

YEAR IN REVIEW

Three 2015 homicides remain cold cases

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The sound of shots ringing out on Upper Fraser Road on Jan. 16 marked an inauspicious start to 2015.

Up until that day, Prince George had gone 637 days without a murder.

Police later confirmed Jordan Taylor McLeod, 24, had been murdered at the site, his body found Feb. 22 by a man walking his dog off the Kaykay Forest Service Road, past the end of Nukko Lake Road, northwest of the city.

In August, Darren Sundman, 34, Kurtis Sundman, 27, and Sebastian Martin, 43, were charged with murder in McLeod's death. Their case remains before the court.

The last murder had occurred on April 19, 2013 with the body of Gordon Stanley Adolph Sr., 42, was found in his 800-block Douglas Street home. Three people were also charged in that death – Gordon Stanley Adolph Jr., 25, Christopher Flanagan, 26, and a youth whose name cannot be released – and that case also remains before the court.

Three more people were the victims of homicides this year in Prince George. So far, no arrests have been made in those cases.

During the early morning of March 4, Ronald James Larson, 46, was stabbed to death near the



CITIZEN FILE PHOTO

A police car blocks traffic on the end of Haldi Road on Aug. 24. On Aug. 23 a member of the Prince George RCMP located the body of Ian Matthew Begg at the south end of Haldi Road.

corner of Vancouver Street and 11th Avenue.

And just three weeks later, on March 22, former Renegades biker gang president Jason Alexander Hall, 45, was killed in a late-morning shooting at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Gillett Street.

Then, on the morning of Aug.

23, the body of Ian Matthew Begg, 35, was found at the south end of Haldi Road.

However, two other cases are expected to go to trial in 2016.

Lyle William Baker, 43, Kevin Roy Zaporoski, 47, Bradley Douglas Barr, 36, and Dustin Allen Lindgren, 27, all face a charge of

first-degree murder in the death of Jordan Christian Reno, 22.

Reno's body was found in a mobile home in the 4100 block of Knight Crescent in the Hart on June 23, 2012.

And in connection with the January 2012 death of Fribjon Bjornson, four people face charges.

Wesley Dennis Duncan, 29, has been charged with second-degree murder, Jesse Darren Bird, 33, has been charged with accessory after the fact to murder and interference with a dead body, James David Charlie, 25, has been charged with indignity to human remains and Teresa Marie Charlie, 23, has been charged with accessory after the fact to murder.

Bjornson remains were found in an abandoned home on the Nak'azdli reserve adjacent to Fort St. James.

Also this year, Garrett Steven George, 27, was charged with second-degree murder in the death of Destiny Rae Tom, 21, whose badly-beaten body was found outside a home on the Nadleh reserve near Fort Fraser, during the early morning of March 23, 2013.

As well, second degree murder charges were laid against Shaun Keith Goodwin, 21, and a 20-year-old man who was 17 at the time of the offence, in the deaths of Blaine Albert Barfoot, 29, and Tara Lee Ann Williams, 40.

They were found dead in a Vanderhoof-area mobile home on Jan. 13, 2013.

Further afield, former Prince George resident Joshua Tyler Bredo, 31, faces a new trial in Victoria for the August 2011 murder, sexual assault and unlawful confinement of Daniel Jordan Levesque 20.

Hair cut divides readers

—from page 1

- **Student's hair cut by school worker without parents' permission**

The headline says it all – and readers alternated between outrage and a shoulder shrug, some upset about what it said about boundaries and others surprised a few snips deserved a full story in the newspaper.

Regardless, mother Lorretta LaFortune was furious her six-year-old son had his hair cut by a Hart Highlands Elementary worker. LaFortune said a note in the worker's file was not punishment enough and was considering getting legal counsel.

- **Local flight missing**

The first news that a search was underway for two missing pilots destined for Prince George garnered much local attention.

In the following days investigators learned both Brandt, the captain, and Kevin Wang, 32, the first officer, died after the Carson Air cargo plane crashed April 13 shortly after it took off from Vancouver.

Post-mortem testing revealed Robert Brandt, 34, had a blood-alcohol limit of .24 per cent, according to the B.C. Coroners Service.

- **Local dealership fined for deceptive practices**

The B.C. Motor Vehicle Sales Authority fined the owners of Northland Chrysler Jeep Dodge \$44,000 and its former principal, Brent Marshall, \$3,550 for engaging in deceptive practices.

The penalties, issued Aug. 13, were in relation to the sale of four used vehicles advertised in a June

2013 flyer distributed to communities outside of Prince George.

- **Woof Stock organizer takes blame for chaos**

Woof Stock Music Festival's principal organizer Jordan Corrigal sat down with the Citizen after the five-day festival faced low ticket sales and lots of community criticism.

The late August event was marketed as a festival plus SPCA fundraiser but instead ended up in debt, owing about \$18,000 to various musicians and another \$15,000 in bills to service providers, Corrigal said.

- **Stuck for 14 hours after crash, nurse relies on experience to save her broken legs**

Stacie Reis earned international attention after taking the Citizen step-by-step through a crash and the survival instincts that kicked in over the course of a 14-hour wait.

The northern nurse, trapped in the wreckage of her car that had crashed down a 40-foot embankment, saved her broken legs by straightening them herself.

- **Teacher disciplined for inappropriate touching**

A School District 57 teacher was sanctioned for inappropriate touching that included squeezing girls by the arm, patting boys and girls on the back, putting his arms around them and giving girls a brief shoulder and neck massage.

