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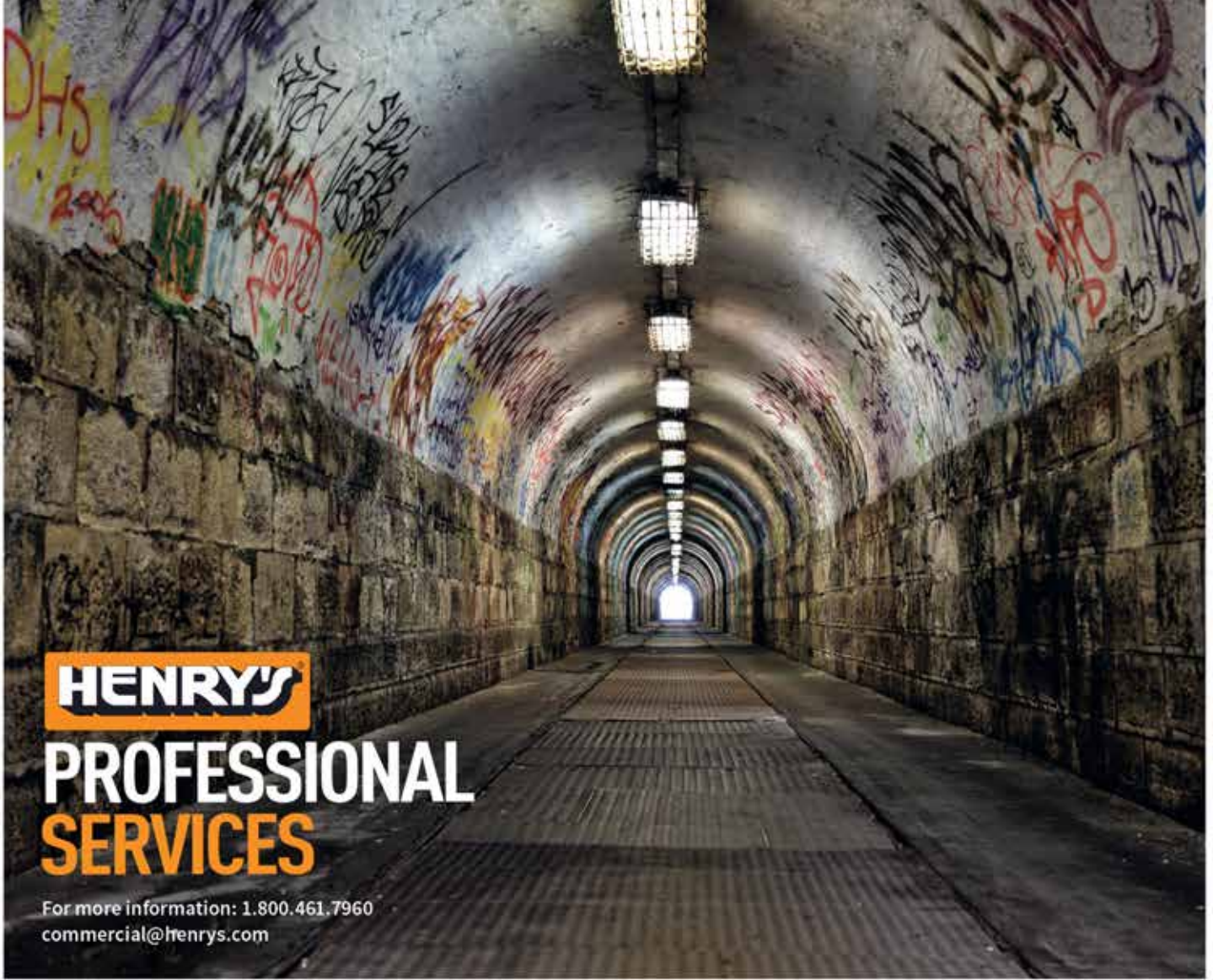
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by Morley Lymburner



# “Carding” is a red flag to many

Many senior police managers fall into a state of shock when reporters come knocking with a negative story. They hunker down in their bunkers and wave patriotic flags to keep their detractors at bay. But the Toronto Police, perpetually in the eye of the storm, have been the exception over the past year.

The latest example is the fiasco over the long-standing procedure of Toronto officers submitting a “Persons Investigated Card” on the people they encounter.

The media have created much hubbub over this, accusing police of keeping “secret” files on citizens and using the cards as a form of racial profiling against blacks. The police commission, which has little understanding of police work and apparently even less interest in learning more, continue to hound senior staff about this “issue.”

Reporters like to refer to this process as “carding,” though they’ve been hard pressed to come up with an example of a person who has been negatively affected. Since the *Toronto Star* popularized the term a good counter strategy might be for police to continually refer to it as a ‘Public Police Engagement’ (PPE) card.

The ‘Star Strategists’ (SS) were rather clever in creating this storm. In highly ethnic Toronto, where many closely follow soccer, the word “carding” has a very negative connotation. The ramifications for being “carded” in soccer are serious. A miscreant player can receive either a yellow card “warning” or a red card “expulsion from the game.”

The referee stands at attention (just like a cop), showing a red card to tens of thousands of people in the stadium. He waves it around with an up stretched arm, points at the miscreant as a form of shaming before taking out his notebook (just like a cop) and writing down the name of the person who committed the grievous violation. It can get quite emotional, even triggering riots and loss of life in some quarters of the world.

The *Star* plays the “carding” game with the full understanding that, to many readers, the word suggests the process is a “malevolent act” – a negative action against a person who has done nothing wrong. The “carded” have committed no infraction but are held up to public shame and humiliation in full view of their neighbours, the media complains.

The reality is unlikely to win crusading Toronto journalists a National Newspaper Award. A store owner notices a man loitering in a parking lot for several hours and calls police. After a quick interview the officer has either a reasonable explanation or lame excuse

about what the person is up to and notes it in their memo book. Later, the officer puts in a “PPE” card explaining the experience – positive, negative or neutral – to colleagues who may get a similar call.

There are no charges and no inconvenience, other than perhaps a little apprehension for an honest citizen – or significant stress for a criminal worried about an imminent arrest. The former is regrettable, the latter is crime prevention.

Dispense with the PPE and the only record of the encounter is lost in a memo book entry – so much for transparency. The soothsayers howling about racial profiling have now sent it underground; no record, no trace.

Communities want to suck and blow at the same time. They want safe neighbourhoods without the bother of officers asking questions to make sure they stay safe. Moreover community leaders have not thought about motivations. A self-serving newspaper has convinced them that police officers are “carding” for an evil purpose – racism – but if there is no penalty attached to the practice, where is the satisfaction for a racist cop? There is no rule, as in soccer, where a citizen gets two yellow cards and then a penalty after a red card.

There is, however, another side to this card. Many officers speak disdainfully of them due to management’s continual haranguing for more of them. The numbers game has even forced some pushback in the form of phoney names, addresses and bizarre descriptions. One card pointed out a male of obvious South Asian appearance as female and white. A short person was described as eight feet tall.

You see the problem. Far be it for me to suggest a soured officer might intentionally target blacks to sabotage the system. Quantity replaces quality and the general public becomes far too familiar with a possibly abusive process.

In the final analysis the police board chair, senior managers and the community must have a level of trust in their police. Vigilance is fine but remember that this practice has been going on for more than a century in Toronto, one of the safest communities in North America. Mess with that recipe at your peril.



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# OUT OF AFRICA

*Canadian cops investigate war crimes in Sierra Leone*

by **Tony Palermo**

*Canada deployed 51 police officers to Sierra Leone from July 1998 to June 2009 to assist with the United Nations' peacekeeping mission and its special court (shown above). Blue Line writer Tony Palermo spoke with two of the officers, retired Peterborough police Sgt. Rob Hotston and retired D/Chief Steve Streeter, about their thoughts and experiences.*

The Revolutionary United Front (RUF), with support from Liberian special forces, began attacks in March, 1991 in an attempt to overthrow the government. The country was thrown into a brutal 11-year civil war. Child soldiers were common, some recruited by force but others participating willingly because of fear, a desire to belong or a desperate need for basic food and shelter.

Some 50,000 people were killed and 100,000 wounded before the war was declared officially over in January 2002. Countless more suffered greatly from the extreme poverty and rampant abuse, including amputations, torture, rape and sexual slavery.

The Sierra Leone government, in partnership with the UN, set up a special court later in 2002. It was tasked with trying those who bore "the greatest responsibility for the commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law."

It was the first international court to be funded by voluntary contributions. Prosecutors

issued the first of 13 indictments in March 2003 against leaders of the RUF, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, Civil Defence Forces and then-Liberian President Charles Taylor.

By 2013 nine people had been convicted and sentenced to prison terms of between 15 to 52 years. Taylor was accused of aiding the rebels and masterminding many of the fierce attacks and heinous acts of terror in return for blood diamonds. He was sentenced to 50 years in prison and is serving his term in Great Britain.

"The accused has been found responsible for aiding and abetting, as well as planning, some of the most heinous and brutal crimes recorded in human history," said presiding judge Richard Lussick in his sentencing statement. He described one RUF military operation as the, "indiscriminate killing of anything that moved."

## **Sgt. Robert Hotston**

The overwhelming heat and humidity hit Hotston hard when he stepped off the plane in Sierra Leone; then the smell hit.

"It's the odour of a developing nation that is hard to describe," says Hotston. "It's like an intense odour of diesel, rot and garbage all mixed together. It's unique. If you've ever been on a cell block, you get to recognize that familiar cell block odour no matter where it is. It's the same thing for this. I can recognize that developing nation smell anywhere."

Hotston recalls his wife awakening him on his first night back in Ontario to ask about the awful smell. Then it dawned on him it was coming from him.

"She kicked me back to the shower but



I'm not sure it really helped," says a laughing Hotston. "That odour permeated everything."

Sierra Leone ranks 183 out of 187 countries on the UN Human Development Index. The average life expectancy is less than 46 years and this well over a decade after the civil war ended. It was even lower on the index when Hotston was there.

Hotston saw an email from the RCMP's International Peacekeeping Branch looking for investigators. Having spent a third of his career in major crime, and another third in training, he thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime



opportunity. His wife agreed so he applied and was eventually selected.

The opportunity was almost lost when Hotston tore an ankle ligament during a PARE fitness test but it was rescheduled to give him time to heal. He used the time to undergo intensive rehabilitation therapy and passed the second test six weeks later.

A day later, Hotston was on his way to Africa as the first non-RCMP officer seconded to the mission.

The real learning curve, and a steep one at that, came when his boots hit the ground. During the year-long mission, Hotston was one of six Canadian police officers tasked with investigating war crimes and Taylor.

Developing sources and interviewing witnesses was a very unique challenge. Hotston says the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone is very porous, which is challenging in itself, but the culture in each country is also very different.

“Even when it comes to communicating, the Liberians speak Liberian Street English, the Sierra Leoneans speak Krio, which is a mix of English and Tribal language, and neither of them are anything like the other,” explains Hotston. “So, even with the translators we travelled with, there were sometimes language barriers between us and the people involved.”

### The dance

Many documents were destroyed, meaning a lot of information had to be recovered and verified through interviews, often in remote areas of Sierra Leone, Liberia and other countries. The investigators never paid for testimony, so they had to develop their skills of persuasion through translators to build a level of trust and gain the information they needed.

“Basically, we asked people to explain their role and what they knew,” says Hotston. “Some people were obviously more motivated to talk than others, and most were very interested in finding out what the investigators already knew. In trying to solicit information from us, they gave up more information in return.”

Hotston says that over time, investigators developed important relationships that proved extremely valuable to the investigation. “It was like a big dance.”



*Charles Taylor is arrested and brought to Sierra Leone to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Peterborough's Robert Hotston was one of six Canadian police officers tasked with investigating war crimes.*

Another big challenge was compartmentalizing personal feelings, since many of the people interviewed were unsavoury characters.

“These weren't the nicest people, but we had to treat them the way they wanted to be treated and not necessarily how we wanted to treat them,” Hotston explains. “The trick was finding out how they wanted to be treated. We had 12-year-old kids that were kidnapped off of a bus, recruited to fight and forced to do horrible things, but if that kid wanted to be treated as a person of authority and respect, well, that's how we treated him.”

### A ride like no other

The highlight was leading the team that arrested Taylor. Hotston says the actual turn over was a very complex and, at times, confusing undertaking that eventually saw the Nigerian government turn Taylor over to the Liberian government, which handed him over to the UN and finally to the special court.

Hotston says even with all of the anticipation

and preparation, the turn over took some people by surprise.

“We were told that it was on, then it was off, then it was on again,” explains Hotston. “To paraphrase a quotation from someone else, ‘there were a lot of known unknowns.’”

Surprisingly, says Hotston, the first confirmation that it was a go came from a Liberian street source and was received well ahead of information from the UN Mission, US government or anyone else involved. That was a testament to the hard work of investigators and their incredible ability to develop sources.

“Everyone was surprised that we were so far ahead in the information loop because the court wasn't actually involved in the logistics of the undertaking,” says Hotston.

