



To whom it may concern,

Please consider our submission for best multimedia breaking news coverage.

Greater Victoria can be a quiet region – until it's not. Shortly before 11:30 a.m. on June 28, 2022, our newsroom received word from one of our circulation managers who was out in the community. She had heard a bank in the District of Saanich was being robbed. While that is not a regular occurrence, it's not unusual. However, within seconds she encountered people running down the street saying they had heard shots being fired. One of our editors had her put a witness on the phone to get the details of what the witness saw and heard while sending a journalist to the scene.

An initial story was posted within minutes and was built out with information from the first few witnesses who reported hearing at least 50 shots fired – something that does not happen in Greater Victoria. The story evolved throughout the day as more information became available.

As our journalist, and then a second, arrived in the area, it quickly became clear this would be the province's top story of the day due to the extent of the gun fire exchange, the bank robbery that included hostages, six injured officers (three requiring extensive stays in hospital), two dead suspects, a potential third suspect still at large and improvised explosive devices found at the scene in the suspects' vehicle.

Initially, we had to balance reporting what we knew and how to keep members of the public and the police force safe – avoiding posting police locations as this was still considered an active shooter incident given the belief there was a third suspect. We also had to make sure we were getting information out as the initial area of investigation was expanded due to the bomb threat. All while updating the public – including friends and family members of the injured officers – who were turning to us for information.

To do this, we relied on social media posts, live videos, photos from the scene and our online stories to round out our coverage.

By early afternoon we were also receiving reports on the conditions of the injured officers while waiting for the bomb squad to catch a ferry over from the mainland. Members of the public were also waiting to hear if they would be able to return to evacuated homes or businesses.

Our first story shifted to a second shortly before 4 p.m. with continuous updates rolling until approximately 9:30 p.m. Coverage continued the following morning with a third story posted at 6:45 a.m. and a fourth at 3:30 p.m. In total, we had five journalists under our Saanich and Victoria banners (injured officers were from both communities) working on the initial stories.

To maximize our reach, we use our Victoria News Facebook page to host our live videos of press conferences as that page has a larger following than our Saanich News page. All six of our Greater Victoria websites, along with our Vancouver Island daily publication, and other Black Press Media digital publications were used to publish information on the incident.

In total, our Greater Victoria team has published 17 stories on this incident.

The full list of stories:

June 28, 11:30 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/breaking-police-responding-to-reports-of-saanich-bank-robbery/>

June 28, 3:55 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/breaking-2-suspects-killed-1-at-large-after-daytime-bank-robbery-in-saanich/>

June 29, 6:45 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/saanich-block-remains-closed-for-police-investigation-into-bank-robbery/>

June 29, 3:30 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/live-saanich-police-give-update-on-shelbourne-bank-robbery/>

June 30, 3:20 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/live-police-give-update-on-saanich-bank-shooting/>

July 1, 4:20 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/online-fundraiser-started-for-police-injured-in-saanich-shooting/>

July 2, 10:36 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/breaking-saanich-bank-shootout-suspects-confirmed-as-22-year-old-twins-from-duncan/>

July 2, 4:30 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/shelbourne-street-reopens-following-saanich-shootout/>

July 4, 11:30 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/more-than-140000-raised-for-officers-affected-by-saanich-bank-shooting/>

July 4, 4:30 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/saanich-bank-heist-brothers-sampled-canadian-military-never-served-caf/>

July 5, 8 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/saanich-police-department-to-name-provide-updates-on-officers-wounded-in-bank-shootout/>

July 11, 1 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/condition-of-officers-shot-in-saanich-bank-incident-continues-to-improve/>

Aug. 5, 4:45 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/saanich-officer-wounded-in-bank-shooting-greeted-warmly-upon-discharge-from-rjh/>

Aug. 11, 5:05 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/community/saanich-neighbourhood-block-party-helps-residents-heal-after-bank-shootout/>

Sept. 7, 1 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/last-of-six-officers-injured-in-saanich-bank-shooting-released-from-hospital/>

Dec. 21, 10:20 a.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/report-on-saanich-bank-shooting-released-by-iiio/>

