

GREATER SAINT JOHN

“He tells me he’s one essay away from getting his GED.” BRIAN FERGUSON

Drug dealer sent to prison for two years

VERITY STEVENSON
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN • A 29-year-old Saint John man will spend two years in prison for selling drugs to support his own habit.

Christopher Hebert of Winslow Street was caught selling oxycodone and other non-prescribed drugs as part of a police operation to clamp down on drug dealers, said prosecutor Chris Titus in court Wednesday morning.

An undercover police officer had called Hebert’s phone number Feb. 13 and discussed buying pills, said Titus. They met later and the officer purchased seven of them. The two agreed on doing “business” together in the future, Titus added.

The future came four days later, Feb. 17, when the officer called Hebert to buy seven pills again, the prosecutor said. A scenario similar to the previous transaction unfolded.

After Hebert was sentenced, Judge Andrew LeMesurier asked him if there was anything he’d like to add. Hebert referenced an adage from the American 1970s television detective series *Baretta*:

“Don’t do the crime if you can’t pay the time.”

On March 4, police determined they had enough evidence against Hebert to arrest him. When they did so later that day, they found 240 oxycodone pills and 270 other non-prescribed drug pills. Hebert also had \$175 in cash and a firearm

on him, Titus said, which was asked to be forfeited. However, he said he wouldn’t ask for a DNA sample because the offence was “secondary.”

Defence lawyer Brian Ferguson accepted Titus’s proposed two-year sentence under a joint submission, an agreement on penalty between the crown and the defence.

“He tells me he’s one essay away from getting his GED. He’s single, but has a two-year-old daughter ... he understands the time he’ll have to do,” Ferguson said, adding that Hebert had been “using as much as he was selling.”

LeMesurier said that the federal penitentiary would help Hebert with his drug problem. When a sentence lasts two

years or more, prisoners are sent to a federal institution with more resources for when they get out.

Two younger women sat together on one of the court benches to listen to the man’s sentencing.

It is Hebert’s second firearms offence, LeMesurier said. He also spent nine months in jail in 2009 for selling drugs in British Columbia, the judge added.

“Obviously, that didn’t stop you from continuing in the drug trade,” he said. “We see people in this court every day, hooked on drugs and they get on drugs because of people like you that sell them.”

Hebert reminded the judge that he was selling them to support his own habit.

Force has 27 fewer officers than '08

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By comparison, Fredericton’s police force of 110 officers incurred \$522,500 in overtime, which was \$248,500 over budget, according to city spokeswoman Alycia Morehouse.

While some, such as Bob Davidson of the New Brunswick Police Association, say the overtime costs demonstrate the complexity and unpredictability of policing – and the need to fund it – others say it points to the need to find better ways to manage the bottom line.

“We need to be realistic,” said Coun. Greg Norton, who sits on the Saint John police commission. “We need to temper our enthusiasm for how much we believe the taxpayer can burden for wages.”

Chief Bill Reid of the Saint John Police Force said this week he doesn’t believe there is a problem with the cost of overtime, saying the figures have remained relatively unchanged for the past few years.

He said any increases are reflective of pay increases from the police force’s collective agreement, signed in April. The newest three-year contract includes a cumulative 14.75 per cent pay bump until the end of 2015, including an initial pay-out from a cancelled training fund. “They are in the parameters where we watch our budget very closely, and there’s nothing out of whack there,” Reid said after the latest financials came out this week, showing the police force ended 2013 close to four per cent over budget.

He said supervisors and managers closely watch labour costs to make sure they’re in line with the budget.

“If they’re not, we have to have those conversations about why it went off the rails, if in fact it did.”

Homicides and other investigations can affect overtime costs, he said. Two homicides within a seven-week period this spring required the force to “front-end load” investigations to gather evidence and conduct interviews, he said.

It’s all done under a tight budget – the \$23.6-million police budget has increased by less than \$1 million since 2011 – with a finite number of officers that has continued to dwindle since hiring stopped in 2011. There are now 147 officers, down from 174 in 2008.

“When you have less officers, at the end of the day you still have to do the same amount of work, if not more, and it requires in some situations for people to stay on longer and past their shifts,” Reid said.

Leuprecht, who has written extensively on rising wages and police costs across the country, said such arguments are weak. In Saint John, a quarter of the overtime costs were incurred by criminal investigations, according to the budget analysis provided to the police commission this week. The rest came from patrol operations.

