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K. McCASKILL - G. SHUMACHER - J. CHAPUT

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THE VIOLENCE WHICH GOVERNED THE ORDERING OF THE COLONIAL WORLD, WHICH TIRELESSLY PUNCTUATED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INDIGENOUS SOCIAL FABRIC, AND DEMOLISHED UNCHECKED THE SYSTEMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, LIFESTYLES, AND MODES OF DRESS, THIS SAME VIOLENCE WILL BE VINDICATED AND APPROPRIATED WHEN...THE COLONIZED SWARM INTO THE FORBIDDEN CITIES.

FRANTZ FANON (1963)



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Teens charged in jogger's hit-and-run

Last Updated: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 | 2:26 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Winnipeg police have charged three teens in connection with a hit-and-run that sent a jogger to hospital and stunned city residents last week.

A 49-year-old man suffered serious head injuries after being hit while jogging on Wellington Crescent.

Several other joggers reported close calls with the same car, and Sgt. Doug Safioles said another person has reported being hit.

"Another victim came forward who was struck by the vehicle prior to the gentleman who suffered the serious injuries," he said.

"We still have to conclude our interviews with him [but] it's the same morning, the same area, the same car, right before it happened. He suffered bruising to his left hand and his left side."

Three days after the joggers were hit, police arrested the three teens after a high-speed race in the East Kildonan area of Winnipeg.

Police believe the group had stolen five vehicles that night.

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'Sick game'

After reviewing the evidence, Safioles said, police and prosecutors decided not to lay charges of attempted murder in the case.

"It's pretty clear that they didn't try and put the person in the middle of this car and run them down," he said.

"It looks more like it was some sort of sick game where you might just want to hit them with the mirrors. There's no indication that either person ... was hit in the centre of the vehicle, where someone was trying to deliberately run them down, as opposed to strike them with the vehicle."

One 16-year-old has been charged with two counts of driving dangerously causing bodily harm,

driving while suspended and several other offences, in connection with the incident on Wellington Crescent.

Safioles described the teen as a "high-risk" car thief who was on probation and had been missing for weeks.

Another 16-year-old faces charges including driving dangerously, theft over \$5,000, joyriding and possession of break-in tools, while a 13-year-old has been charged with theft over \$5,000 and joyriding.

Police say they expect to lay more charges against the teens.

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Teen girls pose as officers, steal car, Winnipeg police say

Last Updated: Monday, October 15, 2007 | 4:00 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Two teenaged girls are accused of impersonating police officers to steal a man's car in an odd carjacking in Winnipeg on Sunday.

A 46-year-old man was sitting in his truck in a parking lot near on the corner of Burrows Avenue and McGregor Street, in the city's North End neighbourhood, early Sunday morning, when two teens approached the truck, police said.

The suspects identified themselves as police officers and directed the man to get out of his vehicle.

When he did so, the suspects bound his hands, raided his pockets and assaulted him, then drove off in his truck, police said.

Eventually, the man freed himself and called police. The stolen truck was later stopped by officers, who arrested the driver and a passenger.

Winnipeg police spokeswoman Const. Jacqueline Chaput said police aren't sure why the man listened to the teens.

[Continue Article](#)

I don't know what the circumstances were and why he felt compelled to do it. Probably, because they did state they were police officers," she said. His decision to listen to the girls was the right one, Chaput added. "We don't know if they were armed, or what could've transpired if he'd refused."

A 16-year-old girl has been charged with robbery, forcible confinement, driving without a licence, impersonating a peace officer and drug possession.

A second teen, age 15, has been charged with robbery and driving without a licence.

Manitoba reserve fires child-welfare workers

[Band councillors take over social work duties](#)

Last Updated: Friday, November 9, 2007 | 5:53 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

A Manitoba First Nation has kicked child-welfare workers off the reserve, saying its members are tired of their heavy-handed efforts.

Two hundred members of the Bloodvein First Nation handed a petition to their band council in late October, demanding Southeast Child and Family Services workers be ordered off the reserve.

On Oct. 31, the reserve issued a memo to families and foster parents saying the "Bloodvein supervisor and CFS band workers have been relieved of their duties and responsibilities as per band council resolution."

Coun. Stella Keller told CBC News that too many children were being taken into care and shipped off the reserve.

"They approach families and they tell them, 'Well, you know, we can just take your kids, just like that,' and to me that's a threat," she said.

"CFS is not only there to apprehend kids. CFS should work together with the health programs to have intervention, prevention, and this wasn't really happening."

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Chief Craig Cook said he opposed firing the workers, but he was outnumbered and had to carry out the wishes of council.

"The CFS staff were doing all they can to confront the issues that plague our children," he said.

"A lot of times our young parents will utilize the funds like the child tax benefit, the welfare payments, to support some of their habits — binge drinking, alcoholism — negative habits that go on in our community."

The band's four councillors have taken over child-welfare duties — including family visits, foster-care payments, local business payments, children in care and all court proceedings — for now.

Keller acknowledged that the replacement workers, herself included, are not qualified social workers and have little information about children in care or at risk in the community.

However, she said, "I've lived here all my life. I know the families."

Parenting skills lost, says father

John Cook, a father of five on the First Nation, had mixed feelings about the firing of the CFS workers. "A few" children on the reserve could be at risk, he said.

"The majority of the problem is alcohol, I believe, and neglect," he said. "Parenting skills, I think, were lost a long time ago during the residential [school] programs, where our kids were taken from our homes and never learned to parent."

Keller said she hoped the reserve will remain peaceful over the upcoming long weekend, since none of the councillors handling child-welfare cases will be in the community for the weekend.

If trouble erupts, she said, the community will have to handle it.

Officials with the Southeast Child and Family Services authority did not return calls from CBC on Friday.

Southeast CFS is run by aboriginal people under a provincial policy launched five years ago in the hopes of increasing social workers' sensitivity to the needs of aboriginal families.

About 600 people live in Bloodvein, an isolated reserve located 200 kilometres north of the province's capital on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.





Second-last Regina jail escapee captured in Winnipeg

Last Updated: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 | 6:25 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Five of six men who escaped from the Regina Correctional Centre last month are back in custody. Daniel Wolfe, centre, was arrested Wednesday in Winnipeg, but police are still looking for Ryan John Agecoutay. A photo of Kenneth Lee Iron was unavailable. (RCMP Saskatchewan/Canadian Press)

An escapee from a Regina jail who was apprehended Wednesday night in Winnipeg had the help of a network of gang associates during his month on the lam, according to the woman behind the wheel when he was recaptured.

Daniel Wolfe, 32, was arrested in Winnipeg, where he is being held by local police, the RCMP said.

He was the second-last escapee on the loose after a jailbreak at the Regina Correctional Centre on Aug. 24.

'I just helped him out with whatever he needed help with.'—*Daniella Bevacqua*

Wolfe, who is from The Pas, Man., is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted murder in a violent home invasion in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., in 2007. He is known to have ties with the Indian Posse street gang.

Daniella Bevacqua, who was driving the car Wolfe was in when he was arrested, told CBC's Karen Pauls that Wolfe is like a brother to her and she'd do anything to help him.

Bevacqua was charged with aiding and abetting, and obstructing justice.

"I stick for them. Those are my bro's," she said. "They've always protected me, and I protect them."

Bevacqua, 25, said she's "an associate," not a member of the Indian Posse, but the gang network helped Wolfe stay ahead of the police during a massive search.

She would not say where Wolfe had been staying, or whether he had ever been on the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, near The Pas in northern Manitoba, where RCMP evacuated an apartment block earlier this week after receiving a tip.

When they stormed the building, Wolfe was not there.

"Every time I took him, I dropped him down the street and I don't know where he went after that," she said. "I just helped him out with whatever he needed help with."

Caught at gas station

Bevacqua picked up Wolfe and several other people Wednesday afternoon, but soon realized she was being followed by the police, she said. She wouldn't say where they were coming from or where they were going.

"I pulled into the gas station, then all of a sudden — boom boom — they all came out, came with their guns and stuff and took me and Danny," she said.

"I'm very mad, very disappointed. I wish it didn't happen tonight, anyways, you know — bad timing," she said, adding that she believed he had been planning to leave the city very soon.

"I didn't expect that I was going to get caught with him, you know. I thought maybe he was going to get caught on his own, but that's just the life. I chose to help them out, you know," she said.

"Life goes on. He'll be out one day, that's for sure. Won't be in there forever."

1 man still at large

Shortly after Wolfe's arrest, officers surrounded an apartment block in downtown Winnipeg.

At least one person was taken away in handcuffs, but police spokesman Const. Jason Michalyshen said police are still looking for Ryan John Agecutay, 25, the last escapee still at large.

"We received some information regarding an address at that location but ... I'm not going to get into details," he said.

Agecutay had been committed to stand trial for aggravated assault.

Police had described both Wolfe and Agecutay as armed and dangerous.

Six men smashed a hole through a wall of the Regina Provincial Correctional Centre on Aug. 24. One was caught a short time after fleeing.

The other escapees were Preston Clarence Buffalocalf, 22, Cody Dillon Keenatch, 19, James Joseph Pewean, 25, and Kenneth Lee Iron, 23, who was quickly recaptured.

The province of Saskatchewan has set up a contact line to gather information on what led to the escape. Callers will not be required to identify themselves.

The phone number is 1-866-999-4644 and will operate until Sept. 26.





Faron Hall said Geraldine Beardy was lost after her boyfriend died in the river. (GORDON SINCLAIR JR. / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS)

Gangs, rap music consumed teen's life

Wed Dec 5 2007

By Gabrielle Giroday

[A tragic end to troubled life](#)



Nathan Aaron Starr, the baby-faced teenage boy who died in a North End house fire early Tuesday morning, was no stranger to violence. Earlier this year, he was hospitalized for two weeks after a vicious stabbing. It's believed the Mountain Avenue home had been firebombed.

FAMILY members remember Nathan Aaron Starr as gentle and funny.

Like other 14-year-old males, he'd ride his bicycle with friends for hours, or tease his three sisters aged 17, 13 and 11.

Sometimes, he'd have a sleepovers at a friend's house and grab his bike parked in the hallway of his mother apartment on his way out, scuffing the floor and walls.

Food choice? He loved hamburgers, family members said.

"He liked playing with his nephew," said Kim Daniels, his mother. "He wrestled with him and tickled him... he was a good uncle."

However, there was another side to Starr that was related by his 15-year-old best friend. The youth said he met Starr last year on the same street where his pal would later die.

The two forged a bond because they both enjoyed rap music from Fifty Cent and Akon. and Tuesday around 1 a.m. The teenager said he spoke to Starr for the last time, Tuesday around 1 a.m., and Starr used his cellphone.

"He was out of minutes... he said he was going to call me back in an hour," said the 15-year-old, who said he was recently released from the Manitoba Youth Centre.

His hand is tattooed with the initials MOB -- an expression he said stands for Most Organized Brothers. The group is named after a reference to a song by late rapper Tupac Shakur.

The boy said he was a member of the gang and, when asked if that meant he was part of the violence that gang culture involves, the boy affirmed in a monosyllable that he was. Then offered no explanation. The gang has been linked to at least a dozen shootings in late 2006 and early 2007 in a turf war with the more-established street gang Indian Posse. The 15-year-old said he never heard from his friend again, until he received a phone call from his weeping 14-year-old female friend who lived in the house where Starr was crashing. "That's my best friend," he said. "I met him last year... ever since I've been hanging out with him."

When asked about the goals the two of them had for their future, the 15-year-old said he didn't know.

"We didn't talk about that kind of stuff," he said. "We'd just chill, and all that."

gabrielle.giroday@freepress.mb.ca



Teen accused of trying to drown Mountie

Last Updated: Monday, October 22, 2007 | 9:40 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

An 18-year-old man is facing a long list of charges amid allegations he tried to drown a Mountie on the Peguis First Nation Saturday.

RCMP said the officer was trying to arrest a man Saturday afternoon when the man pushed the officer into a water-filled ditch and held his head under the surface.

A bystander pulled the man away from the officer, RCMP said. An off-duty auxiliary officer arrested a man trying to flee the scene.

The suspect faces charges of aggravated assault, assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, escaping lawful custody, possession of a dangerous weapon and other offences.

The Peguis First Nation is located about 170 kilometres north of Winnipeg.



Snowball fight ends in stabbing

Last Updated: Friday, February 8, 2008 | 8:46 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

Police are investigating a stabbing in west Winnipeg Thursday night that appeared to develop from a snowball fight.

Police said a group of children were throwing snowballs at a house in the 1000 block of Isbister Street, in the Assiniboia neighbourhood, around 8 p.m.

A 37-year-old man came out of the house to get the children to stop, police said, and ended up being stabbed.

The victim was sent to hospital and is in stable condition.

Police have not made any arrests.



Police seeking identity of man who jumped from bridge

Last Updated: Friday, January 25, 2008 | 3:01 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Local police are asking for the public's help in identifying a man who jumped to his death from a bridge in north Winnipeg Thursday morning.

Project tackles high amputation rates for aboriginal diabetics

Last Updated: Thursday, October 18, 2007 | 12:28 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Health officials are working to determine why aboriginal diabetics in Manitoba are much more likely to have a limb amputated than other people with the disease.

The rate of diabetes among aboriginal people in the province is four to five times higher than the general population, says Tracy Scott of the Ontario-based St. Elizabeth Health Care, which is conducting the study.

But aboriginal diabetics have amputation rates as much as 23 times higher than non-aboriginal diabetics, she says.