Jan. 20, 12 p.m.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/police-release-findings-on-saanich-bank-shootout/>

This is also a list of the Facebook live videos:

<https://www.facebook.com/victorianews/videos/269961978671731/>

<https://www.facebook.com/victorianews/videos/734650954522223/>

<https://www.facebook.com/victorianews/videos/2614608995339529/>

<https://www.facebook.com/victorianews/videos/1007624659955572/>

<https://www.facebook.com/victorianews/videos/1763706100627729/>

Along with extensive digital and social media coverage, we used our weekly print editions to highlight updates in the case in different ways. Since this is a weekly publication (entered under the Saanich News banner as it has the highest circulation), we couldn't use our online breaking news stories and had to repackage them for the different readership.

This breaking news event continues to impact our Greater Victoria community. We've had to dedicate a lot of time and resources to this extensive coverage but it has been needed as many organizations only covered the initial event and not the aftershocks that continue to be felt. Almost one year later, many officers - those involved in the event and others who were impacted by the trauma of it - have not returned to work.

Thank you for your consideration,
Katherine Engqvist
Greater Victoria managing editor
Black Press Media

Community rallies around police involved in bank shootout

Many questions remain unanswered and some may never be answered as the investigation continues into the brazen bank shooting that left two suspects dead and six members of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team (GVERT) in hospital.

By Monday morning, more than \$145,000 had been raised to support the Greater Victoria police officers involved.

“Our hope is that none of our members need to worry about any financial burden during this time and can focus on healing and being together with their loved ones,” organizer Chelsea Cofield wrote on the online fundraiser’s page.

“As a result of this incident, multiple sworn and civilian members of the Saanich Police Association (SPA) and Victo-

ria City Police Union (VCPU) have been physically and mentally injured. The total impact of this event is still unknown as some of our officers are facing life-altering injuries.”

SPA and VCPU created the online fundraiser in response to requests from the community. A joint committee has been created to distribute the funds to help in a variety of ways including accommodations and transportation for families of those in the hospital, psychological support, modifications to homes to allow for future transition from hospital and much more.

Of the six GVERT members shot during the exchange, three sustained life-threatening injuries and remained in hospital, as of press deadline. One is in the intensive care unit and will,

along with another officer still in hospital, require additional surgeries over the coming months.

Three were released from hospital after receiving emergency medical care and are recovering at home.

The officers all suffered gunshot wounds in an exchange with two armed men who were leaving the BMO location at Shelbourne and Pear streets on June 28. The two bank robbery suspects were shot dead by police.

The Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crimes Unit (VIIMCU) has taken over the criminal investigation while B.C.’s police oversight agency, the Independent Investigation Office (IIO), conducts its own investigation.

The two male suspects have



RCMP Cpl. Alex Berube, speaking for the Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crimes Unit, speaks to the media Thursday (June 30) to provide an update on the investigation into a bank robbery in Saanich Tuesday (June 28) which left two suspects dead and six police officers injured. (Justin Samanski-Langille/News Staff)

been identified by VIIMCU as 22-year-old brothers Mathew and Isaac Auchterlonie from Duncan. Neither had criminal records or were known to police, RCMP Cpl. Alex Berube said at a Saturday (July 2) press conference.

Investigators have determined the two were the only suspects in the bank branch during the incident, however, they continue to look into whether anyone else was involved or associated with it.

“We understand that the release of the names of the two deceased may answer the who, but there are still many

outstanding questions and investigation efforts that need to take place in order to fully understand what took place and why,” said Berube. “The motive behind the armed robbery and subsequent exchange of gunfire with police has not yet been determined.”

A vehicle, which police have since connected to the suspects, was found at the scene with multiple improvised explosive devices in it. The vehicle is described as a white 1992 four-door Toyota Camry with two black racing stripes over the hood and roof. Police are looking for any information on

this vehicle or its movements during the week prior to the bank robbery.

The devices were secured by the BC RCMP explosive disposal unit and transported to the Hartland landfill on June 29 to be destroyed.