The team sat through high-level planning meetings the day before Taylor's arrest. He says it was interesting that the UN was prepared to bump his Sierra Leone police partner off the helicopter flight from Monrovia to Freetown.

It was pointed out that the UN had no



Taylor became the leader and champion of rebel fighters raiding into Sierra Leone killing large numbers of innocent men, women and children. Many of those shown have been killed, executed or imprisoned since the rampage.

jurisdiction in Sierra Leone, and that this lowly detective constable was the only person with any legal authority over Taylor.

The high-level people were also concerned about how it would look if a former head of state was handcuffed for the flight to Freetown. After listening to the discussions for a while, Hotston's partner spoke up. "Taylor is an indicted criminal in my country. He'll be handcuffed."

That ended the discussion; even on such a momentous day, the devil is always in the details.

Hotston retired in 2006 after 30 years with Peterborough police, shortly after returning from the mission, but he didn't slow down. He went back to Sierra Leone as a senior criminal investigator/investigations commander for the special court from 2007-2009 and worked as a chief UN resident investigator in Haiti from 2011 to 2013.

### Stephen Streeter

Streeter was always interested in international affairs and so jumped at the opportunity to participate in the UN mission.



"I was the staff sergeant in charge of CID and I enjoy investigative work, so I saw the Sierra Leone investigator secondment as a sort of comfort zone," he explains.

Streeter deployed in September 2007 for a year, working as both an investigator and commander of the Canadian contingent for the special court's prosecutor's office. He also acted as liaison between the RCMP Peacekeeping Operations Branch and the six Canadian investigators assigned to the mission.

The civil war was "brutal... we're talking about unbelievable acts of terror," he says, "Child soldiers, rape, sexual slavery, mass slaughters they were terrible, horrendous crimes."

Witnesses generally fell into three distinct groups, each with their own sets of challenges and nuances:

- The insider core of the conflict mid-to-upper level leaders who played an active role in the civil war. They were the most challenging to deal with, he says, because they were savvy yet very unsavoury characters, with little remorse, yet investigators had to gain their co-operation and develop trust to gather important information.
- Linkage witnesses, who played an active role in the civil war and likely had valuable information that could implicate high-level targets. As an example, Streeter notes that Taylor never set foot in Sierra Leone between 1996 and 2001 but had plenty of people working for him. A classic scenario would see rebels go into a village, recruit the smartest children and teach them to operate radios using a special code.
- Crime-based witnesses, who witnessed or experienced mass slaughter, amputation of limbs, sexual slavery and other terrors of the 11-year conflict.

### A resilient people

Despite the trauma and horrible conditions people endured and were exposed to, they held up well under the first-world expectations placed on them as official witnesses to the special court.

He tells of travelling several days in a Land Rover over mud and jungle roads to visit one witness, only to find the path blocked. A local man with a motorcycle was recruited to retrieve the witness.

"So, here's this mountain guy who's brought down the pass to come face-to-face with a bunch of white guys who want to ask him questions," laughs Streeter. "We're tasked with finding out what he knows, so we transport him back to Freetown..."

"He's interviewed and deemed to be important to the case. So, what do we do next? We throw him on a plane, which is likely his first time on one, and march him in to The Hague. I mean, he's totally out of his element, right?..."

"It was amazing to see how well this witness did, how many of them did, and how accurate they were in the details they remembered."

Streeter thinks witnesses did so well because of their oral tradition. Many are illiterate and a calendar means nothing. They measure extended periods of time using different indicators, like whether it was the rainy or dry season or which soccer team won or lost. "I think it's safe to say it was a culture shock on both ends," Streeter laughs.

Unless you've experienced it personally, Streeter says it's hard to imagine or be ready for the amount of congestion, pollution and smell in a third-world country.

"You go in expecting differences, and the initial orientation does a decent job of preparing you for the mission, but nothing beats the real-world experience of being there," he explains. "It's a pretty steep learning curve."

### Unreconciled differences

There was one part of the experience that Streeter would have been glad to miss contracting malaria.

In lucid moments, between fevers of up to 107 degrees Fahrenheit, Streeter vaguely remembers refusing to go to the Freetown hospital. He says he lost a day or so in between the fever, extreme nausea and body aches, until his team, knowing they had to do something, took him to the special court's holding facility.

The prison physician tended to him and gave him medication. Days later he was much better, albeit 20 pounds lighter. Streeter figures he contracted malaria from a mosquito bite while excavating grave sites in Liberia during the rainy season. Despite the experience, he considers himself fortunate.

"There are kids across the African continent who are sometimes dying by the hundreds each day," Streeter says. "It's a huge culture shock and it's still a difficult thing for me to accept. Kids are dying because of a lack of available vaccines stuff we just take for granted in our society."

Streeter pauses, then says the culture shock of returning home was much more difficult to deal with. He remembers leaving the airport in Freetown and seeing the wrecked planes along the side of the runway. Hours





The United Nations compound in Sierra Leone where Canadian police personnel launched out with their investigations.

later, he landed at Heathrow Airport in London, with its numerous stores selling high end luxury goods and foods.

“I remember seeing this and, at the time, was just sickened by the obscenity of it all,” says Streeter. “The sheer excess bothered me for a long time. People in Sierra Leone are dying because of a lack of a simple vaccine. When I went food shopping in Sierra Leone, I was hoping there’d be a loaf of bread. A loaf of bread that was my luxury. Go to a store here and they have, what, maybe 60 varieties? It was

a hard thing for me to wrap my head around.”

Streeter says his time in Sierra Leone was probably the most challenging year of his life but also the most rewarding. He considers local police officers he met to be great friends and mentors, noting he learned much more from them than they learned from him.

He describes the Sierra Leoneans as resilient people, but still, he worries.

“We talk about PTSD as a topical issue here but there’s a whole generation over there that’s traumatized,” says Streeter. “In

Freetown, there’s an estimated 60,000 former child soldiers alone. You look into some of their eyes and there’s not much there. These kids were indoctrinated in the worst possible way. They saw the slaughter of their friends and whole families.”

Streeter retired as deputy chief in June 2013.

**Tony Palermo** is a freelance writer and *Blue Line's* Eastern Ontario correspondent. Contact: [tony@blueline.ca](mailto:tony@blueline.ca)

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# A Simple Idea That Grew



by Tom McKay

When I first wrote about the Peel Regional Police (PRP) Crime Prevention Academy (CPA) in *Blue Line* (October 2003), I tagged it as “A simple idea that’s revolutionizing crime prevention.” After more than 20,500 participants, it’s time to evaluate whether the concept lived up to the billing.

## Overview

In its essence, the academy is one of those simple ideas that resonates with people. It should therefore come as no surprise that after almost 15 years, demand for the concept is stronger than ever.

The CPA was developed to offer comprehensive crime prevention training to people who live, work or play in Peel Region. It distinguishes itself from the more police oriented Citizens’ Police Academy by teaching participants need to know knowledge and practical tips designed to keep them, their families and property safe.

A defining attribute is the unprecedented level of crime prevention training it offers free of charge. Its core version, there are several, contains 15 hours of in-depth crime prevention training that is typically delivered over a six week period.

The course begins by providing students with a basic understanding of crime, fear, prevention and police communications before tackling issues such as home security, personal, traffic and computer safety, fraud, counterfeit money detection and finally, dealing with common neighbourhood problems.

Opportunities for learning are optimized by meeting student needs. This includes providing a proper learning environment such as a classroom, auditorium, library or meeting room. Students are given a one inch binder to house weekly notes and other supplements representing the more than 500 Power Point

slides and numerous videos they view in the course.

The quality of instruction is a make or break aspect of delivering a meaningful learning experience.

The academy uses a variety of speakers and subject matter experts, including Manny Parreira, senior analyst with the Bank of Canada.

The bank has been a partner since 2004 and delivers one of the most popular segments, where students can touch, look and feel real and counterfeit banknotes.

In a notable session, the CBC filmed a segment of the CPA for its business show *Venture* highlighting the efforts of Parreira and his team to educate the public on detecting counterfeit currency. Parreira continues to support the program since it “dovetails perfectly with the bank’s awareness and education program.”

The student experience draws to a close after the post-test (an identical test is given at the beginning of the course). The first test is used to benchmark knowledge and the second to demonstrate learning.

Students are also asked to complete two exit surveys and those who attended all six sessions receive a certificate of completion.

## Putting principles into practice

We know from lifestyle surveys that the vast majority of graduates put some aspect of what they learned into practice, which can have dramatic effects.

Three burglars targeted one graduate’s home by donning hard hats and vests to pass themselves off as a construction crew. They had used this ruse to break into the front entrance of four homes using a large crow bar.

Fortunately, like 86 per cent of our graduates, she acted on advice received in the academy by replacing the standard strike plate on her door jambs with a four-hole security

strike plate fastened with larger screws. The burglars were unable to penetrate the door despite causing significant damage.

Unfazed, the burglars’ regrouped at the side entrance. Unbeknownst to them, this door was also fortified with a security strike plate and time was running out. The now wide awake and terrified homeowner made a frantic 911 call from her bathroom shower, where she and her two daughters had taken refuge while waiting for police to arrive.

Her actions kept the family safe and led to the capture of three brazen burglars in the midst of a crime spree. It also cleared four outstanding break-ins and one previous attempt, including a successful entry that occurred earlier that morning.

## The multiplier effect

Graduates are adept at reducing the rate of criminal victimization for their households. A sample group showed a substantial 66.6 per cent drop in year over year victimization rate after taking the CPA.

The benefits are not limited to graduates, since they often share their knowledge with friends and acquaintances. A graduate recently took it upon herself to teach her immediate neighbours of the benefits of installing a security strike plate. Four neighbours installed the security feature.

In other examples, graduates share their knowledge with people in their places of worship and workplaces. This has resulted in academies being held in churches and mosques and strategic partnerships, giving police access to otherwise difficult to reach high risk or vulnerable segments of the community.

Examples include the Safe City Associations for Brampton and Mississauga, English as a Second Language (ESL) providers and community living organizations that support the developmentally challenged.

## Dedicated academies

The Safe City partnerships grew out of a desire to take the CPA concept to high schools. This resulted in the development of a youth oriented academy that replaced many of the more property oriented segments with youth oriented topics such as drugs, cyberbullying, street gangs and truancy.

The youth academy was provided to the Safe City Associations, which took over administration and rolled it out to high schools throughout the region.

To date, more than 18,000 students have graduated from one of the two high school versions of the program. The Brampton version, known as Youth Education and Safety (Y.E.S.), inspired students to dedicate more than 44,000 hours of volunteer time to community projects.

The value of these partnerships were not lost on participants or outsiders.

The constable was “alright at first,” said one participant at Safe City Mississauga’s Crossroads Academy. “I didn’t really want to give him a chance because of all my past negative experiences with police but as the presentation went on I realized that he really likes his job and enjoys speaking with youth.

“I really liked how he explained things to us and spoke at our level. He made things clear and he showed us he understands the system from our point of view. I appreciate the fact that he didn’t try to preach to us but simply gave us the information. I realize now that all police are not the same.”

While the value of this type of testimonial is not easily measured, the Mississauga version of the program was recognized internationally by the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners (ISCPP) at its 2005 Symposium. It named the Crossroads Academy as the “Community Crime Prevention Program of the Year” for populations over 100,000.

Other partnerships have resulted in similar opportunities to deliver dedicated CPAs to vulnerable and high needs members of the community. This includes the partnerships formed with ESL providers, who gave the police service direct access to large groups of newcomers. This helps to reassure this community during a vital time in their settlement process, addressing potential safety and security concerns and giving them an extended opportunity to meet and feel comfortable with police in their adopted homeland.

The same can be said of community living organizations dedicated to supporting developmentally challenged people. They provide the police service with direct access to large groups of developmentally challenged individuals who are often victimized. The development and delivery of a dedicated academy tailored to their needs helps them feel more confident and secure.

The adaptability of the concept clearly contributes to its success and further supported the selection of the CPA as an exemplary project by CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies).



Peel Regional Police Crime Prevention team (LtoR) Sgt. Jay Hodgson, Cst. Heather Cannon, Cst. Tom McKay, Cst. Courtney Carver-Smith, Cst. Sandro Strangio.

## Variations

The practice of developing dedicated academies began with a Neighbourhood Watch group. While this type of academy showed early promise (as mentioned in the 2003 article), it was later abandoned so resources could be dedicated to Safe City Mississauga’s Crossroads version.

Over the years other themes developed including the Parent CPA, a modestly successful concept designed to teach parents “everything” they needed to know to keep their kids safe and out of trouble. It represented 12.5 hours of training spread over a five week period, making it difficult for some parents to attend. The concept has since been eclipsed by the development of the very popular cyber academy (CA), which draws heavy interest from parents and others in the community.

The CA is typically a four week/10 hour program which was developed in 2008. It has mass appeal to large segments of the community as the curriculum is designed to teach adults how to safely use electronic devices and services. It is particularly appealing to parents with children as it provides instruction on cyber-bullying, media distraction, social media sites/apps popular with kids, Internet child exploitation, computer security, cyber fraud and media addiction.

