasingly dangerous conditions in Canada's prisons.

## December

- The subject theme for this edition was firearms and less-lethal weapons. Vancouver Sergeant Joel Johnston graced our cover with a stylized and editorialized rendition of the use of force model. Joel explained the logic of incorporating a Taser capability within a police force's use of force options.
- Adhering to the philosophy that under stress you react how you have been trained, tactical firearms editor, Dave Brown, illustrates a new emphases on a fluid natural motion.



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# 2005

## January

- The January police vehicle edition featured the Toyota Prius for fuel efficiency and the Dodge Magnum as the newest patrol vehicle.
- In another feature, Collines, Quebec Police Service was selected as Canada's best dressed police vehicle. Runners up were vehicles from Windsor, York Region and Gatineau police services.

## February

- The 2005 Supply and Services Guide issue featured RCMP forensic firearms specialist Darrel Harvey.
- The Ontario Provincial Police tactical unit celebrated 30 years of service. One of the founding members of the squad, Andrew Maksymchuk, wrote the feature article with a style soon to be recognized in his later book *Muskeg to Murder*.
- In a second article by staff writer Ryan Siegmund, the Calgary Police Tactical Unit's training was highlighted.

## March

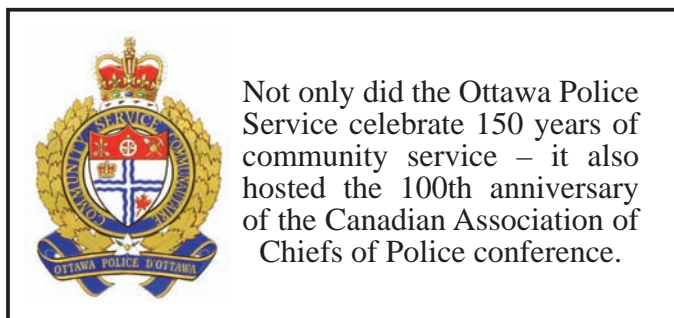
- The Toronto Police Service designed and developed a 'quadrate' of events to instill community goodwill and a sense of cross-racial pride. S/Sgt Heinz Kuck, well known for combating urban graffiti, coordinated the program and tells how it captured the hearts and minds of Toronto residents.
- Thousands of people disappeared, many without a trace, during Argentina's "dirty wars." The military government was overthrown in 1983 and a forensic anthropology team was formed to begin excavating human remains. York Regional police officer Greg Olson was among those Canada sent to help.
- Four mounties, Brock Myrol, Anthony Gordon, Leo Johnston and Peter Schiemann, are gunned down on a farm near Mayerthorpe, AB.

## April

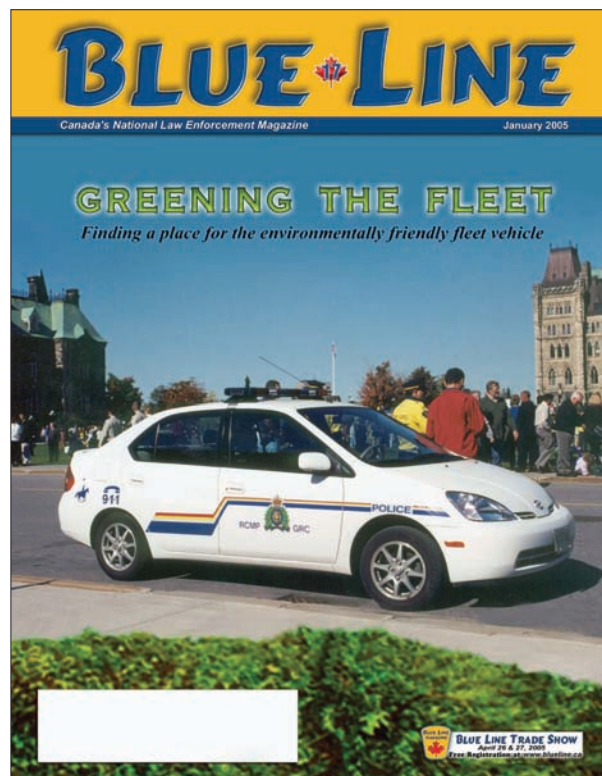
- Although both Canada and the United States have spent many millions of dollars and made many announcements about how they've tightened border security, publisher Morley Lymburner, discovered that US Department of Homeland Security officers were much more vigilant than their Canadian counterparts.
- West coast correspondent Elvin Klassen profiled the Saanich Police Department and its annual tradition of lowering the crime rate and reducing its caseload by building relationships with the community, especially youth, through early intervention and asset building.

## May

- London Police Service Cst. Jeff Arbing looked back at his agency's 150 year history while Lisa Heslop profiled London's innovative Family Consultant/Victim Services Unit, the first of its kind in Canada.
- In his commentary, Morley Lymburner states since police forces work on the four functions of prevention, enforcement, detection and administration, perhaps funding could be divided up. Municipalities pick up the costs of prevention and enforcement while the province picks up the costs of administration and detection; a simple concept that no one follows.



Not only did the Ottawa Police Service celebrate 150 years of community service – it also hosted the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference.



## June / July

- Confiscating and destroying illegal firearms is important but discovering how they were brought into Canada is the job of the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST). A branch of the National Police Service, NWEST offers police across the country training and support to shut down sources of illegal firearms.
- In an enlightening profile, the Greater Vancouver Transit Authority Police Service describes its function and processes. It is Canada's first armed transit police service; other transit protection services are not actually called police.

## August / September

- It was a year to remember for the Ottawa Police Service. Not only did it celebrate 150 years of community service – it also hosted the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference.

## October

- East coast correspondent Danette Dooley talked to Fredericton Police Chief Gordon Carlisle after heading the police force for 25 years. He was a police officer for almost half a century, retiring from the RCMP after 22 years to take over as chief of Fredericton, his home town.

## November

- Hamilton Police Service featured its new 'Beat Tracker' system, which links officers on the street with incidents and calls accumulated in their patrol sectors. The simple system has increased the effectiveness of beat officers in responding to community needs and issues.

## December

- "Practice makes perfect!" is an applicable slogan for "CBRN" response which relies heavily on specialized training and equipment and co-ordination. Freelance journalist and EMS worker, Simon Martin details this training in "Refining the Response".
- Staff writer Kathryn Lymburner, completed the feature with an overview of what you need to know about CBRN.





# 2006

## January

- Port Moody Police are selected for the best dressed police vehicle of the year and profiled by west coast correspondent Elvin Klassen.
- Dave Brown supplies an overview of the best performing cars for police work. The Dodge Charger and Chev Impala's once again come out as keen competitors to the Ford Interceptor.

## February

- When the level of non-emergent 911 calls reached 90 per cent, the Ontario Provincial Police decided to act with a public awareness campaign that started with a very effective open house media scrum at their communications centre.
- Mark Giles outlined three basic steps in dealing with miscommunication: admit the mistakes early, correct misinformation with proactive and reactive strategies, and communicate mitigating information.

## March

- Peel Regional Police began a program called School/Police Emergency Action Response (SPEAR). This cover story included information about a comprehensive computer database and emergency preparedness plan for supervisors and responding officers. Information is now at their fingertips including floor plans, staging and evacuation areas and key information on staff and students.

## April

- Imagine being one of 140 police officers policing 16,000 people scattered over 3.2 million kilometres – and 9,000 more in the Yukon – that's roughly 40 per cent of Canada. Little wonder that RCMP Supt. Henry Larsen observed that any man who found things not to his liking should turn around and go home, since "the north is no place for softies."

## May

- Creating a commanding presence on the highways was the main theme of an article from the Ontario Provincial Police. They expressly began to target aggressive drivers and were taking a page from the best practices of other forces to reduce Ontario's average toll of 600 traffic fatalities a year.
- The creators of the Police Training Officer (PTO) outlined the successful police training model based in problem solving and adult education philosophy.

## June / July

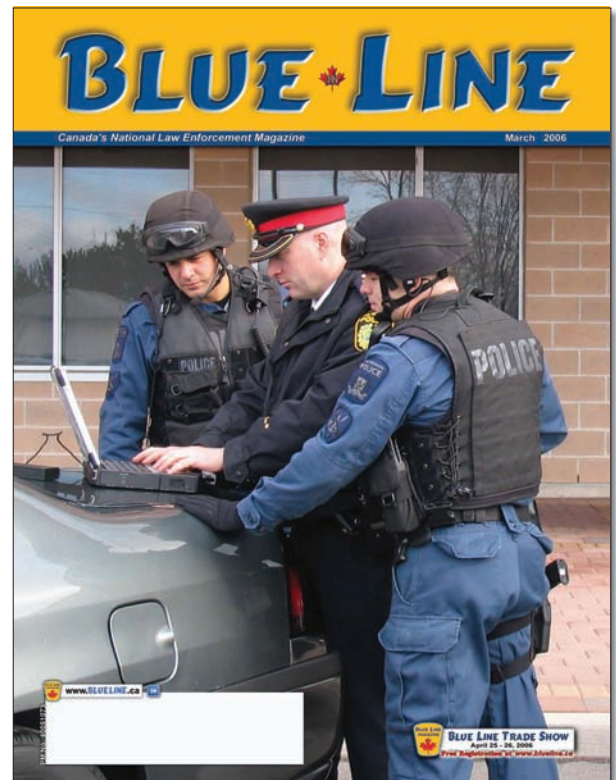
- The strategies involved in policing the suburban fringe of Toronto was the topic as the Orangeville Police Service explained its challenges of keeping costs down and service levels up. Chief of police Rod Freeman credits the threat of extinction with making his service stronger and more focused on proper service delivery.

## August / September

- The new chief of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Joseph Browne, a born and bred Newfoundlander, took up his new duties and was immediately thrust into welcoming members of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to St. John's. This profile of the RNC chief and oldest North American police service is written by east coast correspondent Danette Dooley.

## October

- A story about nuclear power plant security introduced readers to the new



reality of private security at these facilities post 9/11. The Bruce Nuclear Power facility on Lake Huron possesses a world class armed security response team on par with the world's best tactical teams. This feature explained that hardening the target was both their goal and their accomplishment.

## November

- Double duty was the theme about twins in policing. *Blue Line Magazine* found ten sets of twins working in Canadian police services and drew out stories of confusion and disbelief from both colleagues and criminals.

## December

- Abbotsford Police purchased a new helicopter. Challenged by a large municipality and abutting the U.S. border, this agency has many challenges not seen by average police forces across the country. One of the challenges is the city's extreme growth along with a burgeoning drug trade.



Integral Designs celebrates 20 years of making serious expedition gear. The Special Purpose Gear is designed for specialized police, military, park rangers, EMS, and Search and Rescue groups.



# 2007

## January

- Windsor Police Service was featured with the top best dressed police vehicle in Canada.
- Dave Brown presented an overview of the Michigan State Police Vehicle trials.
- A special feature focused on the Vancouver Police Department's efforts to curb bar and night club violence.
- "Contaminated" was the title of a story by Trevor Stoddart regarding workplace sanitation concerns.

## February

- The cover of the annual Supply & Services edition was graced by members of the Durham Regional Police. This was the lead into a story explaining how that agency keeps ahead of a constantly growing community.
- A report card of how effective each province has been in reducing impaired drivers.

## March

- The cover story presented an overview of the Medicine Hat Police dogs and the recognition given to veterinarian Bob Fisher for his long service to them.
- Forensic artist Diana Trepkov explains the importance of postmortem drawings to assist the public with the identification of victims.

## April

- You know you are making an impact when they start putting your name in the graffiti. In this feature story Cst. Lee Jones, assigned to the Saskatoon Police Anti-Graffiti Unit, takes pride in making an impact on the street gang and graffiti problems in his city.
- This issue also profiles the police services of Bermuda, the city of West Vancouver and Halifax Region.

## May

- A profile on the Brockville Police Service focused on retiring Chief Barry King and his history of working with six different agencies.



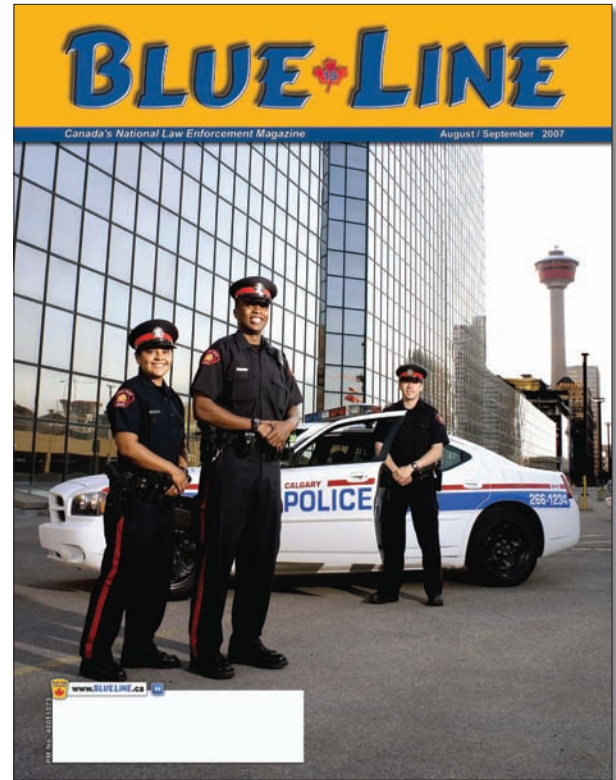
- Criminalistics celebrates 40 years of manufacturing excellent law enforcement systems: Premier™, Hotdog™, Savvyfan™, SID™, Chem Print™, Enspecta™: [www.criminalisticsinc.com](http://www.criminalisticsinc.com).

## June / July

- Staff writer Matt Collison wrote about the Waterloo Regional Police slogan "People Helping People," focuses on the attitude that makes their



Brockville Police Service is celebrating 175 years of service. Its proactive approach to recognizing and developing youth assets enhances quality of life in the community.



communities safer. "It's just the way we do business," says Chief Larry Gravill.

- In another article the growing appearance of a street gang called MS-13 is explained.

## August / September

- Policing the city of Calgary presents a myriad of unique issues. The cover story explained how these issues create advantages and disadvantages to its policing capabilities.
- Further profiles are presented on the Halton Regional Police Tactical team, a new police facility for the Kingston Police Service, a walk through the RCMP Museum and computer technology for the Smiths Falls Police.

## October

- The Ontario Provincial Police Aboriginal Relations Team was the focus of the October cover story.
- A profile on Alberta's Louis Bull Police Service was presented through the history and reminiscences of Chief Peter Bull.
- Four generations of policing within two families was profiled; the Lemke family in Ontario and the Kenney family from Newfoundland.

## November

- The 50th anniversary of the Toronto Police Service was profiled by retired Inspector Mike Sale.
- Career management for experienced officers was presented by feature writer Irene Barath of the Ontario Police College.

## December

- Dave Brown, the ubiquitous tactical firearms editor, accumulated and analyzed the information from a survey of police firearms in Canada. This comprehensive report detailed changes in firearms issued and used since *Blue Line's* last survey ten years before. During this time many agencies disappeared, realigned and amalgamated and Dave's study chronicled these stops, starts, changes and facts on firearms.