“It’s simply a budgeting issue,” Leuprecht said. “If you’re a decently run force, you know roughly how many hours of criminal investigation you’re going to have in a year. And on top of that, you would have a reserve fund in case you do have a major investigation ... that’s going to suck up a huge part of your budget.”

“So to use regular overtime for normal criminal investigations is completely inexcusable. That’s part of your police model. That’s part of what police do.”

Jonathan Franklin, chairman of the Saint John police board, said it’s important to note that a large portion of the overtime budget is off-set by revenue from extra duty performed by police and paid by other organizations. For example, the province reimbursed the force for officers who monitored the Harbour Bridge during last year’s construction season.

Franklin also said the force is under-budgeting for overtime (the budget has remained unchanged for several years), something he expects to see changed in the 2014 budget.

He believes the force has been efficient, and he emphasized the \$1.4 million in revenue the force generated last year, a figure that is passed on to city coffers instead of being included in the police force’s budget. Such revenues cover the costs of officers that are seconded to RCMP units for Internet child exploitation or drug investigations, for example.

While costs of sending officers to court, as well as mental health calls, continue to stretch budgets – an issue he says is not unique to Saint John – Franklin said there are new opportunities to control the police overtime budget thanks to the



Christian Leuprecht, who studies policing costs at Queen’s University, says police forces should budget for criminal investigations rather than accumulating extra overtime costs. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

new collective agreement.

He called the elimination of the no-lay-off clause, which applies to anyone hired after 2011, as a “breakthrough” that may allow the force to hire temporary employees during peak times. And he said expanded roles for civilians should reduce the amount of highly paid and highly skilled officers doing desk jobs.

As well, new discussions about expanding the Saint John Police Force’s services beyond city limits could prove to save money, Franklin said.

“I would be very keen on us being able to provide services to local service districts, and quite frankly it makes a lot of sense,” he said. “A bigger footprint would create economies of scale.”

An assistant for Mayor Mel Norton, who has pushed the police force to reduce costs, deferred questions about overtime to the police board chairman.

Greg Norton, the councillor, said he agrees with the need to regionalize policing. He also believes there are further innovative ideas that could lead to savings – including seeking money back for costs that are “downloaded” onto municipal police forces, such as mental health issues and court costs that should perhaps be absorbed by the province.

“We’re going to need some help to

offset those staggering costs,” he said. “We don’t want anybody to become a catch-all for all of society’s problems.”

Norton is a proponent of more online reporting that might not require a response from a police officer every time. He is also open to reducing the number of officers performing community policing duties, a task that might be handled by a civilian.

While the new union contract resulted in some changes that could save money, there are still other areas that can add to overtime costs, he said. For example, officers who attend training in the Saint John area are entitled to a day off before and after the training session. Officers attended training outside the city are entitled to two days off before and after.

He said the challenges facing Saint John are not particularly unique, and it’s time to address them.

“What we are going to be unique in is spending a lot of money on policing while other folks look at efficiencies to reduce it,” Norton said. “If we don’t start doing that, then we’re going to be unique.”

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Warmer summer expected

WEATHER → C1

fall and winter months, but it’s really “too early to tell” whether it will bring a warmer or a colder winter, said Gillham.

He describes the upcoming summer months as “changeable,” with “a tendency towards more days with above-average temperatures than below” and “near normal rainfall, but we expect below.”

“Everyone would agree that we had a harsh winter. It was a long spring,” said Côté.

“We had one of the coldest springs in the past 20 years. Our average temperature for the province was two degrees below the normal,” he said.

Meanwhile, Environment Canada forecasts Saint John’s average maximum temperature in June to be 20 C with a

minimum of 8 C, a high of 20 C in July with a minimum of 12 C and a high in August of 22 C with a minimum of 11 C.

Prospective temperatures are gathered by looking at past years with comparable conditions and using models that simulate what atmosphere patterns may look like.

But, despite the slightly warmer temperatures, sunbathers shouldn’t be flocking to the beach too hastily.

Gillham said Saint John will “certainly be vulnerable to your typical amount of fog near the coast.”

As the Bay of Fundy warms, later in the summer, it will be less of a threat, he said.

Both meteorologists encourage people to check the daily forecast before heading out to ensure the most accurate results, especially on the long weekends.

One man was injured in attack

CAMPERS → C1

to the public peace (a knife and an axe), and causing damage to another man’s 1998 Honda CR-V.

One man was injured in the incident and treated in hospital for a cut to his hand. He was later released from hospital.