Members of the public with video of the incident are asked to submit it online at bit.ly/3ArUxuK. Anyone with information who has not yet spoken to police is asked to call the VIIMCU information line at 250-380-6211.

For more information on the fundraiser, go to bit.ly/3ukWt12.

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Strawberry Festival serves up community spirit, new records

Some 4,000 servings of ice cream and strawberries gobbled up within 60 minutes

Wolfgang Depner
News Staff

Two records were likely set at Saanich's premier community festival in terms of the size of the crowd and how quickly 4,000 servings of ice cream

and strawberries were gobbled down. Historically, Saanich's Strawberry Festival, held at Beaver Lake, runs out of servings within 90 minutes. On Sunday, it was within 60 minutes.

Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes, who was part of the crew serving ice cream to an estimated crowd of up to 10,000, said the response shows the public's appreciation for the event.

"It's our biggest festival," he said. "We have had it for 56 years. We have two years missing because of COVID. People were so pleased. They have been waiting for it to come back."

Ivy Liu and her family, among the last to leave the event at around 3:30

p.m. Sunday afternoon, were among those who appreciated the event. "We saw a crowd full of smiles, singing and dancing together to enjoy the happy time and the children also spent the day laughing. We are very grateful to the organizers and all the volunteers."

As in past years, children could play in what looked like a small village of bouncy castles or splash along the shores of the lake. Adults, meanwhile, could listen to bands or simply lounge on the grass.

Haynes praised the atmosphere. "I'm truly delighted," he said.

He said earlier the return of events, like Sunday's festival, is critical to

Saanich's sense of community.

"We have implemented a full social calendar," he said. "Yesterday (Saturday), we had the inaugural multicultural festival at Uptown. That was amazingly successful, with dancing and all kinds of entertainment by local groups. And today we have the bands and the music from local groups. It really is a time for celebration. We are bouncing out of COVID. It's a tired term, 'bouncing out of COVID,' but it really is back to normal."

Other events signalling this return include Saanich's Music in the Park series, which resumed July 5 and runs through Aug. 23. While Music in the

Park has been a long-standing element of the social calendar, Haynes also drew attention to a new element.

"For the first time in the history of Saanich, we have a dedicated cricket pitch at Beckwith Park and there is a considerable cricket community here," he said. "We have a youth league and now a full Cricket park, which we are testing this year and next year, will be fully implemented."

While COVID-19 has delayed these plans, Haynes said he is pleased with the current progress. "It's a sport for all ages, all types," he said, pointing to plans for what he called a mayor's challenge team playing later this year.

Police officers wounded in bank heist continue to improve

One member transferred out of intensive care

One of two Saanich police officers still in hospital after being shot during an exchange of gunfire in a June 28 incident outside a Shelbourne Street bank has been moved out of the intensive care unit.

He and the other officer continue to recover from their wounds, the police department reports, after undergoing further surgeries. A third wounded Saanich member of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team (GVERT) that responded to the bank robbery

is at home recovering.

One of the three Victoria Police Department members of GVERT injured by gunfire that day has been released from hospital following surgery and is at home recuperating, as are the other two VicPD officers.

Saanich Police Chief Const. Dean Duthie said the whole department is recovering and healing along with the wounded members, a journey "heavily fueled by community and interagency care, support, trust and confidence," he said in a joint department release. The officers in hospital continue to make day-to-day improvements, he added, and are inspiring their colleagues with their strength and determination.

Victoria police Chief Const. Del Manak echoed Duthie's comments about the support from the community in the aftermath of the incident, calling it "overwhelming." He thanked the medical professionals who cared for the officers, all of whom are in the thoughts of those in his department.

A number of officers and staff at both departments were involved in the incident and continue to participate in critical incident debrief sessions with peer and psychologist support.

Officers affected by the incident are also participating in workplace re-integration training, the release stated. The training aims to diminish the potential for long-term psycho-

logical injury by addressing unique stressors experienced by officers after a critical incident.

The process includes consultation with a psychologist, exposure to firearms, acclimation to gunfire and participant-led training. The program acknowledges that officers have been through a traumatic event and provides an opportunity to work through any triggers the event has created while ensuring the officer is in the safety of a controlled environment.

The Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit (VIIMCU) continues the investigation into this incident. If you have information about this incident not yet reported to police, please call the VIIMCU information line at 250-380-6211.

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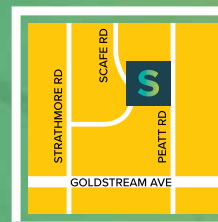
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Local researcher uncovers marine poaching in Asia

Austin Westphal
News Staff

Sea cucumbers are common. From nearshore shallow waters down to the depths of the deepest trenches – they inhabit nearly every corner of the planet's oceans. Yet, soaring demand has created a multi-million dollar black market for the lucrative blobs, according to one Saanich researcher.

Teale Phelps Bondaroff, director of research for marine conservation organization OceansAsia and an expert on illegal fishing and marine wildlife crime, was in the spotlight following the premiere of a new Undercover Asia documentary July 31 featuring his research.

The documentary is part of an investigative journalism series aired on the Singaporean public television station Channel News Asia. Pirates of the Seabed highlights Phelps



Saanich-based researcher Teale Phelps Bondaroff holds dried sea cucumbers at a market in Singapore. (Photo courtesy of OceansAsia)

Bondaroff's investigation of the poaching and smuggling hotspot in the Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka.

Through interviews and undercover work, the Saanich resident explores the murky world of criminal gangs and

follows the supply chain all the way to Hong Kong, where illegally-harvested sea cucumbers are eaten as a prized delicacy and used in traditional Chinese medicine.

"What's really interesting as a conservationist is seeing organized crime groups trying to diversify and enter this industry."

Phelps Bondaroff identified and analyzed 120 incidents of smuggling and poaching between 2015 and 2020. During that period Indian and Sri Lankan authorities reported seizing over 64.7 tons of sea cucumbers with an estimated value of U.S. \$2.84 million.

Unlike illegal shark fin, fish maw or abalone harvesting, sea cucumber poaching is one of the lesser-known – and consequently more neglected – forms of wildlife crime. But that doesn't mean it can't lead to some detrimental impacts that threaten marine ecosys-

tems and species worldwide, Phelps Bondaroff warned.

"Sea cucumbers play a critical role in marine ecosystems, acting like earthworms of the sea by cycling material in the seabed and playing an important role in nutrient cycling. Sea cucumber crime threatens species and ecosystems, but it also undermines good governance and steals from legal fishers and governments."

He ultimately hopes the documentary can place more pressure on government authorities to step up protective measures and perhaps more importantly, increase public awareness. And while there's little evidence of sea cucumber-related crime occurring in British Columbia, Phelps Bondaroff said it's a critical reminder of the work necessary to protect species that inhabit our waters back home.

"You don't protect what you don't know."

Wounded officer released from hospital

Austin Westphal
News Staff

One of the Saanich police officers seriously injured in the June 28 shootout at the Shelbourne Street BMO branch was met with warm welcomes from colleagues when discharged from Royal Jubilee Hospital on Friday (Aug. 5).

Officers from the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team accompanied several Saanich police to greet the injured officer outside the hospital as he was being released just after 2 p.m.

"Today is very special, heartwarming, and inspirational as one of our injured officers is returning home where he can continue to heal and build his strength while being surrounded by his loving family," Chief Const. Dean Duthie said in a news release.

"This officer's inner strength, determination, and grit continues to inspire all staff at SPD and our community, along with our injured officer who remains in hospital as he continues to make progressive improvements day by day. We are so very grateful for the extraordinary care, compassion, and professionalism of the medical staff, nurses, doctors, and surgeons at RJH who assisted and guided the healing of our officer to this day."

Seniors home reopens for Ukrainian newcomers

Austin Westphal
News staff

Residents of Kiwanis Village welcomed several Ukrainian newcomers to the community Saturday (Aug. 6) at the Ukrainian Village's grand opening.

In an effort to aid some of the most vulnerable Ukrainians fleeing violence – including single mothers with children, seniors, people living with disabilities and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community – up to 45 people will now be able to take up temporary residence for free in the village.