"It could be toes, it could be feet, it could be legs, it could be up to your hip. Often what happens then is it ends up in the alternate leg, so then you end up losing your second leg as well.

"We're trying to understand why. Although the diabetes rates are higher ... the amputation rates are exponentially higher. We're trying to understand why that is."

Officials with the project believe the higher amputation rates may have to do with longer wait times for treatment or a lack of availability of early treatment in First Nations communities.

Mabel Lena Horton, who is co-ordinating the project with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, says losing a foot or leg can have devastating consequences for people living on reserves.

"By the time they go home, there's no services there. There's no wheelchair access buildings, and then they still have to come back to Winnipeg, and it disrupts the whole family," she says.

"If it's wage earners, then of course they lose all that stuff. So, yeah, a huge impact on everybody, including children and families. Everybody."

Horton expects the project to come up with ways to prevent amputations.

The 18-month project, which began in April, will develop an approach to prevent, treat and care for foot ulcers in diabetics living in First Nations communities.



Winnipeg house crashes into neighbouring home

Last Updated: Friday, September 28, 2007 | 3:57 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

A small house crashed into another house in a bizarre accident in the West Kildonan area of Winnipeg Friday afternoon.

Robert Mazur said he was sleeping at around 12:15 Friday afternoon when he heard a loud rumble that sounded like a low-flying plane

Friends 'hit hard' by death of teen gunshot victim

Last Updated: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 | 8:33 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

A 13-year-old boy killed by gunfire in Winnipeg on the weekend was a "pretty good guy," a friend told CBC News.

Harley Gustafson, 15, said he lived a few doors down from the slain boy, who he knew as Cody or White Boy.

He had known the boy since 2000, he said.

Cody was found with a gunshot wound, in a back lane in the West End early Saturday morning. He died Monday.

He was a "pretty good guy," Gustafson told CBC News on Monday evening. "He wasn't that bad, he didn't do much crime. He's, you know, just a normal guy."

On Friday evening, Gustafson said, he and Cody and several other friends were hanging out in the neighbourhood. Gustafson left to find some alcohol for the group, he said, then decided to call it a night instead of returning.

[Continue Article](#)



"Next thing you know, my buddy's dead. Just like that," he said.

"I'm asking all his friends, and they said the last they seen him was that Friday. The next thing you know ... all of a sudden homicide [investigators] are at my house. I say, 'What the hell?' and they're telling me that my buddy's dead. And right there, it just hit me hard."

The group of teenage friends enjoyed gathering in the neighbourhood to play "manhunt," a variation on tag, Gustafson said. They plan to offer their condolences to Cody's family on Tuesday.

"We're going to gather up the friends and drop off some flowers, pay our respects to him," he said.

Cody attended Gordon Bell Off Campus, a program for students who have trouble in a traditional high-school setting, Gustafson said. To his knowledge, his younger friend was not involved in gangs.

Winnipeg police have not identified any suspects or made any arrests.



'Nobody deserves to die that way,' dad says of teen hit with Taser

Last Updated: Friday, July 25, 2008 / 7:02 AM CT [Comments208](#)[Recommend51](#)

[CBC News](#)



'Nobody deserves to die that way, no matter how many problems you had,' Brian Minchin told CBC News Thursday. (CBC)Michael Langan, the teenager who died after police zapped him with a Taser, may have been a high-school dropout who wandered the streets of Winnipeg's inner-city core, but he didn't deserve to die like that, his father says.

"Nobody deserves to die that way, no matter how many problems you had," Brian Minchin told CBC News on Thursday.

Minchin is still struggling to cope with his 17-year-old son's death Tuesday following an altercation with police officers in a back lane in the city's core.

Police say they pursued the teen into a back lane after reports of a smashed window on a Lexus, then zapped him with a stun gun when he refused to drop his knife.

Langan was rushed to hospital in critical condition but died soon after, marking the 22nd stun gun-related death in Canada since 2003 and the first for the Winnipeg Police Service since they began using the device in 2006.

'I have nothing'



'That was the only thing I had in my life is my son. He's gone. I have nothing,' Minchin said. (CBC) Sitting on the peeling wooden steps of his inner-city rooming house, where Langan lived with him for the past three weeks, Minchin says he still can't believe his son is dead.

"That was the only thing I had in my life is my son. He's gone. I have nothing," Minchin chokes up, his eyes red-rimmed and his face unshaven.

"I love my son so much, he always used to say, 'I love you, old man.' That's what he'd call me," he sobbed.

While he acknowledges he was no model father and his son was no angel, Minchin was proud of his son.

He said his son likely broke into the car to steal some money, perhaps for alcohol. "Teenaged kids, they do stupid things," he said.

But using an up to 50,000-volt electronic stun gun on his 145-pound, five-foot-four son was excessive, he says.

The teen's father is convinced that Langan would have put down the knife he carried for protection if the officers had continued talking with him.

"If they would've talked to him longer, he would've put the knife down eventually," he said.

"There was no other thing they could've done. Wrestle him, tackle him to the ground, do something else, man," the father said.

Police say it's unclear what caused Langan's death. Autopsy results are pending.

Chief wants all the facts



'This is a very tragic event, there's no doubt about it,' Winnipeg police Chief Keith McCaskill said at a Wednesday press conference. (CBC) Winnipeg police Chief Keith McCaskill said the force plans a "complete and thorough investigation" of what transpired during the confrontation between officers and the teen.

"It's really difficult for me to make judgments on anything until I have all of the facts," McCaskill said in a hastily called news conference Thursday.

One of the questions the force will be looking at will be whether it was appropriate to deploy the electronic stun gun.

An investigation into why a Taser was used will be turned over to another police agency for a complete review before it is sent to an external Crown attorney, McCaskill said. A public inquest will also be held.

Meanwhile, Minchin plans to go panhandling so he can try to get enough money to buy new shoes and a suit for his son's funeral.

The date of the funeral has not yet been confirmed.

Last Updated: Friday, January 25, 2008 | 3:01 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Local police are asking for the public's help in identifying a man who jumped to his death from a bridge in north Winnipeg Thursday morning.



*Winnipeg Police released this photo of a pair of shoes believed to belong to the man.
(Police handout)*

The man was walking east on the north side of the Kildonan Settlers Bridge on Chief Peguis Trail around 8:45 a.m.

Police say he jumped over the side of the bridge into the Red River.

The ice on the river gave way, and the man slipped into the water and was carried away by the current. He is presumed drowned.

[Continue Article](#)

Police were in the area at the time to investigate an early-morning shooting on the bridge, and the man was in some of their photographs. Police released one of those photos, as well as a photo of the man's shoes, in an attempt to identify him.

Investigators said they do not believe the man had anything to do with the shooting.

According to police, the man was possibly Métis, five foot eleven inches tall with a medium build and medium complexion.

He was wearing an orange and red, two-toned winter jacket, blue jeans, white socks with grey bottoms and white running shoes.

He also appeared to have an iPod or other music player with white headphones with him, police said.

Anyone with information on the man is asked to contact police.



Winnipeg Police released this photo Friday of an unidentified man they say jumped from the Kildonan Settlers Bridge Thursday morning.

(Police handout)



Hundreds of children are being sexually exploited throughout Manitoba right now. The risks are huge and the impact is devastating. Many victims struggle a lifetime to recover—some don't survive.

The **Stop Sex with Kids** campaign is part of the [Manitoba Strategy](#) to address child sexual exploitation.

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william vivas

hello: I follow this campaign in our newsletter Vision Hispana, so our community can be aware what is going on, but, at the same time, I see the Provincial government is acting little preoccupied about punish the criminals, there is a case of one guy who has been abusing kids for 18 years, one of the victim already testified, and is still waiting for the judge decision, since november, the criminal is free, everybody knows him well, but, the judge not see anything wrong yet, until january 19, meanwhile, the victim is struggling with the situation, not actin as a normal person, he is now 20, that happens in 2002, there are so many cases like that, I wish to have some meeting to press the government to release names of the criminals in public and give them the real punishment before we give our own justice.... please reply and give some opinion.



\$\$\$\$\$'s Wall-to-Wall with \$\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$

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\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Gordon Bell High School) wrote
at 9:53pm on September 27th, 2007

party and stuff are born xoda,

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\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Winnipeg, MB) wrote
at 9:49pm on September 27th, 2007

may be if u come oout this weekend wit me i wil stay next one at home

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\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Gordon Bell High School) wrote
at 9:43pm on September 27th, 2007

thats all u good for, drunk and girls.....just stay home for once on weekends....

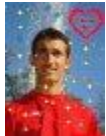
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\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Winnipeg, MB) wrote
at 9:40pm on September 27th, 2007

oh ok wel 2morow we can play cuz im gena be home early i think so yah any plans for the weekend get drunk and get some chicks and u know what to do :P

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\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Gordon Bell High School) wrote
at 9:37pm on September 27th, 2007

OC again?.....we played for about an hour, we started around 7 ur car was home.....but probably busy watching that show

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\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$ (Winnipeg, MB) wrote
at 9:35pm on September 27th, 2007

look whos talkin and i came late from work and when i was outside no one was ther so i came home and watched some tv

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\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$ (Gordon Bell High School) wrote
at 9:33pm on September 27th, 2007

jealous of what, there isnt anything good on ur page, what happen to u today we had a good game of football but u didn't come

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\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$ (Winnipeg, MB) wrote
at 9:29pm on September 27th, 2007

are u jelous faraj or watt cuz i dont think u like anythin i have on my wall come on faraj u dont have to be like that show some love man and dont be haten playa

[Wall-to-Wall](#) - - [Message](#)



Bad buzz from Mosquito

Bad buzz from Mosquito

Posted 1 year ago

Recently, teens hanging around Portage Place Mall may have been compelled to leave by an irritating ring, or buzz, or some such noise in the back of their heads. The explanation? An audio-oriented can of Raid applied to the teen set.

The "Mosquito" is a small white box that has been in use in thousands of locations in the United Kingdom and is available for sale in Canada and the United States. One is currently mounted on the outside wall of the downtown Winnipeg mall, as a means of getting rid of youths who loiter around the building, emitting an irritating noise which can supposedly only be heard by teenage ears.

The device works by emitting the noise at a frequency adults cannot hear, as the ability to detect high frequency sounds deteriorates with age.

The sound emitted by the mosquito is tuned to a frequency that generally can't be heard by people over 25 years old.

My teenage years aren't terribly far behind me, so I'm not sure if I took this device in the spirit it was intended (I took it as hilarious).

Teenager repellent? Is this what a serious country does? It seems like a long way to go to try and shoo away an entire group of people based on a broad assumption which, in 2008, we should frankly have moved past by now.

Advertisement

The device isn't entirely new, having been the subject of debate in England for years now, including whether or not the use of the device constitutes a human rights violation, since it indiscriminately emits its high-pitched buzz at youth regardless of whether or not they are doing anything wrong.

The Mosquito is determined to keep away those trouble-making kids, with their baggy pants and their rock n' roll music. But it's a machine and machines tend to break. What if it gets knocked down? What if it short circuits? Perhaps plan "B" involves posting a mall employee to walk in circles by the front entrance, banging pots and pans together, or maybe we can play this thing old school and have old man Harrison run out there to chase away the ruffians, his rake raised high in the air.

The problem with the Mosquito isn't necessarily how it works, but rather its target. Curtailing loitering is not uncommon among business owners or operators, but narrowing it down to teenagers is shortsighted. Do they alone get blamed for loitering, for taking up space or maybe even making others uncomfortable? As far as I know, adults are just as capable of sitting around in front of a door for long periods of time as anyone else. However, they seem to get a pass on this go-around, and the Mosquito comes to represent yet another case in which the good are lumped in with the bad based solely on details that can be called, at best, superficial. Just like adults, not every teenager is standing in front of a mall, or a storefront, or another public building for insidious or criminal reasons. Then again, if that notion isn't clear by now, we can't assume it ever will be.

The Mosquito's buzz doesn't even seem to be as uncomfortable to teens as they say it is. The technology designed to annoy the world's young has already been harnessed by them ? a report from May 2006 by GadgetSpy explains

teens have learned to use the mosquito's buzz as a way to circumvent policies on cell phone use, creating a ringtone from the buzz for cell phones so they can be left on unbeknownst to their instructors.

I'm sure that with ingenuity like this, it won't take long for teens to find out their Mosquito problem is resolved easily enough by pulling out their mp3 players the next time they hang out at the mall.

It is true that some people choose certain spots to gather before they do something which is unlawful or anti-social, but the answer isn't to try to pin down one demographic to blame and try to drive them off with high-falutin' noise pollution. We live in a society that preaches "innocent until proven guilty" so let's try, for once, avoiding the assumption that the kids out front are up to no good, and let's try to avoid carrying out sentences before the crime is even committed.



Body found in Winnipeg club's ducts

Last Updated: Wednesday, April 2, 2008 / 1:17 PM CT [Comments9](#)[Recommend37](#)

[CBC News](#)

Police and firefighters were called to an Osborne Village social club Wednesday morning after a body was found in the building's ductwork.

Six years ago, the decomposed body of a missing DJ was discovered between the walls of a nightclub in the same neighbourhood. Police believed the man became wedged in the area on his own; foul play was not suspected. The nightclub, the Village Cabaret, has since closed. The Barca Club was among three social clubs raided by police in the summer of 2007 during an investigation by police and the Manitoba Gaming Commission into poker tournaments. More than 60 people were charged with gambling offences.

Poker tournaments must be licensed in Manitoba and only charities and religious groups can profit from the events.