The CA uses in-house experts, including officers drawn from crime prevention and road safety services and the Internet child exploitation, fraud and tech crime units. Participants are given contact resources in the event that they become the victim of fraud and/or a computer security breach and a list of apps which have the potential for danger, including conversations, situations or developing unwanted followers.

The pace of change within cyberspace can be overwhelming, which can render many conventional documents obsolete as they sit on the shelves. The CA is regularly updated and benefits from incorporating the latest information available to police as they seek out threats.

The CA’s relevancy helps to explain its growth and popularity and why very little time is needed to fill a 100 auditorium to capacity and beyond. It is also a reflection of the way the academy is now being promoted. Until recently it relied on the conventional use of the Peel Police web site and news releases but this has since been supplemented with tweets and school based contacts drawn from youth education officers. Waiting lists are now routine.

## A success

The crime prevention concept has proven to be an outstanding success by almost any metric. Now in their 15th year, the family of academies are more popular than ever. This is borne out by its legion of graduates, many whom register for other versions of the academy. It is also routinely communicated through thousands of positive comments on exit surveys.

The academy continues to generate positive outcomes, including increased satisfaction with feelings of safety and a decreased annual victimization rate. It also continues to enjoy professional success, as measured by the unwavering support from community partners.

Peer interest has also been great. Articles in *Blue Line* and *CALEA Update* resulted in dozens of “how to manuals” being sent to police services across North America. The concept has even caught the attention of the local press.

It is clear that the CPA concept is thriving as it continues to grow and build momentum. It has definitely revolutionized the way in which crime prevention is being delivered. Just ask the graduates!

Cst. **Thomas McKay** is a 30 year veteran of the Peel Regional Police. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree and Certificate in Law Enforcement and Administration from the University of Toronto. He is currently the Canadian Director of the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners (ISCPP). He may be reached by email to [thomas.mckay@peelpolice.ca](mailto:thomas.mckay@peelpolice.ca).



# COMMUNITY POLICING: THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

## *Technology and community policing makes Vancouver safe*

by Kevin Bernardin, Blake Chersinoff and Valerie Spicer

Technology such as in-car computers, digital radios, DNA evidence, CAD dispatching, COMPSTAT and social media are radically changing how police operate. More recently, predictive-policing, body-worn cameras and unmanned aerial drones are shaping policing's near future.

This presents a major challenge for community policing, specifically in how these technologies are and will be used to reduce crime and increase community engagement.

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) is an early adopter of using technology to assist with community policing functions. Over the years, the VPD has utilized a wide-array of technology and innovation to assist in preventing crime. Their effective use has put the VPD at the forefront of reducing crime to historically low-levels and addressing problems that impact community perceptions of safety.

### **Community policing technology**

In the early '90s, the VPD loaded Casio pocket computers with the publicly available CPIC registry of stolen vehicle licence plates. With this information, community policing volunteers on foot or patrolling in vehicles or bicycles queried licence plates in search of stolen autos.

Since 1994, VPD Citizen's Crime Watch

volunteers are credited with removing more than 4,500 stolen vehicles from city streets. This has tremendously reduced the likelihood that these vehicles will continue to be used to commit crime.

When the Casio pocket computers evolved into the faster PalmPilots, which were made obsolete with the introduction of smartphones and apps, the VPD was quick to react. As a result, the Stolen Auto Recovery (SAR) app was created for the iOS platform and made available on the App Store.

The VPD also runs a comprehensive *Speed Watch* program through volunteer engagement. It targets high-risk areas where pedestrians and vehicles are more likely to be involved in accidents and was run using a pen and paper approach. A *Speed Watch* app was designed to take the program to the next level, allowing volunteers to "tap" the speeds and vehicle types into the app. This data is then collected in a manner that can easily be shared with the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) and the VPD Traffic Section.

In 2013, the *Log It or Lose It* app was created to engage all Vancouver citizens, not just community policing volunteers. It provides a user-friendly method to record the details of personal possessions by enabling users to log serial numbers, descriptions and pictures, which are then e-mailed to them for their records. Should the items go missing or be stolen, the app user would have a safe record to forward to police and insurance companies, and to assist in returning found property to rightful owners.

### **Intelligence-led community policing patrols**

In the spring of 2014, the opportunity to create a new crime prevention app was

brainstormed by VPD sergeants Kevin Bernardin and Valerie Spicer and Cst. Blake Chersinoff.

Early development of the app relied heavily on Spicer's work as a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies at Simon Fraser University, where she conducts multi-disciplinary research in collaboration with experts in technology.

Bernardin provided his experience as the community policing services unit sergeant, along with his vision and leadership in creating the Stolen Auto Recovery, Speed Watch and Log It or Lose It apps.

As a previous community policing volunteer and new member of the neighbourhood patrol team, Chersinoff brought volunteer experience and the ability to integrate the app for use by community policing volunteers.

### **Community patrol app**

Bernardin, Spicer and Chersinoff envisioned a patrol app for volunteers. This idea was born out of the rudimentary nature of community-based patrols. Historically, volunteers would report their findings manually in log books, which were filled and often stored away, never to be looked at again.

Chersinoff led the design by first obtaining a donation from the Vancouver Police Foundation [VPF].

The goal of the app is to change how data is collected, stored and analyzed. From a volunteer foot patrol perspective the physical patrol actions have not changed, but the means of capturing information have radically improved. Volunteers now record what they do on patrol with their iPad or iPhone, in an attractive user-friendly app, through pictures, reports and GPS co-ordinates.

## How it works

The app starts by collecting a volunteer's log-on information and mode of transportation when they go their patrol.

Volunteers can look for various incidents to record along their route. For example, they may come across an inappropriately discarded needle in a park. They can tap a 'needle' button, which records the location, time and number of needles located, and then sends an e-mail to the 311 Contact Centre (the City of Vancouver's reporting service) so the situation can be properly resolved.

The app also records incidents of busking without a street entertainment permit, abandoned cars, illegal garbage dump sites and mischief, to name but a few, all with the tap of a button.

The app combats graffiti in an innovative way. While on patrol, volunteers are able to bring up the 'graffiti' function, which enables them to take a photo of the graffiti and forward it to 311 to request removal by a contractor.

The process is very user friendly: the app takes care of recording the time, date, location and details of the volunteer from their sign-on profile. At the end of shift when the user logs off, a PDF is sent to the volunteer co-ordinator and the information is uploaded into a database for further analytical use.

The app improves a long-standing partnership between the VPD and ICBC on crime prevention notices. In the past, community volunteers placed a notice on the windshield of vehicles whose drivers left valuables in plain view inside their parked cars. The notices are intended to educate motorists that thieves looking for a quick smash and grab routinely target these unattended items.

With the app, volunteers can record what is left in plain view, be it sporting goods, change, bags or electronics. This provides the police and ICBC with detailed information that can direct media campaigns to help reduce theft from autos.

## Counting the good

While deciding on the functions of the Patrol app, it was determined that most of the inputs collected by volunteers were negative in nature. In essence, they were instructed to go out and look for things that were 'wrong' with their communities.

Ultimately, this could lead to a bias, confirming the volunteers' thoughts that the neighbourhood was riddled with crime and disorder. To counter this, a positive contact feature was developed. This feature counts the number of times volunteers made a positive influence on someone. Now, handing out crime brochures and community policing stickers, giving directions or talking with someone in a park can be tracked.

## Compstat for community policing

The Patrol app incorporates the newest available Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology to capture, collect, manage and analyze data on spatial maps. This offers a visual projection of what is occurring where and with what frequency. GIS allows the creation of heat-density maps to show hot spots of activity.



When recording the volunteer's observations, the app simultaneously geo-tags the latitude and longitude of the incident locations and the GPS route of the patrol. This allows for the recording of volunteer routes and distance travelled along with the various inputs.

This mapping feature essentially creates a "Compstat for community policing" with various disorder issues placed on a map, providing the ability to determine where hot spots are while re-allocating patrols to match identified crime trends.

The recording of volunteer routes also assists co-ordinators in distributing patrols evenly in their communities. If the routes showed a density in a particular area, the coordinator could ask that volunteers go to other areas to spread out the patrols.

## The future

The app may eventually enable volunteers to patrol areas identified by intelligence-led crime hot spots.

Currently, the VPD is developing a predictive-policing platform called GeoDash, which allows officers in the field to have access to hot spot queries. Data will be uploaded from incoming police reports three times a day.

Initial discussions suggest that a portion of the data, not including actual addresses, will be made available to the public two to three days after the incident was reported.

Nonetheless, this presents an opportunity for volunteers to patrol their neighbourhoods in response to specific crime trends identified by the public GeoDash information.

The Compstat for community policing theme could be applied at the intersection of GeoDash and Patrol by allowing community volunteers to respond to areas where they will be most beneficial to creating a safe community.

## Acknowledgements

The development of the Patrol app would not be possible without the diverse experience and hard work of the software development team:

- Dr. Herbert H. Tsang, project engineer;
- Noah Budarf, software developer;
- Braden Shewchuk, software developer;
- Justin Song, software developer;
- Brian Song, software developer.

Finally, the project would like to thank the Vancouver Police Foundation for its support and commitment to innovative community partnerships.

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# TERRORISM

## *Through the lens of a hate crime*



by Terry Wilson

The deaths of Corporal Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent are only the latest reminders that terrorism continues to be a persistent threat to the country and Canadian law enforcement.

The approach to combatting terrorism portrayed in the media may feel foreign but it doesn't have to. The Criminal Code offers tools for police which are too often overlooked because of semantics.

This is due, in part, to the media and some police separating the terrorist from the hater or racist. By placing a new label on an old behaviour, perception is diverted and often mislead.

There are significant similarities between a hater/racist and a terrorist. They both despise identifiable groups, advocate and condone using violence and will always use propaganda to recruit and inflict harm. Quite simply, a terrorist is always a hater.

Haters can easily become terrorists so it is critical to pay close attention to their outward activities motivated by hate and react swiftly.

### **Take a proactive approach**

If a hater can become a terrorist, early intervention is key to combatting recruiting efforts, thereby reducing future violence and growth. One of the most powerful tools at your disposal is the current hate propaganda legislation under the Canadian Criminal Code.

In the majority of terrorism cases the suspect has targeted a person or section of the

community because of their affiliation to an identifiable group. Catching activities in the "hating stage" can intercept and prevent potentially catastrophic terrorist acts in the future.

For example if a person promotes the destruction of an identifiable group (genocide) and posts this to a web site, then police should consider using the tools available under the hate propaganda offence – *Sections 318, S. 319(1) or S.319.(2)*.

Using these "offence sections" as a guide, police can enter into a hate crime/propaganda investigation and apply for judicial orders and search warrants to identify the suspect(s). If grounds are established, they could make arrests and lay charges. This will stop the immediate activity and strict release conditions can modify future behaviour and associations.

Your next step is to remove the person's offensive web site to stop it from recruiting and perpetuating hateful messages.

### **Act on the information**

The new Anti-Terror *Bill C-51*, once enacted, will give law enforcement additional tools to combat and eradicate terrorism in the early stages of recruitment. However, many are unaware that police already have these powers through *S. C320.1* of the Criminal Code. By looking at terrorism activities through the lens of the hater, police, with the attorney general's consent, can shut down hate propaganda and terrorist recruiting web sites.

Looking at our previous example of a person promoting the destruction of an identifiable group (genocide) on a web site, after

the charge and arrest, police can use *S. 320.1* to request a judge order the Internet Service Provider to:

1. Shut down the web site;
2. Identify to police who is administrating it; and
3. Make a copy of the entire site,

Although these sections are not used often, they should be.

### **Being proactive is the key**

In today's world, being proactive is the best defence to any criminal activity. We must look at every angle, motivation and method, both at hand and in the works, that will help you do your job and ultimately keep Canadians safe.

As an expert in hate crime, and after decades of investigating hate motivated crimes, I urge all law enforcement to begin to look at terrorism through the "hate lens" and learn and use these very powerful tools already in their arsenal.

When applied to the right offence and situation, they have the power to cause significant harm and disrupt the recruiting and propaganda of any hate motivated or terrorist group.

---

**Terry Wilson** was a municipal representative to the RCMP's BC Hate Crime Team. A designated expert in hate symbols, he lectured extensively on investigating hate crimes. Since retiring in April, Wilson conducts specialized training and consulting on hate crimes, human rights, gender-based violence and harassment. Visit [www.hatecrimeexpert.com](http://www.hatecrimeexpert.com) or e-mail [twilson1840@gmail.com](mailto:twilson1840@gmail.com) to learn more.

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## The Hate Crime Laws

### Advocating Genocide

318. (1) Everyone who advocates or promotes genocide is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

### Definition of "genocide"

(2) In this section, "genocide" means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part any identifiable group, namely,

- A. Killing members of the group; or
- B. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction.

### Consent

(3) No proceeding for an offence under this section shall be instituted without the consent of the Attorney General.

### Public Incitement of Hatred

319. (1) Everyone who, by communicating statements in any public place, incites hatred against any identifiable group where such incitement is likely to lead to a breach of the peace is guilty of:

- A. An indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years; or
- B. An offence punishable on summary conviction.