# 2008

## January

• It was back to the future for Canada's best dressed police vehicle. The OPP's revived black and white design "is one of the most unique in Canada," wrote Dave Brown. By taking a chance with the 'retro' look, it combined tradition, simplicity and innovation, going to great effort to bring "an old colour scheme up to today's standards for all weather visibility, using modern reflective materials."

## February

• Vancouver searched far and wide for candidates to succeed retiring police chief Jamie Graham. "The exhaustive search spanned the country and came down to three internal candidates," said mayor Sam Sullivan; deputy chief Jim Chu was the unanimous choice. "He has high credentials, an international reputation and he is highly regarded at city hall."

## March

• "Acquiring police recruits in Canada has turned into guerilla warfare, with few rules of conduct," writes Morley Lymburner in a survey of Canadian police recruiting. "There are fewer consistent standards than in the past, and even less ethical considerations" as some agencies hustle to make up for regional disparities and a declining work pool. "To suggest we are re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic would be optimistic."

## April

• The OPP becomes the first North American police or civilian agency to regularly operate an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in civilian airspace with federal approval. The force's nine pound, electric powered aircraft, developed by Cst Marc Sharpe for just over \$5,000, began its first operational mission at a Fort Severn, Ontario homicide scene, just four kilometres downstream from the shores of Hudson Bay.

## May

• "You know you're getting on when people begin jockeying for position to get your job, your waistline grows larger and inseam smaller, and your list of body parts you have more than one of include chins," writes Dorothy Cotton. The news isn't all bad though – "old coots" can still outdo youngsters when it comes to knowing what's really important, coping and language skills, experience and expert knowledge.

## June / July

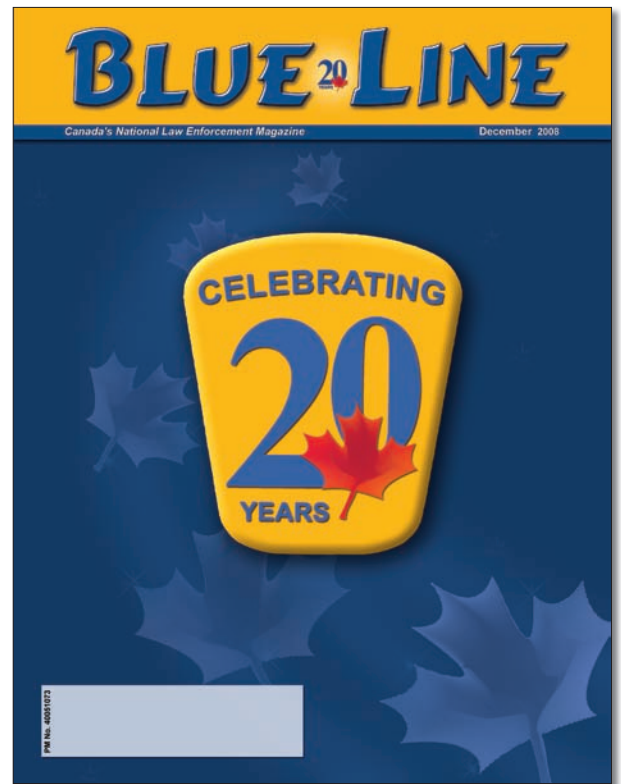
• Impact projectiles deserve another look as a less than lethal force option, argues Colin Watson. New technology has made the devices safer and more effective, he notes, but they are still tainted by unintentional deaths from early devices. "Injury will likely result from using impact projectiles, however weighing injury with the risk of death or serious injury to a subject, citizen or police officer, it is a reasonable and life saving compromise."

## August / September

• Largely forgotten in the furor over that "fancy, wireless, ergonomically correct electronic device using a red laser for tracking movement... five or more buttons... (and) a scroll wheel" – aka the mouse – is the trusty old keyboard. The humble old device still has some tricks up its sleeve though, writes Tom Rataj, including a bevy of handy, time saving CTRL key shortcuts largely forgotten by many computer users.

## October

• "While trying to be everything to everyone may work initially," notes Mark Giles, "it often results in a lack of focus... (by) limiting the scope of its activities



and narrowing priorities to those linked to understandable and respected objectives, an organization can generate and maintain public and internal support – the very support needed" to maintain its credibility.

## November

• Give 'PEACE' a chance, urges Newfoundland professor Brent Snook and RNC Insp John House. They were referencing an interviewing approach rather than the famous John Lennon song. PEACE (Planning and preparation, Engage and explain, Account, Closure, Evaluation) is a non-accusatory alternative to the antiquated and coercive techniques most agencies use, they concluded, but are just as effective.

## December

• *Blue Line Magazine* celebrates its 200th issue and 20 years of publishing for the law enforcement industry with a special anniversary edition.



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# Saanich Police road range

by Joetey Attariwala

The Saanich Police Department in British Columbia recently introduced the first mobile firearms Road Range in Canada. Manufactured by Meggitt Training Systems, the Road Range leverages technology and environmental consciousness to provide a safe and readily accessible firing range for law enforcement agencies.

Since 2004, the BC government has returned 100 per cent of traffic fine revenue back into the communities that issued those violation tickets. Saanich Police has elected to use the revenue to improve and enhance the department and its public safety resources. Saanich Police Chief Constable Derek Egan was introduced to the Meggitt Road Range at a conference. From that point on, many aspects were investigated prior to the system's purchase.

Environmental issues surrounding shooting ranges seem to grow year by year. The necessity of safety zones and the environmental impact of sequestered lead in range areas, along with noise pollution to surrounding communities are factors that limit the usefulness of many facilities.

Additionally, many outdoor ranges are exposed to inclement weather, which limits and sometimes prevents adequate training and instruction. New purpose-built shooting-range buildings can certainly address and even negate some of these issues, but are often cost-prohibitive. After looking at all the available options, Saanich selected Meggitt's Road Range as the most cost effective, versatile and environmentally friendly choice as a firearms training facility.

"To date we've sold approximately 115 Road Ranges around the world and Saanich Police has proven itself on the leading edge as the first operator in Canada. We're expecting more sales in Canada in the coming years as our Road Range offers versatility and cost-savings," said Spencer Fraser, General Manager for Meggitt Training Systems Canada.

Integrated into a 53-foot trailer, the Road Range is a self-contained, state-of-the-art and ballistically-secure mobile shooting range that allows up to three officers to train simultaneously in high, low and no-light scenarios.

Integrated into the trailer is an RTS-360 target system, a target turning system designed to improve live-fire training through unpredictable, fast-action target presentation. Each of the three lanes of targets can independently move forward and back and can turn the target holder to the left or right, thus enhancing tactical training as the shooter is unable to anticipate target presentation.

The RTS-360 is integrated with the RangeMaster 9000, a PC-based menu driven system developed by Meggitt Training Sys-

tems, which controls targets, security systems and lighting. This system is operated from the range operator control room, at the rear entrance to the range and is separated from the firing lanes in front by a ballistic glass window.

"Half of the work we do on a day-to-day basis occurs when natural light is poor or non-existent," said Egan. "The Road Range can simulate the actual conditions police officers can find themselves in – including red and blue strobe lights of a police vehicle."

In addition to firearms qualification, the Road Range allows firearms training, weapons function testing, shoot/no-shoot scenarios and more. The mobile nature of the Road Range allows it to be situated anywhere a department deems appropriate and negates the requirement of property lease/purchase, building permits and the like. Saanich Police were attracted to many of these features and key to these was the ability to train day and/or night in their own municipality without the impact of noise pollution to the community.

"When members are firing their weapons inside the Road Range, it's amazing to stand outside and realize that the ambient noise of traffic on the adjacent street is louder. The best way to describe the sound of the Road Range in use is to imagine the blunted and distant sound of a hammer impacting a nail. If you didn't know it was there, you wouldn't have a clue officers were training to hone these critical skills," said Sergeant John Price of Saanich Police.

Unlike outdoor ranges, the Road Range captures spent ammunition in a way that is safe for both the officers and the environment. Called the Reclining GranTrap, the patented design was developed to overcome the shortcomings of steel traps and to address environmental concerns of traditional shooting ranges.

The GranTrap de-energizes bullets and captures them with negligible lead dust or bullet fragmentation. The Reclining GranTrap allows for more efficient reclamation of spent rounds by virtue of its composition and structure and with the aid of rear access doors in the support structure behind the primary collection area. This primary collection area contains a larger volume of granulated rubber material, patented as GranTex, to absorb rounds and extend the service life interval.

The GranTrap was designed with a supply bin located at the top of the trap, which allows for continuous replenishment of GranTex in order to maintain a consistent depth across the trap. Behind the supply bin is a permanently



filled supplemental bin, known as a 'safety bin,' which serves to maintain ballistic integrity of the trap.

Standard to the Road Range is an air filter and purge system that draws outside air into the range to produce an average of 75 feet per minute airflow across the firing line. The exhaust air is filtered through two-stages with the final stage of 99.97% HEPA filtration before being safely discharged.

Sergeant Nick Ross of Saanich Police was one of the first range control officers to be trained and qualified to operate the new Road Range. According to Ross, "The initial course is three hours long and consists of a familiarization tour of the range, description of options available and then actually using the controls to operate the various systems."

The training Meggitt provided was clear and concise and we all agree that the best way to get familiar with the system is to jump in and use it. I spent an additional three hours running through the controls on my own and after five to six hours I felt comfortable using it safely and to begin teaching other instructors on the proper use and capabilities of the Road Range."

Saanich Police will have training officers qualified to operate the system on every platoon, thus leveraging training opportunities for all members during any shift.

"This new training facility will enable officers to maintain their high level of skill, but more efficiently and effectively," said Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard. Although the Road Range can be mobile, Saanich has elected to situate their Road Range in a fixed location on municipality property so it's easily accessible for officers while on shift.

"Acquisition of the Road Range is an excellent example of the willingness of Saanich Council to find innovative and cost-effective policing solutions – and it is in keeping with the commitment of all levels of government for greener choices," said John van Dongen, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for BC.

# The latest high retention holster technology



by Dave Brown

Nobody wakes up one morning and thinks, "Today, I am going to lose my gun."

That's how we began our last review of high retention police holsters back in March 2000 and it still applies today. A holster is not just a place to store your pistol – it must be designed for the almost mutually exclusive tasks of protecting your sidearm against attack and releasing it quickly when drawn. Much like a parachute to a fighter pilot, a holstered sidearm always seems to be in the way when you don't

need it but when you do, nothing else will do.

The consequences of holster failure are unfathomable. Ninety per cent of all officers who lost their sidearm in a struggle with an assailant were subsequently shot with it, according to a recent RCMP study of police officers murdered in Canada over a 25 year period. The simple fact is, your gun WILL be used against you if you lose it. Nobody is going to grab it just to run down to the local pawnshop, and they're not going to return it to the front desk of the nearest police station either.

Police holsters lead pretty tough lives. Ex-

posed to the elements, they get bumped, knocked, kicked around, ground into the dirt or just plain ignored 364 days a year, but they still must work perfectly the instant they are needed most.

Police holsters should be tested like parachutes; not by comparing looks and features but by how they operate in worst-case scenarios. The problem is that holsters are rarely tested in head-to-head comparisons, and few online users will divulge that they wasted hard-earned dollars on a poor design. Fewer still are crazy enough to buy a dozen holsters just to see if they can rip them apart.

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No, that's where we come in.

Here at *Blue Line Magazine*, we don't regurgitate marketing promos thinly disguised as editorial content. We tell it like it is, good or bad. In fact, a few manufacturers still won't advertise with us because we called them on the carpet for trying to foist poorly designed products onto the law enforcement market. (Because of this, my long-suffering publisher and ever-patient editor are forced to closely examine every word of what I write, looking for what they call "zingers." Boss, if you are reading this, you can stop reading now. There are no zingers. Honest. Cross my fingers.)

Call us crazy, but we believe that properly testing high-retention holsters requires more than putting them on a belt and tugging a couple of times; you test them by timing how long it takes a determined person to pull out the gun. Also, if you want it to stay on your belt, you don't slip it on and off a few times; you challenge the biggest guy you know to try to rip it off your belt in less than 30 seconds.

Holsters get broken; innocent polymers and carbon-fibres get destroyed. So be it.

A good retention holster should be able to protect its contents from an untrained attacker during an undefended gun grab for at least 20 seconds. (After 20 seconds, few assailants are likely going to stick around, even if the officer is unconscious.)

We also added new criteria for our 2009 test. Duty holsters should also be able to protect their contents from a knowledgeable attacker for at least ten seconds. (If you don't think career criminals spend time practicing how to disarm police officers, ask any corrections officer who ever had to watch over an exercise yard.)

No holster is perfect; they all have compromises. Some trade off retention for speed; others are so secure you would need a key and PIN number to get your gun out. (Those of us over 40 may even remember the old flap holsters that combined a slow draw with a disturbing tendency to unceremoniously dump your gun out onto the ground every time you had to climb a fence.)

Times have changed, as you will soon read, for the better. Here is our lineup of what we consider the best holsters on the police market for 2009:

DUTY HOLSTERS		
Make	Model	Retention Level
Blackhawk	Level 3 SERPA Autolock	III
Safariland	070 SSIII	III
Safariland	6070 Raptor	III
Safariland	6360 ALS	II plus

CONCEALMENT HOLSTERS		
Make	Model	Retention Level
Blackhawk	Level 2 SERPA Autolock	II
Safariland	6378 ALS paddle	I plus

### Duty holsters

Technology has come a long way in the eight years since our last comparison test. Holsters are lighter and stronger and fewer cows had to give up their skins for our benefit. Officers forced to carry increasing loads on their duty belts will welcome this change (not to mention the cows).

Interestingly, one area that hasn't improved is draw speed. It still takes roughly the same time for a trained officer to draw from the holster and fire. What has changed since 2000 is the amount of effort it takes to train that officer. What once took hours and hours of training and practice to achieve proficiency can now be accomplished with a few minutes of training and a couple of practice draws a week.

The other significant improvement is the ability to re-holster in a hurry. With just one hand, officers can drop their sidearm back in the holster and attain high levels of retention instantly; a quick additional sweep of a hood returns it to full retention. This leaves their other hand always free to deflect or grapple with an assailant in situations where you suddenly no longer want a gun in your hand.

You may notice that we are not testing any nylon cordura holsters this year. Their stitched construction and innate flexibility just doesn't provide the same level of protection as modern molded laminates or composites. It is even technically possible for a very goal-oriented assailant to force a finger deep inside a cordura holster and pull the trigger during a violent attack. Their previous advantage – light weight – is now less important, since nearly all the top laminate and composite holsters are just as light.

The following holsters meet our criteria for fast draw, good protection and light weight:

**Blackhawk Level 3 SERPA** – An injection molded carbon fibre composite makes this holster light and tremendously strong. It achieves triple redundancy protection, using passive (an adjustable tension screw on the side) and two active retention features (a thumb-operating pivot guard that springs up and forward and a trigger-finger-operated SERPA autolock button that firmly engages the trigger guard).

The pivoting hood remains locked forward until the sidearm is returned to the holster.

The Blackhawk easily withstood all the ripping and prying we could give it and survived our requisite 20 seconds from an attacker. It can be drawn from unusual position, the draw motion is natural and instinctive and we were excited about the possibilities of a lightning fast draw and high retention level, but...