Bob Dylan turns up at Neil Young's childhood home

Last Updated: Monday, November 10, 2008 / 4:16 PM ET [Comments84](#)[Recommend210](#)

[CBC News](#)



Bob Dylan turned up at Neil Young's teenage home in Winnipeg.

(Jeff Christensen/Associated Press)

John Kiernan, who occupies Neil Young's former Winnipeg home on Grosvenor Avenue, never imagined another famous musician would show up at his door. Kiernan told CBC News on Monday that he was looking out the window a week ago Sunday and saw his wife talking with two strangers on the front lawn. "And I'm looking around, and I realize, this guy having a tuque on has really great boots on, these sort of cowboy, motorcycle boots. And he was wearing really nice leather pants. And I realize I'm staring face-to-face with Bob Dylan." After the music legend and his manager were invited into the house, Dylan asked a lot of thoughtful questions, including about Neil Young's old bedroom. "OK, so this was his view, and this was where he listened to his music. It suddenly dawned on me, when you're looking at Bob Dylan standing in a hallway, that he had a very parallel experience 200 miles to the south, sitting in his room, listening to his music, looking out his window." Dylan grew up in Hibbing, Minn., about 500 km southeast of Winnipeg, while Neil Young spent his formative high school years playing in Winnipeg rock band The Squires. Kiernan said Dylan and his manager visited for a while before heading off to tour other areas of the city. Dylan then played a concert at Winnipeg's MTS Centre later that night, Nov. 2.

City, neighbours fight changes made to Winnipeg apartment block

[Extra walls, smaller kitchens create rooming house, says city](#)

Last Updated: Friday, November 9, 2007 | 11:03 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

The City of Winnipeg says it will take legal action unless major changes are made to what it calls an illegal rooming house in the city's north end, even as the province continues paying rent for people living in the apartment block.

Peter Wessner bought the apartment block at 135 Bannerman Ave. a few years ago. It's zoned for apartments, 11 suites in total.

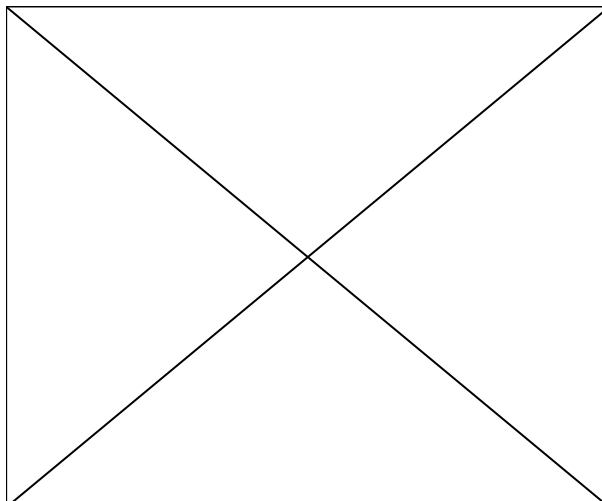
But Wessner has made some changes to the suites, installing new partition walls to create more bedrooms and taking out full kitchens and replacing them with what he calls "galley kitchens" with a sink, microwave and bar-sized fridge.

Wessner told CBC News the maximum occupancy of any unit is "however many" people the tenants want.

"Sometimes they sleep in the bathtub. Sometimes they hang from hammocks. It depends on what the tenants' want is, once they rent their suite," he said.

People in the neighbourhood — and city officials — say the building is operating as an illegal rooming house, and it should be closed or changed back to its previous state.

[Continue Article](#)



Rooming houses must be licensed by the city and require zoning and fire-department approval.

The City of Winnipeg gave Wessner until Nov. 1 to return his buildings to their original use as single-family apartments.

Wessner argues they're still single-family apartment, and says he's not changing anything.

'Voluntarily associated'

Wessner admits his tenants have different relationships from those normally seen in apartments, in that they are not related by blood or even friendship.

"They're voluntarily associated, which fits the definition of a family," he said. "I would define it as a bunch of people that are voluntarily associated. I don't think there's a DNA or a matrimonial requirement... you voluntarily agree to share the suite, like I did with my high school buddies."

Many of the tenants are on some form of government assistance because they have emotional, physical or intellectual disabilities, says Bob Jones, who has lived on Bannerman Avenue for more than 30 years.

"They're high-risk residents, let's not kid ourselves," he said. "Are we going to wait for somebody get attacked? They're already wandering in people's yards and banging on people's doors. Do we want that to happen?"

Other neighbours told CBC News about tenants from the building panhandling, asking for cigarettes, defecating in the back lane and following neighbours near their vehicles.

"I'm not against them. I'm against the way it's being operated," Jones said. "We are not a community that's expert in these kinds of people. These people need someone there 24 hours a day, looking after them, almost being a house-parent."

COLUMNISTS

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

A 'mom' to her street family Homeless knew who victim really was

By: [Gordon Sinclair Jr.](#)

24/09/2009 1:00 AM | [Comments: 3](#)

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Faron Hall said Geraldine Beardy was lost after her boyfriend died in the river. (GORDON SINCLAIR JR. / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS)



[ENLARGE IMAGE](#) 

Geraldine Beardy: maternal presence (TREVOR HAGAN / FREE PRESS ARCHIVES)

I only knew Geraldine Beardy by name.

But I sensed it was her as soon as the *Free Press* website reported a woman by that name had died mere days after a corner grocery store owner allegedly assaulted her because she shoplifted food. She had to be the same Geraldine Beardy, 29, who earlier this month was on the riverbank as she watched Faron Hall, known as the Homeless Hero, rescue her female cousin from drowning in the Red River.

But Faron was not able to save Geraldine`s boyfriend, Chris Harper.

A call to her family confirmed that the Geraldine Beardy who died is the same Geraldine Beardy who watched her boyfriend die just eight days before the incident at OK Groceries.

As I was saying, I only knew her by name.

It was Faron Hall -- and the other people of the city's streets -- who knew who she really was.

"ö "ö "ö

It was after six p.m. Tuesday when I found her street friends where they usually are around that time.

At the McDonald's Restaurant near the St. Boniface General Hospital.

Faron wasn't there yet, but his sister was. So was a 28-year-old squeegee guy who goes by the name Zone, and sleeps in a nearby "garbage box," as he calls it.

Both had heard about the storekeeper who had been charged with aggravated assault, and the female shoplifter who died.

But they were shocked when I told them who the woman was.

Geraldine and her boyfriend, Chris Harper, had only been in the city a week before he drowned. Faron had invited them to stay with him in his Manitoba Housing apartment across from the McDonald's.

Zone recalled how Geraldine reacted after Chris's body was pulled from the river.

"She was broken, she was alone. She said, 'What am I going to do? What am I going to do?' "

What she did was hit the streets and found family with the homeless.

It's not that she didn't have family of her own, but Zone said her three children were in Garden Hill and she was in Winnipeg for medical tests.

Something serious, Zone sensed, that was to do with her pancreas.

It seems that Geraldine treated the homeless friends she found in a maternal way.

"She took care of me," Zone said.

Geraldine was only a year older.

"She was a very, very sweet lady."

All the street people gathered Tuesday night at McDonald's for the impromptu wake -- "Baby Girl," Peter and the rest -- agreed on that.

"She would give you the last two dollars out of her pocket," Zone said.

In fact, that last time he saw Geraldine two or three weeks ago, that's exactly what she did for Zone.

"We bumped into each other last time. She bought me a hamburger."

"She had a lot of problems," Zone added. "But she was an angel."

On the night she went into the OK Groceries -- on Sherbrook Street, just three blocks north of the Health Sciences Centre -- Geraldine might have been on one of her missions to help someone in her new street family.

The store owner told me Wednesday it wasn't just one can of \$3.29 Klik he caught her trying to steal. It was two.

And two sandwiches.

"ö "ö "ö

Faron Hall called me Wednesday morning.

But I was already on my way to McDonald's again to look for him.

We sat together on the patio and he wept while remembering a phone call he got from Geraldine about a week and a half ago.

"She phoned my place from right here," Faron said, motioned toward the restaurant.

"I dropped off a couple of hoodies just to keep 'em warm."

That was the last time he saw Geraldine.

"She was the nicest, caring person. After Chris died she was lost," Faron said, echoing Zone.

"Drinking everything and anything that contained alcohol.

Faron was still having nightmares about not being able to save Chris Harper from drowning. Now Geraldine had drowned in a different river, in a different way.

"Do you know what happened?" Faron said, in an anguished voice. "They came in from Garden Hill. And you know what? The city ate 'em up. That's what happened. The city of Winnipeg ate 'em up."



'To forget and forgive'

JOE FRIESEN

Globe and Mail Update

January 15, 2008 at 1:25 PM EST

ROSEAU RIVER, Manitoba — Shirley Littlejohn lives on the Roseau River First Nation, about 80 kilometres south of Winnipeg.

She was born in 1947 on a reserve that sits in the flood plain between the Red and Roseau Rivers, just east of the highway that runs from Winnipeg to the U.S. border.

She's the matriarch of her family, a mother of four, grandmother of 20 and a great-grandmother of five. Her face is round and she speaks softly, often pausing a long time between words.

Her life story, though unique, is also representative of many themes that emerge from the 2006 census on aboriginal peoples.



[Enlarge Image](#)

Shirley Littlejohn stands in front of a wall of family pictures at her home in Roseau River (*Globe and Mail/John Woods*)

Videos



[A portrait of circumstance](#)

Shirley Littlejohn's struggles in Rouseau RIVER



Her living room overflows with photos of a growing, young family. As a grandparent, she has several times acted as the primary care giver to a grandchild. Members of her family have died young, an all-too common occurrence in a population where life expectancy is substantially lower than the national average. Her formal education ended at age 12, a legacy of the damage done by residential schools, but she strongly encourages the younger generation to pursue their studies. She also believes the traditional Ojibway language will die with her generation, because she has been unable to pass it on. Finally, she lives in a house she doesn't own, whose condition embarrasses her, and which she thinks contributes to her ill health.

Ms. Littlejohn, 60, shares her home with her common-law husband John Johnson, 66, and three grandchildren. Her granddaughter Melissa, 19, has lived with her for a little more than a year. Melissa's parents live only a few hundred metres away on the reserve, but she prefers living with her grandmother because the house isn't as crowded. Norvin, 19, is Ms. Littlejohn's grandson and Melissa's cousin. "His dad lives in Winnipeg and his mom's in Pukatawagan. I raised him since he was a baby," Ms. Littlejohn said. Another grandson, 12-year-old Steven, also lives with Ms. Littlejohn, and until a week ago she had a granddaughter's young family under her roof, too, but they were able to move to a new trailer on the reserve. "All my life that's what I know how to do is look after kids. I love kids," she said.

She gave birth to her first child at 19, and had five more over the ensuing years. Two died; one at just two weeks old, the other, a 17-year-old son, was killed in a fire that destroyed her home on the reserve. It's a painful memory, and she still wakes in the middle of the night panicked about the sound of the fire alarm. Growing up on the east side of the reserve, known as Roseau Rapids, Ms. Littlejohn was the youngest of seven children. Only she and one other sibling are still alive.

She was taken away to residential school as a young girl, and spent three years in Portage La Prairie and two years in Brandon, Manitoba. The schools were awful, she said, the hardest thing she's ever been through in her life. In Brandon, when she was 12, she was in a class with a cousin who was sick and was constantly in trouble with the teacher.

"My cousin would sleep in school, he would sit down and sleep right away, and the teacher would grab his hair and pound his head right down on the desk and say "Get up you lazy Indian. Go stand in the hallway,"" she said. Her cousin's health worsened until one day he pulled her aside, even though they weren't allowed to speak to each other, and pleaded with her to write to her mother. "He said write a letter to Grandma that I'm sick," she said. "That's what he told me, I'm very sick. I said 'I know you're sick' So that day I wrote a letter to my mum and I told [her] that he was very sick and that they were beating him up instead, pounding his head on that desk. Just before Christmas he fell down when we were having fun, and they rushed him to the hospital. He never came back. He died in the hospital. I've never forgotten that. I never forgot what he asked me to do. But my letters were all ripped up." That was the last year she spent in formal education. Her mother received a letter from the boarding school saying she had been

expelled and would not be allowed to attend any other school in the province. "I wanted to go back to school because I was one of the smarter kids in class, too. I wanted to become a teacher. I wanted to go to school so badly," she said.

It's a painful memory for her, one that has influenced everything in her life ever since. Asked about her hopes for the future, she said: "Just to forget, and forgive." Ms. Littlejohn wonders if she had become a teacher whether she might have been able to pass on the Ojibway language her parents spoke. It's taught as a second language at the reserve school, but her grandchildren can't speak it much more than to count to 10.

"I try [to teach it] but it doesn't work, because they're always talking in English," she said. "It's already gone. Gone for good. There's only a couple families that are teaching their kids." On a reserve where the chief says unemployment is more than 75 per cent, Ms. Littlejohn said she is fortunate enough to have worked all her life. She now has a housekeeping job at the seniors home. With the exception of a few years spent in Winnipeg living with a sister when she was a teenager, she has lived all her life on the reserve. Despite the greater opportunity that might be available in the city, she hasn't been tempted to move, she said.

"We were talking about leaving but we decided not to. We got too many of our kids here," she said. But life is far from perfect on the reserve. Her home, provided by the federal government and maintained by the band, is a major source of unhappiness. For the first three years she lived there, the heating didn't work. She heated the whole house with the kitchen stove, she said. Even now, the heat is sporadic, she said, and every year the basement floods with a foot of water.