### Wilful Promotion of Hatred

(2) Every one who, by communicating statements, other than in private conversation, willfully promotes hatred against any identifiable group is guilty of:

- A. An indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years; or
- B. an offence punishable on summary conviction.

(4) In this section, "identifiable group" means any section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability.

### Eliminate Hate Web Sites

320.1 (1) If a judge is satisfied by information on oath that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there is material that is hate propaganda within the meaning of subsection 320(8) or computer data within the meaning of subsection 342.1(2) that makes hate propaganda available, that is stored on and made available to the public through a computer system within the meaning of subsection 342.1(2) that is within the jurisdiction of the court, the judge may order the custodian of the computer system to:

- A. Give an electronic copy of the material to the court;
- B. Ensure that the material is no longer stored on and made available through the computer system; and
- C. Provide the information necessary to identify and locate the person who posted the material.

MIAMI — Investigators do not need a search warrant to obtain cellphone tower location records in criminal prosecutions, a federal appeals court ruled in a closely-watched case involving the rules for changing technology.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, overturning a three-judge panel of the same court, concluded that authorities properly got 67 days' worth of records from MetroPCS for a Miami robbery suspect using a court order with a lower burden of proof.

In its 9-2 decision, the 11th Circuit decided the suspect had no expectation of privacy regarding

records establishing his location near certain cellphone towers. The records were key evidence used to convict him of a string of armed robberies, leading to a 162-year prison sentence.

In fact, Circuit Judge Frank M. Hull wrote for the majority, it's clear that cellphone users in today's society understand how companies collect data about calls and that cell towers are a key part of that.

"We find no reason to conclude that cellphone users lack facts about the functions of cell towers or about telephone providers' recording cell tower usage," Hull wrote. "This cell tower method of call connecting does not require a different constitutional result just because the telephone company has decided to automate wirelessly."

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# MAKING YOUR OPINION MATTER

## *How police officers can become qualified as ‘experts’*

by *Wayne K Jeffery, Stephen G. Price & Darrel Gyorfi*

Those called to give expert or opinion testimony in court must be impartial – and always seen to be impartial. Although usually called by the Crown, their expertise is also available to the defence. An expert is like a hired-gun in a ‘B’ western – their opinion is based on professional, scientific and observable facts which don’t change and aren’t affected by the party which calls them to court. An expert does not choose who their opinion harms or helps.

In the courtroom context, an expert is a witness who has acquired special or particular knowledge about a specific area through study, experience, reviewing scientific works and/or practical observation. They are allowed to give an opinion in court about evidence – the speed of a vehicle, for example, or the physical condition of an individual who may have been impaired.

A drug expert seeks to be qualified to state their opinion in relation to one or more of the following issues:

- Personal use or possession for the purpose of trafficking;
- Prices and packaging;
- Methods of use;
- Trafficking methods;
- Production and importing methods;
- Structure of organized crime groups;
- Criminal financial structure;
- Money laundering methods

Once an expert has obtained the required experience and specialized knowledge from courses, training and working in the field, they prepare a curriculum vitae (CV), which counsel reviews to determine if, and to what extent, to accept or challenge their opinion. The CV is the story of your life – knowledge and

experience relevant to the area of expertise under consideration. It sets out education, training and experience and includes a statement as to the final level of formal education, an outline of relevant court experience, articles published and training presentations given.

You normally begin with basic biographical data, work experience, postings and training. Our preferred method is to start with the oldest and move forward in time to show the growth in experience and training.

An individual may be capable of being qualified in more than one area, and may have several different forms of a CV, each aimed at a specific or limited area of expertise. A drug expert, for example, would list operational undercover training, drug investigative techniques, drug recognition expertise, clandestine lab investigators, surveillance proceeds of crime and human source (informant) management courses.

Ongoing seminars, lectures and workshops conducted or led by recognized subject matter experts and important work experience should also be listed if appropriate. These may deal with specific drugs or problems such as ‘dial-a-dope,’ grow-ops and clan-labs. Take advantage of any opportunity to further your training or assist in presenting a seminar or workshop – and list it on your CV.

Seek out and read or review any scientific or professional literature that has some bearing on your chosen fields – and don’t limit yourself to ‘police professional’ articles. Include counter culture articles and magazines and don’t forget or ignore the Internet (bearing in mind the reliability or lack thereof). Particular articles that you believe to be relevant should be copied and held for reference as you continuously read, search and update your knowledge base.

### **Preparing an expert opinion report (will-say)**

Bear in mind that, while we and the courts call it a ‘will-say,’ the term is not a truly appropriate description. A will say is a factual description of an investigator’s observations or involvement, but what you are really preparing is a statement of your opinion and its basis.

The fundamental step is to lay out a basis for your opinion – the facts you rely upon. This simple statement should list any and all circumstances, facts, documents and exhibits that you have had or sought access to. Your opinion must be based on admissible evidence that will be presented, or that you expect to be presented, to the court. This will include:

- The report to Crown counsel (RTCC), including any statements made by the accused and a review of investigator notes, including observations of the accused and the circumstances of the arrest or search;
- Exhibit reports;
- Photographs of the exhibits and search;
- Certificates of analysis.

If you met with the investigators or have personal knowledge of some of the facts or defendants in question, this must be acknowledged. Your statement in a given case should set out the specific facts, observations, exhibits, photographs or other items that have a specific bearing and directly impact your opinion. You should briefly review any other exhibits, information or items that have relevance to your opinion. Specifically note items that could contradict your opinion and explain why it still stands.

Also explain your interpretation of the exhibits and any documents, such as score sheets, production or manufacturing outline/grow schedules and, where possible, relate to specific photographs to demonstrate your point.



## Testifying in court

Always bear in mind that your attendance as an independent expert separates you from the investigators; you should always be prepared to consider and comment on defense theories. Be prepared to either adjust or defend your opinion in the face of spirited questioning by a defense motivated counsel. You must know the case and evidence very well; if you are not sure of something, research it before appearing in court.

Always appear professional – it is not enough to come to court prepared to explain, defend or justify your opinion; you must also show respect for the court and the process.

One of the toughest problems police witnesses or experts face is how to respond to questions that you don't know the answer to. The question is often asked in a manner that clearly implies you should know the answer, but no one can know everything. You must be prepared to say "I don't know."

Here's a few simple rules for expert witnesses:

- Crown should identify you as the expert to be called in the case and request the court allow you to sit in and listen to the evidence provided by the investigators. Ensure that your opinion is supported by the admitted evidence;
- Crown counsel has a limited ability to lead or induce you to answer. In that situation, you should begin your evidence with an explanation and flow seamlessly into presenting your opinion;
- Keep your opinion within your experience;

- Keep the answers reasonably short to allow the Crown to gently direct you. Crown counsel is making an entire case and may reinforce other elements not adequately explained by the investigators;
- Candidly explain your opinion and the facts supporting it;
- Keep your written opinion in front of you to ensure that you cover all elements;
- You are interpreting the evidence based on your experience and knowledge, not making the case;
- Never underestimate the ability of any counsel to see the trees and miss the forest. Ensure you present your basic opinion early in your evidence;
- Listen to and ensure that you understand the question during cross examination or while defending your opinion. If you don't understand or if there is more than one question, ask for an explanation or which question you should answer. Remember that you are impartial;
- If you understand the question, then answer it, not the question that you think should have been asked. Sometimes a stupid question deserves a stupid or direct answer;
- If there is a series of questions, don't answer the next question in the sequence until it is asked;
- Don't ramble. Once you have answered a question, wait for the next. Don't assume that because you would ask another question, someone else will or should.

When possible, try to stay in court for the decision and sentencing. It will provide you with

an opportunity to hear the judge's comments regarding your evidence and his/her opinion of your presentation. It also indicates to the court that you are interested in following the matter through to a conclusion. As well, if there is a conviction, it will ensure that the court is aware that all parties are interested in the outcome.

The court's opinion of your presentation of evidence will become part of your experience and help you to better understand the process. Consider this in future preparation and presentations, but do not tailor your evidence to some perceived 'good' or 'proper' result.

The RCMP provides the necessary information and specific training for this type of qualification as part of the "E" Division Drug Experts Course and in similar training within other divisions. It's also offered by municipal police forces.

(Previously-published article May 2005)

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**Stephen G. Price;** BA, LLB, is a former member of the RCMP K Division. He is currently a trial lawyer working in Langley, BC.

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# Youth radicalization vs. lure of gangs



by Chris D. Lewis

*I joined the gang and suddenly had more money than I thought possible. I also lived in constant danger of taking a life or losing my own – The Lure of Gang Life* Jeremiah Utley as told to Chris Lutes.<sup>1</sup>

Radical Islamic ideology's draw on some young Canadians brings to mind the lure of gang culture, similarities in the appeal of both anti-social lifestyles and potential preventative measures.

"We are learning that there may be similarities in the factors that lead to gang involvement and violent extremism," *USA TODAY* quoted Attorney General Eric Holder in a February 2015 article on studies examining the relationship between gang affiliation and radicalization.

"In both instances, the sense of belonging to a cause, however misguided, may be a lure for disaffected young people and understanding this potential link may help us tackle the problem of violent extremism."<sup>2</sup>

Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) web site posting describes youth gang risk factors as including:

- Negative influences in the youth's life;
- Limited attachment to the community;
- Over-reliance on anti-social peers;
- Poor parental supervision;
- Poor educational or employment potential and;
- A need for recognition and belonging.<sup>3</sup>

"Some youth (join gangs to) seek excitement," according to the BC Ministry of Public Safety. "Others are looking for power, prestige, protection, a chance to make money or a sense of belonging."

In low-income communities rife with

poverty and ridden with addictions and abuse – whether they be specific city neighbourhoods or isolated First Nation territories – many young people have feelings of "little hope" for education, successful lives and careers and/or prosperity. The gang lifestyle portrayed in music videos, television and motion pictures is a constant temptation and must make their lives pale in comparison.

Revered members brandish guns, drive flashy vehicles, carry wads of cash and are seemingly engaged in one exciting adventure after another. Yes, many young people will rise above their current status and the enticement of gang culture and make wonderful lives for themselves, but tragically the majority will not.

Comparatively, when speaking of the threat of radicalization in his speech to the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism on February 19, 2015, US President Barack Obama said:

*But when people – especially young people – feel entirely trapped in impoverished communities, where there is no order and no path for advancement, where there are no educational opportunities, where there are no ways to support families, and no escape from injustice and the humiliations of corruption – that feeds instability and disorder, and makes those communities ripe for extremist recruitment.<sup>4</sup>*

CNN commentator and former CIA intelligence officer and FBI Senior Intelligence Adviser Philip Mudd said ISIS radicalizes Muslim ("or not") youth by luring misguided teens through social media. Its technique is to simply offer a "better life" instead of focusing on ideology or violence.

Both are valid observations but given

that extremist radicalization is a fairly recent phenomenon, there has not been a wealth of research conducted on the issue. However, there are lessons to be learned about the recruitment of gang members in western society.

Although there are some recruitment, motivation, communication methods and risk differences between the two distinct cultures, there are also a number of similarities.

We need to consider proven strategies to prevent youth from joining gangs while also examining extremist radicalization among young people.

Communities cannot arrest their way out of gang proliferation. Intervention and suppression by law enforcement is not going to thwart youth gang involvement. 'Prevention' is paramount to success.

Toward this end police have teamed up with school officials and delivered various levels of comprehensive anti-gang strategy programs in some major Canadian and US cities with a proclivity for street gangs. These have successfully reduced youth gang involvement in many cases.

Would such programs work to better educate young people about the dangers and misconceptions about extremist group affiliation?

Many programs aimed at reducing gang-association risk factors have also had positive impacts. Concurrently, systems to help teachers better understand, respond to and prevent youth gang culture behavioural issues are standard fare in a number of urban centres.

Police school resource officers imbedded in schools develop trusting relationships with students and bring in supporting gang experts to help them speak to kids formally and informally. They will always have a positive impact in conjunction with

other community-based programs.

Similarly, it is widely recognized that parents play a critical role in preventing young people from joining gangs, so programs have been established in many jurisdictions to help them identify and address such challenges.

Research on risk factors and trends supports community partnerships and assists police, educators, parents and social services to build stronger families. This helps preclude youth gang involvement and is another collaborative tool.

Gang culture involvement prevention strategies also have a role in preventing youth radicalization. The RCMP has developed a Terrorism Prevention Program (TPP), which “takes advantage of the expertise of existing multi-agency networks or ‘hubs’”. These groups have the skills and experience to provide supports and services that are tailored for members of their community who may be on the path of radicalization to violence.”<sup>5</sup>

The ‘hub’ concept is often referred to as the “Community Mobilization Model.” An early iteration was formulated in the United Kingdom and brought to Canada by the Prince Albert Police Service. Many Canadian police agencies are currently actively using the model or are in the process of integrating it into their ethos.

In its more common application, the model brings community stakeholders and services together (police, social service agencies, educators and more) to discuss problematic and high risk individuals, issues and occurrences. They work together to merge thoughts, ideas and resources into strategies to successfully mitigate risk factors and enhance the overall health and safety of the community.