Officers are attacked during dynamic situations. The more we tested this holster, using a variety of subjects and imposing stress and time limits, the more we began to notice a disturbing design flaw. Most draws were accomplished quickly and smoothly, but every now and then the gun would hang up in the holster, causing the shooter to experience a brief moment of panic and frustration.

The more stress added, the more often the draw was fumbled. We finally traced the problem to the fact that, under stress, all our test subjects would occasionally go for the depressed area behind the SERPA autolock button instead of the button itself.

The body tends to concentrate blood flow to the centre mass when stressed, leading to a rapid loss of flow to the extremities and a consequent loss of fine motor skills. When this happens, finger sensitivity is reduced and they can no longer feel the button. Under the stress of range testing, about one draw in ten would be slowed while the finger was repositioned.

While it is possible most officers would never experience this, we must still rate this hol-

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ster unacceptable until Blackhawk addresses the problem and repositions the autolock button.

Blackhawk holsters ([www.blackhawk.com](http://www.blackhawk.com)) are available in Canada through a variety of distributors and retailers.

**Safariland Model 070 SSIII** – This is one of the most commonly issued holsters in Canada and has a well-deserved reputation for reliability. It won our last head-to-head comparison test in 2000, which goes to show just how long it has been on the market.

Constructed of a thermolaminate and using traditional button snaps, the holster's triple retention is achieved through a thumb snap on top, mid-snap behind the trigger guard and a unique angular motion required to complete the draw. The holster can still protect from a gun grab at almost any angle, even if any two of these levels are defeated.

The 070 does take a while to break in and, until the draw is smoothed up from practice, it can be difficult to re-holster with one hand. It will also take a few seconds to do up all the snaps – difficult if not impossible to perform while desperately struggling with an assailant with your other hand.

The 070 provides good protection but is expensive to make and it takes hours of training to become proficient with it. Safariland recommends performing at least 200 draws before using this holster on duty. While it is still acceptable, there are newer designs on the market that should be considered.

**Safariland Model 6070 Raptor** – This holster uses modular construction and a triple-retention design, consisting of a rotating hood at the back of the slide that requires a thumb press and rotation to move forward, a mid-finger button at the back and a unique angular motion to com-

plete the draw. Safariland calls this rotating hood the SLS, which stands for Self-Locking System.

It was designed to nearly duplicate the draw motions required by the 070 holster, so it would be a good replacement for agencies looking for a newer design.

In our tests, it withstood an attack even longer than the 070 and has a unique ability to be re-holstered with one hand, instantly returning to a double-level of retention. An additional quick sweep of the hand on the rotating hood engages the third retention level.

This is the holster that I have personally trained most officers on in the past few years and has proven to be durable, simple and reliable. The more I train on it, the more I like it. I rate it highly recommended.

While some users have reported situations where their soft body armour depressed the SLS hood enough to slightly rotate it out of the way, we could not reproduce this in either testing or training. The Raptor even comes with a plastic shield above the SLS (which is easily removed if you, like me, prefer to have it out of the way).

**Safariland Model 6360 ALS** – Safariland rates this holster as a Level II plus, which means it uses a straight-up draw motion, an SLS hood plus an Automatic Locking System (ALS) button on the inner side.

You can tell the company put a lot of thought into this design and the ALS button is perfectly placed for your thumb as it curls naturally around the back of the slide. Because the holster is slightly canted and requires a straight-up draw motion, the officer can pull it out very quickly and smoothly but an assailant would have more trouble duplicating the exact upward angle. This is why Safariland

conservatively rates it as a level II "plus," and not simply a level II. (The other issue is that there is no standardization in holster retention levels and Safariland can call this holster what they want. See page 34 for more on holster retention levels.)

The ALS locks the sidearm firmly into the holster internally at the ejection port and, while the button only needs a short travel to disengage, we were able to pick up a person by the pistol, using only the strength of the ALS to hold it in place.

We would have no hesitation in recommending this model to any agency looking for a high retention holster that is also safe, reliable and easy to train on.

Safariland holsters ([www.safariland.com](http://www.safariland.com)) are distributed in Canada through R. Nicholls.

### Concealment holsters

Concealment holsters have different priorities. If an assailant knows you are wearing a holster, it is because your firearm is already out and pointed at them, making the presence of a now-empty piece of leather or polymer on your hip a relatively moot point. That, or you have already done something seriously wrong. Either way, the need for multiple redundant levels of retention is not the highest priority.

### Safariland Model 6378 ALS paddle

This holster is the paddle version of the 6360 ALS. It eliminates the rotating SLS hood but retains the ALS locking button, placed in exactly the same spot as the duty holster.

The ALS solidly locks the gun to the holster and I cannot honestly say I have ever seen a faster retention holster on the market. I think it would even beat all of the variety of pure competition holsters I have tried over the years – and I have tried many. (One of my competition holsters was personally given to me by Rob Leatham, many-time world practical pistol champion, so I can appreciate a fast holster!)

If I carried a concealed firearm for a living, this is definitely the one I would pick. The only infuriating part is that the paddle is always a struggle to remove from a waistband, but I think this is a tradeoff most of us would be willing to make.

This holster easily achieves our highly recommended status in the concealment category.

### Blackhawk Level 2 SERPA

Man, we wanted to like this model, which is the concealment version of the Blackhawk Level 3 duty holster tested above. It eliminates the pivoting hood but retains the autolock button on the side. It can be installed as a belt holster, with clever sliding spacers for various sized belts, or as a paddle holster that quickly slips inside a waistband.

However, it suffers from the same flaw as the Level 3 – every now and then, under stress, users tend to go for the depressed area behind the autolock button and not the button itself.

Sorry Blackhawk. This is a great first effort but badly needs a repositioned autolock button. As I said in the Level 3 test above, most officers may never experience these rare hang-ups during a draw but our testing showed that as the stress level went up, the reliability of these SERPA holsters may sometimes go down.

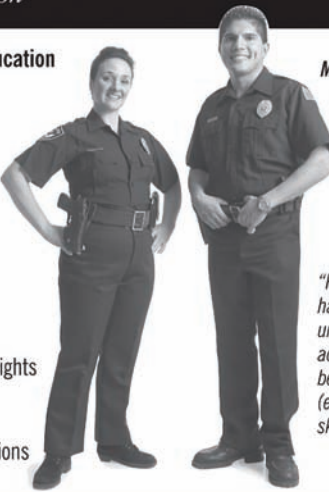
In our mind, nine out of ten perfect draws is still not good enough. Ninety per cent might be okay for medical school and a remarkable achievement in law school but it does not cut it for police holsters.

Or parachutes either, for that matter.



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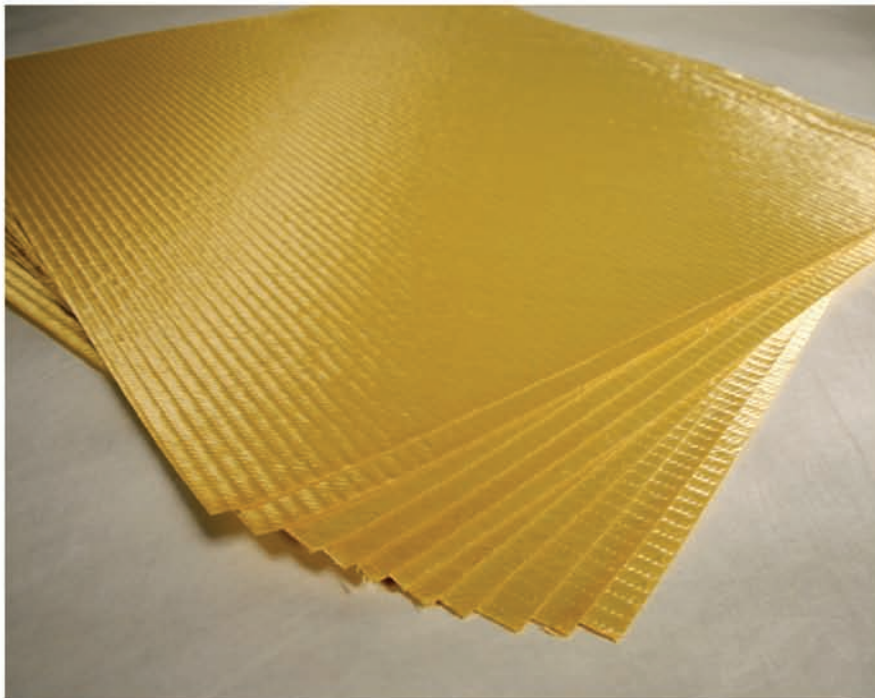
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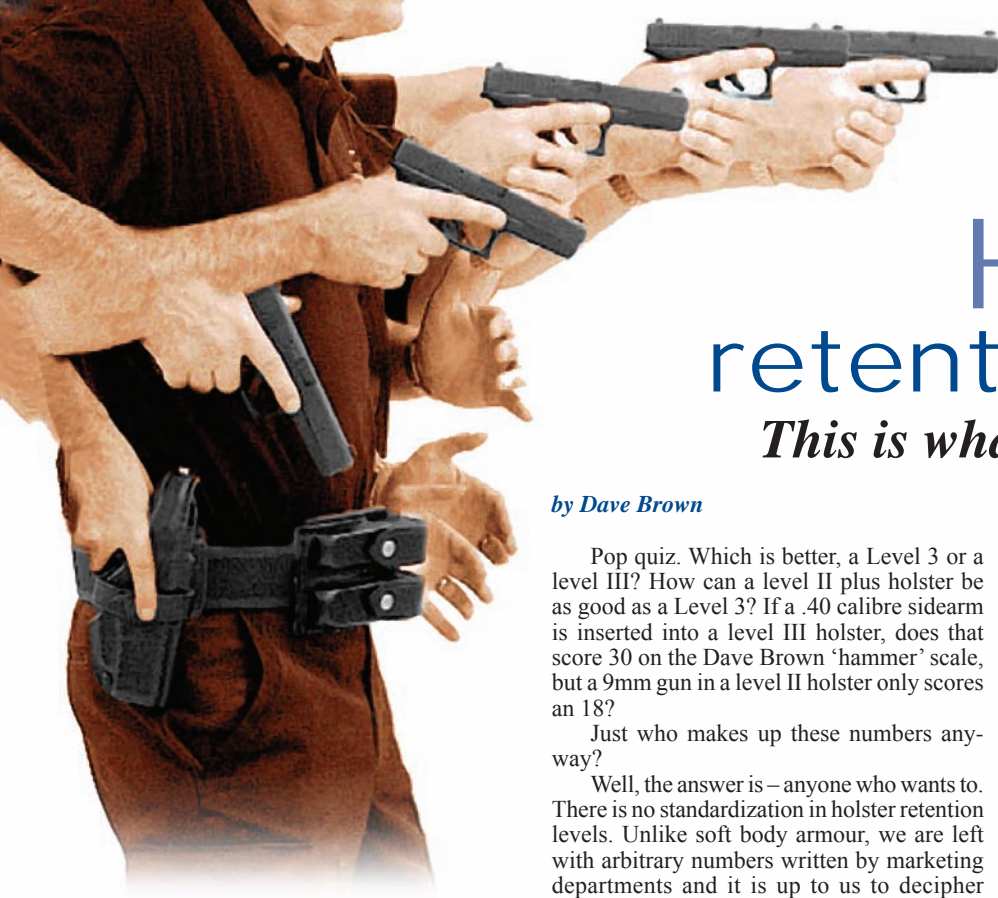


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# Holster retention levels

*This is what the numbers mean*

by Dave Brown

Pop quiz. Which is better, a Level 3 or a level III? How can a level II plus holster be as good as a Level 3? If a .40 calibre sidearm is inserted into a level III holster, does that score 30 on the Dave Brown 'hammer' scale, but a 9mm gun in a level II holster only scores an 18?

Just who makes up these numbers anyway?

Well, the answer is – anyone who wants to. There is no standardization in holster retention levels. Unlike soft body armour, we are left with arbitrary numbers written by marketing departments and it is up to us to decipher them and decide what is most important for our purposes.

Until there is some degree of industry-

wide retention standards, agencies should choose holsters based on their capabilities and features, not arbitrary numbers.

These labels are not quite as arbitrary as they may seem, however. Manufacturers of law enforcement holsters need to keep their products competitive but also understand that they are selling to a relatively sophisticated audience. Over-selling their product's capabilities may result in lost lives, not just lost sales.

Let's look at some of the common elements in retention designations.

## Level I

Level I, or single-retention holsters, are among the earliest designs and are still widely used for concealment holsters. The single retention usually consists of a button or snap, most often operated by the thumb. This level of retention should always require a gross motor skill of the shooting hand to operate and the hand position to release the snap should be as close as possible to a normal draw position from a completely open holster.

## Level II

Double-retention holsters have an additional feature on top of the single-retention device. On some, it may consist of a tensioning screw that makes drawing the sidearm difficult unless levered upward from above, or an additional button or snap, most often operated by the middle finger of the shooting hand.

Here is where we at *Blue Line* take issue with some of the older designs on the market. A thumb-snap holster with a tension screw may technically make it a double-retention holster, but we would not recommend this design as a duty holster simply because a tension screw can be defeated by an aggressive assailant. (Nylon and leather holsters have even been literally ripped in two by extremely violent aggressors.)

A tension screw may qualify as one of the retention levels, but we want to see more than just a thumb-snap on top of it. Some other designs use a rocking motion of the sidearm instead of a tension screw and this is perhaps better but, as our head-to-head testing showed, assailants who don't know how a holster operates can often just fumble their way to a solution by grappling back and forth. In fact, a straight-up draw from a slightly canted holster proved to be just as much protection in our tests as a forward or back rotation of the sidearm.

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Starfield-Lion is an established company with over 27 years experience in manufacturing a wide range of safety apparel for numerous first responder clients.

Our approach to business is based on a philosophy of values – dedication, quality, and innovation. We are committed to delivering high-quality, innovative products that are built with the customer's safety as our top priority. We consider our customers to be the most valuable members of the Starfield-Lion research and development team.

Our ISO 9001-Certified Toronto manufacturing complex is equipped to manufacture protective clothing that meet recognized standards.

In May of 2002, Starfield Safetywear was acquired by Lion Apparel and began doing business as the Starfield-Lion Company. Lion Apparel is one of the world's largest manufacturers of protective clothing.

This means that we, a mid-sized Canadian garment manufacturer, have access to the key resources of a global company. This unique combining of synergies gives us the strengths of a large company, while allowing us to maintain our smaller company flexibility for garment customization.

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### Level II Plus

Safariland originated the "level" designations, so they get to create this unique intermediate level. In their ALS holster, the first level is the rotating hood operated by the thumb and the second is the Automatic Locking System (ALS) button, also operated by the thumb. The "plus" part is the required straight-up draw motion. This is why we can recommend this holster. If the first level is ever defeated for any reason, the ALS is strong enough to take almost the entire weight of the officer.

Safariland is even rumoured to be revising its retention level designations on their SLS holsters, reasoning that the SLS rotating hood actually requires two motions: a downward push and a forward rotation. (Please Safariland, let's not muddy the waters any further. Keep the existing designations!)