If she could change one thing in her life, it would be the floor in her home, which is scarred with deep holes. "It embarrasses me all the time. When we have people [over] we have to move carpets to hide everything," she said. She also believes the powder emitted by the eroding floors contributes to breathing problems, something everyone in the house is suffering from, she said.

"We have asthma. I'm losing my voice," she said. Pointing to the holes she added, "it comes off when you sweep the floor, that dust." Many of her windows are boarded up, and none of them open. If she slams the door, the boards can fall out, she said. She worries about her granddaughter as she tries to avoid hanging around the kids who want to drink and smoke drugs, and she worries about the terror of local youths who last year broke into several homes and torched them, just for fun. There's always someone home at her house for that reason, she said. But despite her anxiety, Ms. Littlejohn was optimistic about the future. Things are getting better. Just last month she gathered her entire family around her Christmas tree and, with the money from her residential schools compensation, bought magnificent gifts for all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It was the happiest moment of her life, she said.





[African Gangster Will Be Reformed: Mother](#)

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THE headlines about young African refugees being deported for committing crimes don't tell the whole story, says the mother of one young man facing deportation.

Elizabeth Aluk expected great things from the first son born to her and her husband in their village in southern Sudan, so they named him Mandela.

When they arrived in Winnipeg as refugees nine years ago and Mandela Kuet was a little boy, it was a dream come true. Now Kuet, 22, faces deportation back to Sudan because he has a criminal record.

Aluk agreed to talk to the Free Press because she wants people to know that it was never supposed to end up like this.

"We're not here to harm—we appreciate Canada, and it's good when we can come together," said the 43-year-old woman with five children who now works with recent newcomers helping them avoid the pitfalls. The former primary school teacher from the southern Sudan village of Rumbek said they hit the ground running when they arrived in Winnipeg as refugees in 1998.

Within the first year she had a job at Palliser Furniture, doing shift work on weekends and evenings. She worked part time at a second job as well.

"It was hard but I was happy. I'm working, earning something, I feel I'm somebody supporting my family," she said. "I have a big family here and I was supporting my family back home," she said during an interview in the tidy North End home they've lived in since their arrival.

At that time, there was no talk of "African gangs" or much in the way of services for war-affected families starting to arrive here.

She had no idea that one of her kids would end up in a worse predicament in Winnipeg than he ever faced as a refugee fleeing Sudan or scraping by in Cairo, Egypt.

"For me as a mother here, I faced the challenge of 'you don't know who is around.'"

Mandela and his dad argued. The teenager rebelled, and when he turned 18 his dad kicked him out of the house, Aluk said.

"He ended up in the wrong crowd ... Those people were there waiting for him like a lion."

When Kuet was among a handful African refugees issued a deportation order in Winnipeg this year, his mother was stunned.

"He's not a fighter. He was smart in school. He's kind with a soft heart."

Aluk said she went "crazy"—unable to sleep and a zombie at work, ruining 300 units of furniture, mindlessly drilling holes where they didn't belong.

Kuet's crimes—possession of a weapon and personation—are two Criminal Code violations that make him “inadmissible” to Canada.

His immigration lawyer said he's eligible to appeal it because he is a Canadian permanent resident whose prison sentence was two years less a day.

Things such as strong family ties, overcoming the problems that landed them in jail in the first place and a work ethic are some of the factors they can look at, Edward Rice said.

“It's like putting someone in the desert,” Aluk said of sending her son to the devastated country he left as a little boy.

He's waiting for his release from jail in Headingley in November then planning to work at a factory in south Winnipeg and appeal his deportation order.

“He has a chance to change,” Aluk said. Meanwhile, she's taking advantage of a second chance for herself.

She's going to school to get her Canadian high school equivalency while she's laid off from Palliser. She works part time for Manitoba's largest refugee settlement agency Welcome Place helping Sudanese newcomers avoid the pitfalls she knows all too well.

“I don't have the money to buy my kids bling, bling, bling,” she said. Lacking spending money for extras and a sense of belonging, refugee kids are seen as easy targets by criminals.

“There are a lot of problems with drugs and gangs,” she said. “These things are growing ... We can do something as parents.”

Now separated from her husband, Aluk said she's keeping a close eye on her children and helping to raise three of her younger brothers and an in-law's niece. Some of them are taking part in an after-school program offered to at-risk kids by the NEEDS Centre for War Affected Families.

“When we were newcomers, we didn't get these kinds of services with life skills. I want to help my people ... Back home everybody takes care of everybody. I know there's nobody who's going to help me in this mess.”

Nobody comes this far to throw it all away, Aluk said.

“I'm sorry for the choices some of our children are making. But I believe Mandela one day will restore himself. I will support him to the end of my life.”

Youth detox centre plans move to larger permanent facility

Last Updated: Tuesday, October 9, 2007 | 9:54 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

Officials with Manitoba's Youth Addictions Stabilization Unit are moving ahead with plans to double the detox centre's size by building a \$1.5 million permanent facility for patients admitted both voluntarily and involuntarily.

The five-bed secure drug stabilization facility for youth opened last November to deal with minors whose parents used a new law to force their children into drug treatment.

Since then, parents have obtained 135 court orders to send their children to the centre, which is run by Marymound, a non-profit agency.

A warrant for detention must be issued before they can start treatment, even though some teens want to be admitted voluntarily, said Marymound executive director Ian Hughes.

"We've had situations where the parent has gone through the process and then they're sitting at the kitchen table with their child and saying, 'Johnny is ready to come in,' and you know, we still have to say, 'You still have to get the police to pick him up,'" Hughes said.

"It doesn't feel good for anybody, and if you're wanting help and then the only way you can get it is to be brought in the back of a police car, it's a bit counterproductive."

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The new 10-bed facility will offer spaces for both voluntary and involuntary admissions, Hughes said.

The detox centre is located in a house on a busy corner off Main Street in northern Winnipeg.

"We're in a three-storey, 100-year-old house, nominally air-conditioned," Hughes explained. "It's more complicated than it should be, basically, to live there."

Some children have been ordered to the centre more than once; most stayed the mandatory full week, officials say.

A new location has been selected for the facility, but it is not being revealed until people in the neighbourhood are notified and community consultations take place.

Hughes is optimistic the community will be sympathetic.

"I know that these guys come in and they sleep and they eat — that's about all they do — and then they leave," he said.

"That's not the image that Joe Public has around kids and drugs, and so the challenge is going to be to convey that image and then help people achieve some level of comfort around that."



Inquest report urges more help for sexually exploited teens

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 | 2:51 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Tracia Owen hanged herself in a garage in Winnipeg's West End neighbourhood in August 2005.

Owen had run away from her child-welfare placement and had been smoking crack cocaine in an abandoned garage on Victor Street with another teenage friend in the hours before her death, according to the inquest report.

The next day, another friend came by and found Tracia hanging from a rope.

An inquest report released Thursday into the suicide of a 14-year-old Manitoba girl two years ago recommends improvements to the child-welfare agency and sweeping efforts to combat child sexual exploitation in Winnipeg.

The inquest heard Owen was first apprehended from her parents when she was two months old and moved more than 65 times through a variety foster homes, group homes, a drug treatment facility and her biological parents' home over the next 14 years.

She was returned to her family in Little Grand Rapids, an isolated reserve on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, at least 17 times, "depending upon the alcohol or domestic abuse problems [her parents] were facing," the report says.

Owen a 'typical' exploited teen

People who worked with Owen suspected she had been sexually abused. She had abused solvents and was considered a "high-risk" placement; her behaviour was often described as aggressive, violent or out-of-control, leading to difficulties placing her in the child-welfare system.

[NatNews-north] Grieving her 11-year-old daughter's suicide

Don

Fri, 07 Oct 2005 08:10:35 -0700

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Grieving her 11-year-old daughter's suicide
Father's brush with police, bullies' taunts and threats to her new puppy
gradually sapped a Winnipeg girl of the will to live
By JULIUS STRAUSS
Friday, October 7, 2005 Posted at 4:07 AM EDT
>From Friday's Globe and Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20051007.wxsuicide1007/BNS/story/Front/>

A family photo including Christina Beardy's daughter - Kathleen Beardy, bottom left. Photo: Ruth Bonneville/The Globe and Mail

Winnipeg - For 11-year-old Kathleen Beardy it was all simply too much.

First she watched as her father Kelly was handcuffed and dragged from the family home by two police officers.

Then she was forced to endure the seemingly endless taunts of neighbourhood bullies in her tough Winnipeg district.

Finally, her delight when she bought a small puppy for \$2 turned to dismay as bullies made off with her new pet, telling her they would sell it.

Sapped of the will to live, last Saturday evening Kathleen climbed onto a pile of gravel and, looping the puppy's leash around the low-lying bough of an elm tree, hanged herself.

At first, when her friends saw her, they thought she was fooling around. "Come down, the joke is over," one of them cried to her.

It was only as they came closer they realized what she had done and began to scream in terror. One of the neighbourhood toughs even tried, and failed, to untie her.

By the time her mother, Christina Beardy, arrived several minutes later,

Kathleen was dead.

"The police were there," Ms. Beardy said. "They asked if I was family but I didn't know who they were talking about. When I realized it was Kathleen there I just starting shouting 'Oh please no!' "

At the very least the tragedy of Kathleen Beardy is a terrible insight into the brutality of life on the streets of Canada's inner cities.

According to local media reports, both her mother and father were remanded by police early last week, leaving Kathleen and four other siblings in the care of her pregnant sister Beverly, 17, for several days.

But what has made the case overtly political is that Kathleen's family said the girl had witnessed the allegedly brutal and unwarranted arrest of her father a week before her death, which sowed the seeds of her mental torment.

Ms. Beardy said: "It's what the police did. Kathleen told her friends, 'I'm not going to get to see my dad any more, it's because of those cops.' In her child's mind she thought she would never see him again. It's only us adults who know that those walls can't hold you forever."

The story resonates in Winnipeg's tough north end, home to the largest aboriginal community in the country. Locals have complained for years of police discrimination and brutality.

The Winnipeg police refused to comment on the incident yesterday, other than to acknowledge a complaint had been received and an investigation was being conducted by the internal Professional Standards Unit.

The family says Mr. Beardy, 37, was sleeping when two police officers forced their way into his house on Sept. 23 and told him he was being detained on charges of breaking and entering.

One of the officers punched Mr. Beardy on the chin, the family says. When daughter Beverly rushed to help, the family says, an officer twisted her arm.

Mr. Beardy, out on bail this week, said: "When they came through the door one of them said to me: 'Guys like you don't belong in Winnipeg. Go back to your reserve.' Then one of them just hit me on the chin. They shouldn't have done that in front of the kids."

Mr. Beardy says that when he got to the police station, the beating continued.

According to a complaint filed by his lawyer even before Kathleen's suicide, still handcuffed, Mr. Beardy was tripped by one of the police officers. Falling

hard on the prison floor and with no hands to break his fall, his nose shattered and blood began pouring out. He then says he was kicked in the head.

Mr. Beardy needed treatment at the city's Seven Oaks General Hospital that night.

His lawyer has since filed charges against the police for brutality and wrongful arrest. After Kathleen's suicide, the family says it is also planning a third charge - that the police behaviour contributed to their daughter's death.

Patrol Sergeant Shelley Glover of the Winnipeg police said it could be weeks or months before the result of the investigation is known, and it is unclear whether it will ever be made public.

Mr. Beardy remains under house arrest pending a trial date set for next month. The only exemption is that he will be allowed to attend his daughter's funeral today.

After the injuries, he complains of increasing headaches and pains in his legs. The skin is still missing from his knees and pictures held by his lawyer show abrasions to his upper body.

Meanwhile Ms. Beardy has spent the week struggling to arrange Kathleen's funeral. The cost of the service is a little more than \$5,500 but she said so far she has only raised about \$1,600.

"I asked provincial welfare for help but they said they only provide money for food and shelter, not for grieving," she said.

On Tuesday, Ms. Beardy took her children to dress Kathleen's body.

They tied a sash to her forehead, coloured her lips with gloss and pulled on her favourite dancing dress.

The family also made a collage of photographs of Kathleen's short life. One showed her standing next to a frozen Lake Winnipeg smiling. Another showed her at a bible school.

While searching for more photographs, Ms. Beardy came across Kathleen's status card.

"She was proud to be an Indian and very interested in our traditions," Ms. Beardy said. "She believed in both aboriginal culture and the Bible.

"She loved going to church."

In keeping with her Christian faith, Kathleen's body was laid out in an open

white casket decorated with pink silk at the Aboriginal Funeral Chapel on Wednesday night.

Honouring aboriginal tradition, Ms. Beardy carefully cut long, plaited braids from her own head and those of her daughters and laid them in the coffin.

At the spot where Kathleen died, a shabby back alley between abandoned houses strewn with old bits of roofing, friends and neighbours set up a small shrine to mark her death.

The pile of gravel she used to kill herself was covered with teddy bears -- brown, white and pink -- and handwritten messages from well-wishers and classmates.

At the site, Winnipeggers of all ethnicities came to pay their respects.

A traditional aboriginal fire was lit under a thin plywood shelter to protect it from the first snowfall of the season. The bullies returned the puppy to the family.

Mary Sinclair, Kathleen's grandmother, had flown to Winnipeg from Victoria when she heard the news. She said: "We would never have thought it of Kathleen. She was always so good and so lively and she never seemed to have any problems. Maybe we just didn't know what was going on inside."