This model is certainly a valid tool to help address emerging radicalization issues. The RCMP has also established a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program, described as “thwarting radical activity by co-ordinating intervention attempts with the help of local groups.”

Supt. Shirley Cuillierrier describes the program as having two phases. “The first involves training RCMP officers who act as force-multipliers, training their colleagues to recognize people at risk of becoming radicalized.”

The second phase: “When officers find someone heading toward violence on behalf of an ideology, they assemble a ‘community hub’ of local mentors, social workers, psychologists, community groups, relevant preachers and anyone else likely to help....”

“It could be as simple as life circumstances in that individual’s life that everything’s falling apart, that there is no support. So you bring in that support and it’s amazing how people will start to look at things differently, and perhaps not see all as doom and gloom.”<sup>6</sup>

The program is similar to the TPP and perhaps not a panacea, but definitely another option for the toolbelt.

Mudd’s point about the parental role in preventing radicalization is excellent. He suggests parents are less likely to proactively report their suspicions to law enforcement if

they fear their child may receive a significant prison sentence. He describes his theory as the need for “programs, not prisons.”

### Countering propaganda

The effective and polished use of propaganda through social media, with well-established key messaging, contributes significantly to the recruitment efforts of extremist groups.

In my view, this approach should also be key to our mitigation efforts. Law enforcement must monitor social media closely and develop key messages and media strategies to counter the propaganda, including correcting the misinformation as to what is really happening on the ground in Syria and Iraq, and why.

Many of the influencing societal factors require that collaborative solutions be formulated and delivered by police and other organizations (community mobilization model). They need to jointly identify at-risk youth and implement effective strategies to mitigate risk. When dealing with immense challenges like this, I believe that ‘Communities’ should include all cities, counties and countries. They all need to share ideas, research, lessons-learned, successes and failures. No one stakeholder or jurisdiction should work alone.

Educating youth, parents, educators, youth organizations, community groups and religious groups on trends, behavioural indicators and the consequences of radicalization is essential. They and the public at large, including friends and neighbours, must understand the need to report suspicious behaviours, and be encouraged to do so, for all the right reasons.

Community policing is widely accepted as the default police service delivery methodology across the western world. It is simply a model whereby police build collaborative and trusting relationships with communities and then work together to identify and solve safety and social disorder issues. The level of commitment to this tried and true approach will make or break any anti-gang strategy. The same principle applies to the prevention of radicalization.

As a young cop in the 1970s, I never understood or appreciated ‘prevention.’ I thought it was some airy-fairy, stand-alone

program – someone else’s problem. However, I learned that prevention measures – mitigating risks and protecting the public from victimization – are a much more valuable investment of scarce resources than responding to and investigating death and destruction from acts of terrorism, expensive manhunts, criminal trials and jailing perpetrators.

Then there’s the intangible costs. Think of the immeasurable impacts of a terrorist attack – the culture of fear it creates and the resulting and often irreparable harm to the psyche of an innocent society.

The key to all this is that the public must trust law enforcement. A lack of trust will become an insurmountable chink in the armour of prevention, causing communities to fail in their collective efforts. Police services need to continue doing all they can to build and retain that community trust day in and day out on all fronts, including reducing youth radicalization.

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Commissioner (Ret.) **Chris Lewis** was a member of the OPP for 36 years, serving across Ontario in a variety of operational and command roles. He continues to consult, write and lecture on policing and leadership issues. He can be reached at: [www.lighthouseleadershipservices.com](http://www.lighthouseleadershipservices.com).

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Robert Ridge, President and CEO of the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation (middle), presented their "Legends of the Call" award to Constable Shawn Richard, OPP, Niagara Detachment (right).



Constable Ian MacDonald, Abbotsford Police Department, receives the Blue Line Police Leadership Award from Blue Line's Publisher, Morley Lymburner and Michael Sale, Judge Panel Co-ordinator.



Sergeant Brad Brewer (right) accepted **Canada's Best Dressed Police Vehicle — First Place Award** on behalf of Vancouver Police Department from Blue Line's Publisher, Morley Lymburner (left).



Tammy Lee (right) and Jeff Hunt (middle left) accepted **Canada's Best Dressed Law Enforcement Vehicle** on behalf of Wilfrid Laurier University from Blue Line's Publisher Morley Lymburner (left), and Vehicle's Editor, Dave Brown (middle right).



Inspector Mark Traichevich (right) accepted **Canada's Best Dressed Community Relations Vehicle** on behalf of St. Thomas Police Department.



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**Original S.W.A.T. - Boots**  
Cst. Scott Stevenson, Halton Regional PS

**Ford Canada - Model Police Car**  
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**American Military University - E-Reader**  
Aaron Gooding, RCMP

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C/Cst. Craig Harrison, Hamilton Police Service

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**Teel Technologies Canada - Hat - Charger**  
Sean Hearon, Corrections Service Canada

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## Thank you for a great year at Blue Line EXPO

### The Blue Line Magazine Team

**Back row (L to R):** Publisher, Morley Lymburner; Editor, Mark Reesor; and Fire Arms & Vehicles Editor, Dave Brown.

**Middle:** Marketing Director, April Lensen; Art Director, Janell Bemister; and General Manager, Mary Lymburner.

**Front:** Digital Media Co-ordinator, Lindsey Patten; Blue Line EXPO Co-ordinator, Janice Eaton; Associate Publisher, Kathryn Lymburner; and Creative Director, Jolene Dreja.

**Missing:** IT, Kieran Huggins; Sales Executive, Bob Murray.





## ESCORTING A NATIONAL HERO

### *Reflecting on Terry Fox's entry into Toronto 35 years later*

by Ryan Siegmund

Then constable John Soffe pulling his motorcycle into the Brigadoon restaurant parking lot, near the Scarborough-Pickering border, at about 4:30 am July 11, 1980. The assignment—escorting a hero in the making; five provinces and some 3,500 km after starting his Marathon of Hope, Terry Fox had made it to Toronto.

First impressions are lasting, and Soffe, then two years on the motorcycle unit and now a sergeant in the Toronto Police traffic unit, vividly recalls Fox's determination.

"As soon as we met, as soon as he got out of the van to start, he was like 'let's go, what are we waiting for? I am out of the van, I don't want to stand around here.' He was just a very determined young guy and I was really impressed by him."

Soffe and another traffic officer were responsible for keeping Fox going without interruption, ensuring he hit only green lights and was able to continue on through. A traffic cruiser trailed Fox and Soffe was up front leading the way the entire day. He remembers it being a very quiet run during the early morning hours, but the few people on the road were still mindful about what was going on.

"People were not a big problem for him out on the streets when we were in Scarborough. They were stopping and clapping and pulling over but they were not getting in his way."

Fox's run this day was perhaps his busiest,

with plenty of media attention and visitations. His acclaim had grown substantially in Ontario.

He made his way through Scarborough, breaking for a quick breakfast, followed by a television interview; then it was on to the Scarborough Civic Centre and thousands of school kids waiting to talk with him.

After a busy early morning, Soffe led Fox to his downtown Toronto hotel, where he would rest before trekking down University Avenue.

"It wasn't until we got to University that he actually got this big group running with him from out of the hotel," recalls Soffe. "I remember this being around noon because people, including my wife, were coming out and, during their lunch breaks, showing their support. It was down University where he was joined by Darryl Sittler (former Toronto Maple Leaf captain) and that's where I have this picture of me leading him, Sittler and a bunch of girls running with banners and such."

They ended up at Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto, where Fox went on stage in front of an estimated 10,000 people and was presented with Sittler's 1980 NHL all-star team sweater. The Cancer Society estimated it collected \$100,000 that day alone.

"Once you started getting all the business people coming out and in the square itself, there was a ton of people, which was nice to see," says Soffe.

They continued on to the mayor's office, where Fox exchanged more pleasantries. He made his final stop at a Toronto Argonaut's football game that evening.

"I was done, I think, at about 7:00 o'clock that night—it was a long but good day. He didn't run his usual 30k when I saw him that day because of all the media things he was doing.

"He was only a few years younger than me at the time, and here I was starting my

career and doing this beside him. I'm watching this kid do something for a cause. It was very obvious that he was getting the word out and it was very impressive. He was amazing, a very determined kid."

This year is the 35th anniversary of Fox's quest to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. His run, of course, was cut short near Thunder Bay when the cancer returned. Soffe doesn't recall Fox enduring any pain during his day with him.

"He wasn't talking a lot of the time because he was so focused, but occasionally he would say something to me and I would turn around and we would yak. It didn't appear that he was running in pain; he was doing his thing. I was asking him if the exhaust from my bike was bad and I recall him saying that the cities were worse. He had a job to do, basically, and that was what he was doing."

Looking back, Soffe never imagined Terry's stature would have elevated into what it is today. "It's his history but I am happy to be a part of it," he says.





# MEDAL OF BRAVERY



**Constable Jason Allan Baskin, M.B.**  
Chilliwack, British Columbia



**Constable Mark Frendo, M.B.**  
Mission, British Columbia

On June 20, 2008, Abbotsford Police constables Jason Baskin and Mark Frendo rescued a suicidal man who had set fire to his house in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Constables Baskin and Frendo broke through the front door and made their way through the thick smoke. They found the man hiding in the bathtub. Fighting to breathe and racing against the flames, the constables grabbed the unconscious man and dragged him outside to safety.



**Constable Mark Jenkins, M.B.**  
Victoria, British Columbia

On July 17, 2012, Constable Mark Jenkins rescued a suicidal man who had jumped off a bridge into a busy boating channel in Victoria, British Columbia. Dispatched to the scene, Constable Jenkins dove into the murky water and swam out to the distraught man. Although exhausted from his efforts to keep them both above the surface, Constable Jenkins pulled the man towards shore.



**Constable Ryan Arnold Wayne Lewis, M.B.**  
Salisbury and Blackville, New Brunswick

On April 21, 2012, RCMP Constable Ryan Lewis prevented a suicidal man from setting himself on fire in Moncton, New Brunswick. Constable Lewis found the victim in his yard, holding a gasoline can in one hand and a lighter in the other. The distraught man poured

the flammable liquid on himself as the officer approached him. Constable Lewis subdued the man, removed the lighter from his hand, and restrained him until help arrived.



**Constable James Robert Guthrie, M.B.**  
Paris and Hamilton, Ontario



**Constable Clifford J. Leavitt, M.B.**  
Spirit River, Alberta



**Constable Adam D. Palmer, M.B.**  
Canmore, Alberta



**Constable Douglas Wade Philip, M.B.**  
Red Deer, Alberta

On March 19, 2011, RCMP constables James Guthrie, Clifford Leavitt, Adam Palmer and Douglas Philip risked their lives to apprehend a heavily armed, escaped convict near Sexsmith, Alberta. After setting up a road block, the officers maintained their position during the two-hour standoff. The suspect then closed in on the constables with his car and fired on them with his high-powered weapons. The officers returned fire and subsequently apprehended the criminal when his vehicle became stuck in a muddy ditch.



**Constable James Alan Moir, M.B.**  
North Vancouver and Langley, British Columbia

On February 3, 2011, RCMP Constable James Moir was severely injured when he saved a young girl from being hit by a truck near Yale, British Columbia. Following a period of freezing

rain, Constable Moir was on the scene where several cars had skidded into the ditch. Suddenly, a passing truck also lost control on the slippery road and hurtled towards the girl, who was standing nearby. The constable quickly pushed her out of harm's way before he was hit by the truck and then pinned between two vehicles. Luckily, bystanders were able to pull the trucks apart to free the injured constable.



**Constable Clifford William John Peterson, M.B.**  
Fort St. James, British Columbia and Ajax, Ontario

On December 8, 2013, Toronto Police Constable Clifford Peterson prevented a suicidal man from jumping onto a busy roadway in Toronto, Ontario. The man was sitting on an overpass railing with his legs dangling over the edge, some 35 metres above the road. Constable Peterson climbed up onto a concrete pillar and reached down to catch the victim as he began to slide off the railing. With his partner holding him by the legs, Constable Peterson held onto the struggling man and managed to pull him back up onto the bridge.



**Constable Fraser Alan Potts, M.B.**  
Waterloo and Limoges, Ontario

On May 10, 2013, RCMP Constable Fraser Potts rescued a woman who was in danger of drowning in the Fairford River, in Gypsumville, Manitoba. The woman had intentionally driven her vehicle off the embankment and into the river, which was swollen due to the spring run-off. She managed to escape from the car but was swept away by the strong current. Constable Potts swam out to her and, despite having difficulty moving his limbs in the icy water, he managed to pull her closer to shore where they were picked up by a rescue boat.



**Constable Patrick J. Smith, M.B.**  
Pembroke, Ontario

On July 13, 2013, Constable Patrick Smith, of the Ontario Provincial Police, rescued a man



from the powerful rapids of the Ottawa River, near Pembroke, Ontario. The swimmer had been pulled by the current towards the rapids, but managed to cling to some rocks. With a life ring and rope in hand, Constable Smith tried twice to reach the victim. On the second attempt, the rope broke as they were being towed to shore. Firefighters in a rescue boat were then able to retrieve the man, but Constable Smith had to be airlifted out of the rapids by helicopter 90 minutes later.