### Level III

A triple-retention holster uses three redundant motions or devices. Here is where we would also accept a tension screw as part of the retention, provided the other two levels require a gross motor movement on the part of the officer. For example, Blackhawk's Level 3 SERPA holster uses a tension screw, a release button on the side operated by the trigger finger, and a very clever protective hood over the back of the slide; it almost instantly springs forward when the officer passes their thumb alongside the inside of the slide in a normal shooting grip.

### Level IV

A level IV holster is usually characterized as a level III, modified with an additional

feature. Safariland sells an optional "Sentry" button that modifies an SLS holster, bumping it up one full level. While we believe in good holster retention, we do not recommend level IV holsters for duty carry unless you are in an extremely high threat environment and, even then, we would first question your need to carry a sidearm in these situations. That, or your choice of careers.

### Retention continuum

Officers should not need to rely solely on their holster's technology to prevent a gun grab. Retention should be a continuum of defenses, beginning with not letting the bad guy get close enough to even try for your gun. If an aggressive attack is initiated, officers need to learn simple, dynamic breakaway tactics that rely less on fancy martial arts moves and more on unconscious reactions that can throw the assailant physically and mentally off balance.

However law enforcement officers may not always be in a good position to properly defend against a sudden attack. In those cases, it is nice to know the modern holster will do a pretty good job of providing those critical few seconds you may need to prevent a gun grab.

So hot shots, let's try our pop quiz again. Based on what we have learned on holster retention levels, let's say agency "A" uses 8 per cent level I holsters, 22 per cent level II and 70 per cent level III. How old is the bus driver?

Dave Brown has been *Blue Line Magazine's* Firearms Editor for 13 years (Jan 1995). He is a tactical firearms trainer and consultant. He can be reached at [firearms@blueline.ca](mailto:firearms@blueline.ca).

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As a division of a global manufacturer, and a fast and broad procurement and supply network, Ferno Canada is a leading producer and distributor of equipment and supplies for rescue and tactical operations, hazmat/chem-bio decontamination chemical spill containment systems, incident command and triage, personal protection as well as EMS patient transportation-handling and care.

Partnering with a corporate division, traverse rescue, and now the primary Canadian distributor for CMC rescue, Ferno has become an important player in land and marine rescue operations. Rescue operations equipment from confined space to water rescue and all the equipment and supplies required are important product-lines for the company. Its tactical rappelling equipment line that includes harnesses, gloves, and escape kits is light, compact, always dependable and, of course, comes in black and subdued colours.

The Ontario Ministry of Health's award-

ing of the 2006-08 Hospital Decontamination, Spill and Crowd Control Contract to Ferno Canada has contributed to the company becoming a leader in hazmat/chem-bio decontamination and chemical spill containment systems. Our goal is to also provide you with affordable, high quality equipment with a full range of tools for incident command, command post, mass casualty, triage, personal protective equipment and specialized disaster medical equipment.

Over the years, we've recognized our customer's interest in independent product verification. We have strongly supported the creation of national standards for our different industries, both by serving on standards committees and by making sure that a wide selection of our products are certified. By listening to customer feedback and gaining field experience, we continue to improve existing designs and develop new products and training procedures. We're committed to making our

customers, police, rescue, fire and EMS more effective and safer.

After serving the pre-hospital emergency medical profession for over 40 years,

Ferno and its Canadian division will continue to research, improve and expand its land and air rescue, law enforcement, emergency preparedness, mass casualty and equipment lines to our current as well as new customers. Ferno Canada is truly much more than EMS and welcomes the opportunity to put its partnering and solutions to work with you. Hands-on is our mission and collaboration with our partners and customers is imperative in today's economy of ideas and economic uncertainty.

The ability to change and the drive to reach you with the product lines that address the real challenges of rescue operations: hazmat, mass casualty as well as EMS underlies our mission, "When it's critical, We're there."

## *Award winning Collision Reporting and Occurrence Management System*

Accident Support Services International Ltd. (ASSI) has been facilitating centralized collision reporting to police and insurers since 1994 through "Collision Reporting Centres" (CRCs). Currently, ASSI has 20 locations, covering 22 police jurisdictions, and is growing rapidly. Over 70 per cent of collisions can be reported at CRCs, with minimal police involvement, reduced traffic congestion and minimized risk of secondary collisions. Manpower and operating costs savings are re-allocated to higher priority needs. Services using the system enjoy improved response times, increased Highway Traffic Act charges due to proactive, not reactive enforcement, and an increase in "No Insurance" and "False Statement" charges. Photo imaging the vehicle's damage and "Reported to Police" sticker helps reduce insurance fraud.

ASSI's Microsoft Award winning Collision Reporting and Occurrence Management System (CROMS) captures all collision details electronically to share data with all stakeholders, from police to road safety engineers, insurers and the Ministry of Transport Ontario (MTO).

CROMS has complete data capture capability and output of all official MTO collision

report forms, fail-to-remain forms, supplementary information forms, comprehensive forms, and personal injury forms. Implementation of CROMS has brought better accuracy and consistency of data; the drivers license swipe increases speed of data entry, with data mapping capability to meet individual customer and partner needs.

CROMS Geocode Mapping captures exact crash latitude and longitude. The system is capable of storing and transferring scanned documents and pictures, and contains edit triggers to generate investigation notification. It works with other systems seamlessly to cross populate e-ticketing solutions, or provide downloads and uploads to government systems or other approved databases. The centralized database matches data from different locations and jurisdictions, and services are flexible to meet the needs of each community, regardless of size.

Jurisdictions with insufficient annual collisions for a CRC can have access to this great tool, and are using it as an electronic records management system. Police simply scan in the completed on-scene report, and ASSI staff enter all of the information. The addition of the CROMS Analytics Portal in fall

2008 has added further value to the program. Users can analyze all information captured in a collision report through adhoc queries based on any field on their official collision report. The new technology allows speedy analysis of data. Users can easily request data for multi-dimensional results through information modifications, selections, rankings, calculations, etc. Collision sites can be plotted on a Google earth map view, a graphical view, and in a tabular view.

The Analytics Portal gives police the ability to analyze what is causing collisions by assessing driver actions, identifying problem areas where a disproportionate number of collisions are occurring, when collisions occur, and decide what times police officers should proactively enforce specific areas allowing for intelligence led enforcement to make roadways safer. Users are impressed with the ease of use. Obtaining reports and tabulation of statistics that used to take up to six months now takes seconds!

CROMS can easily be your risk free solution, whether you need a first step, basic solution with data entry services, or more sophisticated solutions including full in-car use.

Former Toronto Police Association head **Craig Bromell**, is to become the inspiration for an 11-part series of one-hour dramas, CTV announced last month. A two-hour pilot was shot last summer and CTV executives liked it well enough to commission a full series. The pilot will now air as the first two separate one-hour episodes. Production of the remaining nine episodes will start in January. The series, called "The Bridge," stars **Aaron Frank** as rank-and file cop Frank Leo.



**Blue Line Magazine** Publisher, **Morley Lyburner**, was honoured last month by the Canadian National Committee for Police/Mental Health Liaison. The organization, a sub-group for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, presented him with their Community Service Award in recognition of the support he has given the group since it started seven years ago. "Much of Morley's work is behind the scenes and may not be readily apparent to... the police or mental health community at large," stated **Dorothy Cotton** on behalf of the Association. She concluded by stating that Morley does indeed act as a role model for other businesses and organizations and that "the world would be a better place if everyone was inclined to do as he has done."



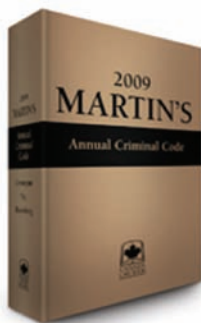
Ontario's Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister, **Rick Bartolucci**, has introduced a bill to make forensic pathology more accountable in hopes of restoring public confidence following a forensics scandal that branded innocent people as child killers. The proposed bill would create a new oversight council, a complaints committee and a provincial forensic pathology service, as recommended by the "Goudge Inquiry." The primary focus of the inquiry was forensic pathologist **Dr. Charles Smith** whose evidence sent several innocent people to prison.



**Shelley Hart**, a woman with more than 30 years of service on the Winnipeg Police Service, has been named the department's new deputy chief of police. Police Chief **Keith McCaskill** says Hart is a proven leader who is the best choice for the job. Hart, formerly an Inspector in charge of the major crimes section, says the chance to serve as deputy chief is an incredible opportunity. The veteran officer also says she wants to build relationships between police and the community.



Ontario's Liberal government is agreeing to take back all welfare and court security costs that had been downloaded onto municipalities in the 1990s. But it's going to take 10 years - until 2018 - for them to complete their plan. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario complained that the province won't start taking back the court security costs until 2012. Ontario mayors have complained court security costs add about seven per cent to local policing bills.



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To protect our customers, APS ensures that the companies we represent take customer service and excellence as seriously as we do. Before we accept any product we test it ourselves, making sure it will meet the needs of our valued clients and partners. We are proud to represent some of the top brands in law enforcement and are the exclusive distributors for the following premium suppliers:

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Established in 1984, PSP has grown to include more than 270 employees and operates out of two manufacturing facilities, one in Arran, Ontario and a new facility in Dover, TN that opened in 2006. These facilities are collectively equipped with complete research, design, production and distribution capabilities.

Headquartered in Kanata, Ontario, PSP has maintained its market leadership position by excelling in product research and design to serve the defence, law enforcement and security markets. The company operates one of North America's most advanced ballistic research facilities for the development and testing of its state-of-the-art protective solutions. PSP has a well deserved reputation for providing the highest level of comfort and protection in products designed for the Canadian market.



Elbeco ([www.elbeco.com](http://www.elbeco.com)) - Since the turn of the century, Elbeco has been manufacturing quality uniforms for our nation's working men and women. The Elbeco philosophy has always been one of dedication to its customers. This core corporate goal has enabled Elbeco to become one of the largest manufacturers of professional uniform apparel in North America. Elbeco specializes in servicing the uniform needs of the law enforcement, corrections, fire service, transportation and emergency medical sectors.

Sabre Red: ([www.sabrered.com](http://www.sabrered.com)) Security Equipment Corporation, a family owned and operated manufacturer, distributes its products worldwide. Agencies worldwide have switched to SABRE products because of its product performance, independent laboratory testing, quality control, HPLC guarantee, training and service. Ultimately, most agencies have switched to SABRE products due to performance and safety aspects. SABRE provides officers with the best AIP and the best chance to gain control of "goal oriented," alcohol and/or drug induced and emotionally disturbed subjects without the need to escalate to a higher level of force.



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# The Christmas Angel

by Andrew Maksymchuk

It was Christmas Eve and I was one of the few married members, who had elected to work Christmas and take New Year's off, while those with children enjoyed their Yuletide leave. It was a very cold Saturday and by supertime most of the daytime workers and last minute shoppers were enjoying the snug warmth of their homes with their families in excited anticipation of Christmas morning.

The intensity of the frigid temperature and the desire to stay at home with family tended to clear the highway of traffic save for a few midnight mass churchgoers. No calls were coming through. It was as if everyone was at peace with themselves and each other. Even the usual static on the police radio was replaced by silence as if in respect of this holiest of nights.

Whether it was boredom or a desire for a change of scenery, I headed off the highway

and in the direction of the Kenora airport. With only an hour left on my shift I decided to patrol up to the airport. At a fork in the road I had a choice of proceeding to the right, the shortest and most-travelled route, which would ensure that I would be back to the detachment before shift's end. The road to the left also eventually terminated at the airport. Little used, except by the two families living in seclusion a fair distance between each other, it would take me miles out of my way and put my off-duty time

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well past the end of my watch. I stopped the cruiser and shone my flashlight out the side window onto the road to the left. The incessant frost crystals that had been sparkling in my headlights for the entire shift, had settled onto the hard-packed snow of the roadway obliterating even the remotest possible trace of recent traffic.

"Nobody's been up that way for quite a while," I thought, then found myself shifting the patrol car into reverse and turning left anyway. The further I travelled the more foolish I thought my reflexive decision had been.

A few miles along, the last thing I expected to see was the rear end of a car stopped on the roadway in the middle of nowhere. I pulled up behind the unlit vehicle. No exhaust was coming from the tailpipe and the rear window was frozen into an opaque state. Getting out of the cruiser, I approached with less caution than that used for a highway traffic stop, fully expecting to find the coupe empty. Abreast of the car I caught movement in the back seat through the frost-covered window, bringing me to full alert. In the front were two adult figures, both unmoving and slumped forward in their seats. I turned my attention to the rear where a small child, wrapped in an adult coat, was wriggling about. My first thought was that the adults had been overcome by carbon monoxide yet, by some miracle, the child was still alive. I rapped on the side window without getting a response. Bent on saving the child, I tried to open the driver's door. It was either locked or frozen shut. I was about to go around to the passenger door when the

driver raised his head and slowly cranked down the window.

"Are you okay?" I asked in relief.

"Yes, we were just giving thanks to the Lord for your arrival," the man said in a manner so calm it belied the seriousness of the situation they had been in.

By this time his wife had also finished her prayers, shivering against the cold, neither was dressed for the weather. In street shoes and clothing more suitable for festive occasions in milder climes, they had decided to wear their finest attire to town for early evening prayers. When their car had broken down on the return trip, the father had to decide whether to risk frostbite, and perhaps even his life, by trying to walk for help in the sub-zero weather, or wait in the car for someone to come along on that little-used roadway. He chose the latter, wrapped his little daughter in his light topcoat, then lead them in prayer. For over two hours they waited and prayed.

"Everybody get into the cruiser where it's warm," I said. "I'll give you a ride home."

I carried the girl to the police car and soon we were on our way to their farmhouse. While the two adults continued to shiver uncontrollably, anxious for a hot bath in the comfort of their warm home, the little girl recovered quickly and became talkative.

"Are you an angel?" she asked.

"I'm a policeman," I said, somewhat taken aback and thinking to myself that's one thing I should never be confused with!

"Daddy said if we prayed, God would send an angel to help us." Before I could think

of a suitable reply, her father broke into the conversation.

"Sometimes policemen are God's angels," he said.

Somehow Christmas felt a little more special that year.

Andrew Maksymchuk is a retired Inspector with the Ontario Provincial Police. He is the author of *From Muskeg to Murder* from which this excerpt has been taken. To order Mak's book go to the book sales page in this edition or the web page at [blueline.ca](http://blueline.ca).



## PROFILE

### Pearson Peacekeeping Centre

Great facilitators can make the difference between a typical learning experience and an exceptional one.

Course facilitators are instrumental in providing a framework and a receptive environment that is conducive to learning. The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) relies on the talent and skills of its facilitators to deliver many of its training courses.

A few years ago, the PPC adopted activity-based learning as its principle methodology for the design, development, delivery and evaluation of learning products. This methodology has been praised as one of the best means for reinforcing and supporting the retention of knowledge and skills for adult learners.

"The facilitator is no longer 'the sage on the stage' but is rather 'the guide from the side,' says Dr. Ann Livingstone, Vice President of Research and Education at the PPC. "Our facilitators tell us they enjoy drawing from the specific skills and knowledge of course participants who provide a range of perspectives present in contemporary peace operations."