April 18, 2006

**SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP ANNOUNCED BY
MACINTOSH AND KATZ**

- - -

Fine Revenue Will Allow City to Expand Successful Crime-fighting Plan

Attorney General Gord Mackintosh and Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz today announced fine increases introduced by the province will allow the city to sustainably fund and expand its successful Operation Clean Sweep initiative. “We are pleased to continue to build on our partnership with the city to ensure the Winnipeg Police Service can build on its aggressive plan to help make Winnipeggers safer by taking an in-your-face approach to crime-fighting in hot spots throughout the city,” Mackintosh said. “Clean Sweep has proven its effectiveness and has been revered by citizens and police alike,” said Katz. “With the funding announced today, we are able to make significant advances in the fight against crime and ensure the safety of all our citizens.” “Our entire police service has been instrumental in showing what can be achieved with targeted resources,” said Winnipeg Chief of Police Jack Ewatski. “I welcome this substantial, additional investment in public safety through ongoing commitment to Clean Sweep.” Since it was introduced last fall, the more intensified police presence in Winnipeg’s West End neighbourhood resulted in the recovery of 43 illegal weapons, significant seizures of illegal narcotics and cash as well as 658 arrests, plus vehicles and other assets and weapons allegedly used in the commission of crimes. The mayor said additional funding will allow the creation of a permanent, standalone unit to be put in place on Winnipeg streets under the Clean Sweep model and expanded to address hot spots of criminal activity identified in areas throughout the city. The City of Winnipeg will receive approximately \$2 million in full-year funding from its share of an estimated \$4.7 million that will be collected as a result of increases in fines and justice service fees.

“Manitobans would be surprised to learn that just over 10 per cent of the cost of the justice system is borne by those who use the justice system,” the minister said. “We continue to work to adjust that imbalance while ensuring the fines Manitobans pay are in line with other jurisdictions.”

Dedicated panhandler dies after decade in Osborne Village

Last Updated: Wednesday, October 3, 2007 | 9:33 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

Cancer has claimed the life of Cathy Day, a woman who spent at least a decade panhandling in the Osborne Village area of Winnipeg. Day spent so much time with her baseball cap extended for spare change at River Avenue and Osborne Street that she was known as "Cathy from the corner." She died of lung cancer on the weekend at age 58. Kim Zeglinski, a former neighbour of Day's who was with her when she passed away, recalled Day as a caring and helpful woman who would sometimes leave her door open late at night to ensure Zeglinski returned home safely from an evening out. "Sometimes we'd chat. Sometimes we'd have tea," Zeglinski said. "But often it was just, 'Are you home?' 'Yeah.' 'Did you have a good time?' 'Yeah.' 'OK, good night, then,' and then she'd close up for the night."

Day had been on disability. She used her assistance cheque for the rent and begged for change to buy food and pay for other expenses, Zeglinski said. Day had experienced health problems for some time. "Well, two years ago it was cervical [cancer], and she got the all-clear for that, and then sometime towards the end of July she phoned me and said that the emphysema that they had told her she had wasn't emphysema and it was lung cancer, and it was already Stage 4." Day chose not to go for treatment and her health deteriorated quickly, Zeglinski said.

Day's name is now up on the marquee at the Gas Station Theatre, near her usual panhandling spot. A memorial service will be held at the theatre Thursday at 11 a.m.



Cops under fire during street shooting in Winnipeg

Last Updated: Monday, January 28, 2008 | 2:14 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Winnipeg police are hunting for a suspect or suspects who shot at officers early Sunday morning. The tense drama unfolded just after 1 a.m. in the 400 block of Logan Avenue near the Slaw Rebchuk Bridge as police stopped three pedestrians for a spot check. The officers heard shots and took cover behind their cruiser with the people they had stopped. They huddled in the cold for about an hour until back-up arrived and they could leave the scene. "Officers heard ricocheting close to them, so there was no doubt that these shots were being fired at the officers," said police Chief Keith McCaskill on Monday.

At one time, a dozen officers were under fire as bullets were fired from a house on the street, investigators said. No one was hurt.

McCaskill described the "dangerous and unacceptable" situation as something out of a movie. He praised the bravery and professionalism of the officers, noting they did not return fire.

Prostitute stabbed in downtown Winnipeg

Last Updated: Thursday, October 18, 2007 | 3:56 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Winnipeg police have charged a local man with assault after a male prostitute was stabbed several times Tuesday evening. The sex-trade worker was approached by a man around 10:30 p.m. Tuesday in the area of Main Street and Higgins Avenue, police said Thursday. While negotiating a transaction for sexual service, the men began to fight and the sex-trade worker was stabbed several times, according to investigators. Police said the sex-trade worker was dressed as a woman and referred to himself as a woman, but investigators do not believe that played a role in the attack. The victim was taken to hospital in critical condition, but his health has since improved to stable condition, police said. The suspect turned himself in to police a few hours after the attack. A 19-year-old man has been charged with aggravated assault, robbery with weapon and two counts of failure to comply with the conditions of a recognizance. He remains in custody.

Student stabbed at high-school basketball game

[Second student charged with assault](#)

Last Updated: Friday, January 25, 2008 | 1:45 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

A 14-year-old boy has been charged with assault and weapons offences after a stabbing at a Winnipeg high-school basketball game. Churchill High School was hosting a team from St. John's High School for a Grade 9 boys basketball game Wednesday evening when violence broke out. Police said the victim was a 16-year-old Churchill student. The accused is from another school, which police refused to identify. The boys involved were not playing the game, but were spectators, police said. Police spokesman Const. Jason Michalyshen said the two boys got into a fight outside the school. The situation escalated to the point where the younger boy pulled out a knife and stabbed the older boy in the lower body, he said. The victim is in hospital in stable condition.



Monday, October 1, 2007 | 12:45 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Winnipeg police arrested four men on the weekend after seizing \$250,000 worth of narcotics and three guns from a house on Lipton Street in the downtown area.

Police say the narcotics included heroin, marijuana and ketamine — a horse tranquilizer used as a date rape drug.

Staff Sgt. Bud Guest said the variety of drugs makes the case unusual.

During the Saturday raid, police also found ammunition, a Kevlar vest and \$5,243 in cash.

Sgt. Kelly Dennison said police expect to charge the men with drug and weapons offences this week. The men range in age from 21 to 28.

Gang problem blamed for high rate of youth killings

Last Updated: Wednesday, October 17, 2007 | 9:18 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

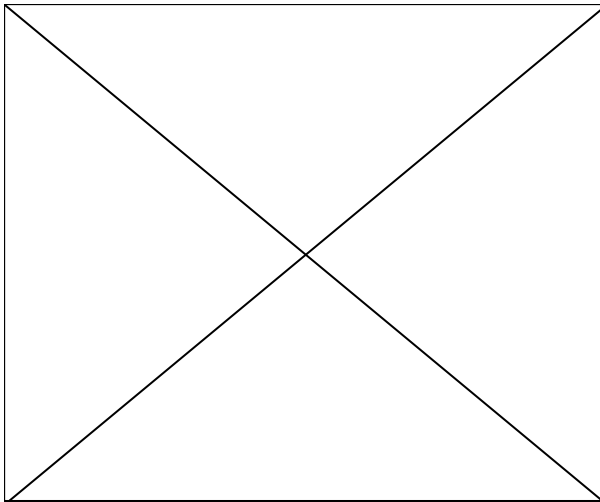
Manitoba has the highest rate of youth homicide in Canada, according to figures released Wednesday by Statistics Canada. In Manitoba, 18 youths were accused of homicide in 2006, giving the province the highest rate of youth homicide in the country — 17.6 per 100,000 — more than double that of the next highest province, Alberta, and double the rate in Manitoba in 2005. In both Manitoba and Alberta, youths accounted for about one in four persons accused of homicide.

"Why is Manitoba double everybody else? We have a huge gang problem here," said Bernice Getty, director of Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad, an organization that runs a safe house and programs for children in the city's troubled North End neighbourhood.

Although Winnipeg has a much smaller population, its gang problems are similar in size to Toronto's, Getty said, and that gang involvement leads to killing.

Youth, particularly aboriginal youth, are led to gangs because they have few activities and few supports, Getty said.

[Continue Article](#)



Similar issues are in play for children of recent immigrants and refugees, she added.

"They're given very few supports," she said. "Kids are left to fend for themselves in communities they're not familiar with when they're coming from extremely violent countries."

The parents of some children are also in gangs, she said, and sometimes parents appear not to mind if their children are involved in gang activities.

"We had a mom who was sitting there, you know, whose 11-year-old is running drugs and she didn't really care that he was doing that because he was bringing home money," she said. "That's a crime of poverty."

"It starts with stuff like that, and at some point it turns into double murder at [age] 16," she said.

Nationally, the rate of young people accused of homicide was at its highest since data were first collected in 1961, Statistics Canada said.

GANG WARFARE BEHIND VIOLENCE IN INNER CITY

Winnipeg Free Press (12 Oct 2005)

Minister says huge drug profits led to split in Mad Cowz

RESIDENTS of Winnipeg's West End have been bracing for increased violence since learning a local African street gang was fighting an internal war, an inner-city leader said yesterday.

But nobody expected the strife could lead to the death of an innocent bystander, said Harry Lehotsky, a high-profile minister who runs New Life Ministries on Maryland Street. "There's a weird kind of callousness which happens in a neighbourhood when you see the type of stuff we do. It almost becomes 'Well, if there's violence and they do themselves in, it's no big deal'," he said.

"But it is a big deal. You can't have that many people spitting out bullets on the street and not have somebody innocent getting hit some day." Lehotsky said he's been aware of a rift within the Mad Cowz for several months. The gang burst on to the criminal scene in recent years by targeting young new African immigrants to the city. Many teens and young men struggled with the language and culture but were instantly welcomed by established criminals who preyed on them to do their bidding, said Lehotsky. "They would give them sports clothes, flash the cash around and say 'Hey, look what's available to you'," he said. "And for many of them, they were no strangers to violence given the background of where they had come from and gone through in their home countries," he said. Such was the tragic case of Sirak Okbazion, a 14-year-old Eritrean immigrant who was shot dead on a Winnipeg street in August 2004. Rezene and Hiriti Okbazion say they quickly lost control of their son after moving to Canada. Sirak stopped coming home at night, and began associating with members of the Mad Cowz. Sirak was killed outside a Sherbrook Street crack house which had a known connection to the gang. Two men and two youths have been charged with second-degree murder and are awaiting trial. The Mad Cowz made news again last month when several suspected members were involved in a two-day crime spree that included a gunpoint kidnapping, assault and several thefts. A 17-year-old male was forced into a vehicle, ordered to withdraw money from an ATM and eventually released. Police conducted a high-risk takedown at a Maryland Street drug den which was connected to the gang. Five suspects were arrested by heavily-armed members of the Emergency Response Unit and are facing numerous charges. Lehotsky said yesterday he's heard numerous stories in his community of Mad Cowz members using aggressive tactics to recruit new members and customers to buy cocaine. "They weren't just dealing, they were pushing people, saying 'What kind of crap is this, is that all you're going to buy?'," he said. With major profits to be made from drug trafficking in Winnipeg, it appears several Mad Cowz members recently decided to break away and form their own group, which is known on the streets as the "African Mafia", said Lehotsky. This isn't the first time an established Winnipeg street gang has imploded with violence.

Last winter, nearly a dozen members of the Indian Posse street gang were accused of savagely attacking their former leader while all were in custody at the provincial Remand Centre. The victim -- who was unco-operative and claimed he slipped in the shower --- was apparently seen by guards being attacked with fists, feet and numerous weapons including bars of soap wrapped in socks. Ten people are facing charges, and the case is set for trial in January. -

DATE: Jun 5, 09:38

By Mike McIntyre
Winnipeg Free Press

A Winnipeg teen shouted “shoot, shoot” just seconds before gunfire erupted on a downtown Winnipeg street, killing innocent bystander Phil Haiart, jurors heard Monday.

The accused – who can’t be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act because he was just 17 at the time – began his trial by pleading not guilty to several charges including second-degree murder.

Crown attorney Gerry Bowering told jurors in his opening statement the month-long case against the youth could run into some difficulties because of potential problems with some gang witnesses.

“Because of some of their backgrounds, they may be reluctant to tell you what they know. If that happens, this trial may not go smoothly,” said Bowering.

The youth and a co-accused, Jeffrey Cansanay, were arrested in October 2005. Jurors have not been told about Cansanay’s current legal status.

Haiart, 17, was hit in the stomach with a stray bullet during the shootout near Sargent Avenue and Maryland Street. A second man, Abass Jalloh, was walking with Haiart and also hit with stray gunfire. He survived an arm injury and will testify later in the trial.

Haiart — a graduate from St. John’s-Ravenscourt and son of a Winnipeg surgeon — was rushed to hospital and underwent emergency surgery. He was pronounced dead nearly four hours later. The nature of Haiart’s killing struck a nerve with Winnipeg residents, police and politicians and quickly led to the creation of a new task force targeting inner-city street crime and drug dealers. Bowering began the Crown’s case Monday by telling jurors how Haiart was in the wrong place at the wrong time, an innocent bystander caught in the middle of a gang turf war that would claim his life.

According to an agreed statement of facts presented to the jury, the Mad Cowz were formed in the summer of 2004 and comprised largely of youths living in the city’s West End, who were refugees from war-torn countries in Africa.