The Ukrainian village is a product of the partnership between the Capital Regional District, Help Ukraine Vancouver Island, Kiwanis Club of Victoria, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ukrainian-Canadian Congress Victoria branch, Ukrainian Cultural Society of Vancouver Island, and Victoria Foundation.

The new village is made up of 15 units, most of which are bachelor

suites equipped with kitchenettes and bathrooms. There's also a communal kitchen as well as a meeting area with a sunroom and television.

Newcomers will be able to stay in the village for up to three months, and possibly longer if needed.

"We really want this to be a space that supports these people in becoming independent, not just throwing them out on their own once their three months here in the village is up," said Devon Sereda Goldie, president of Victoria's Ukrainian-Canadian Congress branch.

The former assisted living residence has been leased to the Ukrainian Cultural Society of Vancouver Island – which already runs the Ukrainian Cultural Centre – for one year.

Liuba Moisieieva immigrated to Canada more than eight years ago. Like those escaping the war, Moisieieva understands the challenges of relocating to an entirely different society. That's why she'll be living in the village as the residence manager – alongside her par-



Neighbours and Ukrainian newcomers come together to celebrate the grand opening of the Ukrainian Village. (Austin Westphal/News Staff)

ents and nephew who recently arrived from Ukraine.

"No one was ready to come to Canada," she said. "This is very painful for all of us. Some came with just one

backpack."

"It's important having a clean and safe environment. People can speak Ukrainian and Russian and most importantly, feel at home."

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Block party helps neighbourhood heal after shootout

Event organized by ER nurse, wife of response team member

Justin Samanski-Langille
News Staff

A Saanich neighbourhood came together for a block party aimed at helping residents heal, just over a month after a nearby bank was the site of a shootout which left two suspects dead and six police officers injured.

On Aug. 4, Elm Street was host to some 60 people enjoying good food, drink and most importantly, company for the first time since two men walked into the nearby Shelbourne Street BMO Bank of Montreal branch, then later shot and injured six members of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team before being killed by police on June 28.

The block party was organized by neighbourhood resident Rebecca Kirkwood, who has multiple connections to the incident. An ER nurse at Royal Jubilee Hospital who helped treat two of the injured officers, she is married to one of the tactical team members who responded to the scene but was not injured.

"A lot of us were barricaded in our homes at



Residents enjoy a block party gathering Aug. 4 on Elm Street in Saanich, organized as a way to help people come together and continue healing following the June 28 shootout at the nearby BMO Bank of Montreal branch on Shelbourne Street. (Courtesy of Rebecca Kirkwood)

the time, others had to evacuate and stay in a hotel," Kirkwood said. "The party was wonderful. It was so much fun to have people we

have never met before come out and exchange stories about what they were doing during the incident and all that ... later in the night we set

up the camp fire and people brought out their guitars and sang around the fire."

Once she decided to organize the event, she reached out to several local businesses who were happy to donate some gift cards to help cover the costs of food and drink, making it feel even more like a community coming together to support each other.

While time can be a healer, Kirkwood said it can still be difficult to reflect on that chaotic day, especially for her husband Ron, who at times found neighbours' questions about the incident overwhelming, though he appreciated their words of support and thanks.

"I looked after two of my friends who were shot, and at the same time I'm getting phone calls and texts from my kids who are in our house four houses down from the bank asking where their dad is," Kirkwood said. "He was fine, he was safe, but later on we were FaceTiming and my six-year-old was crying because there were more gunshots. I realized then I needed to be home with my family and the two injured officers were being looked after well, so I went home and had to barricade inside."

Kirkwood said she plans on making the block party an annual event, though future editions won't be tied to the bank shooting and will instead be a simple summer celebration of community.

Falaise Crecent mural aims to draw attention to road safety

Austin Westphal
News Staff

Volunteers and neighbours took to the street Saturday (Aug. 13) to install a road mural on Saanich's Falaise Crescent.

With the support of local artist Desiree Shelley, a group of volunteers from the Falaise Community Association, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network (GVPN) and community members painted a mural onto the surface of the road adjacent to Falaise Park.