The PPC is a Canadian-based institution dedicated to making international peace operations more effective through research, education, training and capacity building. Our facilitators, comprised of both active and retired academics, senior police officers, diplomats, humanitarians and high-ranking military personnel, many with practical experience in the field, help achieve the PPC's high standard of training.

"At the PPC, we shift away from the traditional training paradigm," says Glenn MacPhail, a facilitator for the past three years. "Rather than offer the 'right' answer, we encourage participants to develop their own conclusions, so they walk away understanding and remembering the course material."

For more information on how to become a PPC facilitator, please visit [www.peaceoperations.org](http://www.peaceoperations.org)



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## FACILITATORS (contract positions)

The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre is seeking to create a pool of qualified facilitators for various international UNPOL projects to help with its mission to make peace operations more effective.

Successful candidates must:

- Be willing to perform duties in Canada or overseas, as well as in a variety of cultural and geographic environments.
- Have some field experience as an international practitioner (either government, military, police or non-governmental organization (NGO) or international organization capacity in peace operations, preferably in Africa).

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The Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) is a not-for-profit organization that works with the Canadian police community to design, develop, and deliver e-learning products.

Recognized as Canada's leading provider of online police training, CPKN currently offers more than 30 e-learning courses and learning resources specifically designed to meet the needs of front line officers.

Recent releases include:

#### Recognition of emotionally **disturbed persons**

This two hour course reviews the broad categories of EDPs and provides recommended response strategies and approaches to deal with individuals in crisis. Funded by the Police Sector Council, this course is offered in both French and English and, until December 31st, is available as a free learning pilot to all Canadian law enforcement audiences.

#### **Death notification**

Informing someone of the sudden death of a loved one is one of the most difficult tasks an emergency response professional will perform. Adapted from MADD Canada's

classroom-based seminar, this two hour course teaches police officers, victim support workers, and other emergency services personnel the most current, proven, and compassionate approaches to death notification.

#### **Characteristics of an armed person**

Developed by the Toronto Police Service and now offered to all police audiences through CPKN, this 45 minute course is designed to help officers identify the behaviours associated with individuals carrying concealed weapons. Using videos, audio and text-based narratives, and specific case law, this course reinforces the principles of officer safety while demonstrating methods of firearm concealment and the body movements and behavioural patterns of an armed person.

Endorsed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, CPKN is governed and guided by senior level police professionals and partners with policing agencies across the country to develop accessible, cost-effective training options for the benefit of the sector as a whole. For more information on available courses, please visit the CPKN website at [www.cpkn.ca](http://www.cpkn.ca).

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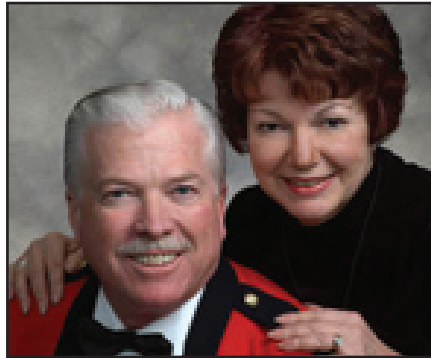
After twenty years of working in the travel industry in the various communities where my RCMP husband was stationed, I opened my own travel agency in Abbotsford, B.C. A few years later my husband retired and joined me in the business. We're very proud of our son, daughter-in-law, and son-in-law who are active members of the RCMP. Our daughter heads up our group sales department.

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Tetragon Dist Inc. maintains an office, warehouse and store front in Mississauga, ON, and from this location conducts business all across Canada. We provide a knowledgeable sales staff as well as web access through [www.tetragon.ca](http://www.tetragon.ca). In addition we offer a printed "Tetragon" catalogue highlighting many of the lines we handle and a product specific "5.11 Tactical" catalogue for the Canadian market. As of September of this year Tetragon released our new catalogue, a good reference to our present long time clientele and new customer base.

Tetragon Dist Inc. has worked with many manufactures over the years including Simunition and Walther Pistols and has had

much success with the Walther P99 line in the Province of Quebec. Tetragon has twice received a "Distributor of the Year" award from Simunition and has made it the training product of choice in Canada. Tetragon not only supplies Simunition products, but also offers Simunition instructor training courses, to "Train the Trainer."

Tetragon Dist Inc carries a large number of items in stock that are required by our market including products from such companies as 5.11 Tactical, Blackhawk, Danner, Simunition, and Surefire to mention a few.

Tetragon Dist Inc. is involved with the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement and has been proud to sponsor the award for Valour for the past three years. Tetragon has also been involved over the years with fund raising events with organizations such as Crime stoppers and the Canadian Forces.

Tetragon Dist Inc. realizes that business will change over time but one part will not and that is our commitment to focusing on our customers' needs.

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We want you to count on Explorer Cases as the most reliable resource to carry your valuable equipment in the harshest environments. That is why you can FOREVER count on our cases' warranty against breakage of materials and defects on workmanship that could affect the integrity of what you carry inside. After all, it is not by coincidence that all of our unbreakable cases have met the most rigorous military standard qualifications and are now so popular in extreme environments, no matter what human being, animal or fish you come across in your professional and life journey.

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LAKE CHARLES, La. - Police in Louisiana are crediting 'sheer luck and stupidity' for the arrests of two people on drug charges after officers made a routine phone call.

It all started when two police officers pulled over a car for a traffic violation.

The driver could not produce identification or a valid driver's license, so the officers suspected the car was stolen.

They called the registered owner and left a message. When the owner called back, officers say, she apparently thought the message was from a drug dealer.

She was busted for allegedly trying to buy crack cocaine.

(The Associated Press)

...

DALLAS - Texas police officer Jerry Varner spotted a stolen truck while directing traffic - his own truck.

The suburban Dallas officer was on traffic duty outside a concert and didn't even know his truck was missing.

But he says he recognized his maroon truck coming toward him.

Varner ordered the driver to pull over. But police say instead, the suspect slammed the truck into reverse and tried to get away.

He didn't get far. Police cars surrounded the vehicle. Officers say they arrested James Matthew Herring when he attempted to run.

...

MADRID, Spain - A burglar who broke into a funeral home in Spain tried to fool police by playing dead, but two things gave him away.

First, he breathed.

Second, he wore grungy clothes rather than the Sunday best generally favoured by those settling in for an eternal rest.

Police and the Crespo Funeral Home say they had no idea what the 23-year-old man was trying to steal in the March 17 break-in in Burjassot, a small town just outside Valencia.

Neighbours living nearby alerted police when they heard the front door of the business being forced open in the middle of the night.

Police officers arrived with the owner, and eventually found the suspect lying on a table in a glassed-in chamber used for viewings of deceased people during wakes.

(The Associated Press)

...

DALLAS, Texas - Police didn't have to go far to find \$400,000 worth of cocaine - it was in an undercover car they'd been driving for two months.

An officer cleaning the car at a patrol station discovered more than 20 kilograms of cocaine carefully hidden in hydraulically controlled compartments.

Dallas police put the 2004 Infiniti into police service after seizing it during a drug raid along with a 1999 Honda that was later sold at auction.

Deputy Chief Julian Bernal says the narcot-

ics division searched both vehicles and found nothing unusual.

Bernal says police plan to contact the person who bought the Honda to find out if drugs are hidden in that car, too.

They're also trying to find out who owned the cocaine that they've been secretly driving around with.

(The Associated Press)

...

HANOI, Vietnam - Faced with mounting public criticism, Vietnam's Health Ministry suspended a widely ridiculed plan to ban short,

thin and small-chested drivers.

The ministry had recommended that people whose chests measure less than 28 inches be prohibited from driving motorbikes - as well as those who are too short (less than 4 feet, 8 inches) or too thin (less than 88 pounds).

When the plan hit the media, it prompted disbelief and scorn among members of the public, who envisioned the police pulling over female drivers to measure their bust.

The state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted ministry official Nguyen Huy Quang as saying the proposal would be suspended.

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# Look for the “stupid” pattern

by Dorothy Cotton

I can't believe I was so dumb. Trotting on the treadmill while watching TV, I reached for the remote to change the station – convinced, for some reason, that I could accomplish this without stopping. Needless to say, I was wrong, fell and managed to slash the side of my knee on the belt. Knees bleed a lot, as it turns out.

I was relating this incident to several friends and we ended up telling endless stories of all the dumb things we've done. Our miscues include:

- Trying to get the blades out of the electric knife without turning it off, resulting in several stitches;
- Standing on a rocking chair to change a light bulb (turns out light bulbs explode when they hit the floor);
- Hitting 'reply' instead of 'forward,' thereby e-mailing your snide remarks to the person you made them about (oh well – I didn't like her anyhow);
- Driving the wrong way up a one way street, even though you've driven that street MANY times before and KNEW it went the other way;
- Picking up an item in a store and wandering out without paying (I was not intending to shoplift – honest!);

• Calling out the name of your partner in a moment of passion – and getting the name wrong.

These are fairly trivial items which only result in the occasional bruise, bump or embarrassment. I suspect we could compile quite an amusing list of silly errors, but we also know of little mistakes with much more significant consequences – lapses in attention while driving that end up with someone dying; stepping off the curb without noticing the big transport coming down the road; misreading the instructions on a pill bottle and overdosing. . .

Why do people – even us smart people – do really dumb things? There are several possibilities.

Sometimes we are dumb by accident; losing our focus and not thinking. Perhaps we're tired, bored, preoccupied or repeating an action we have gotten away with many times before. Truth be told, I often change the TV station when running on the treadmill, but this time I was going a little faster than usual, the remote was further away and I had to turn more. The friend who cut his fingers on the electric knife has taken those blades out a thousand times before. Sometimes carelessness really is carelessness. We all know the solution – be more careful.

Sometimes we are dumb on purpose. We

drive too fast, cut corners or take small risks because underneath it all we think, "I can get away with this – nothing bad will happen to me." Underlying all this superficial chatter is the basic belief that "I am special; I am a better driver/writer/thief than anyone else. I know I should not do this but because I am special, I can get away with it."

Driving is a great example. Most people think they are better than average drivers who can safely handle over the limit speeds – so what might look like a dumb error is really a deliberate decision to act in a way that is bound to lead to no good.

Sometimes we are impulsive, acting first and thinking later. Some people are impulsive a lot of the time, but most of us are at least occasionally so. We have all had instances where we looked back at our impulsiveness and failure to think things out and said "I can't believe I just did that."

Sometimes people just don't see the big picture and the mistakes coming their way.

I once interviewed a repeat offender\* who had been arrested many times for holding up corner stores and was now doing federal time for a similar crime. The interesting thing was that he ALWAYS got caught but remained convinced that he could get away with the crime if he wanted to – really. The only reason he had been nabbed so many times was – well – things went wrong.

The first time, he was caught because an off duty police officer happened to be in the store. The second time it was icy outside; he fell and twisted his ankle, preventing him from getting away. The third time, his get-away driver panicked and left without him and the last time he was clearly identifiable in the security camera image. I suggested that perhaps robbing corner stores wasn't such a good idea. His response? "Well, next time it will work because I will not repeat the same mistakes."

He does not see the pattern of his behaviour – the similarities across all his offences; he only sees the differences. Each time he tried to rob a corner store, a different thing went wrong. He does not see that EVERY time he tried to rob a store, something went wrong – the big picture. His inability to see patterns is not limited to his criminal behaviour. I could tell you about several other areas in his life where he similarly just cannot see the pattern. Life is built on patterns. Learning is much harder if you cannot see them.

So what is the pattern in your life? When you look back at all the dumb things you have done, what is the common theme? If you can't think of any dumb things you have done, ask your friends and family. They'll be happy to remind you.

\* Details of any real cases I have worked with are altered and disguised – so no, this is not someone you once arrested, even if it sounds that way.

Dr. Dorothy Cotton has been *Blue Line's* psychology columnist, for 8 years (July 2001) she can be reached at [deepblue@blueline.ca](mailto:deepblue@blueline.ca)



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# Unlocking the mystery of DNA

by Brian Ward

*If your two parents hadn't bonded just when they did – possibly to the second, possibly to the nanosecond – you wouldn't be here! If their parents hadn't bonded in a precisely timely manner, you wouldn't be here either, and if their parents hadn't done likewise, and their parents before them and so on, obviously and indefinitely, you wouldn't be here! – Bill Bryson*

The rules of inheritance were worked out by an obscure Austrian monk named Gregor Mendel in the mid-19th century. Using pea plants, he theorized the basic rules and they, unbeknownst to him, set out the rules of genetics and the role DNA plays in all living organisms. It wasn't until the mid 1950s that scientists Crick, Watson, Franklin and Wilkins came up with the now famous picture of the chemical structure of DNA – the double helix.

The uprights of this structure are made of a type of sugar called deoxyribose and the whole helix is a nucleic acid, thus the whole structure is known as 'deoxyribonucleic acid.' The rungs, or loci, of the structure are composed of only four bases (or nucleotides): guanine (g), adenine (a), thymine (t) and cytosine(c).

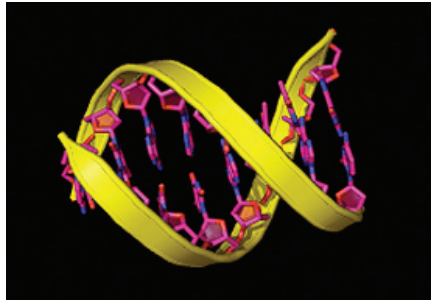
Most of your DNA (80-97 per cent) is commonly junk or garbage, existing for the pure and simple reason that it is good at getting itself duplicated. It is the other 3 per cent that is used for medical purposes. The garbage DNA is used to make the comparisons for criminal purposes. The human body is composed of 60 trillion cells, give or take a few. Each contains a strand of nuclear or genomic DNA in its nucleus. Thanks to genetics, the strands are identical.

The body constantly loses and replaces its cells and when a new cell is created, the DNA is replicated exactly.

## Our uniqueness

Oddly enough, 99.9 per cent of human genes are the same but the .1 percent that is different allows the science of genetics to confirm that no two organisms are identical. This DNA allows the body to create a unique individual by instructing cells to make proteins that determine everything from hair colour to susceptibility to diseases – so your close cousin could be a piece of brewer's yeast or a sea slug.

Mathematically speaking, the statistics are impressive against two people sharing the same DNA – there's only a one in 166 billion chance, on a comparison of the 13 strands of loci (or rungs). There are currently about 6.8 billion people on earth, so the odds are clearly against the same DNA profile occurring more than once.



## Getting it right

Brit Raymond Easton was convicted of a burglary in 1999 based on DNA evidence found at the crime scene. The comparison was based on the match of six loci in his DNA profile.

Adamant that he did not commit the crime and offering irrefutable proof of his innocence, Easton and his lawyers forced another test. Based on a more detailed examination, with scientists checking 13 loci, it found that the DNA wasn't his and he was cleared.

## The dreaded 'CSI effect'

The major applications of forensic DNA typing are:

- Criminal cases;
- Civil cases (usually paternity or immigration matters); and
- Identification of persons when other, easier methods fail or cannot be used, such as in mass disasters. This was illustrated by DNA's major role in identifying victims from the 1998 Swissair crash off the coast of Nova Scotia.