The Mad Cowz set up their “turf” and established several drug houses in the area, but problems began in 2005 when some members felt the gang hadn’t properly responded to the murder of one of their members by a rival gang, the B-Side, jurors were told.

There were also concerns with the leadership that resulted in several members breaking away to form their own faction, called the African Mafia. One of those people was the youth accused.

During the early evening of Oct. 10, one of the Mad Cowz members went to the McGee residence and threw gasoline-filled bottles through the front window in an attempt to start a fire.

They didn’t ignite, said Bowering. Two different Mad Cowz members returned to the home a few hours later, and were immediately confronted by Cansanay and the youth, he said. Cansanay was armed with a rifle, and the youth allegedly urged him to “shoot, shoot”, said Bowering.

At the same time, Haiart and Jalloh happened to be walking in the same area. The Crown’s theory is that the bullets meant for the fleeing Mad Cowz members ended up hitting Haiart and Jalloh.

Churchill port welcomes first-ever Russian shipment

Last Updated: Wednesday, October 17, 2007 | 4:42 PM CT

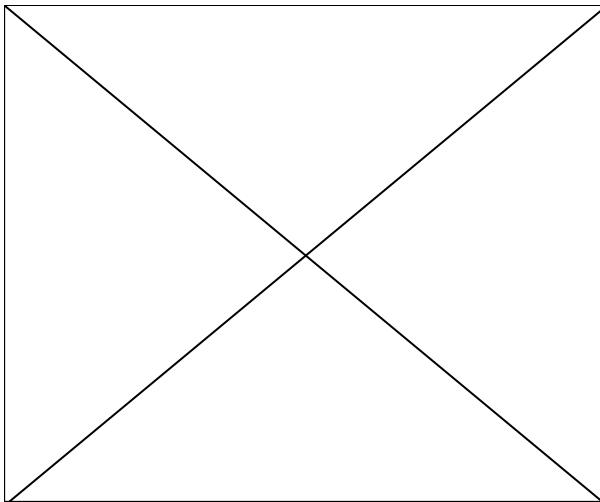
[CBC News](#)

A ship loaded with fertilizer from northwestern Russia arrived in Churchill on Wednesday, the first time the northern Manitoba port has received goods from Russia. The shipment, on the Murmansk Shipping Co. vessel the Kapital Sviridov, is considered the first in an "Arctic bridge" linking Canadian Prairie and Russian markets.

Until now, Churchill has mainly been used to ship grain out of Canada to Europe and North Africa, and to receive supplies for communities farther north in Canada. The Port of Churchill has been trying to expand its business for decades. Its largest customer is the Canadian Wheat Board, which ships grain through Churchill to international ports and — starting this year — domestic ports. The port is also a key supply link for Arctic development projects, such as new mines in Nunavut.

Churchill Mayor Mike Spence predicts the Russian shipment will be the first of many, adding that Denmark, Sweden and Iceland have also expressed interest in future trade through the port.

[Continue Article](#)



"It sends the message that the Port of Churchill is viable. It's open for business, and we need to build on that," he said.

The fertilizer is bound for western Canadian farmers through the Saskatchewan-based buying group Farmers of North America. Spokesman Jason Mann said he saved about 10 per cent on the

total cost of the order by shipping through Churchill instead of Montreal or Thunder Bay, which will benefit the Prairie farmers who are the end consumers.

The Russian shipment comes less than two weeks after Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited Churchill to announce more than \$68 million in improvements to the port and its connecting rail line. The rail line is cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments and operator OmniTRAX Canada, which also operates the port.

Churchill, Canada's only deep-water Arctic seaport, has attracted more attention in recent years as scientists predict climate change could open the Northwest Passage through the Arctic Ocean.

661 Ellice Avenue [Location Map](#)



Location: NW corner Ellice & Agnes; East Face

Occupant: Dalat Restaurant

District: West End

Neighbourhood: Daniel McIntyre

Artist(s): Tom Andrich (Eclectic Fine Art)

Year: 2005

Sponsors: [West End BIZ](#), [Neighbourhoods Alive! \(Manitoba\)](#)

Painters: Assisted by Lauren Toth

Cartoon Charlie (Charles) Thorson; another famous resident of the West End.

Charles Thorson is remembered as an Icelandic Canadian from the Winnipeg West End who was a great animator and character designer. His work is responsible for the design of Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Elmer the Safety Elephant, Punkinhead, Little Hiawatha, Keeko and numerous others. During his lifespan he worked at every major animation studio in the US except Walter Lantz (Woody Woodpecker).

"There was a LOT of research on this one," chuckles Tom Andrich, the Mural's artist. While Andrich was working on the design of the Mural and its various pictorial elements, he was very careful and wary of copyright infringements, especially of Disney characters. Disney tends NOT to attribute any of their characters as original creations of any single artist; they are DISNEY characters owned by Disney. Tom used only characters from sketches or renderings that contained Thorson's original signature; i.e., Thorson's own property. There is therefore no rendering of any Snow White character- ONLY of the waitress that it is believed Thorson based the likeness of Snow White upon. Tom: "I needed to find things that people would sort of recognize and yet not be in violation of any type of copyright. When Gene Walz (Winnipeg author of the SUPERB book Cartoon Charlie) was talking to the folks at Disney, they would definitely not say that any of the characters came from Thorson. As far as artists for Disney, Thorson isn't even credited as one of the artists who ever worked for Disney."

"**Punkinhead** was essentially a mascot for Eaton's in the 50's. They used to have Punkinhead in the Christmas parade, and there were little books about the adventures of Punkinhead. Every kid from that era knew Punkinhead pretty well. That's why I put him in as such a large character- Punkinhead was known virtually across Canada. **Elmer the Safety Elephant** was definitely a Thorson creation which closely resembles the Elmer Elephant character he created for Disney."

Tom's rendering of the **original plaque** on the grave is immediately below the circular inset. To the right of the plaque is a reproduction of his **signature**. The **sketch of the Viking in the ship** was a greeting card Charlie did in 1951 for family and friends. Thorson would often delight family and friends by doing this. Simple Indian ink or pencil drawings of cute characters were his specialty; and the end result was a beautiful keepsake of Thorson's art. He portrays himself in the cartoon as a genial bright-eyed Viking. He's hoisting a drink to the familiar toast of 'skal'. Gene Walz, the author of the book on Thorson states that of all his sketches perhaps this one was the closest to Thorson's heart. Many Icelanders believed they had the blood of Vikings: Thorson not only believed it- he lived it. Tom: "I did get some comments about this because people thought it looked unfinished. But I was trying to show them that it was a black and white drawing to begin with. To have colourized it for the wall would have just been wrong!"

690 Furby (Photo 4)- "On the 'sidewalk' you'll see the children's name who helped me: Lauren, Mona, Karen and Tracy."

(Note: almost all of the synopsis below is taken from my notes from a superb book, **Cartoon Charlie: The Life and Art of Animation Pioneer Charles Thorson**, by Winnipeg author **Gene Walz**. The book is a magnificent read, and is profusely illustrated with Thorson's work, photos and numerous other fascinating illustrations in support of this extremely worthy biography. The synopsis below provides only a taste of the many rich highlights, details, stories, and anecdotes contained in the book. The book is available from Great Plains Publications, at #420-70 Arthur Street, Winnipeg; (204)475-6799; and also from their website at <http://www.greatplains.mb.ca/> . This book receives my highest possible recommendation.)

Charles Thorson was born in 1890 of Icelandic Immigrants Stefan Thordarson and Sigridur Thorarinsdottir who came to Canada in 1887 with 10 dollars in their pocket. Within 2 years of their arrival they settled into an apartment in Winnipeg on Assiniboine Avenue. His father changed their name to Thorson in accordance with North American custom, converted from Lutheran to Presbyterian, and worked as a caretaker for the next 20 years. Charles (Karl) was the 3rd of 4 sons born to the couple.

As a child Charlie was high spirited and rebellious. He liked bringing home stray animals to have as pets. He claimed that he began to see the world through animal's eyes when he was crawling around playing with his pets. And he also loved to draw. In his teens he liked to travel for adventure, taking odd jobs. He'd inevitably come back to Winnipeg, usually broke and hungry and work at menial jobs. His favourite job was fishing, perhaps a Viking thing, and had contacts with Creel Indians on the shores of the lake, who fascinated him. Their heartiness of spirit was similar to his Viking ideal. His first paying artist job was painting Indian faces on leather cushions.

Charlie fell in love with Ranka Swanson. Ranka was 5 years younger than Charlie; and artistic. Ranka became pregnant in 1914 and a shotgun wedding ensued at Stefan's insistence, two months after the baby was born. Ranka contracted TB in 1915 and died a year later; Charlie's son died of diphtheria in 1917 at only 2 years old. During this time, Charlie illustrated

brochures for Brigden's of Winnipeg Ltd. In 1916, he did a series of gentle caricatures of Icelandic for the front page of Logberg, a Lutheran Icelandic newspaper.

In 1917 free spirited Charlie went on the road. He was a scrapper and boxer. Fifteen years before the Depression made it more commonplace, Charlie lived life as a hobo. In 1918 he worked for the British and Colonial Press in Winnipeg drawing cartoons and illustrations, some of which were framed and sold as art. Charlie's caricatures poked fun at familiar community figures but weren't mean spirited. Both Icelandic papers published his stuff. Six gnome-like characters he designed for a children's paper at this time provided foreshadowing of Disney characters that he would design 20 years later.

He was a fan of the Winnipeg Falcons hockey team, and did caricatures of some of the players. He designed the souvenir posters and postcards after the team won Olympic Gold in Antwerp. He then went to work at Brigden's; and shortly after, met and fell for Ada Teslock, a Polish-Catholic farm girl, who worked as a hostess at Child's restaurant near Portage & Main. They married in 1922.

Restaurants were Charlie's hangouts. He'd sit in them for hours smoking cigarettes and telling stories, sometimes illustrating them on napkins or whatever was handy (see Photo 5). He became the political cartoonist for the weekly publication of the United Grain Growers (circulation: 75,000). They were extremely well drawn: humorous rather than satiric; artwork rather than placards. In May 1923 their newborn son died. A second son, Stephen was born in 1925, but the marriage was breaking down.

He was adept at borrowing money, though and sly at repaying: he'd regularly pay off debts by drawing portraits or cartoons. Brigden's quickly saw Charlie's value and paid him a retainer in order to keep him. Brigden's produced the Eaton's Mail Order catalogue. Charlie was their star illustrator. His specialties were livery and jewellery: no other artist was allowed to draw them, and Charlie was always good at drawing animals from memory. He also wrote raunchy poetry about his mates there.

He opened a studio for art classes next to the Capitol Theatre on the second floor, but came home drunk one night two weeks later; opened all the windows because he was warm, passed out and froze the pipes, which burst. He was immediately evicted.

Thorson chased women with the dedication of an Olympic athlete! The Wevel Café was located near the corner of Sargent and Victor; and was the heart of the Icelandic District, or 'Goolie Town'. You could get molakaffi there, strong Icelandic coffee that you poured into one's saucer and then drank through a cube of sugar held in your teeth. Young children loved hearing his stories; and he would sketch an animal drawing that looked like the child. He flirted openly with the waitress there, Kristin Solvadottir. Because of his reputation with the ladies and because he was twice her age, she was wary of him. Nevertheless, Charlie and Kristin saw lots of each other, not all of it at the Café. Once Charlie brought his son to meet her at her apartment. In his room at the house on Furby, he sketched a love note to her with himself as a tiny prince and her as the larger princess with the inscription 'all this will be yours if you will have me'. Eventually she left Winnipeg for Niagara Falls and never saw Charlie again, but he wrote at least two love letters to her. In a letter to her best friend in Winnipeg, she confessed that she had feelings for Charlie right from the start, and expressed regret that they were not together.

He left Winnipeg and a secure job in late 1934 to try to get on at Disney. He got an interview and showed his portfolio of cartoons and drawings. Disney was so impressed that he was hired on the spot. Disney studio was starting to work on Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, the world's first full-length colour animated cartoon. His timing was perfect. A movement had started at Disney that would change animation from flat 2-D images towards personality animation that gave 'real and unique personalities, behaviors and life' to each 'cute' and warm individual character with human-like, behaviour characteristics; more rounded and 3-D with precise and sentimentalized graphics. Thus, the characters were sympathetic and easy to identify with. Thorson was a master at drawing the big expressive eyes that became synonymous with Disney characters from that point on. At first he worked in the background as a member of the lowly story department but shortly as his full talents were revealed got promoted to character development of original characters. As a character developer, he needed to have the skills of casting director, costume designer, makeup artist along with this precision of a portrait painter; all rolled up into one.

Two months after he started at Disney, he designed all of the characters for a short film, Elmer Elephant. His designs were so good that the selection committee accepted them all without considering any others (this was almost unheard of). In his two years at Disney, Thorson would work for days lavishing over the fine details of a character until he got it just right. He would spend hours on the eyes alone utilizing every artistic trick of shading, design and colouring to make them expressive as he saw them as the key to characterization. His model sheets for the characters had great detail with enough reference points in the 360-degree perspective that they could later be used and reproduced by the many cel animators employed at Disney. Walt Kelly (the creator of the Pogo character and comic strip) attributed Thorson as his biggest influence and inspiration. Pogo was actually based on the raccoon character Thorson drew for Little Hiawatha. Another of his characters, Droopy Dog (from Disney's Toby Tortoise Returns), was borrowed and reused by Tex Avery when Tex moved to MGM.