Shelley, who designed the mural, worked in collaboration with neighbours to develop a design which reflects the identity of the street – ultimately settling on the motif of yellow montane violets.

The rare flower was chosen because Falaise Park happens to be one of the few places in the entire re-

gion where the species can be found. Artist and longtime resident Tannis Warburton originally discovered the flower growing in the park nearly 60 years ago, alerting the Ministry of Environment. A plaque now honours her memory in the park.

"I heard about this flower, but I wanted to see what the community talked about the most ... And the flower actually came up quite a bit," Shelley said.

"The purpose of this mural is what's happening right now – we have a park full of kids, we have snacks, we have a ton of different people on the pavement painting, we have people walking by. That's what it is. It's bringing people around to talk about and see their neighbours. Everyone who's touched a brush will feel some investment in this."

The mural is also serving a critical purpose beyond its esthetic ap-

peal and community value. Project co-initiator and volunteer GVPN board member Teale Phelps Bondaroff said road murals not only beautify streets but also improve safety.

"Research has found that road murals encourage drivers to slow down, thereby improving road safety. I'm very pleased to see this pilot project up and running in Saanich and am looking forward to evaluating its effectiveness."

Phelps Bondaroff worked with the district to develop road mural guidelines. He'll be collecting traffic speed data and comparing it against measurements taken pre-mural to study the impact of the mural on vehicle speeds on the street.

The Falaise Community Association will be maintaining the mural and throwing a repainting party next summer.



Kids design and paint their own acorns, a symbol of the park's Garry oak ecosystem, lining the road beside the floral pattern. (Austin Westphal/News Staff)



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Last of officers injured in bank shooting released from hospital

Saanich officer seriously injured in the June 28 shootout will now recover at home

Seventy-one days after being hospitalized in the shootout outside the Shelbourne Street Bank of Montreal, a Saanich officer is going home.

He's the last officer from Greater Victoria to be released from hospital after the June 28 incident that left two suspects dead and six local officers injured.

The Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team member was seriously injured during the shootout and will now recover at home. Police, firefighters, paramedics, health care workers and the officer's family and friends gathered outside Victoria General Hospital on Sept. 7 to send him off.

"This is a milestone day," said Saanich police Chief Dean Duthie in a press conference. "This is such a powerful, important day for the Saanich Police Department. We are bringing home our last injured member from hospital ... and (he) has a positive outlook (that) inspires and motivates us all."

But despite the relief felt throughout the community, the road to recovery will be anything



Saanich police Chief Dean Duthie holds a press conference outside the Saanich Police Department on Sept. 7 following the release from hospital of the last of three Saanich police officers who were injured in the June bank shooting. (Austin Westphal/News Staff)

but short for the officer who sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

"It's going to be a very long recovery journey, so to know where it ends is unknown to me," Duthie said. "It's going to be considerable re-

habilitation and medical care that is going to be undertaken for many, many more months. Again, the progress that has been made to date is what we are focusing on."

Three Saanich officers and another three from

the Victoria Police Department were shot during the exchange with the suspects, two 22-year-old brothers from Duncan. The motive of Mathew and Isaac Auchterlonie is still being investigated by the Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit.

A Langford woman, who was one of the hostages on June 28, was meeting with the bank's manager when they heard a loud boom. Shelli Fryer said the 17 women and five men inside the bank immediately got on the ground when the two brothers entered. She described the suspects as wearing all black including balaclavas, gloves, jackets, vests, body armour and pads covering the calves from the knee down.

One suspect came up to the bank manager and said "vault," she recalled.

Fryer had 911 on the phone during the incident and logged the call as lasting one hour, 26 minutes and five seconds.

She said there was "dead silence" for "what felt like an eternity" before the gunfire rang out and she hid alone under a shelf in the manager's office while others took shelter in a filing room.

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) of B.C. is also looking into the incident. The civilian oversight agency investigates all officer-related incidents that result in serious harm or death.

-With files from *The Canadian Press*

Man charged with impaired driving in 2021 death of former Saanich student

Police have laid charges against a young Vancouver man one year after two University of British Columbia students were struck and killed by a driver while on a sidewalk near campus.