There has been so much hype about DNA typing that an uninformed citizen could easily conclude the technology is the solution to every criminal justice problem in the nation. In fact, DNA typing is applicable only in circumstances where biological evidence has been deposited, recovered and yields DNA that can be typed.

## The first DNA case

A British girl was raped and murdered in a Leicestershire village in 1983. No suspects were found but police arrested a 17 year old after a similar crime three years later. The suspect made statements incriminating himself in the second murder but not the first.

British forensic scientist Alec Jeffreys had been working on a process to match DNA from suspects and crime scenes. He was asked to compare samples from the suspect and the two murdered girls and found that the same suspect had indeed committed both murders – but it wasn't the suspect police had in custody. A massive manhunt began for the real killer. All the males in the village were asked to donate samples of their blood for DNA testing, but

no matches were found.

The real killer, Colin Pitchfork, lived in the village but had paid a friend to take his place, so his blood wasn't tested. 'Loose lips sink ships' and, while drinking in a pub, he bragged about what he had done. Someone turned him in and this time Pitchfork's DNA was tested. They had a match. Documented in Joseph Wambaugh's book *The bleeding*, the incident gave rise to the term 'bleeding.'

## Scene examination

Examining scenes for blood and fluids involves a scene analysis, followed by photographing it and your exhibits, both in close up format and in relation to its position in the scene. Measurements and meticulously kept notes are also critical.

Remember that the forensic scientist who will get the evidence wasn't there and should be able to visualize the area. Assume that the evidence is infectious and handle objects only while wearing latex gloves. Contamination and safety issues may also mandate the use of face masks, coveralls and shoe covers.

These factors may also play an important part in future court proceedings. If in doubt, always consult with your FIS or a forensic scientist working on the case.

Blood has great evidential value when a transfer between a victim and suspect can be demonstrated, so all clothing from both the victim and suspect should be collected for laboratory examination. This procedure should be followed even if the presence of blood does not seem obvious. Forensic scientists can determine the presence of very small quantities of blood or other DNA-containing fluids. Investigators should look for towels, handkerchiefs, or rags that may have been used to clean up after the crime.

Other things to keep in mind:

- Floor cracks and crevices may have trapped blood.
- Carpets should be lifted to check for blood.
- Clothing holds other DNA secrets and should be treated as such.
- The presence of semen, saliva, blood and hair is very possible.

To be checked for nuclear DNA, hair must have a root or follicle. Even stained clothing may have DNA from skin oils in the stains and cast off dead skin cells. Remember to check the inside rims of hats, clothing labels, toques and balaclavas for cast off skin cells and oils.

Although the science of fingerprints has been around for a century, a latent print does not always yield an identifiable print. If there are not enough minutiae for a positive comparison, consider swabbing the print after it is examined. There may be nuclear DNA lurking in the background, and there is no harm in trying all your options!



### Packaging the evidence

Do not package a fresh biological sample in a plastic bag. It quite likely contains a small amount of moisture, which will encourage decomposition of the sample to the point where it is useless. This is especially true in the case of a blood stained item. If not dried properly, blood will decompose quickly and has no evidentiary value.

The best choice is to air dry the sample in a safe, dry location and then package it in a paper bag or cardboard box. Should you find yourself, for example, as the officer guarding a victim at a hospital, the staff will often remove the clothing to work on the patient. You should ask for it. If it is blood contaminated, request a place where you can hang it while it remains in your presence. Consult with your FIS office or an investigator on the best way to keep custody or continuity of the item, especially if the patient is moved to a room – or the morgue.

Remember to keep meticulous notes about your actions. Wear latex gloves, put clean paper under the drying items to catch any evidence and include this paper with the evidence.

### National DNA databank

The RCMP operates the national DNA database (NDDB) in its Ottawa laboratory. Since 2000, the bank has been mandated to provide a mechanism for a judge to order persons convicted of designated offences to provide either blood, buccal or hair samples from which DNA profiles will be derived. The samples can be used to determine a number of investigative leads, including:

- Scene to scene comparison where there is no suspect;
- Identifying a suspect;
- Clearing a suspect; and
- Potentially identifying an unknown deceased.

### Statistics

(effective Oct 22, 2008)

- 10,393 offender hits - crime scene to offender;
- 1,598 forensic hits - crime scene to crime scene;
- 145,564 currently in convicted offender index (CODIS);
- 45,019 currently in the crime scene index (CODIS);

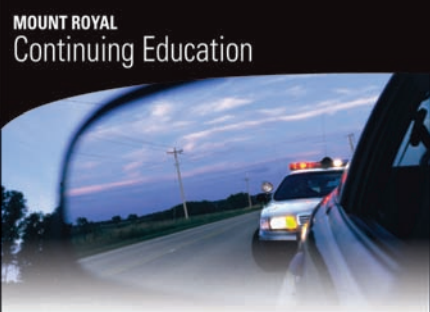
The NDDB receives 350 to 450 samples a week and will accept either blood, buccal or hair samples. "However, it has been our experience that blood samples provide the best source of DNA with the least amount of reprocessing or the need for obtaining a new sample from the offender," according to its website.

"There are many reasons for this but typically the high success rate is undoubtedly due to proper sample collection and the relative amount of DNA present in a blood drop. Hair and buccal, although valid samples, are not easily collected and often do not yield adequate quantities of DNA following laboratory analysis. Consequently, this could lead to the need for re-sampling, which represents additional cost to the police and laboratory as well as an increased delay for processing the sample, obtaining a good result and making a match with ongoing case investigations.

"From a processing and efficiency perspec-

tive, the blood stain card is the ideal sample for the National DNA Data Bank. Unless there is a very specific reason not to take a blood sample (i.e. medical condition) we would recommend this is the sample of choice."

Brian Ward is *Blue Line Magazine's* Forensic Science editor and can be reached at [forensic@blueline.ca](mailto:forensic@blueline.ca).




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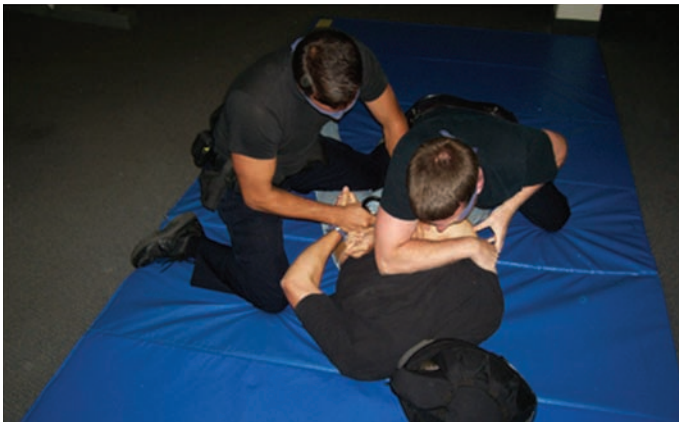
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# No sight training builds officer confidence

by Tom Wetzel

Many agencies don't do enough "no sight" or "limited vision" training and should consider using it to teach defensive tactics, use of electronic control devices and OC spray and simple job specific tasks such as handling duty belt equipment.

I suspect many services appreciate the value of range training in low light shooting

– important because police often can't control light conditions when encountering violent resistance from an armed subject – but overlook its value when training defensive tactics or other use of force options.

Many physical assaults against police take place in low or no light conditions, and officers must be prepared for vision reduction or loss that could result from eye injury, OC spray

exposure or low/no light conditions. Not only must they be prepared to defend against attack, they must be ready for other core tasks such as handcuffing a subject and radioing for help with either diminished or no sight.

On a recent OC training exercise, our officers practiced controlling a subject alone and in two man teams while blindfolded. The scenario involved bringing a resisting subject under control while temporarily blinded by OC spray.

Only basic equipment was used – training mats, blindfolds and headgear for the 'resisting subject.' Those not participating worked as safety officers to closely monitor the action. Officers had to rely on touch and instinct. When working with partners, they needed to recognize what their team member was doing and work together to control and handcuff the subject.

In the solo exercise, officers worked from a standing position to establish position and handcuff a standing subject. This was intended to acclimate them to working without sight. We followed this with the two man exercise where, as the resisting subject, I provided light to moderate physical resistance by trying to prevent officers from bringing my arms together for handcuffing.

We began training from a kneeling position to help prevent injuries. I made it clear that I would not grab for an officer's holster, as this could change their use of force option in a serious way.

The program went well. Without the use of their eyes, officers were still able to maneuver and bring a subject under control, which was a training objective, and they learned what to expect if they lost their sight while completing a job task.

The use of no sight training should have a place in all agency training regimens because it helps give officers the confidence to cope with difficult situations while their vision is compromised.

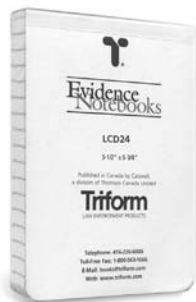
Tom Wetzel is a northeast Ohio suburban police lieutenant, SWAT officer, trainer and certified law enforcement executive. Contact him at [wetzelfamily05@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wetzelfamily05@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



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# Female recruits in demand on the Rock

by Danette Dooley

More than 30 people, ranging in age from teenage to middle age, were attracted to a recent RCMP "women's only" recruitment forum held at RCMP headquarters in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Intended to run for about 90 minutes, the event stretched to almost three hours, with attendees peppering Insp. Maggie Smith and retired Staff Sgt. Gail Courtney with questions and listening to stories of their early years in a male-dominated profession.

A 26 year Mountie veteran, Smith recalls being not only the first female officer but also the first detachment commander in the remote native community of Forteau, Labrador. Staff anxiously awaiting her arrival; one member strained to see into her office.

"For God's sake," a colleague chided him. "She has to manage the detachment. She doesn't have to pick it up and carry it anywhere!"

Although she stands just 5' 2," and that's with heels, Smith's physique resembles that of a professional athlete and her self confidence makes her presence all the more powerful.

Courtney was one of the first female Mounties. She joined in 1974 and retired about two years ago after 33 years service. She continues to work on contract, assisting with recruitment.

Like all new recruits, the Newfoundland native spent her early years on street patrol. The few women in the force at the time carried their guns in their purses and patrolled in high-heeled shoes and above the knee skirts.

"To be practical wasn't an issue," she recalls. "To look good in uniform was," indicating how much the force has changed over the years.

Part of the forum was held in the gymnasium, where Kelly Power demonstrated what attendees could expect on the Physical Ability Requirement Evaluation (PARE). Power is now in the final stages of recruitment with the RCMP and is hoping to get the call to Depot before Christmas.

Power, 44, works with a community-based youth agency and says the decision to switch careers was not an easy one.

"I'd decided a long time ago that this was something I wanted to do. I just hadn't been in the right place or felt it was the right time until now," she says.

The RCMP isn't just looking for women in their twenties, Power says. "Before I started this process I called and told them that I was 44 and that I'd turn 45 in depot. They told me that as long as I could complete all the requirements that age didn't matter."

Policing was a "dream job" for Cst. Colleen Noble, who has been a Mountie for 10 years. She was attracted by the more than 150 different career specializations available to members after they've completed their street patrol.

Applicants must have a high school diploma, valid drivers' license and be motivated, physically fit and – above all – honest, says Noble.

"We're not looking for anybody to be perfect but we do need them to be trustworthy and reliable, and we use our polygraph to test honesty rather than to find out what you've done in the past," Noble says.

The RCMP is aiming to hire 2,000 new members this year, including about 300 to 400 from Atlantic Canada. More than 23 per cent of RCMP officers are female, though that number drops to 19 per cent in Newfoundland and Labrador, Noble says.

"The RCMP is growing in leaps and bounds," says Courtney, "and it's an organization that recognizes the value of all its members."

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is also actively recruiting female officers. Since beginning in-province training in 2004, more than half the cadets hired by the force have been women, notes recruiting office Cst. Justin Soo.

Danette Dooley has been *Blue Line's* East Coast correspondent for 8 years (April 2001). She can be reached at [dooley@blueline.ca](mailto:dooley@blueline.ca).

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Wolverine Supplies caters to all types of shooting requirements, with business coming from hunters, target shooters and collectors as well as police and military customers from all across Canada.

Their business philosophy is to supply quality service and full support on everything they sell, whilst supplying affordable firearms and accessories.

This has resulted in Wolverine Supplies establishing a well deserved reputation for customer service that ranks as one of the top in the industry thanks to a well trained and knowledgeable staff. Wolverine Supplies provides quality products to all their customers, these include products from Accuracy International (UK) long range rifles, Schmidt & Bender (Germany) premium optics, Brugger & Thomet (Switzerland) superb suppressors, rifles, and accessories.

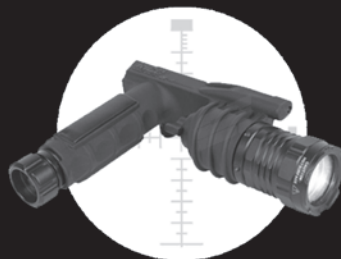
Sabre Defence (UK) range of AR15 style carbines and rifles, calibres 5.56 mm, 6.5 Grendel and 9 mm.

Information on these and many other products can be found on our website [www.wolverinesupplies.com](http://www.wolverinesupplies.com). We will supply products for trial and evaluation on written request from any police or military department.

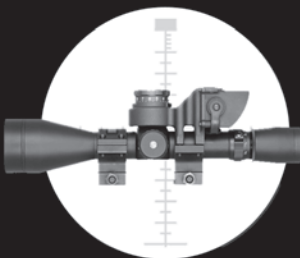
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## Video surveillance & enforcement

A pilot project has been launched due to an agreement between the Sureté du Québec (Québec's Provincial Police) and SAAQ/ Department of Motor Vehicles to use MES PLATES, a License Plate Recognition System developed by Groupe Techna. The Sureté du Québec (SQ) has begun testing hi-tech infrared cameras produced by Eltag North America.

In the SQ environment these cameras can capture between 3,000 and 5,000 license plates per day.

These cameras operate in conjunction with Groupe Techna's state-of-the art LPR software MES PLATES. Patrol cars in Montréal, Québec City, Sherbrooke, and a host of other major cities across the province have been equipped with LPR since the beginning of August.

This system enables police to efficiently determine which vehicles are not authorized to be on the road. Whether it is from a suspended driver's license, expired permit or DUIs these drivers will be apprehended and taken off the streets in record time due to this truly groundbreaking technology.

### The video breakthrough in surveillance and enforcement

Every vehicle on the street has a license plate but not everyone is authorized to be driving those vehicles. Identifying individuals that have suspended licenses or that are involved in impaired driving or criminal negligence is key to preserving public safety on our roads and highways. Sureté du Québec officer Mélanie Paul states that in Québec alone, 95,000 people are driving with an expired license. Further, SQ Officer Jason Allard adds over 300,000 have suspended drivers licences. Three out of four of those people continue to drive with a suspended permit and in 17% of fatal crashes at least one of the parties involved has a suspended license. Tracking these drivers on Hot Lists is of major interest to law enforcement. LPR dramatically reduces the amount of time and manpower spent to accomplish this task since targeted license plates are right there on display.

In addition to impaired driving and expired or suspended licences, LPR can track stolen vehicles, assist in amber alerts and help locate

the owners/operators of vehicles who are wanted on outstanding warrants.