Sgt. Dale Morgan of the Sussex RCMP said Bostwick was arrested Tuesday night at around 6 p.m. in Hatfield Point, about 20 kilometres south of where the incident happened.

Cpl. Mike Kerr of the Oromocto RCMP said in a news release the man was located after receiving a tip from the public.

The Mounties then transferred him to the Oromocto detachment ahead of his court appearance Wednesday morning.

– With files from *The Daily Gleaner’s* Don MacPherson



Timothy Murray Bostwick
PHOTO: SUBMITTED

News of the Port

Name	Ship Line	Agent	Cargo activity
VESSLS IN PORT			
Thursday			
Palanca	Charter	Kent Agency	Petroleum for Foreign Ports
Singapore			
Friday			
Great Eastern	Charter	Kent Agency	Petroleum for Foreign Ports
Saturday			

Name	Ship Line	Agent	Cargo activity
New England	Charter	Kent Agency	Petroleum for Foreign Ports
Sunday			
Nor’ Easter	Charter	Kent Agency	Petroleum for Foreign Ports
Monday			
Asiatic Wind	Tropical Shipping	Kent Agency	Containers to and from foreign ports

IN THE COURTS

Man causing disturbance gets suspended sentence

SAINT JOHN • A 44-year-old man received a 12-month suspended sentence for starting a fight near the barber shop on Lancaster Street on Feb. 8. **Paul Anthony Beckingham** pleaded guilty to the disturbance charges. He had been drunk and was “hooting and hollering,” which woke people in the area, said prosecutor James McAvity. He finally got arrested at a nearby pub, added McAvity. The sentence was a joint submission between the prosecutor and the defence lawyer, Jeremy Erickson, who said Beckingham doesn’t usually drink that much.

WORDS IN SEASON

Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (King James Version)

ALMANAC

Lotteries

Keno for Tuesday, June 3: The unofficial winning numbers were: 07-08-13-22-24-25-28 33-37-39-40-42-50-53 54-55-57-58-60-6. The tag number was: 127999.

Bucko for Tuesday, June 3: The unofficial winning numbers were: 12-14-15-30-40.

Lotto 6-49 for Saturday, May 31: The unofficial winning numbers were: 19-28-30-32-37-45. Bonus number was: 44.

Atlantic 49 for Saturday, May 31: The unofficial winning numbers were: 07-13-19-20-32-38. Bonus number was: 23.

Lotto MAX for Friday, May 30: The unofficial winning numbers were: 02-05-10-11-23-25-31. Bonus number was: 46. The tag number was: 163899.

Today in history

1876 – The Supreme Court of Canada held its first sitting.

1883 – John Maynard Keynes, whose economic theories laid the foundation for the modern welfare state, was born in Cambridge, England.

1897 – Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier sailed from Canada to attend Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

1910 – Famed short story writer O. Henry died in New York at age 47.

1940 – The Canadian government outlawed 16 organizations – including Nazi, Fascist and Communist groups.

1947 – U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall proposed massive economic aid for postwar Europe.

1963 – John Profumo resigned as Britain’s war minister after admitting he had lied to Parliament about his relationship with a young woman, Christine Keeler.

1967 – The “Six-Day War” began between Israel and foes Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

1968 – U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy was fatally wounded by a gunman in a Los Angeles hotel.

1975 – Egypt re-opened the Suez Canal after eight years to all but Israeli shipping.

1977 – Queen Elizabeth celebrated 25 years on the throne.

1979 – The Canadian Great Lakes freighter “Cartiercliffe Hall,” hauling corn from Minnesota to Quebec, caught fire and burned on Lake Superior.

1980 – First-year centre, 19-year-old Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers, won the Hart Memorial Trophy and the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy, making him the youngest player to win two individual NHL awards in one season.

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MONDAY

Ultra Life	Message Addict
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WEDNESDAY

Papa John’s Co-op	Warehouse Sobeys	Save Easy No Frills
Home Depot Giant Tiger Mark’s Work	M&M Meat Shop Leons Furniture Staples	Superstore Sportchek

THURSDAY

Old Navy Lounsbury Furniture	Canadian Tire Guardian Drugs	Lawtons Toys R Us
Fredericton Hyundai Pharmasave	Toys R Us Club Cadet	M&M Meat Shop
Target Home Hardware Napa Auto Parts	Wei-Mart Kent Building Supplies The Source	Sears Corn Crib Co-op Pet Valu

FRIDAY

Surplus Furniture Future Shop	Michaels Shoppers Drug Mart
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SATURDAY (#2)

Smart Source	Rochnaura Nursing Home
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