...



**Constable Marie-Andree Tremblay, M.B.**  
Chicoutimi and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec

On January 4, 2013, Constable Marie-Andree Tremblay entered a burning apartment building to rescue two people, in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Constable Tremblay went up to the third floor to wake up a woman and her granddaughter. By this time, the smoke in the stairwell was so thick that she had to guide them to the balcony, where they remained until firefighters helped them down via a ladder.

## BACKGROUND

The Decorations for Bravery were created in 1972. They recognize people who risk their lives and choose to defy their own instinct of survival to try to save a loved one or a perfect stranger whose life is in immediate danger.

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The Medal of Bravery (M.B.) recognizes acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.

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Anyone is free to propose the name of a person who has risked injury or death in an attempt to rescue another person. The incident need not have taken place in Canada, and the rescuer need not be Canadian, but Canadians or Canadian interests must be involved. The decorations may be awarded posthumously.

Nominations must be made within two years of the incident, or within two years after a public entity, including a court, a quasi-judicial tribunal or a coroner, has concluded its review of the circumstances surrounding the incident or act of bravery.

For more information on the Decorations for Bravery, please visit [www.gg.ca/honours](http://www.gg.ca/honours).

## BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

OTTAWA — A U.S. border officer who commits an on-duty crime in Canada would generally face justice in an American court under a new binational agreement.

But if the crime is murder, terrorism or sexual assault, a trial could take place in Canada, according to the agreement made public.

The fine print of the deal, tabled in Parliament, sets out a complex regime for determining officer accountability on both sides of the border under the Canada-U.S. pre clearance scheme.

The arrangement will expand the American customs presence on Canadian soil and is expected to see Canada establish similar operations in the United States.

Currently, passengers flying to American cities through eight major Canadian airports can be pre cleared there by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. The new arrangement expands the concept to land crossings and rail and marine services, with the aim of making travel between the two countries more speedy and secure.

In the rail mode, for example, this could mean pre clearing passengers and their luggage in Canada before travellers leave the train station, thereby avoiding a stop at the Canada-U.S. border, the federal government says.

Mutual respect of both countries' sovereignty

and laws is "a fundamental principle" of the agreement, Public Safety Canada said in response to questions about the accountability provisions.

In general, the U.S. would have primary jurisdiction over its pre clearance officers for offences committed while performing official duties in Canada. Canada, meanwhile, would have primary criminal jurisdiction over acts committed by U.S. pre clearance officers outside of work, including when they are commuting to and from the job.

However, Canada would have jurisdiction over "serious cases of on-duty conduct, notably cases of murder, aggravated sexual assault and terrorism," in cases where U.S. officials agree such charges are warranted under U.S. law and Canada has asked Washington to waive its jurisdiction.

In other serious cases of on-duty conduct, the U.S. would have jurisdiction but Canada could ask the Americans to waive it.

The arrangement is reciprocal, so the same principles would apply for any Canada Border Services Agency officers performing pre clearance duties on U.S. soil.

A binational council of senior Canadian and U.S. officials will meet regularly to monitor implementation of the criminal liability framework, Public Safety says.

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Sgt. Don Murray, RCMP, Redwater, AB

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## You've got backup

There have been multiple police, firefighter and paramedic suicides across Canada over the last couple of years and the numbers appear to be increasing. This disturbing trend requires that we examine what is happening and how we can stop such tragic events.

Recent research shows that first responders have higher rates of PTSD than the general population and difficulties with depression, substance use, relationships and physical health. All of these issues raise the risk of suicidal thoughts, if not suicide itself. To be clear, there are more first responders with these issues that do not take their lives, so it should not be assumed that someone struggling will complete suicide or is thinking about it.

In general, there are several factors that lead to thoughts of suicide and some in particular for first responders. Risk factors include a sense of hopelessness or helplessness. Perhaps these feelings relate to a desire for relief from depression or PTSD and the belief that nothing will work. Suicide isn't about wanting to die but about not wanting to live in suffering. The psychological pain

is unbearable and seemingly never-ending.

Another risk factor is the level of emotional urgency. A person's risk goes up when they feel something must be done NOW to alleviate their suffering. They may have just received more devastating news, such as a denial of a benefit claim or that their partner is leaving. There is a push to do something. This is worsened by first responders' ready access to weapons, medications and other means to act on their impulse to do something to escape the pain.

The stigma of seeking help is a huge hindrance to getting relief from psychological pain. First responders believe they are supposed to be able to figure things out on their own.

Another reason they might not get help is because of fear a therapist has to report their mental health issue to the police, ambulance or fire agency. This is not the case unless very specific circumstances are met:

- 1) The therapist has been hired by the employer to evaluate the employee,
- 2) The therapy records are ordered by a court (adjudication of a claim against the

employer or pursuing benefits for a mental health issue), or

- 3) The employee is actively suicidal or is believed to be an imminent threat to self or others.

There are other exceptions to confidentiality which relate to the therapist's duty to protect a child, elderly person or vulnerable adult from abuse or neglect. I have seen first responders for a variety of issues and have never communicated anything to their employers. Thankfully, I have never needed to.

If in doubt, it is always a good idea to talk with the therapist about what might not be confidential from your employer since it depends on the nature of how and why you are seeing them. Most therapist have no affiliation with first responder organizations even if they do specialize in that population. Even those that are affiliated can explain what the confidentiality arrangement is to ease any concerns you may have.

Several organizations were created to help first responders, including TEMA Center Memorial Trust ([www.tema.ca](http://www.tema.ca)). It offers preventative education and connects persons across Canada in need of help with mental health professionals, works tirelessly to raise awareness of mental health issues in first responders and military members and advocates for their health.

Badge of Life Canada ([www.badgeoffecanada.com](http://www.badgeoffecanada.com)) is another great resource for connecting with support and learning more about the stories of persons who have struggled with mental health issues.

There are multiple grassroots organizations listed on the web sites of these organizations. They are made up of first responders who have struggled with their own psychological pain and those who specialize in supporting first responders (many are or were first responders themselves). *Blue Line* also provides a safe place for police officers to talk with other officers on a closed online forum, Broken Badge ([forums.blueline.ca](http://forums.blueline.ca)).

Even if a first responder is not seeking professional help, the information on these web sites could help them understand that they are not alone and that the intensity of what they are feeling will not last. It is also a good place for family members and retirees to find support.

If you, or someone you know, is having a hard time and could use some back up, there are many caring people who are willing to be there for you.

**Stephanie Conn** is a registered clinical counsellor and former communications dispatcher and police officer. To find out more visit [www.conncounsellingandconsulting.com](http://www.conncounsellingandconsulting.com) or email her at [stephanie@blueline.ca](mailto:stephanie@blueline.ca).

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# Edmonton Police use-of-force rate drops

By using their words, Edmonton police are using less force, due in part to training to deal with mental health act complaints.

A report presented to the Edmonton Police Commission on police control tactics shows the number of use-of-force incidents went up by 1.1 per cent from 2013 to 2014. In that time, the total number of calls climbed by 1.9 per cent to 242,481, where force was used in 2,047 events in the 40,776 arrests.

Insp. David Christoffel, officer in charge of professional development branch, said in the past couple of years there has been a

focus on mental health training to de-escalate the situation.

“There’s a real focus on engagement, creating a dialogue and de-escalating the situation,” Christoffel said.

Christoffel said cutbacks have led to more people in the community with psychological issues.

He said verbal communication is most used in mental health situations.

“If you use your wits, you can usually reason with people,” he said. “When I say the best weapon you have is your mouth and your ability to interact with people and de-escalate the situation, just calm it down.”

The most common occurrence where force is used are mental health act complaints with 141 occurrences, followed by assault to police with 130 occurrences.

Chemical spray as a method of control taking the biggest leap, due in part to events where multiple people were fighting.

Coun. Scott McKeen said given the

increase in population, the stability in the use of force shows discipline.

He added in single cases there may have been excessive use of force, but on the whole police are well-trained.

He added YouTube videos from the United States involving use of force can look alarming, but in some cases may be justified.

“As police have said to me, sometimes you’re in a fight for your life,” McKeen said.

He said the majority of people living rough on the streets are mentally ill and are often times self-medicating with drugs and/or alcohol.

“I think we’re seeing there’s much more care and attention,” McKeen said. “Police do a great job.”

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team investigates any event of a serious nature such as discharge of a firearm.

catherine.griwkowsky@sunmedia.ca



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# Back to the future

It's funny how things go in and out of style. When did cupcakes become such a hot item and whatever happened to fondue? There are skirt lengths and lapel widths, open concept kitchens versus formal dining rooms, aviator glasses versus the Harry Potter style...

Sometimes, there seems to be no reason like hemlines and lapel widths. It's just a fad or style, and things just sort of fade away for no particular reason. Even in psychology and medicine, things come and go.

Other times, changes have to do with increased knowledge and new evidence. There are things we used to think worked (blood letting or certain kinds of psychotherapies, for example) which turned out to be a bad idea. Sometimes, it is a little bit of both.

I was cleaning out my bookcase the other day and found a dusty old paperback book on assertiveness training crammed behind a stack of journals. I think that was all the rage back in the 1980s. The basic premise is that there are generally three ways of responding to challenging communications: be passive (wimpy; let the other guy have his way); be

aggressive (the hell with you I am getting MY way); or be assertive the middle ground where you stand up for your own point of view while also recognizing that the other person also has rights and does not deserve to be stomped on.

The term "Assertiveness" refers to the quality of being self-assured and confident without being aggressive. It is a way of expressing your opinion or wishes without stepping on the toes (or rights) of others.

I just had a quick look on the web site for [Megabookstorethatweallshoponline.com](http://Megabookstorethatweallshoponline.com) and was a little surprised to find that it still sells a few books on this topic. However, they all seem to advertise themselves as being aimed at wimps, passive people who have trouble standing up for themselves and let others walk all over them. Interestingly, it appears that one thing that might have been lost over time is the OTHER group of people traditionally targeted for assertiveness training, the aggressive person who walks all over others.

Why would you want to teach assertiveness to aggressive people? Because they tend to increase rather than decrease the level of aggression in those around them. In this context, when I talk about aggressive, I mean verbally aggressive: people who bully through language without using any physical aggression.

Verbally aggressive folks can enter a scene that might be a little unstable and turn it into a riot within seconds. It really is quite impressive, in a very counterproductive way! We all know people like this. They tend to make you want to do the opposite of what they say even when you might actually agree with them.

The same day I found the dusty old paperback book I also read an article in the Harvard Law Review<sup>1</sup> discussing how the "warrior mentality" in policing (as opposed to the "guardian" approach) may cause more problems than it solves. Author Seth Stoughton comments that there is much in the way we have traditionally trained police officers that tends to make them aggressive rather than assertive and that this is not without significant negative consequences. He notes:

*The people with whom officers interact must accede, respecting officers' authority by doing what they are told. The failure to comply is confirmation that the individual is an enemy for the Warrior to vanquish, physically if necessary and this creates avoidable violence.*

He also quotes former sheriff Sue Rahr, who is currently both the director of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and a member of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

"We do our recruits no favour if we train them to approach every situation as a war,"

she said. "To do so sets them up to create unnecessary resistance and risk of injury."

Stoughton is not an ivory tower academic but rather a former police officer. I am inclined to think he has probably been there/done that. His argument that we need to educate, indoctrinate and train officers a little differently is pretty compelling.

Rather than reminding them at every possible juncture that their lives are on the line and that in every interaction someone is likely aiming to do them in, it might be more productive to encourage a guardian orientation. The article provides some interesting examples of how to do this (I suspect nothing new to most readers, but worth being reminded of now and then).

Police are not, of course, the only people who need to exert influence or control over other people. Those of us who have been parents or guardians, know that sometimes you have to make people do what you think best even if they don't agree.

Most of us also learn that coming down like a ton of bricks usually does not get you the results you want in the end. There is no doubt police often have to take control of a situation and somehow get people to do what the officer wants, as opposed to what the person might want to do. There's the whole use of force continuum that addresses how one might best do that. However, while the model mentions "communication," it does not have a great deal to say about it.

The Harvard Law Review article was written in response to a distressing series of police-related events in the US this year that have made all of us really stop and think. In a rather convoluted way, it appears that this column is about change. In some ways, we need to go backward, while in other ways we need to go forward.

Sometimes we lose track of things that actually worked (why did we stop doing assertiveness training?) and sometimes we keep doing things that don't really work all that well (lots of people are rethinking that use of force model nowadays).

Other times the world changes and we need to adapt; is it time for the warrior to give way to the guardian? I guess this is where that essential competency of "continuing learning orientation" comes in. We really do need to keep evolving.

<sup>1</sup> [www.harvardlawreview.org/2015/04/law-enforcement-warrior-problem/](http://www.harvardlawreview.org/2015/04/law-enforcement-warrior-problem/)

Dr. Dorothy Cotton is Blue Line's psychology columnist, she can be reached at [deepblue@blueline.ca](mailto:deepblue@blueline.ca)



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# Guard your heart

by Rev. Walter Kelly

The Toronto Police Service (TPS) is blessed with exceptional equipment, training and officer mentoring. It has the Employee Family Assistance Program, the Shepell Family Assistant Services, peer support, psych services, great wages and benefits but I'm most proud of the chaplaincy program, which cares for spiritual and religious needs.

