



Crime does pay if you're a cop

It might strike us as odd to see a picture of police chiefs across Ontario in handcuffs.

But metaphorically speaking, that's how they must feel. A movement is afoot within the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police to rework the Police Services Act and allow them to suspend some officers without pay. Chiefs say suspending some officers with pay is "simply unfair."

In Peel Region, two cases bring the issue into sharp focus. Long time Det. Craig Wattier, a 30-year veteran, was arrested this week on five charges, including accessing child pornography and also possessing it. Wattier received bail this week and is currently suspended with pay. Const. Carlton Watson was recently convicted on more than 40 charges of fraud, breach of trust and obstructing justice. He will be suspended with pay until a judge rules on his sentence, and has been getting paid since he was first arrested in the spring of 2011.

Last summer, the police chiefs held their annual general meeting and discussed having the ability to suspend officers without pay if they are facing dismissal due to their on-the-job conduct. Peel Police Chief Jennifer Evans, president of the association, said the action would have to be serious enough that the officer has lost a level of public confidence and trust and that the force would eventual work towards dismissal under the Police Services Act.

The talk raised the ire of the police associations. The union said no-pay is unfair since the officer is being convicted in the court of public opinion. Leave it to a court of law to try the case. That, of course, takes time, and costs a bundle. Meanwhile, Ontario is the only jurisdiction in Canada where suspended officers must be paid.

The rules state that even if an officer is convicted of a crime or crimes but has not been ordered to serve time (perhaps Watson's hope), he or she can remain suspended with pay until they are fired through the police disciplinary process. Officers can also appeal that, thus delaying their termination further - and pouring more

The stories of officers being suspended for three or four years with pay are striking, and chiefs in those jurisdictions have been most vocal about the need to reform the Police Act.

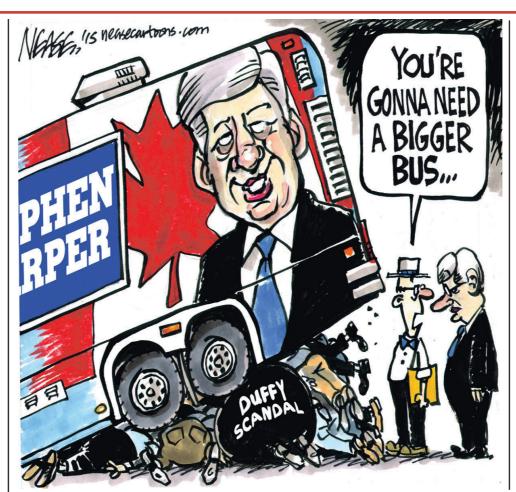
Chiefs from all over Ontario are asking that Queen's Park help remove their handcuffs and reform an out-

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Letters to the editor

Bees have a bright future

sional Apiculturists (CAPA) just re- beekeepers and other stakeholders to cently released its report on honey ensure the success of the entire agribee wintering losses in Canada for cultural industry. 2015. The national average percentage of colony winter loss this year was 15.9 per cent. CAPA's report is good news for bees and it shows without doubt - that the challenges of the past few years were multi-faceted and could be addressed by those beekeepers.

It also demonstrates that banning neonics, as Ontario has essentially As I drove my vehicle on Highway 401, I responsible for their losses.

keepers who want to take a holistic trailer. look at the situation to be heard.

country who have made enormous the drivers went in for lunch breaks.

progress in creating strong and vibrant colonies that are robust enough to survive, with proper care, even the harshness of Canadian winters.

The plant science industry looks The Canadian Association of Profes- forward to continuing to work with

> Erin O'Hara. Senior Communications Officer CropLife Canada

It's too hot to transport animals

done, is not required to improve bee passed tractor-trailers transporting pigs. health. In fact, beekeepers across the The heat in my car was unbearable with country consistently pointed to fac- the windows down, so I turned on the airtors other than pesticides as being conditioning and I could only think if it's unbearable for me, how are these poor It's time for those Ontario bee- animals coping in a jam-packed metal

I was disturbed to see some of these There is much that can be learned trucks parked in the service centre off the from beekeepers in other parts of the highway with fully loaded trailers while

In a heat warning issued by The Ministry of the Environment on July 28, 2015 at 3:46 p.m. they stated, "Never leave people or pets in your care inside a parked vehicle or in direct sunlight" and yet animals are being transported on Ontario's highways in elevated and extreme heat conditions.

It is inhumane and fits the criteria for animal cruelty by not exercising reasonable care and causing undue suffering.

If these were dogs, or our pets, society would be outraged.

Why can we not afford the same compassion and empathy to all animals?

Nancy Widish

Letters policy

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