

# Paramedics who tried to save officer left 'shaken'

Pair 'very upset,' 'stunned' Czapnik couldn't be saved

BY TOM SPEARS

Two paramedics who wrestled the attacker away from a deadly knife assault on Const. Eric Czapnik acted on instinct, and are "stunned" that the officer couldn't be saved despite immediate medical help.

Darrell Wilton, president of the Professional Paramedic Association of Ottawa, said the two paramedics are still too shaken to talk about the ordeal.

"The paramedics involved — I've tried to talk to each one of them, and at this point they're too shaken" to discuss anything. He said the pair, a man and a woman, can't even talk to him on the phone.

"Anybody out there in the community could understand that it's just this basic human instinct that kicks in, where you work alongside these people (officers) every day."

Police and paramedics often meet on the job and get to know each other well, he said. "And you just can't stand there and watch one of your colleagues getting murdered."

Wilton also said he has heard from Ottawa police that the force wants to hon-



BY PAT MCGRATH, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

**These flowers left in the snow on Wednesday for Const. Eric Czapnik read 'We thank you for your service. Our prayers are with your family.'**

our the two paramedics in some way.

"They're quite upset, so it'll be probably a little while" before any form of recognition is announced, he said.

"I think it's very, very thoughtful," he added, especially coming just when the police have their own loss to deal with.

Immediately after the killing, the two paramedics remained on duty for hours after their shift was supposed

to end, partly to answer investigators' questions and partly to deal with their own shock.

They have been off duty since then. Other paramedics have been struggling with the shock.

"We work together with the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team to manage events like that," Wilton said. "There's a lot of peer support taking place at work right now."

"I heard the police chief, Vern White, make the comment that we (paramedics) don't have the training or the equipment to deal with something like this," Wilton said. "We really don't. Usually when there's calls of this nature the paramedics show up behind police. They (police) go in and secure it first."

Paramedics don't even have individual radios "because we're not expected to be in those situations."

"These paramedics put themselves at extreme risk. They're also very upset, given that they were able to subdue the assailant and get the officer to safety, that things still turned out the way they did."

"Even though they started treatment immediately, they're still stunned with how quickly this happened. Their thoughts, just like our thoughts, are with the family of the police officer."

# RCMP: Behaviour 'not natural, normal or healthy'

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"Kevin, this is not natural, normal or healthy."

Gregson did undergo a psychological assessment shortly after the search of his home, and was declared unfit for operational duty. The report suggested the officer's fitness could be reviewed after about five years if no further inappropriate behaviour or attitudes were displayed.

Another report said Gregson was diagnosed as a sociopath by a Saskatoon doctor.

Gregson later successfully appealed the personal weapons seizure, but according to reports, his irrational behaviour continued.

The documents also refer to several other incidents, including one in Aug 2004 when he asked police to remove his wife Julie and two children from the family home because "he may not be able to contain his anger."

The couple later divorced and Gregson remarried.

A month later, documents say, he failed to respond to reports of a gun seen at a school and several weeks after that his superiors received complaints from participants in an impaired driving course.

According to the report,

Gregson told participants that during his previous job as a psychiatric ward nurse he looked for opportunities to be physical with patients "and stated that they were handicapped so no one would believe what they said."

Gregson also said he liked dealing with intoxicated people so that he could get "physical" with them.

Saskatchewan court officials told the *Citizen* Wednesday that the officer was tried, but found not guilty at a Melford court on two counts of assaulting a man held in RCMP custody during the summer of 2001.

In April 2007, Gregson pleaded guilty to a charge of threatening to stab to death Mormon bishop Robert Howie during a fight over Gregson's church privileges. Howie told police he thought Gregson was going to kill him.

Although the RCMP refuse to discuss Gregson's work record, he appears to have been assigned to a desk job at the time of his May 2006 attack on Howie. He was suspended with pay five months after the attack.

Gregson, who has used all legal means at his disposal under the RCMP Act to resist being dismissed, is still offi-

cially a member of the force and was on salary up to Nov. 16 this year.

At the time of his alleged killing of fellow police officer Const. Eric Czapnik on Tuesday, Gregson was still embroiled in a legal battle with the RCMP over his suspension and the withdrawal of his pay. In July 2008, he had been ordered to resign or be fired. His appeal and subsequent procedures led to the suspension without pay and another appeal.

"Every member is allowed due process," said RCMP media spokeswoman Sgt. Julie Gagnon Wednesday when asked why Gregson was still on the force. Gagnon refused to confirm whether Gregson had received any counselling or treatment for emotional problems, but said it is RCMP policy to periodically assess officers' physical and mental health and do further assessments when necessary.

RCMP Commissioner William Elliott said in a statement that he was "shocked" when told Gregson had been arrested and charged with Czapnik's murder.

JANA PRUDEN IS A REPORTER WITH THE REGINA LEADER-POST.

# Brain: Violence 'not inconceivable'

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Gregson had since had a shunt placed in his head to treat the cysts and was feeling better, Bishop told the court in 2007. But little was said in court about the specifics of Gregson's medical condition.

Dr. Edward Ahn, a neurosurgeon at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore, said Wednesday brain cysts are relatively rare — MRIs will show that only about five out of 1,000 people have any sort of brain cyst. Although Ahn does not know of any documented

cases leading to violent behaviour, "it's not inconceivable."

Brain cysts, which are fluid-filled cavities in the brain, have many causes and different symptoms. Some cysts are only about a centimetre in width, while others grow to take up large portion of the brain, he said.

Cysts can be present from birth or they can be caused by parasitic or bacterial infections, strokes or brain tumours. One of the most common symptoms is headaches caused by pressure on the brain.