After more than 11 years as the TPS head Chaplain, I haven't seen it all but have walked with officers through the good, bad and very ugly. I have been with officers and their families as they buried a child, been charged with murder, investigated by the S.I.U. and by-passed in the promotion process.

I have celebrated their weddings, promotions, baptism of their children and the blessing of their homes. I have been there when a child was found and had the honour of being part of every ceremonial event that a service could have for its members. I have been on more than 350 ride-alongs, seeing shooting victims, drug busts and grow ops.

I've been on scene at sudden deaths, suicides, domestics, fires, break-ins, accidents and high risk take downs. I have officiated at the funeral of an officer killed on duty and supported the RCMP in Edmonton and Moncton when they buried their own. I have read the 'press' opinions and know their impact on our officers.

I know first hand the incredible pressures faced by our front line officers and their families, and have seen that pressure destroy individuals, marriages and families. Many became bitter and struggle with the meaning of it all. Some get hooked on alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Some, I'm sorry to say, have seen their lives as valueless and their worth meaningless, wrongly concluding that it would be better to take their own lives than to deal with their pain, losses and disappointment.

I believe that caring for the spiritual needs of our members goes right to an individual's core. When the core is healthy and good it will impact the rest of the person's life. Spiritual beliefs and values impact every other area of a person's life. Those with faith traditions and beliefs have values already learned... how to treat others. Their beliefs impact their moral and ethical behavior.

The problem in Toronto is that it only takes a few shifts before new recruits see and experience the dark side of the city. Every time I speak to a new recruit class I base my talk on this text:

*Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life – Proverbs 4:23.*

There is so much that we cannot control, but we can control our hearts. We can learn how to keep them from getting polluted,

ABOVE ALL ELSE  
GUARD YOUR  
HEART FOR IT IS  
THE WELLSPRING  
OF LIFE

damaged or hard. We must also learn how to share our deepest feelings the good and the bad with someone who cares about us. That could be our spouse, our partner, a parent or friend.

We have heard the saying; 'to thy self be true'. When we are honest about what we have seen, heard, read and experienced with someone who loves us, we keep our heart healthy. There is no shame in admitting that something has impacted you.

I also believe praying about something that's bothering us is of great help. God wants us to be healthy and strong from the inside out. When we can do this with our spouse, partner or friend,

our relationships will be better, our marriages stronger and we will have a better family life.

An officer told me after one very bad shift that all he wanted was to be held tightly by his wife... and she did. He was encouraged, loved and prepared to face another shift... all because he honestly shared with his wife. He looked after his own heart. You can be sure his marriage is still intact and others are glad to serve alongside him.

I'm sure that, like me, you know someone who is bitter, caustic, unhappy and miserable. It didn't happen on graduation day and my guess is that things aren't good at home. It likely happened over a period of time. Their heart got colder, harder and surrounded by a strong wall.

We have a personal responsibility to guard our own hearts. It's not always easy but policing is not always easy. We choose to do the right thing and that's the very best armour and protection that we can have.

The Rev. **Walter Kelly** recently retired as the TPS Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services. He and his wife Lynda live in Toronto.

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by Tom Rataj



# A big boost for public safety broadband

There was a long hoped-for announcement in the April federal budget; a commitment to reserve an additional 10 megahertz (MHz) of cellular radio spectrum in the 700 MHz band to expand the capacity of the proposed national public-safety broadband network.

This is in addition to the initial 10 MHz of spectrum previously committed to and reserved for the network. The budget also committed \$3 million dollars for 2016-2017 to help get the network started.

As I previously wrote in the April 2011 issue of *Blue Line*, reserving the 20 MHz for emergency services will provide us with the ability to use almost any mobile data and voice service.

The Canadian Tri-Services: the CACP, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) and Paramedic Chiefs of Canada (PCC) issued a joint statement welcoming and applauding the government for taking this “very important step in the right direction.”

“This network will significantly contribute towards supporting mission critical emergency management communication and interoperability between responder throughout North America,” wrote CACP President and Saskatoon police chief Clive Weighill.

“Co-ordinated public safety service in emergency situations will ultimately save lives.”

CAFC President Paul Boissonneault agreed. “Canadian firefighters, police officers and paramedics must have modern and reliable communication capabilities,

including high speed access to data and video, to communicate with each other across agencies and jurisdictions during emergencies.”

“This is an historic day for public safety in Canada,” said PCC President Paul Charbonneau. “This new capability will improve the ability of emergency responders to protect communities and save lives.”

The Tri-Service Special Purpose Committee was created in 2010 to raise awareness of the need and opportunity to reserve spectrum for a public safety broadband network. It lobbied all levels of government and urged all emergency services to raise awareness of the issue at the local, provincial and territorial levels.

The Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) also played an important role in advancing this issue across Canada.

Their efforts appear to have paid off, putting us on the way to a better communications world.

### Why 700 MHz?

The 700 MHz spectrum is so valuable because signals can travel extended distances while still penetrating buildings. Almost half of the 20 MHz spectrum was previously occupied by analog over-the-air (OTA) television broadcasts on channels 51 through 69. It became available when all OTA television went to digital in August 2011. The new digital channels were moved to a variety of other frequencies

more appropriate for stationary applications.

Some other portions of the 700 MHz band have already been auctioned off to Canadian cell phone providers during the intervening years, but the full 20 MHz portion now committed to the Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network remained available.

Most Canadian cell network providers already operate portions of their highest speed LTE (Long Term Evolution) cellular data networks in the 700 MHz band, and most recently released smartphones able to operate in the band, so many civilians are already enjoying the great performance that it offers.

In real-world conditions, LTE typically provides twice the data throughput of the previous generation HSPA+ (3G) technology. In addition, the next generation of digital cellular voice communication, Voice over LTE (VoLTE), is already in the test phases. It works similar to wired VOIP phones, but uses LTE to transmit and receive digitised voice communications.

An additional advantage, as alluded to by Weighill, is that this slice of the 700 MHz band will support communication and interoperability throughout North America. This is because our US colleagues already have the same spectrum reserved for the very same purpose, which should substantially improve the ability to (eventually) establish cross-border co-operation and operations.

### Moving data

The capability to transmit large amounts of data at high speeds between emergency services personnel in the field and management will offer numerous advantages.

Operational efficiencies, effectiveness and safety will be greatly improved because so much data (including audio and video) can be readily shared through a high-quality, high-speed connection virtually anywhere.

Police personnel in the field will be able to use many new and advanced services not previously available in the mobile environment. Live 2-way video feeds between vehicles, boats, and helicopters and command centres offer almost endless possibilities. Video from officers wearing body-worn video cameras could also become available as would video feeds from UAVs.

With advances in personnel tracking and health-monitoring, police and fire services would be much more capable of tracking all personnel. First responders could see the locations of every one on scene and receive floor-plans, hazard information or aerial video from aircrafts.

Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel could also have live two-way communications with trauma centres, sending live patient-health data and receiving patient records while underway.

### More money promised

Two other police related items were also in the new budget.

In recognition of the unique policing environment in Ottawa, the budget proposes an extra \$10 million over five years to the Ottawa Police Service. With all the federal landmarks and institutions in the capital, the OPS likely encounters service demands beyond the normal municipal mix so the added funds would be useful. I suspect the additional money is in response to the terrorist incident in 2014.

Another \$1 million was reallocated to fund the federal share of a memorial in Moncton, NB, commemorating the murders of RCMP constable David Ross, Fabrice Gevaudan and Douglas Larche in June 2014.

Public safety and personnel safety should benefit greatly once all the components of this network are in place. All agencies should start planning now so they are ready to implement great solutions by the time it goes live.

While the budget has yet to pass as presented, the potential is great.

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Tom Rataj is *Blue Line's* Technology columnist and can be reached at [technews@blueline.ca](mailto:technews@blueline.ca).

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## LETTERS

Loved the article in the April issue of *Blue Line Magazine* (We need an Amish judge or a new court system). The question is, who has the leadership skills/abilities/ambition (balls) to do something about it? I look around at what passes for leaders nowadays and I don't see very much. Thanks again, keep the articles coming!

*Cornelius T. Gutter*  
Toronto, ON

...

I read your article in the January 2015 Edition of *Blue Line Magazine* entitled "The Pristine Beauty of Traffic." I worked in a Metro Toronto Police traffic unit for 11 years. I should add they were the happiest years of my career. Some officers were suited for it, while certainly many others were not.

Ah, yes. The good ole days!

Been retired now over 25 years, and still have not bought the farm. The January issue was given to me, but tomorrow I will start a subscription.

Great magazine!!

*Don Stiles*  
Toronto, ON



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# ITO contents not to be viewed in isolation



A judge reviewing a search warrant is not to re-hear the warrant and decide whether it should have been issued.

In *R. v. Whalen, 2015 NLCA 7* two confidential informants stated that Denise

Whalen was selling prescription drugs, including Ritalin, morphine and OxyContin, from her home. They told police that people came to her front door to buy pills, completed the transactions very quickly and then left.

The sources gave the prices charged for the pills, told officers how she acquired them and that they were kept in a locked safe in Whalen's basement.

Source A – a paid informant and admitted drug user with no criminal record who had provided information for one month, resulting in one arrest – said Whalen lived at the address with “Billy,” who had facial tattoos and kept his bluish/grey Montana van parked in front of the house.

Source B, a drug user with a criminal record (but no dishonesty or deceit offences) reported seeing 10 to 15 drug transactions shortly before the search warrant was issued. A confidential police informant for approximately 2.5 years, the source met weekly with police, providing intelligence about criminal activity on a regular and ongoing basis consistent with information received from others.

Source B had been paid for past information that had led to between five and 10 arrests but there was no evidence of any resulting convictions.

Police immediately set up surveillance and observed short visits by no fewer than eight people to the home over a 92 minute period. Officers confirmed from a police database that Denise Whalen lived at the address with William “Billy”

Whalen, who had facial tattoos. Surveillance confirmed that he kept his bluish/grey Montana van parked in front.

Police set out the information from the two confidential informants, described as reliable, and from surveillance in an ITO and were given a search warrant under s. 11 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. As a result, both Whalens were charged with drug offences.

At trial, a Newfoundland Provincial Court judge reviewed the warrant and concluded there was insufficient grounds in the ITO for it to be issued. He ascribed little weight to the information from source A because of limited past performance (only for a month) and insufficient familiarity to provide the Whalen surname. It was also unclear how the source came upon the information or knew the drugs and cash were locked up in a basement safe.

Although the information regarding the reliability of the second source was stronger, it was still insufficient to provide a valid basis to issue the search warrant. Despite some corroboration of Denise Whalen's residence by independent police database searches, surveillance had not yielded any probative evidence of illegal activity.

In quashing the warrant, the judge noted it was not possible to infer that two of the four females sighted entering or leaving were other than residents and there was no corroborative evidence of illegal activity involving Denise Whalen.

The Crown appealed to Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal. It argued the trial judge erred in concluding the issuing judge had insufficient information for reasonable grounds that an offence had been committed and that evidence would be found in Denise Whalen's house.

A search will be “reasonable” under s. 8 of the Charter if it is authorized by law, the law is reasonable and the search is conducted in a reasonable manner. When a search warrant is properly issued the search is authorized by law and presumed to be valid unless the accused demonstrates its invalidity.

Justice Barry, speaking for the unanimous court, stated the test for reviewing the validity of the search warrant was as follows:

*In reviewing whether a provincial court judge properly issued a search warrant, a reviewing judge must ask whether the accused has shown that there was no justifiable basis according to law upon which the authorizing judge could have granted the warrant. In the present case this question comes down to whether the accused has shown that the authorizing judge did not have sufficient credible information before him to establish reasonable grounds to believe that drugs were being trafficked from the Whalen residence at the time of issuing [para. 18].*

The concept of “reasonable grounds to believe” is “the point where credibly-based probability replaces suspicion.” Grounds for a search must go beyond subjective belief and mere suspicion; it is one of “reasonable probability” rather than “proof beyond a reasonable doubt” or “prima facie case.”

A judge reviewing the issuance of a search warrant is not to substitute their own view for that of the issuing judge and should show a high degree of deference by determining whether they, on the basis of the record, could have granted the warrant.

“A reviewing judge does not conduct a rehearing of the application for a warrant,” said Barry. “The test is whether there was reliable evidence that might reasonably be believed on the basis of which the authorization could be issued.”

In assessing reasonable grounds, the totality of circumstances in the ITO are to be considered as a whole, not by “parsing and microscopically examining the words, phrases or paragraphs in isolation.”

Three concerns arise when reviewing the sufficiency of information set out in an ITO: was the information predicting the offence compelling, was the source of the information credible and was the information corroborated by police investigation? Corroboration or confirmation of the offence itself is not required.

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In this case, the information provided by source B was compelling because it provided specific and convincing detail regarding Denise Whalen's drug trafficking activity, including what she was selling, where and how she sold it and how much she charged. The credibility was strong.