### How it works

The cameras are connected to computers which have an up-to-date database that is provided by the SAAQ/ Department of Motor Vehicles. MES PLATES, the dynamic software module developed by Groupe Techna, facilitates the log and capture of this data in real-time, positioning Groupe Techna as a leader in mobile enforcement. Our software engineers in conjunction with Eltag North America, have married video inputs with image analysis software that identifies targeted plates using an onboard Hot List, and returns an alarm back to the operator in milliseconds. Depending on the application, the vehicle-mounted video cameras, can capture as many as 8,000 plates per eight-hour shift at speeds in excess of 75MPH (120KM/h), while the officer is attending to other routine duties.

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## Advanced evidence capturing technology

Digital Ally, Inc. Introduces the DVM-500 Plus, the DVM-750 with VoiceVault™ Advanced Wireless Microphone and the FirstVu™ Professional, Wearable Digital Video/Audio Recording System

The DVM-500 Plus is an upgrade to the DVM-500 In-Car Video System integrated into a rear view mirror. It includes a new ultra bright, sunlight-readable 3.5-inch colour TFT Monitor that allows easy viewing in all conditions, a new electronic locking door with key code access, and a new internal backup battery that provides up to 30 minutes of continuous operation in case of unexpected power loss.

The DVM-750 with VoiceVault™ is an upgrade to the DVM-500 Plus in-car video system integrated into a rear view mirror with the same new features plus the following significant upgrades and enhancements: the ability to connect up to three cameras and record from two cameras plus three audio

channels simultaneously; and full D1 (720 X 480) recording resolution utilizing the latest h.264 codec to provide the best quality and ensure every detail is recorded.

The new VoiceVault™ Advanced Wireless Microphone, included standard with the DVM-750, will include several industry-first features, such as on-board memory that can record audio evidence even when the officer is beyond the range of the in-car recording device. It has a transmission range of up to one mile, and bi-directional communication will allow officers to communicate with each other or listen to suspects inside the vehicle. Other features include GPS with “mark” feature, a memo function to record audible notes, full digital audio transmission, true frequency hopping technology, embedded date/time and GPS co-ordinates, vibrating covert signals and button press confirmation, and an emergency call feature that will send a “help” message

and GPS co-ordinates back to the vehicle if an officer is in trouble.

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For more information, contact Digital Ally, Inc. at 913-814-7774 or toll-free at 800-440-4947 or visit [www.digitalallyinc.com](http://www.digitalallyinc.com).

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## Ontario's first applied forensic program

Forensic science has made it possible to detect, investigate and prosecute offences in ways never before possible. As the relationship between crime scene investigations and laboratory examinations grows, investigators require advanced skills to meet the higher standards set out by the courts. Seneca College's Forensic Investigative Studies Program offers professionals in law enforcement the opportunity to obtain a post-graduate certificate in this growing field through flexible learning.

Since 2004, Seneca, in partnership with British Columbia Institute of Technology (B.C.I.T.), offers a unique Forensic Investigative Studies program that enhances theoretical knowledge and investigative capabilities as well as providing a clear understanding of selected scientific principles, procedures, technologies and the legal issues involved in an investigator's work.

Ideal for individuals who already have a certificate, diploma or degree in the field of law enforcement, serving police officers, or those with current relevant work history, the program

prepares participants for new employment or greater career opportunities. Graduates obtain the credentials needed to open doors to specialized investigative units, enhance investigative skills through an increased awareness of the types of forensic evidence that exists - what it can do, and how to properly collect and use that evidence - increase their knowledge about what constitutes evidence in a legal proceeding and improve their ability to testify in an expert matter before the courts.

The program offers ten subjects delivered by recognized experts in their respective fields. Subjects include courses in Geographic Profiling I, Forensic Anthropology – Rural Crime Scenes, Forensic Interviewing, Wound and Blunt Force Trauma Assessment, Forensic Video Technologies and Expert Witness Preparation. Students can complete the program in just over one year depending on the pace at which they choose to study.

"We're very excited about the opportunities this program is providing for law enforcement professionals," says Jeff Agro, Seneca College Public Safety and Police Studies

Program Co-ordinator. "Participants can begin their studies at any time. And our relationship with B.C.I.T. gives program graduates the opportunity to further their education by receiving advanced standing towards B.C.I.T.'s Advanced Specialty Certificate (Forensic Science Studies) or their Bachelor of Technology (Forensic Investigation). In fact, we have many graduates of our program presently pursuing further studies at B.C.I.T."

In addition to this, the School of Public Safety and Police Studies, in partnership with other organizations, also offers ongoing professional development workshops. These workshops, which include topics such as Air Crash Recovery, Terrorism Preparedness, Forensic Photography, and Issues in Forensic Mental Health, are ideal for those seeking knowledge in a specialized area.

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by Tom Rataj

# Go big & stay home with HDTV

Canada and the rest of the world continues on the unstoppable juggernaut that is high definition television (HDTV). Screen sizes continue to grow, picture quality improves and prices keep plummeting.

While all HDTV's look amazing, especially when compared against old tube sets, they are not all alike. There are a wide variety of differences in features that make the purchasing decision difficult. Understanding the good, better and best of these differences will help you make an informed decision before handing over your hard-earned cash.

Generally, buying a cheap, "budget" set will leave you stuck with yesterday's technology and not able to take full advantage of all the benefits HDTV has to offer both now and in the future. This is also important in the corporate world, where training videos and other educational materials will change to high definition (HD) over the next few years.

## Going digital

Driving some of this transition is the legislated mandatory changeover to over-the-air (OTA) broadcast digital television (DTV), which happens in August, 2011 in Canada and February 17, 2009 south of the border. That's when commercial programmers must complete the switch from their old analogue standard definition (SD) technology to digital. Old SD televisions will then need an external digital-to-analogue converter box to receive OTA signals. These should be available for under \$100.

Cable and satellite companies will still be permitted to broadcast analogue channels, although they will also likely switch to all digital so they can sell and rent digital cable TV tuners.

Beyond the relentless march forward of technology, there are valid reasons for the switch to DTV. Digital transmission uses much less space within its assigned radio-frequency (RF) channel or "spectrum." The government plans to auction off some of the unused space to the highest bidder. Other parts are intended to meet the expanding needs of public safety agencies.

The switch also allows broadcasters to



transmit all programming in HD or to include several lower resolution and digital standard definition channels in the same piece of RF spectrum. Additional programming features and data related to a particular program can also be simultaneously broadcast over the same channel.

## HD vs SD

High definition television means a wide, rectangular screen with a ratio of 16:9 (16 units wide by 9 units tall), as compared to the old 4:3 SD ratio.

The primary reason HDTV's are so much clearer is because of the amount of picture information they display at any given moment. There are two components to this – how many horizontal lines of resolution the TV is capable of displaying (a higher number is better) and 2) how they are "drawn" onto the screen.

SD televisions are limited to 480 lines of horizontal resolution while HDTV's range from 720 lines on the low end of the scale up to 1,080 on the current top of the line sets.

Both types of televisions "draw" the

image using either interlaced or progressive scan. With interlaced, the television does two quick passes, drawing every other line on the screen on each pass, while progressive scan draws every line on every pass, creating a much sharper image. Interlaced and progressive scan are denoted with an "i" or "p" appended to the horizontal resolution figure.

HDTV's come in three horizontal resolutions 720p, 1080i and the current top resolution, 1080p, often advertised as Full-HD. Early first generation wide screen TV's were often only enhanced definition televisions (EDTV) capable of just 480p horizontal resolution.

Another important feature that affects picture quality is the screen refresh rate. SDTV's and many lower-end and mainstream HDTV's feature a 60 Hz refresh rate, where the image is refreshed 60 times per seconds.

Better quality sets have begun to offer twice that refresh rate – 120 Hz (Sony calls theirs "Motionflow") to improve the picture quality. Panasonic even offers a unique feature on some of its plasma HDTV's known



as 480Hz “sub-field drive,” which effectively boosts the refresh rate to 480 screen refreshes per second.

Unlike old fashioned SDTV’s, which are basically just “dumb” displays, HDTV’s are packed with a wide range of sophisticated electronics that constantly process the incoming image information and can make rapid changes to optimize the picture.

#### Plasma vs LCD

Plasma televisions have long been the HDTV gold standard and, by all accounts, continue to lead. Their once significant price premium over similar sized LCD televisions has quickly eroded to the point where only a few hundred dollars often separate similar sized plasma and LCD sets.

Plasma generally produces truer, darker blacks and is better able to display fast moving action without suffering from blurred images. It is also the best choice for viewing in a darker environment and has a greater viewing angle (how far off-centre you can sit without losing picture quality).

One of its biggest drawbacks is power consumption; a plasma set generally consumes about twice the power of a similar sized LCD model. Plasma televisions may also suffer from burned-in images if the screen constantly displays fixed screen elements such as those used on all-news TV channels.

LCD is generally brighter and the lat-

est sets include excellent technologies to overcome the inherently slower technology, reducing or eliminating blurred images during fast moving action. Because they are brighter, the sets work well in bright environments. They are generally lighter, making them easier to move or mount on the wall. LCD televisions do not suffer from any image burn-in, so they are a better choice when regularly displaying fixed screen elements.

#### Other technical stuff

An HDTV set needs an “ATSC” tuner, which replaces the old North American NTSC television standard, to receive and display digital signals. Most better quality sets will include a tuner labelled as: “ATSC/NTSC with QAM.” It is capable of receiving all non-digital standard definition channels, all digital signals and the unscrambled digital signals already freely available on OTA broadcasts.

In most major metropolitan areas, including Toronto, there are 12 or more free digital OTA channels already available. A \$100 HDTV antenna and an ATSC tuner equipped television is all that is required to receive these channels.

After a lengthy battle to determine the winning format for the technology to replace DVD’s, the Sony developed Blu-Ray standard was proclaimed the winner this past spring. This has led to wider selection, as

most other manufacturers have now licensed the technology and produced players. Prices have already dropped to under \$300 and should drop more before Christmas.

Connecting other devices to an HDTV generally requires using a newer connection standard known as High Definition MultiMedia Interface (HDMI). Most HDTV’s will have at least 2 HDMI ports, but more are always better. Its biggest benefit is that one cable carries all the audio and video between the TV and other devices, so connections are very simple. Most newer DVD players and video game consoles use HDMI connections.

#### Decisions

The best advice is to stick with first-tier name brand manufacturers such as Sony, Panasonic, Sharp and Samsung, while buying the biggest screen size you can reasonably afford. Look for a Full-HD/1080p set with 120Hz refresh rate and all the other important features will likely be included.

Unfortunately, most units come with only a one year warranty, although some Samsung plasma’s are guaranteed for two years. Retail store extended warranties are generally not recommended.

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Tom Rataj has been *Blue Line’s* Technology columnist, for 18 yrs (Nov 1991), and can be reached at [technews@blueline.ca](mailto:technews@blueline.ca).

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## Court sets high standard for YCJA compliance

by Mike Novakowski



Compliance with *s.146* of Canada's Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, not a mere probability standard, Canada's highest court has ruled.

In *R. v. L.T.H.*, 2008 SCC 49, the RCMP arrested a 15 year old accused following a car chase and advised him of his rights. L.T.H. said he did not want to speak to a lawyer and was turned over to city police about 12 hours later. They reviewed a young offender statement form with him – he said he understood his rights, did not want to speak to a lawyer, parent or adult and initialed and signed it. He was then interviewed and provided an inculpatory statement. The entire process was videotaped.

At trial in Nova Scotia Youth Justice Court L.T.H.'s mother testified that he had relied on her to explain questions on previous occasions when police interviewed him, and that she told police he had a learning disorder. The judge said the Crown had to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a statement made by a young person to someone in authority met the requirements of *s.146* of the YCJA.

She found the statement was voluntary – not induced by threats, promises, oppression, or trickery. However, she wasn't satisfied L.T.H. understood the rights and options explained to him before giving his statement and the consequences of waiving them. The Crown hadn't proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the requirements of *ss. 146(2)(b)* and *146(4)* had been met.

Answering "Yes" to "Do you understand?" wasn't enough to prove compliance. Rather, at the very least, the officer should have asked the young person to explain in their own words what the rights mean and the consequences of waiving them, the judge noted, ruling the statement inadmissible.

The Crown appealed to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal arguing, in part, that the judge erred in ruling the statement inadmissible because she imposed an obligation to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the young person understood the explanation. Justice Oland, authoring the judgment, noted that *s.146* gives youth special protections when questioned by police or others in authority, in addition to those provided by the Charter.

Although the Crown must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that police clearly and appropriately explained L.T.H.'s *s.146(2)(b)* rights and options, it does not need to prove that he actually understood the explanations. There was also no requirement that the young person recite or explain his understanding back to police.

As for the waiver under *s.146(4)*, the Crown is required to satisfy a judge that the young person understood their rights and the effect of waiving them. The standard of proof

STATEMENT ONUS & BURDEN GRID			
Issue	Onus	Burden	Details
Voluntariness (Common law) "confessions rule"	Crown	Beyond a reasonable doubt	Crown must prove statement made to police was voluntary <u>beyond a reasonable doubt</u> . If Crown cannot prove statement was voluntary, the statement is inadmissible at common law. (See for example <i>R. v. Oickle</i> , 2000 SCC 88, <i>R. v. Singh</i> , 2007 SCC 48)
Right to Silence (Charter s.7)	Accused	Balance of probabilities	Accused must prove on a <u>balance of probabilities</u> that their <i>s.7</i> Charter right was violated. If accused proves Charter right violated, court will engage in a <i>s.24</i> Charter enquiry. (See for example <i>R. v. Hebert</i> , (1990) 2 S.C.R. 151)
Right to Counsel (Charter s.10(b))	Accused	Balance of probabilities	Accused must prove on a <u>balance of probabilities</u> that their <i>s.10(b)</i> Charter right was violated. If accused proves Charter right violated, court will engage in a <i>s.24</i> Charter enquiry. (See for example <i>R. v. Manninen</i> , (1987) 1 S.C.R. 1233)
Youth Statement Explanation (YCJA s.146(2)(b)) "Informational component"	Crown	Beyond a reasonable doubt	Crown must prove <u>beyond a reasonable doubt</u> that the explanation given to an accused youth was clear and in language appropriate to the youth's age and understanding. The Crown need not prove the young person actually (in fact) understood the explanation. (See <i>R. v. L.T.H.</i> , 2008 SCC 49)
Youth Statement Waiver (YCJA s.146(4))	Crown	Beyond a reasonable doubt	Crown must prove <u>beyond a reasonable doubt</u> that the young person understood what right they were waiving and the effect of the waiver will have on that right. (See <i>R. v. L.T.H.</i> , 2008 SCC 49)

in establishing compliance is a probability standard, not proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Since the judge's decision to exclude the accused's statement was based on legal errors, the Crown's appeal was allowed, the acquittal set aside and a new trial ordered. L.T.H. then appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

### Subjective or objective approach

In a 4:3 decision, the majority of the Supreme Court concluded the test for compliance with the informational component under *s.146(2)(b)* of the YCJA wasn't a "subjective test" – an approach taken by the trial judge – but rather an "objective" one. Justice Fish, writing the majority opinion, ruled the test "does not require the Crown prove that a young person in fact understood the rights and options explained." An individualized approach is required which "takes into account the age and understanding of the particular youth being questioned." He continued:

*A purposive interpretation of s. 146(2)(b) makes clear that it requires persons in authority to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the young detainee to be questioned is capable of understanding the explanation of the rights being given. This follows from the clear wording of the section: The explanation must be provided in language appropriate to the particular young person's age and understanding.*

*Without some knowledge of the young person's level of understanding, the officer will be unable to demonstrate that the explanation was tailored to the capabilities of the young person concerned (para. 22).*

As for the approach police should take on *s.146(2)(b)*, Fish stated:

*I take care not to be understood to require police officers ... to ask young persons in every case to "recite back" or "explain back" their rights. In some instances, this may well demonstrate that the explanation was both appropriate and sufficient, and it may tend to show that the rights waived were in fact understood – which is*

*of course essential to the validity of the waiver, but "reciting back" or "explaining back" is not transformed by its evident utility into a legal requirement under s.146.*

*The reading of a standardized form will not normally suffice in itself to establish the sufficiency of the caution required by s.146(2)(b). Persons in authority must, in addition, acquire some insight into the level of comprehension of the young person concerned, since the mandatory explanation must be appropriate to the age and understanding of that young person.... Properly crafted and scrupulously applied, standardized forms nonetheless provide a useful framework for the appropriate interrogation of young detainees.... In short, adherence to standardized forms can facilitate, but will not always constitute, compliance with s.146(2)(b). Compliance is a matter of substance, not form. The trial court must be satisfied, upon considering all of the evidence, that the young person's rights were in fact explained clearly and comprehensibly by the person in authority....*

*The requirement of understanding and appreciation applies to all young persons, including those who are no strangers to the criminal justice system. Section 146(2)(b) incorporates principles of fairness that must "be applied uniformly to all without regard to the characteristics of the particular young person.... This does not mean that experience in the criminal justice system is irrelevant to the inquiry as to the young person's understanding. An individualized, objective approach must take into account the level of sophistication of the young detainee and other personal characteristics relevant to the young person's understanding. Police officers, in determining the appropriate language to use in explaining a young person's rights, must therefore make a reasonable effort to become aware of significant factors of this sort, such as learning disabilities and previous experience with the criminal justice system. (references omitted, paras. 26-30).*

**Standard of proof**

Contrary to the appeal court ruling, which found the standard of proof moved from beyond a reasonable doubt (the explanation) to a balance of probabilities (waiver), the high court ruled that the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt should be applied throughout. This was consistent with the YCJA provisions, statement admissibility at common law and the high standards required in proving a valid waiver, wrote Fish:

*In my view, the Crown's evidentiary burden will be discharged by clear and convincing evidence that the person to whom the statement was made took reasonable steps to ensure that the young person who made it understood his or her rights under s.146 of the YCJA. A mere probability of compliance is incompatible with the object and scheme of s.146, read as a whole. Compliance must be established beyond a reasonable doubt (para. 6).*

This high standard will not make it impossible for the Crown to discharge its burden. As the majority noted, "where compliance with the informational component is established beyond a reasonable doubt, the trial judge will be entitled – and, indeed, expected – to infer, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the young person in fact understood his or her rights under s.146."

The trial judge wasn't satisfied that the Crown discharged its burden. Since she had a reasonable doubt that the accused's rights were explained to him in language appropriate to his understanding, and that he understood, and therefore could validly waive, his right to counsel – she found his statement inadmissible and acquitted him. Her findings on the issue of compliance with s.146 were supported by the evidence and entitled to deference. L.T.H.'s appeal was allowed, the order for a new trial set aside and his acquittal restored.

**A different view**

Three justices agreed that the Crown must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a young person's statement was made voluntarily but maintained that the standard of proof required in proving compliance with the s.146 "informational" and "waiver" requirements is one of proof on a balance of probabilities.

Justice Rothstein, authoring the minority opinion, noted that other than the confessions rule, the standard of proof for preliminary questions pertaining to the admissibility of evidence is one of a balance of probabilities. Applying a beyond a reasonable doubt standard to the informational and waiver requirements

under s.146 would be inconsistent with these other preconditions to admissibility.

However, even if the trial judge applied a balance of probabilities test to police compliance with s.146, she still would have found the standard wasn't met. Thus, the minority would also have allowed L.T.H.'s appeal, set aside the order for a new trial and restored his acquittal.



Mike Novakowski has been *Blue Line Magazine's* Case Law editor for the past eight years. He can be contacted at [caselaw@blueline.ca](mailto:caselaw@blueline.ca).

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**FOOL MOON**

By Tom Byrnell



"Will I be faithful!!! How do I know you'll be faithful?!"



## *Functional innovation with exceptional value*

Located in Modesto, California, 5.11 Tactical Series™ designs, produces and distributes the world's most innovative tactical and public safety clothing, gear and accessories. Our mission is to create products that exceed the needs of our customers with functional innovation while delivering exceptional value. We do this by developing only user requested products through frequent, direct consultation with Law Enforcement, Military and Fire/EMS professionals. Every item we offer is carefully engineered to enhance the safety, speed, comfort and performance of hard-working end users.

5.11's distinctive clothing lines include tactical, covert, fire-retardant, uniforms, 5.11 Undergear, station wear, outerwear and footwear. Gear and accessories range from backpacks, bags, pouches, gun cases and slings to eye protection, duty knives, watches, gloves, holsters and more. Every product is constructed of premium materials, fabrics and/or hardware for maximum durability in even the most demanding environments.

The company traces its roots to the seven-pocket 5.11 Tactical climbing pant that was later made standard issue by the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. When officers and trainees left the academy, many asked where they could purchase more pants. Before long, the authentic 5.11 Tactical Pant developed a worldwide following and is now the most popular and imitated design in the industry. End-users everywhere consistently choose comfortable 5.11 Tactical Pants for both on and off-duty wear. These practical, functional pants with their trademark slash pockets and utility strap have become bestsellers over the past 30+ years, spawning hundreds of other 5.11 products.

For some time, there has been a growing need for 5.11 products within the LE industry. Due to global security threats, the addition of special teams and other factors, buying habits of officers at uniform stores underwent a paradigm shift. In years past, officers only patronized uniform stores in order to pick up their A-class uniforms: shirts, pants, jackets and duty belt supplies. This was also traditionally the spot to order tailoring and alterations.

But things changed. Federal, state and local public safety departments expanded their arsenals of SWAT, bomb techs, air marshals, K9, HRT and other teams over the past 20 years. Many new plainclothes and undercover units have also been added. Special training regimens created increased

demand for additional specialty products. Before long, standard uniforms became just one segment of a much larger marketplace.

Until a few years ago, many uniform supply stores – unaware that the needs of special teams were changing – continued to focus entirely on supplying uniforms to local agencies. When 5.11 Tactical brought this to their attention, many shops expressed no interest in stocking the non-specified tactical clothing and equipment that 5.11 knew their customers needed. And not many stores were open to modernizing the way products were presented and marketed, either.

To help persuade store owners to expand their basic merchandise lines, 5.11 offered special incentives, free fixtures and assistance with product presentation. Before long, store owners noticed a jump in sales and welcomed the additional business 5.11 provided.

Today, when end-users walk into a uniform supply store, as they approach the 5.11 section they experience a full-scale retail environment complete with high-impact fixtures, dramatic signage and professional merchandise presentations. The results have revolutionized the industry, as customers not only purchase specified items, but also numerous impulse items. To help uniform stores meet the demand for more competitive, user-friendly environments, 5.11 developed materials and incentive programs that have considerably improved how stores stock and merchandise goods. Now federal, state and local officers and operators can obtain clothing and gear not just for duty wear, but as part of the entire LE culture and lifestyle.

Another branch of public safety – the Fire/EMS industry – is also benefiting from the expertise of 5.11. In 2008, 5.11 Tactical introduced multiple product lines to enhance the quality of Fire and EMS professionals' lives worldwide. Just as with LE, 5.11's Fire/EMS product development team creates only user-requested clothing and gear. Utilizing the input and feedback of Fire/EMS professionals, many exciting new items have been brought to market, including the Turnout Pocket Organizer, EMS Pant, Company Boot and more.

At 5.11's frequent product development meetings, which are held at various locales across the globe, groups of roughly 25 officers, operators and first-responders meet with 5.11 team members to discuss product improvement and future development.

5.11 partners with more than 1,200

5.11 Dealers across the globe, allowing end-users to see and try on our products through the brick-and-mortar retail experience. Our global website receives hundreds of thousands of visitors monthly and this year, 5.11 translated its nearly 3,000,000 catalogues into eight languages and distributed them worldwide across the Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS markets.

As of fall 2008, end-users can now order 5.11 products from their local 5.11 Dealers and have them professionally embellished through 5.11's full-service Custom Shop in record time. Instead of purchasing items then sending them out for embellishment, users can have their orders fulfilled all in one place. 5.11's Custom Shop offers expert customer service, custom embroidery, heat press, screen-printing and alterations. At this state-of-the-art facility, customers not only receive superior 5.11 quality products, but also superior embellishments as well. To order products and embellishments, see your nearest 5.11 Dealer.

5.11 is also introducing a revolutionary new flashlight in early 2009 that actually renders other rechargeable duty flashlights obsolete. Powered by a sophisticated energy management system, 5.11's Light for Life UC3.400 Flashlight fully recharges in 90 seconds, uses no batteries, produces 270 lumens of output and has a runtime of 23.5 hours (98% uptime) in a 24-hour period. The UC3.400 is rated for 50,000 charge/discharge cycles with virtually no degradation and no memory – even in severe temperature conditions. That's one charge a day for more than 135 years! When you factor in the price of the flashlight, zero maintenance or outlay for batteries and bulbs, and reduced electricity costs, you're looking at an impressive return on investment. With nothing to replace over the course of 10 years, the Light for Life UC3.400 has the lowest operating cost of any duty flashlight on the market. Find out more at [www.511tactical.com/lightforlife](http://www.511tactical.com/lightforlife).

5.11 Tactical was ranked 211<sup>th</sup> on the 2007 Inc. 500 list, and is one of the fastest growing companies in the U.S. Built on a foundation of durability, quality and value, 5.11 Tactical's team of more than 200 employees leads the industry in delivering functionally innovative gear, head to toe.

If you have questions about 5.11 Tactical products or services, please visit [www.511tactical.com](http://www.511tactical.com) to locate your closest 5.11 Dealer or contact Customer Service at 866.451.1726.

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# Congratulations

I would like to recognize *Blue Line Magazine's* progress over the years, to what it is today; a modern, timely and valuable resource on a wide range of policing issues.

It was not without risk that the publisher, Morley Lymburner, launched the magazine in 1989 and I can recall members of the policing community watching with interest to see where this little publication was headed.

It didn't take long for *Blue Line* to expand its scope and address the interests of most areas of law enforcement.

We also noted the evolution from newspaper to glossy, and from black and white to colour. This publication has truly matured.

It's my pleasure to offer congratulations to Morley and his team upon reaching this significant milestone of 20 years.

May you have every success in your publishing endeavours.



Sincerely,  
**Julian Fantino,**  
*Commissioner,  
Ontario Provincial Police*

...

My long held wariness of any publication that has my name in it ended with *Blue Line Magazine*.

I am not a professional writer so if my name was ever mentioned, something usually bad has happened to the Department or to me. If a Chief's philosophy is to deliver bad news personally and leave the positive messaging to command staff or the media folks, *Blue Line Magazine* was a breath of fresh air.

*Blue Line Magazine's* format and content was always different; a bit edgy but always upfront with their readers. Their articles and columns brought personalities and facts to your fingertips. Their weekly publication, *Blue Line News Week*, brings instant words from media across the coun-

try telling you what is "out there."

In the event that something is inaccurate, they readily take steps to rectify the problem. I think *Blue Line* is a remarkable publication, truly Canadian with good solid articles from front line cops telling real life stories about what is going on now in our justice system.

I extend sincere congratulations to *Blue Line Magazine*, and all their staff, on their 20th anniversary.



**Jamie Graham,**  
*Chief Constable (Ret.),  
Vancouver Police Department*

...

Let's see, the traditional gift for a twentieth anniversary is china and friends, *Blue Line Magazine* deserves not a crock but a treasure, for through two decades, despite adversity, the magazine has published a professional-style law enforcement publication on the national scene, offering news and views on a multitude of issues for the information and education of readers.

If that were not enough, the *Blue Line Forum* provides a cross-Canada communication link for sworn police officers, and *Blue Line News Week* is compulsory reading for professionals seeking to be informed on issues affecting policing across the country.

The annual trade show offers a showcase to key suppliers to the law enforcement market, and the magazine informs and educates through product information.

From the beginning, *Blue Line* set out to establish a consistently independent voice, unaffected by bias towards management or associations, and devoid of pandering to political interests. All this is due to Morley Lymburner, his loyal and industrious staff, and his partner and business manager Mary Lymburner. Together, they doggedly pursued their vision with

courage and perseverance.

*Blue Line* continues to make a genuine contribution to law enforcement in this country, and I am delighted to offer my most sincere congratulations.



**Robert F. Lunney,**  
*Chief of Police (Ret.),  
Edmonton Police Service  
Peel Regional Police*

...

On behalf of the men and women of York Regional Police I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate *Blue Line Magazine* and its publisher Morley Lymburner on this 20th Anniversary edition.

Over the last 20 years I have watched this publication evolve into one of Canada's premiere national law enforcement magazines. Through the dedicated efforts of Morley and his staff, officers from across Canada have access to informative and thought-provoking articles on issues affecting all police services in our country.

In addition to taking the time to provide important information on technology and training trends, *Blue Line* passes along updates on pertinent, far-reaching legal decisions and case-law that affect us all. It is always a pleasure to see the articles that profile the good work of the men and women in policing across our nation and it is clear the writers and staff at *Blue Line Magazine* work hard to do this.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on 20 years of dedicated service to the law enforcement community.



**Armand P. La Barge,**  
*Chief of Police  
York Regional Police*

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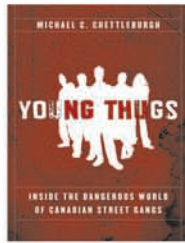
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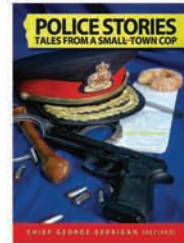
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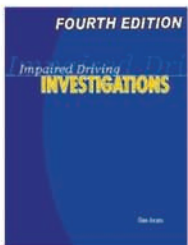
*Young Thugs* is a passionate analysis of the Canadian street-gang situation. Prevention, early intervention, effective parenting and real opportunities for young people hold the key, and Chettleburgh's insights in this regard distinguish his book as some of the best thinking on street gangs in North America.

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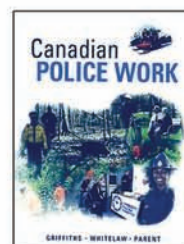
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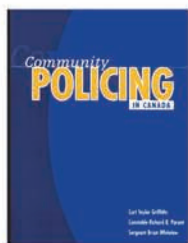
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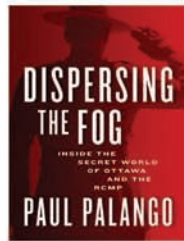
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