Cysts may also cause changes in mental status, including lethargy, erratic behaviour and loss of mental capacity, said Ahn.

Treatment for brain cysts varies depending on the type of cyst and whether the cyst is stable or growing. Cysts caused by infection may be treated with antibiotics, and some can be removed.

Growing cysts may be treated by inserting a shunt in an opening in the skull which diverts fluid from the brain to another body cavity, such as the abdomen, where the body can drain and eliminate it.

# Dead: Police removed generator from home

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She said she saw police remove a generator from the Vallée home late Wednesday night. Parts of Gatineau expe-

rienced a power outage on Boxing Day and many residents in the area were without power for more than 15 hours, she said.

"We managed pretty good,

we had a generator, but it was outside," she said.

Gatineau police declined to speculate Wednesday on probable causes of deaths of the three victims.

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS / AMENDMENTS UNDER THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, January 12, 2010 – 9:30 a.m.

The items listed below, in addition to any other items previously scheduled, will be considered at this meeting which will be held in the Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa.

**Zoning - 975 Richmond Road**  
613-580-2424, ext. 15077 – lorraine.stevens@ottawa.ca

**Zoning - 3253-3317 Navan Road**  
613-580-2424, ext. 12585 – wendy.tse@ottawa.ca

**Zoning - 1014 Maitland Avenue**  
613-580-2424, ext. 15641 – simon.deiaco@ottawa.ca

**Zoning - 1515 Earl Armstrong Road**  
613-580-2424, ext. 27591 – steve.belan@ottawa.ca

**Zoning - Parts of 123 Huntmar Drive**  
613-580-2424, ext. 27820 – marc.magierowicz@ottawa.ca

**Official Plan and Zoning - 280 Didsbury Road**  
613-580-2424, ext. 16481 – sean.moore@ottawa.ca

**Official Plan and Zoning - 3211 Greenbank Road**  
613-580-2424, ext. 27500 – martin.barakengera@ottawa.ca

12-1087-7219

## Public Open House and Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule "B") Roundabout – Jeanne d'Arc at St. Joseph Intersection Concept Design Presentation Thursday, January 14, 2010

The City of Ottawa has initiated the design assignment for a proposed roundabout at the above referenced intersection. This infrastructure stimulus funded project is being planned as a Schedule 'B' project under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment planning process.

Representatives from the City, the consultant and area councillors will be available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Your feedback is an important part of the process and can influence the final recommendation.

You're invited:

Thursday, January 14, 2010  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Bob MacQuarrie Recreation Complex  
1490 Youville Drive, Orléans

With the exception of personal information, comments will become part of the public record.

For more information and/or to submit comments, please contact:

**Rock Fortier, P. Eng.**  
Infrastructure Services and Community Sustainability  
100 Constellation Crescent, 6th Floor West  
Ottawa, ON K2G 6J8  
Tel.: 613-580-2424, ext. 15778  
Fax: 613-560-6064  
E-mail: rock.fortier@ottawa.ca

Comments on this Open House should be submitted by January 29, 2010.

12-7023-7241

## Notice of Class Environmental Assessment Addendum and Public Information Centre Ottawa Articulated Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility City of Ottawa

### The Study

The City of Ottawa completed a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study and Preliminary Design for the Ottawa Articulated Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility in April 2008. The EA Study proposed the construction of a new bus storage and maintenance facility capable of storing and servicing approximately 192 articulated buses at 735 Industrial Avenue.

The City of Ottawa has since proposed to store an additional 80 articulated buses on this site. Consequently, an addendum to the EA Study is being prepared to assess the implications associated with the proposed changes to the undertaking.

### The Process

The Municipal Class EA process (October 2000, as amended in 2007), requires that an addendum to the completed Environmental Assessment Study be undertaken, where any significant modification to the project occurs after the Filing of the EA Study. Consultation with interested stakeholders remains a key component of the study. A Public Information Centre will be held to provide interested parties with an opportunity to review and discuss issues related to the proposed changes.

### Public Information Centre

The City of Ottawa is planning for an Open House Public Information Centre (PIC). The details of the PIC are as follows:

Date: Monday, January 11, 2010  
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Location: Riverview Alternative Public School, 260 Knox Crescent, Ottawa

### Comments

You are invited to comment on this undertaking before any final decisions are made. Any groups or individuals wishing to comment on or be involved in this study are asked to contact the following:

Paul Hussar, B.Arch., OAA  
Program Manager Architecture Design & Construction  
100 Constellation Crescent  
Nepean, Ontario K2G 6J8  
Tel: 613-580-2424 ext. 43605  
Fax: 613-580-2495  
E-mail: Paul.Hussar@ottawa.ca

Or

Anthony Reitmeier, P. Eng.  
Environmental Assessment Coordinator  
HDR /iTRANS  
144 Front Street West, Suite 655  
Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2L7  
Tel: 416-847-0005  
Fax: 416-587-3127  
E-mail: Anthony.Reitmeier@hdrinc.com

Comments and information regarding this study are being collected to assist in meeting the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in study documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

12-8126-7249

Four of eleven criteria must be present to diagnose lupus. Symptoms are many, varied and can be frightening.

www.lupusontario.org

**BEST BUY - CORRECTION NOTICE**

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: December 25 - January 03 Product: Toshiba Satellite Laptop (L500-038) Please note that this laptop advertised on page 2 of the Boxing Day flyer, page 3 of the Boxing Week flyer, and page 1 of the Boxing Week Final 3 Days flyer DOES NOT have a built-in webcam and mic, as previously advertised. SKU: 10135530