David Elton Ganner agreed to take a boundaries course and had already been suspended several times in 2013 and 2014 without pay before the July 2015 summary by the Commissioner for Teacher Regulation Branch was published.

'Little hero' Lexi Shymanski placed second in poll

—from page 1

Her closest competitor was Lexi Shymanski, the five-year-old hero who climbed barefoot up an embankment to get help after the vehicle her mother was driving went off the road. Shymanski's heroics garnered her 36 per cent of the votes.

New Cariboo-Prince George MP Todd Doherty came in third with eight per cent of the votes. Doherty won the Oct. 19 federal

election, withstanding strong competition from a never-before-seen Liberal surge in the riding led by candidate Tracy Calogheros.

Coroner Lisa Lapointe had the unenviable job of presiding over the inquest into the Lakeland Mills explosion. Charged with making recommendations and not finding fault, Lapointe also had to suspend the entire session once new evidence cropped up. Lapointe received two per cent of

the newsmaker votes.

Following closely behind her was UNBC president Daniel Weeks, with two per cent of the newsmaker of the year tally. Weeks got to lead the local university through its 25th anniversary celebrations, its selection as Maclean's magazine's number one choice for universities in its category as well as a two-week faculty association strike that eventually went to a recently concluded arbitration.

Birders look to the skies

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The area's annual bird counts are popular birdwatching excursions, but also grassroots science in action. Taking account of birds each year is an indicator of the region's overall state of the environment.

The first of these events took place just before Christmas, but two more are on the calendar for the near future. The Prince George Naturalist Club issued the dates they want outdoor enthusiasts to mark on their calendars.

The first is Sunday when the annual Quesnel Christmas Bird Count takes place.

"Prince George birders are a crucial part of this event," said a naturalist club statement. "In their absence last year because of snow, the Quesnel count nearly ground to a halt. If you can help, contact Adrian Leather at qabis4@gmail.com: he'll be delighted to hear from you."



CITIZEN FILE PHOTO

**A pigeon flares for a roof landing in the CN Rail yards where they feed on spilled grain from rail cars in this file photo.**

Closer to home, Jan. 17 is the chosen date for this year's Prince George Swan & Eagle Count. It runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and requires snowshoes. Anyone interested in heading to the prescribed counting zones is asked to be green Spruceland Shopping Centre sign by Central Street. Dress warmly and pack food and safety provisions. For more infor-

mation email [sjkinsey@direct.ca](mailto:sjkinsey@direct.ca) or phone at 250-963-8381.

The naturalist club is focused on the understanding and protection of more natural values than just birds. The group is also encouraging hikers, skiers, back-country professionals, anyone who ventures out into the forests of the area to think about any porcupine sightings you may have had recently.

"Porcupines appear to have been in real decline over recent years," according to the club. "You can help to get a handle on this by completing a brief survey by Thomson Rivers University."

A direct link to the online data form can be found at [han29.typeform.com/to/Dh17rm](http://han29.typeform.com/to/Dh17rm).

The club holds regular meetings and hosts semi-regular presentations pertaining to the local out-of-doors. The next such gathering is Jan. 21 at the Exploration Place where professional agrologist Alex Koiter, a PhD candidate at UNBC, will hold a discussion on his work.

Classifieds Online – [www.pgcitizen.ca](http://www.pgcitizen.ca)



**Two Rivers Gallery**

Registration & Winter class descriptions: [www.tworiversgallery.ca](http://www.tworiversgallery.ca)

Gallery Members: 10% disc. on all classes | 725 Canada Games Way | Tel: 250-614-7800

**Children & Youth Studio Classes**

All children's programs are eligible for the "Children's Art Tax Credit".

**Tue & Fri mornings** **Picasso's Playgroup**

**Sat mornings**  
**Preschool Art**  
**Art Explosion!**  
**Gallery Gang**  
**Colourful Creations**

**Sat afternoons**  
**Anime Drawing**

**Wed afternoons**  
**Animania**



**Adult Studio Classes and Workshops**

**Jan 23 Workshop**  
**Paper with Cori**  
Handmade paper jewelry

**Feb 26/27 Workshop**  
**Drum Painting**  
Fri | Feb 26 | 10am - 3pm  
or Sat | Feb 27 | 10am - 3pm

**Wed mornings**  
**The Third Dimension**

**Mon evenings**  
**More Black & White & In Between**  
**Intermediate Fly Tying**  
**Up Close: Close Up**

**Tue evenings**  
**Self Directed Life Drawing**  
**Owls, Owls, Owls**  
**Textures in Watercolours**  
**Pysanky**  
**Animal Portraiture**

**Sat mornings 3x3 (Mark 2)**



**Open Make Nights**  
Thurs | 5-9pm | \$5 Drop-in fee

**Youth MakerLab (9-13 yrs)**  
Thursdays after school, starting Jan 7

**MakerLab Workshops**  
**Laser 101:** Jan 6 | Feb 6 | Mar 2  
**3D Print 101:** Jan 7 | Feb 4  
**Leather Belt Workshop** | Jan 20 & 21

**Home Sweet Home DIY Series:**  
**Stitching Remixing** | Jan 14  
**Big Bottomed Tote Bag** | Feb 11





Canada Council for the Arts



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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
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CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE



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A GOLDEN RAVEN EXPERIENCE