For Little Hiawatha, Thorson used his niece Ellen as his model. When the feature was released, Thorson's name appeared nowhere, even though, according to him, he 'designed all of the characters, contributed most of the gags and thoughts on which the story was constructed'. Furthermore, almost all of those forest animals were then used again in Snow White.

Thorson left Disney; probably because he was too independent and uncompromising to be there. He made significant contributions to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. He told friends back in Winnipeg that his design for Snow White was based on his Icelandic girlfriend, Kristin Solvagottir; a waitress at the Wevel Café. Kristin told friends the same story right up to her death.

From Disney, he went to Harman-Ising (Hugh Harman and Rudolf Ising were both ex- Disney animators from the 20's). Next was MGM where he made twice the money he made at Disney; and with his Disney experience was considered a star. He worked with Friz Freleng (who later became a big name at WB) and with Bill Hanna (of later Hanna-Barbera fame). His best and favourite character during his MGM stay was Old Smokey, a broken down old fire horse. 25 years later, he singled out Old Smokey as one of his best creations.

He jumped to Warner Bros. (WB) to work in Leon Schlesinger's Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies studios. The work coming out of WB was as IRREVERENT as Disney's was ENDEARING, and Charlie fit right in. He worked for Ben 'Bugs' Hardaway/Cal Dalton and for a very young Chuck Jones. For Jones he created Sniffles the Mouse (Ed note- I remember him

well!), Inki (the little lion Hunter) and his nemesis the Mynah Bird. For Hardaway and Dalton he designed Elmer Fudd, the Rainmaker (a much loved Indian character for 'Sioux Me'); the giant and baby giant in 'Porky and the Giant Killer', and the prototype for WB's most famous and successful character ever, **Bugs Bunny**.

According to the Bugs Bunny story, Bugs Hardaway had asked Thorson to design a new bunny. Charlie created a model sheet containing six different poses and left them on Hardaway's desk for his approval. At the bottom of the sheet, he'd written "Bug's Bunny" (sic). The name stuck and the rest is history! Thorson's Bugs make his debut in 'Hare-um Scare-um'. Certainly there were many later refinements to Bugs by other animators (most notably Bob McKimson in 1939). Although many others may have claimed a stake in the creation of Bugs, there remained little doubt years later about who WB considered as the actual originator of their character when WB sued a doll manufacturer for making a rabbit doll that too closely resembled Bugs. Edward Selzer (who became head of WB cartoons after Schleisinger sold the business) wrote a letter to their lawyer representing the lawsuit saying: "The name of the artist who created the first Bugs Bunny is Charles Thorson." Thorson himself in support of the WB lawsuit wrote and signed a 5 paragraph legal affidavit also to this effect that Bugs was his own completely original character.

Elmer Fudd was also designed by Charlie and was an adaptation of the lovable babies he had designed for Disney's Wynken, Blynken and Nod. Another Thorson character for WB was the glamorous female dog, **The Lady Known as Lou**, which Andrich included in the Mural.

In 1939 he moved to join Max and Dave Fleischer (they were best known for Betty Boop) and helped them complete Gulliver's Travels. He redesigned all of the characters in the Raggedy Ann and Andy (including the more prominent eyes), and redesigned Popeye, Poopdeck Pappy and Baby Popeye for colour. One of his best characters was Twinkletoes, a goofy carrier pigeon.

After working as a children's book illustrator (for Samuel Lowe) in New York, he returned to animation at Terrytoons Studio (Paul Terry) in 1941 when Mighty Mouse was created. He was also doing lots of non-animation work on the side: he designed billboards for Texaco, Gallo Wine, Tip Top Clothes, and Blue Ribbon Tea; and 3 panel cartoon ads for Ray-O-Vac batteries. He then moved back to California to work with Dave Fleischer at Columbia-Screen Gems and at George Pal's Puppertoons Studio where he experimented with puppet animation.

In 1945 he sold two versions of the Three Bears story and shifted more full time into illustrations of children's books, just in time for the baby boom. His most successful character was Keeko, a small Indian boy, who also is featured in the Mural. This was perhaps the only character with Charlie retained the copyright for (a few years later he unwisely signed away the copyrights to Punkinhead for 1 dollar; and he missed out on the benefits of the vast marketing empire Punkinhead became for Eaton's). The first Keeko book sold 60,000 the first year in North America alone. He received Honourary Membership in the International Mark Twain Society because of the book. He also designed Elmer the Safety Elephant (based closely on his Elmer Elephant character for Disney) for the Traffic Division of the Toronto Police.

Late in his career, he suffered from some type of neuralgia to his face and neck; and at one point took cobra venom to lessen his pain. Thorson died of liver cancer at 76.

MCINTYRE COLUMN - Tears, anger and confusion after gang members put bullet in high-profile murder trial

DATE: Apr 24, 08:15



By Mike McIntyre
Winnipeg Free Press

Phil Haiart's life was taken by gang members waging a war on city streets — and now his family's search for justice has died in a flurry of anger, tears and confusion.

Queen's Bench Justice Morris Kaufman abruptly halted the jury trial for Haiart's accused killer, Jeffrey Cansanay, and entered a not guilty verdict Monday based on a lack of Crown evidence.

The breaking point came when two admitted Mad Cowz gang members — the two men the Crown claims Cansanay was actually trying to kill the night Haiart was hit by his stray bullet — refused to testify in court last week.

Kaufman then rejected a Crown motion Monday that would have allowed them to show jurors videotaped police statements given by the pair in which they implicated Cansanay.

He said the prejudicial affect of allowing two statements to go in without the ability to cross-examine either witness outweighed any value of letting them in.

The decision prompted Crown attorney Gerry Bowering to promptly close his case and led to a motion from defence lawyer Greg Brodsky for a "directed verdict" of not guilty based on a lack of any evidence tying Cansanay to the October 2005 shooting.

Kaufman agreed and briefly explained his decision to a clearly confused jury that had spent the past two weeks hearing evidence and were planning on at least two more weeks.

“This is another example of the gangs running the city,” Isora Van Dreser told the Free Press outside court. She was dating Haiart at the time he was gunned down and they were planning a future together.

“The gang members are protecting their own. And they’ve found a way to get away with murder. There’s no justice in this system. It’s disgusting,” said Van Dreser.

Haiart’s mother was in court Monday but left, clearly upset, without talking. Haiart’s father, a Winnipeg surgeon, has been present for much of the trial but was absent for Kaufman’s ruling.

The Crown has 30 days to file an appeal of Kaufman’s decision regarding the videotaped statements.

Monday’s ruling also casts a shadow over the case against Cansanay’s youthful co-accused. The man — who was 17 at the time — is set for trial in June. Cansanay’s lawyer expects that case to have a similar result to this one.

“The Crown was going to be calling the same witnesses,” said Brodsky.

The two gang members who derailed Cansanay’s trial by refusing to testify against him have not been charged with contempt of court or obstruction of justice — despite warnings from Kaufman last week they could be. “They’re gang members. Do you really think they’re afraid of consequences? I don’t think they’re afraid. They were going to do what they were going to do,” said Brodsky.

Gharib Abdullah and Corey Amyotte were not charged for a string of attacks on Cansanay and the teen co-accused that the Crown says triggered the deadly shooting of Haiart.

Jurors had already heard that members of the feuding Mad Cowz and African Mafia street gangs — who had broken apart months earlier because of disputes over their “turf” — were trading shots on the street following a previously unreported shooting the night before.

One of those Mad Cowz members took the stand earlier in the trial and admitted to numerous attacks including throwing a brick through a car window and firebombs into Cansanay’s home. The teen — like Abdullah and Amyotte — was also never charged despite admitting to numerous crimes.

Kaufman referenced that fact Monday when deciding not to allow the men’s video statements into evidence.

He said they had “multiple motives” to lie about what happened the night Haiart got shot, considering they instigated the violence but had been spared being charged in exchange for their statements.

“These two witnesses are gang members who will stop at very little to get what they want,” said Kaufman.

Police never recovered the weapon used to shoot Haiart so no forensic analysis could be done. Cansanay's clothing from that night was also never found.

Haiart was struck with a stray bullet on Thanksgiving weekend as he walked through an empty video store parking lot, apparently on his way back to his nearby apartment block. His killing left a substantial mark on the city, ripping apart the perception that innocent people are immune from the gang violence which has plagued the city in recent years.

The public reaction was swift and severe.

Angry citizens called open-line talk shows and penned letters to the editor demanding changes.

The so-called revitalization of Winnipeg's core area came under attack. Judges, prosecutors and politicians heard calls for tougher laws.

Mayor Sam Katz and police Chief Jack Ewatski responded immediately, vowing to protect citizens from such random violence and announcing a "Clean Sweep" task force aimed at reducing street-level crime that continues to this day.

There have been numerous cases in recent years in which families have been outraged after murder charges were either reduced or dismissed based on problems with witnesses.

TREVOR TANNER KILLING — Crown dropped first-degree murder charge, accepted second-degree plea, earlier this year from killer Michael Dueck because some Crown witnesses recanted their testimony. Victim was kidnapped from The Forks, shot execution-style in head on outskirts of city. Family of victim furious with outcome.

T.J. WIEBE KILLING — Alleged youth ringleader of grisly murder plot was acquitted of first-degree murder at trial last year and walked free. Judge cited problems with Crown witnesses — including co-accused who refused to testify and/or changed their stories. Victim was lured to remote location outside city and brutally beaten, stabbed and left to die in snow. Family of victim angry at verdict.

BENJAMIN MARSHALL KILLING — Crown dropped first-degree murder charges last year against two men, accepting pleas to manslaughter and conspiracy. Crown cited problem with its case including witness testimony and disclosure of material from previous prosecutor to defence. Victim was shot, then wrapped in plastic and dumped outside city. Family of victim stunned by decision.

JOHNDRICK TAN KILLING — Five accused killers were set free in 2005 after Crown stayed murder charges. Sixth accused pleaded guilty to reduced charge of manslaughter. Crown cited extensive problems with witnesses refusing to testify or changing their stories. Victim was brutally beaten by large group of young Asian men outside downtown bar. Judge questioned commitment to justice shown by some members of local Filipino community.

ADRIEN BRUYERE KILLING — What was expected to be Manitoba's longest jury trial ended suddenly after just a few weeks. Crown dropped murder charges against four men in exchange for reduced pleas of manslaughter (two men) and assault (two men). Crown cited several witnesses who lied under oath or recanted statements. Victim was stabbed to death during street brawl.

Test surveillance cameras in Winnipeg, report to recommend

[Spence residents want surveillance cameras: survey](#)

Last Updated: Monday, March 3, 2008 | 2:10 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Winnipeggers could start seeing surveillance cameras on city streets as early as 2009, city councillors heard at a city committee meeting Monday.

Police Supt. Gord Schumacher, who has been studying the feasibility of cameras monitoring Winnipeg streets for several months, updated the city's protection and community services committee on his progress.

A report to city council next month will recommend the city conduct a pilot project with closed-circuit cameras, he said.

Schumacher said other cities have had mixed results in terms of the cameras' effectiveness in reducing crime, but they have been proven to make the public feel safer.

The city must still deal with several issues, including how to pay for the cameras. Toronto, which recently set up a similar pilot project, spent \$2 million on 22 cameras, not including costs related to monitoring or associated police time.

Coun. Gord Steeves, who heads the committee, said he would like to see business groups pick up the tab in business areas — but in residential neighbourhoods, the cost could be covered by the city.

[Continue Article](#)

If approved, the first cameras could be on Winnipeg streets in use by 2009, Schumacher said.

Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz has previously expressed support for police use of surveillance cameras in the city.

Free crack handed out in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG -- Two alleged members of a street gang are accused of handing out free samples of crack cocaine in order to hook new customers. Police were alerted to the alleged enterprising operation on Tuesday.

Two adults reported they were approached by two men who were handing out complimentary pieces of crack.

"Their intent was to hand it out to get new customers, get them hooked and then they're on the hook for more crack," said Sgt. David Black of the Winnipeg police organized crime unit. Along with the free crack, the men also allegedly handed out a price list and a phone number to call to place orders for the highly addictive drug.

"I've heard of this years ago in Vancouver with heroin but never with crack cocaine," Black said. It shows how competitive the market in street-level drug trafficking is getting, he said.

"I think they (dealers) are becoming more bold in how they traffic."

A small rock of crack sells for \$25, so the pieces that were given away were each worth "a lot less than that," Black said.

The two men were allegedly driving around the area, which includes Churchill High School, targeting adults and teens.

No students from the high school were reportedly approached by the men and no offers to try the free crack were made on school property as far as police know.

However, one of the two men arrested is a former Churchill student who was expelled earlier this school year, students and school officials confirmed.

Former classmates described him as a class clown who always wore the latest designer duds. They were shocked to find out that he had been arrested and charged.

"Personally, I think crack is disgusting," said Jill Stuber, 15. "I don't see how people can deal drugs knowing that you are going to ruin their lives."

Maria Kotab, 15, added: "To get somebody hooked on crack, it's like do you want to see them die?"

Police arrested two suspects after setting up an undercover sting that involved making a drug purchase.

Allan James Decker, 18, and his older brother Samuel James Decker, 23, are charged with drug trafficking. A police source said the brothers are members of the Mad Cows, a relatively new street gang.

Blood on Portage

Bystanders at bus stop witness stabbing incident



By **CHRIS KITCHING, SUN MEDIA**



Surrounded by at least a dozen bystanders, a 20-year-old man was stabbed once in the neck at a bus stop outside Portage Place Shopping Centre just after noon yesterday.

