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## Signal from satellite device leads police to man's body

Times Colonist

A signal from a satellite-communication device led searchers to a man's body just south of Port Alberni on Tuesday.

The signal about 12:55 a.m. from an area near Franklin River Road was from a device linked to a 42-year-old man who was last known to be living in Nelson.

Port Alberni RCMP began a search with assistance from the Alberni Valley Rescue Squad and found a campsite with what appeared to be recently felled trees, a small structure and the man's vehicle.

The man's body was found about 8 a.m. a short distance from the camp, and had to be airlifted out due to the terrain.

Police and the B.C. Coroners Service investigated and found no indications of foul play or suspicious circumstances.

The man's family has since been notified.

## B.C. semi driver hits four cars, now faces drunk driving charges, police say

The Canadian Press

PORT COQUITLAM — Police are recommending criminal charges of impaired driving against the driver of a semi truck that hit four vehicles.

A statement from B.C. Highway Patrol says police received a report of a semi being driven erratically on Monday, but before they arrived, the truck had run into four vehicles parked along Industrial Avenue in Port Coquitlam.

Cpl. Michael McLaughlin says an alert citizen had called police.

The semi was towing a trailer, and McLaughlin says it's "unbelievable that a professional driver" would consider operating a vehicle of that size while impaired, a factor that prompted the Mounties' decision to recommend criminal charges.

A 42-year-old man from Surrey faces charges of impaired operation of a vehicle and operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level over the legal limit.

The man is set appear in court in March.

He has lost his driver's licence for 90 days and the truck was impounded for 24 hours.

# Nanaimo municipal worker recovering after being attacked in park bathroom

CARLA WILSON  
Times Colonist

The City of Nanaimo worker stabbed with hypodermic needles this week in a park bathroom is recuperating at home while Mounties scour the city for two suspects in the Tuesday morning assault.

The 58-year-old man was taken to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital to be assessed after being attacked by two men in the bathroom at Maffeo Sutton Park and suffering injuries to his face and abdomen.

Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog said Wednesday he is frustrated and angry about the incident.

"This was a city worker going about his daily duties. It's a pretty sad thing when you can't do your job for the City of Nanaimo without being attacked," Krog said. "I can only hope that out of this will come the kind of attention that the street disorder deserves from both levels of government senior to the municipality."

Being attacked with a needle brings a fear of transmission of



Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog says it is "pretty sad" that a city worker was attacked. CHEK NEWS

illness, such as hepatitis or other long-term consequences, the mayor said.

A community group called the Newcastle Community Association held an emergency meeting Tuesday after the attack at

the park, and says it has "grave concerns" about public safety at Maffeo Sutton Park.

Association president Karen Kuwica noted the stabbing took place in a bathroom located about 40 feet from a children's playground.

The Newcastle neighbourhood is directly connected to Maffeo Sutton Park by the Queen Elizabeth Promenade, which attracts many visitors who use the washrooms daily, said Kuwica, who wants security beefed up in the park.

"Newcastle residents want their public safety prioritized so a simple trip to the public washroom doesn't end in violence, trauma and a hospital stay," she said.

While RCMP and the City of Nanaimo do as much as they can to keep Nanaimo safe, their efforts are hampered by the failure of the federal and provincial governments to take the steps required to effectively deal with crime, drug addiction and judicial reform, she said.

Other communities around the world have implemented safety precautions includ-

ing cameras and passes, said Kuwica.

Nanaimo chief administrative officer Dale Lindsay said the impact of the incident is being felt across the organization.

"We have many staff who work in front-line roles and who, first and foremost, are concerned about the safety of their fellow employee."

The city will review the situation internally and see what recommendations come forward, he said.

Krog said senior governments need to recognize that there are some people on city streets who should be in secure and involuntary care.

At the same time, there are others who are capable and competent and who repeatedly carry out criminal activities, he said. In those cases, although a significant sentence might not be a deterrent, it would "at least keep the public safe from their criminal behaviour."