*The source of the knowledge is the personal observation of "B." Indicia of the reliability of "B" are past performance over 2½ years as well as consistency with information obtained by police from other sources and, to some extent, consistency with searches of police data bases and with the brief surveillance.*

*In addition, the information supplied by Sources "A" and "B" provides some corroboration for each other's statements [paras. 40-41].*

The credibility of source "B" was also enhanced by certain corroborative information. Although the information from the first source was less reliable, there was some corroboration because of the similarity of the information regarding the types of drugs, how they are sold and where they are stored. Further:

*There is also some corroboration from the comings and goings during the police surveillance, consistent with the brevity of the transactions described by the sources, even allowing for the fact that much of the activity may have been nothing more than that of a normal household. At least four individuals made visits to the Whalen premises of such a short duration as to be consistent with the sources' statements regarding the type of activity they observed.*

*Some further corroboration of neutral facts came from the police search of databases, where the information of the sources regarding the address of Ms. Whalen was confirmed, as well as the presence of Mr. Whalen and his vehicle [para. 43].*

The trial judge substituted her opinion for that of the issuing judge rather than asking whether there was a basis to issue the warrant. The court concluded there was sufficient information in the ITO, in the totality of the circumstances, to establish reasonable grounds to believe that drugs would be present at the premises on the day the warrant was executed.

The reference by both sources to drugs and money being kept in a safe in the basement, and the specific details regarding types of pills, moved the corroboration evidence beyond "general public knowledge."

It was also a reasonable inference, from the information that Denise Whalen kept her stash "topped up," that illegal prescription pills would be found.

*Source 'B' supplied information which, considered with the other information, reached that point and permitted the authorizing judge to conclude it was sufficient to establish reasonable grounds to support issuing a search warrant, said Barry.*

*There was sufficient credible and reliable information in the ITO to justify the provincial court judge finding reasonable grounds to believe an offence was being committed and that evidence of that offence would be found at the specified time and place.*

The trial judge erred in quashing the search warrant, the warrant was valid, there was no Charter breach and no basis to exclude the evidence found in the search. The Crown's appeal was allowed and the matter was remitted for a new trial.

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# Police overstepped authority in G20 stop & search

Ontario's highest court has declared that police violated a would-be protester's rights by stopping him and requiring he submit to a search before proceeding.

In *Figueiras v. Toronto (Police Services Board)*, 2015 ONCA 208, the applicant, carrying a backpack, and some friends went downtown to demonstrate in support of animal rights during the second day of the 2010 G20 Summit. Protests had become violent the previous day.

A group of several police officers stopped Figueiras and his friends as they walked about one city block north of a security fence set up to enclose the summit site. The officers told them that if they wanted to cross the street and go any further, they would have to submit to a search of their bags.

Figueiras' companion's bags were searched but he refused, saying he had nothing to hide and regarded the request as a violation of his civil rights. At one point, the officer said, "Either we look through it, or you can go. What's it going to be?" When the applicant stated "I don't consent to a search," the officer stepped forward, wrapped his arm around Figueiras' shoulder, gripped him firmly by the shirt, pulled him in so they were face-to-face, and said "You don't get a choice."

The officer then pushed Figueiras away and said, "Get moving." Other comments made by officers included, "There's no civil rights here in this area. How many times do you got to be told that?" and "This ain't Canada right now." Figueiras eventually gave up his plans to demonstrate and went home.

Figueiras applied for declarations in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice that the police officers had violated his rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and liberty under *subsections 2(b) and (c)* and 7 of the Charter and that the officer grabbing him had committed the tort of battery.

Although it was agreed the officers had no statutory authority to demand the applicant consent to a search, the judge nevertheless dismissed the application. He found the police conduct in targeting demonstrators walking down the public street and requiring a search of belongings to proceed was authorized as an ancillary police power.

The police conduct in question fell within the general scope of the police duty to preserve the peace and their power to cordon off the area to protect the foreign dignitaries. As for their conduct in fulfilling these duties, the judge



found it was reasonably necessary.

Tailoring the searches to only suspected demonstrators rendered the police intervention minimally intrusive and not an abuse of authority, he said, analogizing them to those carried out at courthouses and airports.

Finally, the alleged battery was de minimis (trifling) at worst and, in any event, was justified under *s. 25* of the Criminal Code, which permits police to use "as much force as is necessary" in the course of their authorized duties when acting on reasonable grounds.

Figueiras appealed the dismissal of his application to Ontario's top court, maintaining that police violated his Charter rights to liberty, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

## Ancillary powers doctrine

The Ontario Court of Appeal first noted that the common law imposes police officers with broad duties, such as preserving the peace, preventing crime and protecting life and property, as well as powers ancillary to those duties. However, those powers are limited.

Police action must be reasonably necessary in all of the circumstances to carry out the duty. In determining whether police conduct interfering with a person's liberty falls within a common law ancillary power, the courts utilize what is known as the two-part Waterfield test:

1. Does the police conduct in question fall within the general scope of any duty imposed on the officer by statute or common law?
2. If so, in the circumstances, did the execution of the police conduct in question involve a justifiable use of the powers associated with the engaged statutory or common law duty? The competing interest of the police duty

and the liberty interests of the individual must be balanced.

The court framed the police power exercised as "the power of individual police officers to target demonstrators and, where no crime is being investigated or believed to be in progress, but with the intention of preventing crime, to require that they submit to a search if they wish to proceed on foot down a public street."

The liberty interests at stake were identified as "the freedom of expression under the Charter and the common law right to travel unimpeded down a public highway."

The parties agreed that the officers' conduct fell within the scope of the police duty to preserve the peace and prevent damage to property or persons. However, the court disagreed with the application judge that the police conduct interfering with Figueiras' liberty was necessary for officers to carry out their duty in keeping the peace. First, the power police used was not effective.

"Effectiveness in the context of police powers is not measured by whether a risk does or does not in fact materialize," said Justice Rouleau, speaking for the court. "Rather, the effectiveness of a given power is determined by considering whether, objectively, the measure serves to materially reduce the risk of a breach of the peace."

The police team only targeted those who appeared to be protestors, stopping only 70 to 100 of the thousands of people downtown that day. Furthermore, any would-be troublemakers turned back could have taken a different route to get to the security fence.

Second, the warrantless weapon searches of only those appearing to be demonstrators were not rationally connected to their purpose of keeping the peace:

- It was unclear whether the previous day's violence at the summit was initiated by demonstrators or others who had infiltrated and mixed with groups of demonstrators.
- The previous day's violence was not limited to the area near where the officers were but occurred throughout the downtown core.
- The previous day's violence did not involve using weapons that might be secreted in a backpack. Rather, uprooted newspaper boxes, street signs, sandwich boards and bricks pried loose from a paved boulevard were used.

Nor were the stops analogous to searches at courthouses. Unlike these searches,

courthouse searches are statutorily authorized, require everyone entering submit, are publicized in advance, do not occur on a public street and do not target identifiable groups.

Rouleau also found the application judge erred in the Waterfield balancing exercise. For example, he equated minimal impairment on Figueiras' rights by only considering the amount of people targeted by police (only apparent demonstrators) rather than minimizing the impact on those targeted:

*The fact is that for a demonstrator such as Mr. Figueiras, the impairment of his rights was in no way lessened because the officers had determined to interfere with only the rights of people "like him." The number of people who are the target of the intrusion is reduced, but the intrusion felt by each target is neither minimized nor reduced.*

*The officers not only stopped and questioned would-be protesters, they also insisted that these would-be protesters submit to a search if they wished to proceed, regardless of the answers they gave in response to the officers' questions. Additionally, it is arguable that by targeting demonstrators and making it known that only demonstrators were being stopped and searched as a condition of passage, those stopped might justifiably feel an even greater sense of state interference, since they knew they were the only ones being targeted.*

*The decision to target demonstrators in no way lessens the impairment of Mr. Figueiras rights [para. 24].*

As a result, the court concluded that "the police did not have the power to target apparent demonstrators and require that they submit to a search in order to continue down a public street."

The interference with Figueiras' liberty was not prescribed by law and therefore s. 1 of the Charter could not be used to justify the breaches.

### **Battery**

As for the police officer reaching around Figueiras and pulling him in, this was more than "de minimis" touching, like tapping a person on the shoulder to get their attention. The tort of battery – intentionally applying unlawful force to the body of another – had been made out.

The contact "was the kind of unnecessary manhandling that, in my view, would offend the dignity of a person and serve to intimidate that person," said Rouleau. Since the officer had no statutory or common law authority for his action, s. 25(1) of the Criminal Code could not protect the officer in using force and shield him from civil liability.

Figueiras' appeal was allowed and the court declared that police violated his common law right to travel unimpeded on a public highway and his Charter right to freedom of expression. It also declared that the tort of battery had been committed against him.

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## DISPATCHES



Supt **Greg Mills** from Durham Regional



Police is leaving the job after 43 years of policing. He is the last of the initial six recruits who joined the newly-formed service in 1974. Mills joined the Metro Toronto Service first — in 1972 — when he was 20. Then in January 1974, the seven police services in Durham Region at the time amalgamated to form a single force and a decision was made to add some fresh young faces to the existing 224 officers.

...

**Mark Saunders** named Toronto's chief of



police the first black officer to lead the \$1-billion force. He is a 32-year veteran of the force. He currently heads the special operations command with its 1200 officers and 164 civilians, which includes the homicide squad, sex crimes unit, and guns and gangs task force.

...

**Bryant Wood** is Port Hope's new police



chief. Deputy chief, he was appointed acting chief last September. While Wood credited the former chief, Kevin McAlpine as well as his fellow police officers, supervisors and family for

helping him get to his current position during his 22-year career in policing.

...

**Gary Conn**, currently serving as deputy chief



with the Chatham-Kent Police has been announced as the new police chief. Board members were unanimous in their decision and believe they hired a solid administrator and people person to lead the organization in the years to come.

...

Deputy Chief **Adam Palmer**, a 28-year



veteran of the Vancouver Police Department has been named Police Chief. He began his career with the VPD in 1987 and spent the first 13 years working as a patrol officer in east Van-

couver. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2010 and is was most recently assigned to the Investigation Division, where he is responsible for all investigative areas of the VPD including major crime, special investigations, organized crime, forensic services and more.

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## Canadian police connect with Jamaican charitable organizations



From left to right: Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) A/Commr. Kevin Blake, RCMP S/Sgt. Dave Rampersad, Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis, JCF Commissioner Owen Ellington (now retired) in Jamaica.

Forty volunteers affiliated to Canadian Police Services arrived in Jamaica on a humanitarian mission offering assistance to Missionaries of the Poor and the Jessie Ripoll Primary School in Kingston.

Four members of the group, all with Jamaican roots, headed by Jamaican-born Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis, voiced great optimism and satisfaction at being able to assist.

“We want to give back, we want to share the knowledge we have gained in Canada,” said York Regional Police (YRP) D/Chief Andre Crawford, also Jamaican-born.

According to Crawford, assistance to the Jamaican cause started some time ago through another officer who was killed in a car crash in Canada.

“Knowing his legacy and what he was passionate about, the York Regional Police decided to take on the effort with the same passion,” Crawford said.

“Since then, we have been coming down to assist. We’ve been coming here for the past seven years to support the Missionaries of the Poor at Mount Tabor. We come down and build chicken pens, whatever we are able to do. Two years ago we installed solar panels at the mission,” said Crawford.

The other two guests, YRP inspector Keith Merith was born in England to Jamaican parents and Toronto Police Service inspector Sonia Thompson, was born in Canada, also to Jamaican parents.

“One of the exciting parts about coming back to Jamaica is actually doing the humanitarian mission at Mount Tabor,” said Merith,



Insp. Keith Merith D. Chief Andre Crawford Insp. Sonia Thompson

who added that he visits relatives here at least three times per year.

“Last year I had an opportunity to meet with Father Ho Lung and we spoke extensively about the challenges, [so] it was incumbent on me to go back and engage other members to become part of that and bring more people down,” Merith said.

Meanwhile, Chief Clunis said that the choice of Jessie Ripoll Primary School for assistance came through interaction with the Canadian High Commission in Kingston.

“We didn’t want to come here and start our own thing; we wanted to join people here, so we liaised with the high commission to identify initiatives we could work on locally,” Clunis said.

Work includes painting of the school, installation of an air-conditioning unit and refurbishing of the library and is scheduled for completion before Saturday, the day before the 40-strong contingent is scheduled to return home.

“This effort is 100 per cent self-funded, each member of the 40 of us paid our own way,” Chief Clunis said.

“This is my vacation,” Crawford interjected.

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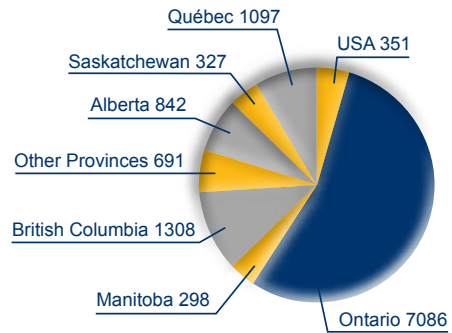
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