Witnesses said the assailant confronted and grabbed the victim by the throat, and then plunged a knife into the left side of the man's neck.

"The taller guy pushed the victim between the wall and bus shack and was holding him by the neck. It looked like he punched him in the neck," said Helen, who was crossing the street at the time. "I'm kind of freaked out."

Witnesses believed the pair knew each other. Police had not arrested a suspect by late afternoon.

The victim was taken to hospital in stable condition.

Several people were waiting at the bus stop outside the downtown mall on the north side of Portage Avenue at Edmonton Street when the stabbing occurred shortly after noon.

Witnesses said the incident happened quickly. The suspect fled westbound on Portage, while the victim walked in the other direction and held his hand to his wound. The front of his shirt was soaked in blood.

Helen recognized the victim, who was with his girlfriend, as "an acquaintance" and said she ran to his side. He was conscious and standing.

Helen said he asked her to give a statement to police after she told him she witnessed the incident.

"His girlfriend was really upset," Helen said.

Helen said she did not recognize the assailant.

Police officers taped off a large section of the blood-stained sidewalk between Carlton and Edmonton streets. Members of the street crime unit were present.

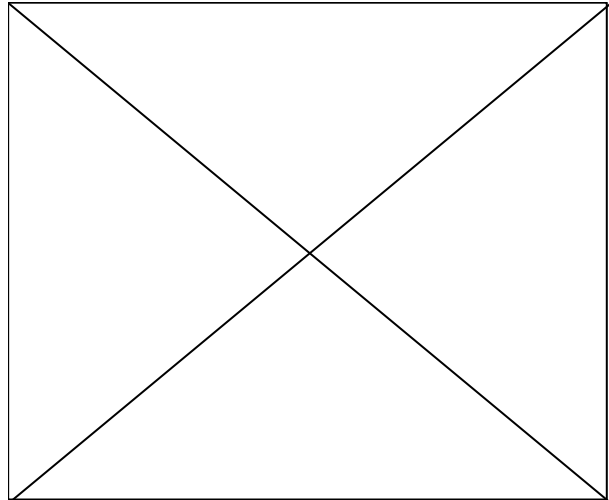
Employees of a couple of stores in Portage Place told Sun Media the bus stop has been a trouble spot for loitering, drug dealing and, at least on some occasions, violence.

Stefano Grande, executive director of Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, said the Portage Avenue strip is a concern, but the bus stop ranks behind other problem areas.

"There does seem to be a lot of loitering (at the bus stop). Seldom are there issues like the one we witnessed (yesterday)," Grande said.

A message left for Portage Place's general manager was not returned yesterday.

Next story: [Man sexually abused daughter as wife slept](#)



Manitoba group aims to find missing native people

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 9, 2008 | 8:30 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

A new community group has formed in Winnipeg to help find missing aboriginal people.

Thomas Prince, founder of the Missing Aboriginal People Association, says his group will help search for any missing native person, regardless of age or circumstances.

"We find that people will speak to us more openly than they would the police department," Prince told CBC News. "Speaking to another aboriginal person is a lot easier for them."

Prince launched the association with his friend Patty Kent, whose own daughter disappeared two years ago at age 15.

The girl ran away while in the care of Child and Family Services, Kent said, but feels the mainstream system, such as police, didn't treat the case seriously, categorizing her as "just a runaway."

"That is our children out there, and we have hearts, too," she said.

"It was like my heart was torn out from me. Every time the phone rang, I jumped. I was afraid to answer my door to see a cop standing there, asking me to come with him to go and identify her."

Kent and Prince plastered the North End area with posters about her daughter, and found the girl within days.

Josie Hill, who heads the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in the city's North End neighbourhood, says a grassroots search group is needed.

"They know the back lanes. They know the streets. They know the people. They know the relatives," she said. "There's a whole different culture around locating people."

But Winnipeg police spokeswoman Jacqueline Chaput said the force's missing-persons unit is one of the largest in Canada.

Police are very capable of tracking missing people, but some people don't want to be found, she said.



Police had no time for thief who surrendered

Thu Sep 27 2007

CITY police were too busy to arrest a 17-year-old convicted car thief when he tried to turn himself in after three days on the lam, a court heard Wednesday.

The teen was being sentenced for bolting from a substance abuse treatment centre on Aug. 1. He was supposed to be living there as part of a June 22 conviction for auto theft.

Court was told the teen called his mom on Aug. 4 and she told him he had to give himself up and stop his criminal ways.

But doing that proved to be tougher than it sounded.

"He tried for two days to turn himself in but they didn't want to take him," the mom told provincial court Judge Ken Champagne. "So he sat there and waited."

The teen first went to the District 3 station on Hartford Avenue, but was told no one was there to arrest him, and that he'd have to go downtown to the Public Safety Building.

He first tried to book an appointment with the stolen auto unit, but that fell through. He was then told at the front counter that officers were too busy to arrest him.

He was eventually arrested Aug. 7.

Champagne said he gave the teen a lot of credit for doing the right thing.

"I'm sorry I made the wrong mistakes," the boy told the judge. "I guess I got to learn from my mistakes."

Champagne sentenced the teen to a mix of custody and gradual release over six months, followed by 12 months of probation.

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Source: [ShermansTravel](#)

Aboriginal leader concerned about youth violence

Last Updated: Friday, October 19, 2007 | 1:07 PM CT

[CBC News](#)

Manitoba's top aboriginal leaders are meeting with the mayor of Winnipeg Friday to discuss youth crime.

The rise in violence among aboriginal youth has to stop, said the head of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

"There seems to be a lot of initiatives out there, but the numbers are growing," Ron Evans said. "So obviously those initiatives are not working."

Evans is meeting with Mayor Sam Katz and said he hopes it will lead to a roundtable discussion on youth violence with representatives from the assembly and municipal, provincial and federal government.

"We need to take a look and review what is working, what is not working. If it was working, the numbers would be reversing, right? But they're not," Evans said.



Family remembers 'good kid' found shot in Winnipeg's West End

Last Updated: Thursday, February 28, 2008 | 8:30 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

Family and friends packed a Winnipeg funeral home Wednesday to say goodbye to Cody Shuya, a West End teenager whose life was cut short by a bullet on the weekend.

Winnipeg police found the 13-year-old boy suffering a gunshot wound to the upper body behind a house on Home Street early Saturday morning. He died the next day.



Cody Shuya, 13, was found in back lane in Winnipeg's West End neighbourhood suffering a gunshot wound on early in the morning of Feb. 23. (Family photo)

His grandmother, Shelly Grant, described him as a typical 13-year-old, a "good little boy" who liked to skateboard and hang out with his friends in the crime-beleaguered West End neighbourhood where he lived.

"He was just a little boy, plain and simple. They have good days, they have bad days," she told CBC News on Wednesday, after his funeral.

"He laughed lots. He liked to have fun. He had a good sense of humour."

[Continue Article](#)

Not a day went by when she didn't worry about Cody, his two younger brothers and his baby sister, she said.

"He was up against life itself," she said. "Oh my God, it's hard to be young and be in that area, growing up, because the pressures are unbelievable.

"The core area is not like any place you've ever wanted to live. You really have to be on guard all the time, like, 'is my kid OK ... is my kid safe?' That's always on your mind in this area."

The neighbourhood has a reputation of violence; the morning after Cody was shot, bullets cut through the back window of a house just down the street from where Cody lived. On Wednesday, police had weapons drawn as they searched for guns in a house the next street over.

Police have not identified any suspects or made any arrests in connection with Cody's death.

Friday, February 1, 2008 | 10:54 AM CT

[CBC News](#)

The frozen bodies of the two girls, dressed only in T-shirts and undergarments, were discovered in the snow hours after their father was taken to hospital, suffering from frostbite and hypothermia.

Aboriginal leaders in Manitoba are debating the merits of banning alcohol on reserves in the wake of news a Saskatchewan reserve had tried to go "dry" a year before the possibly alcohol-related incident this week in which two children died.

Investigators on the Yellow Quill First Nation in Saskatchewan are trying to determine the circumstances that led to the death of a one-year-old girl and her three-year-old sister on the reserve earlier this week.

The man's sister told CBC he had been drinking heavily that day. Police have launched a criminal investigation into the incident.

The deaths might reignite a debate over whether the Yellow Quill First Nation should become a dry community, as it had tried unsuccessfully to do a year ago, the reserve's chief said Thursday.

22 dry reserves in Manitoba

But some Manitoba leaders question whether banning alcohol is a good idea. Twenty-two reserves in the province are dry, according to 2004 statistics.

[Continue Article](#)

Jim Moore, chief of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, says banning booze may not have helped.

Nisichawayasihk used to be totally dry but later changed its rules to allow alcohol in amounts considered suitable for personal use.

Only bootleggers benefited from the total booze ban, Moore said, and several people on the reserve died going to remote areas to pick up illegal alcohol.

"We lifted the ban because of the tragic events that happened," he said.

Bootlegging can be a lucrative business on some of Manitoba's dry reserves, where a bottle of whiskey that sells for \$20 in any Manitoba liquor store reportedly fetches as much as \$100.

Banning alcohol under the Indian Act today would be like going back to a time when Indians weren't allowed to drink, Moore added. In Canada, aboriginal people were banned from possessing and consuming alcohol on reserves until 1951.

Lack of enforcement

Another problem with prohibiting alcohol is that most reserves don't have enough police to properly enforce the bans, said Ron Evans, head of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

"Some of the chiefs themselves actually go to the airport, especially in the more isolated places, and actually search themselves," he said.

A ban also doesn't solve the root problems of alcohol addictions, Evans said.

"For those that are addicted, they find ways to feed their addiction," he said. "There are places now in many of the communities that are dry where they're making superjuice," he said, referring to a home brew made with special yeast that produces more potent alcohol than regular yeast in just a few days.

The yeast is easy to smuggle into the community and is used to make a quick, cheap-to-produce moonshine that is sold at a high profit. Aboriginal leaders have complained it is having a devastating impact on dry reserves in the province.

'Prohibition doesn't work': Fontaine

Phil Fontaine, head of the national Assembly of First Nations, also rejected the idea of booze bans.

"We all know that prohibition doesn't work — and I say this being well aware a number of First Nation communities are dry reserves. There are others that see turning their communities into dry reserves as an answer to the challenges that these communities face," he said. "The answer is not to turn First Nations communities into dry reserves, but to ensure that our communities have the supports that they need so that they can provide the kind of services and programs our people deserve," Fontaine said. Under the Indian Act, a reserve seeking to ban the sale, purchase and possession of alcohol must draft a bylaw, which requires approval from 51 per cent of residents attending a special meeting. The bylaw comes into immediate effect once it is enacted by the chief and council in a quorum, but a copy of the bylaw must be mailed to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs within four days.



Daniel Wolfe was stabbed to death at a Saskatchewan jail.

Indian Posse gang founder killed in jail

Updated: Wed Jan. 06 2010 11:18:53

ctvwinnipeg.ca

One of the founders of the Indian Posse street gang was stabbed to death Monday at a Saskatchewan jail, CTV News has learned.

Daniel Wolfe died as a result of a violent incident at a Prince Albert penitentiary yesterday, said sources. Two others were seriously injured.

In 2008, Wolfe was one of six men who escaped from a jail in Regina after spending four months digging through a wall. Wolfe, who was serving time for murder, was arrested in Winnipeg days after the escape.

Both RCMP and Corrections Canada are investigating Monday's fatal stabbing of Wolfe. The maximum security wing of the prison remains in lockdown.

Stolen Movie Necklace Found at Murder Scene

By Guylaine Cadorette , Hollywood.com Staff | Wednesday, July 16, 2003



Photo Gallery

HOLLYWOOD - A strange connection has been uncovered between [Susan Sarandon](#) and a grisly murder in Canada.

On July 1, \$4,000 worth of costume jewelry worn by [Sarandon](#) in Miramax's *Shall We Dance?*, which also stars [Jennifer Lopez](#) and [Richard Gere](#), was reported stolen from the film's prop room on the Winnipeg, Manitoba, set, *The New York Post* reports. On July 2, a 38-year-old Ontario man was found stabbed and decapitated in a low-end hotel room in downtown Winnipeg. Just feet away from the body lay the very necklace reported missing. Police said the victim, Robin Robert Greene, had stolen the bauble, but did not know how he got onto the set or whether anyone involved with the film's production knew him.

Days later, Manitoba native Sydney Teerhuis, 33, turned himself into the Winnipeg police, saying he believed he had committed a murder. According to police, Teerhuis lead them to the gruesome crime scene at Winnipeg's Royal Albert Arms Hotel, where they discovered Greene's dismembered body. A search of the room uncovered the *Shall We Dance?* necklace. Teerhuis was charged with second-degree murder and is being held without bail pending trial. No motive has been established, and detectives do not know if the necklace was a factor in the murder. The jewelry has since been returned to the movie production and has Miramax confirmed security on the film's set has been beefed up since the murder. Helmed by *Serendipity* director [Peter Chelsom](#), *Shall We Dance?* is a remake of the 1996 Japanese film of the same name. It revolves around an ordinary businessman who finds a new passion for dancing and starts taking classes in order to impress a beautiful female dance instructor.

Two police officers patrolling the North End area spotted an individual throwing something at the Mountain Avenue house early Tuesday morning, moments before the home's front porch erupted in flames.

The constables helped 10 people — ranging in age from nine months to 66 years — escape out a rear window because the home's front door was blocked by the fire and the back door had been boarded up to keep out the winter cold.