Krog said he has heard from people who are scared to go into downtown Nanaimo or to walk the city's streets at night.

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## Fentanyl, cocaine seized from Campbell River suite; trafficking charges expected

Times Colonist

Two people are expected to face trafficking charges after a search of a residential suite led to a "significant" seizure of illicit drugs, including

fentanyl, Campbell River RCMP say.

About 200 grams of fentanyl, about 900 grams of cocaine and 260 hydromorphone pills, or Dilaudid, were found in the Nov. 20 search in the 1300-block of

Shoppers Row, police said

Police said they seized just over \$26,000 in cash.

There was evidence in the suite of crack cocaine being made and fentanyl being diluted, the RCMP said.

A 34-year-old man was arrested and released, and is due for his first court appearance in February.

Police said charges are expected against him and a 32-year-old woman.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# How one meal can change everything: Lloyd's journey from crisis to community at Our Place

This holiday season, your donation can help someone like Lloyd get back on their feet

A few years ago, Lloyd Hardman was at his lowest.

Struggling with Crohn's Disease and the toll of twelve surgeries, the side effects of medications and a healthcare system that is complex to navigate, he had lost everything—his health, his career, and his savings.

After the death of his mother, life seemed to break him further. Hardman found himself living in his car, the only thing left from a once-thriving career in tech. It was during this dark time that he discovered Our Place Society. As it does for so many Our Place Family Members (their preferred term for people they serve), it started with a meal.

What began with a simple meal soon turned into much more: a fresh haircut, a hot shower and the support of outreach workers who helped him rebuild his life.

"They just sort of opened the door and kept things moving for me," Hardman recalls.

With their assistance, Hardman got back on his feet, securing work and starting the long road to recovery.

"It helped me to get my body back up. Knowing I can get a hot meal at Our Place, swoop in, get back on the road, back to work," Hardman adds.

Today, he's not only back on track but is also giving back. Hardman is sponsoring meals for others at Our Place, standing side by side with volunteers, serving the very community that once helped him.



Lloyd Hardman gives back by sponsoring meals at Our Place, serving alongside volunteers to support the community that once helped him. PHOTO PROVIDED BY OUR PLACE SOCIETY

It's such a heartwarming sight as he serves alongside Our Place volunteers and spends time with Family Members who are navigating the tough situation he was once in himself.

His story is a testament to the power of compassion and the life-changing impact of Our Place's services.

"The resources of Our Place and the message of hope, belonging and acceptance—I took it to heart. It's

such a pleasure to give back and be in a position to do so," Hardman says.

Right now, hundreds of people are living rough in our city. The services at Our Place are expertly designed to get people back on their feet. And thanks to the countless stories like Hardman's, we can be assured that these programs are effective.

Walking down the street on any given day, one thing becomes glaringly obvious. Our fellow citizens

need support right now. With your help, Our Place can provide it.

During the holidays, the number of people seeking the supports at Our Place increases dramatically. This past Thanksgiving, there were greater numbers than ever before in the long memory of the Our Place team.

But, like Janice Kalin, Director of Philanthropy at Our Place, says: "Every meal is an opportunity to connect with someone and guide them to the next step on their journey to wellness. We're grateful for our donors, who create those opportunities."

*Our Place serves 1,400 meals every day and more during the holidays. Their meal programs are 100% funded by donations. You can give someone the opportunity to get back on their feet, like Hardman, with a gift to Our Place Society this holiday season.*

*Learn more about giving to Our Place and the programs available to anyone who needs help in our region at [www.ourplacesociety.com/donate](http://www.ourplacesociety.com/donate).*

### Hope and Belonging

Our Place Society has grown from a unique inner-city community centre to eight locations serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable, including people struggling with homelessness, mental health challenges, substance use issues, the working poor and impoverished elderly.

NEWS 24/7  
AT  
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FOR RECYCLING  
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