Tim Carl Robert Goerner, 22, is accused of impaired and dangerous driving cause death.

On Sept. 26, 2021 at about 1:46 a.m., 18-year-olds Evan Smith and Emily Selwood were walking along the sidewalk of North West Marine Drive near the UBC campus when they were struck. They were pronounced dead at the scene and a 21-year-old – presumably Goerner – was arrested on the spot. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

In response to the laying of charges Thursday (Sept. 8), both Evan and Emily's families released statements.

"Let us tell you that nothing prepares you for the notification of your child's death, especially one that was so avoidable," Emily's parents Laurie and Duncan Selwood said. "Our family's hope is that the individual responsible will be brought to justice on fact and evidence with a successful conviction; however, that will not bring Emily and Evan back."

Emily was studying social sciences at UBC at the time of her death. She grew up on Vancouver Island and graduated from St. Michaels University School in Saanich

where she rowed. Her parents say she loved the outdoors and spending time with family and friends.

"Emily was a loyal and loving daughter, sister, and friend. Her bright light will be missed," her parents said.

Evan was attending UBC as an out-of-province student from Ontario, studying applied science and engineering. His parents had dropped him off at school just three weeks before he was killed.

"In that terrible moment, because of someone's deliberate decision to drive after drinking, our son's lifelong plans, dreams and goals will never be realized. This heinous act of selfishness and stupidity

made our worst nightmare come true," his parents Debbie O'Day-Smith and Adam Smith said in their own statement.

Like Emily, Evan was also a lover of the outdoors. His parents said he loved rock climbing, camping and paddling. He was also a volunteer with Scouts Canada and a drummer.

"He was a loyal friend and a wonderful son and brother. His positive attitude, playful competitiveness and humble disposition left a mark on everyone he came across. We couldn't be more proud of the young man he became" his parents said.

"In the days to come, we



UBC students Emily Selwood and Evan Smith were killed on Sept. 26, 2021 after a vehicle veered into them while they were walking on the sidewalk. Tim Goerner of Vancouver now faces charges for their deaths. (Photos courtesy of B.C. RCMP)

hope for a successful conviction against the suspect. However, no matter the outcome, our hearts will forever

be broken." Goerner's trial will be heard at the Richmond Provincial Courthouse.

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IIO finds police justified in shooting of bank robbers

Officers met with immediate gunfire, could feel 'percussion' of bullets at June 28 bank shooting

Hollie Ferguson
News Staff

WARNING: This story contains graphic details.

The Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia (IIO) has cleared members of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team (GVERT) and the Saanich Police Department involved in the deaths of two bank robbery suspects.

Brothers Mathew and Isaac Auchterlonie were killed on June 28 during a shootout that left six officers wounded at the Saanich Bank of Montreal location on Shelbourne Street.

The IIO is a civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for conducting investigations into police-involved incidents that result in death or serious harm. In his 10-page decision dated Dec. 21, IIO chief civilian director Ronald MacDonald outlined some of the events from that day.

While he said IIO investigators gathered an extensive body of evidence, the report did not disclose all evidence or analysis, citing the protection of police tactics and procedures.

The 22-year-old Duncan brothers are referred to as "affected persons" throughout the report and are not named.

They pulled their vehicle into the



Police stand watch over the scene of a bank robbery in Saanich which left two suspects dead and six police officers injured. (Black Press Media file photo)

parking lot of the plaza just after 11 a.m. on June 28, according to the report. Leaving the car's trunk slightly open, the pair – dressed in olive-coloured body armour with gloves and black balaclava-style masks – were armed with 7.62 mm calibre SKS semi-automatic rifles with extended magazines. One also had a large sheath knife hanging from the back of his belt.

The pair entered the bank with one of the brothers firing a single shot into the ceiling. The events inside the bank were captured on video but with no audio. They corralled bank employees and customers and appeared disappointed when they were only able to obtain a limited amount of cash.

The brothers did not exit the bank right away but spent several minutes pacing and looking through the window into the parking lot.

During that time, police received several 911 calls.

More than 16 minutes after entering the bank, the brothers exited while still carrying their rifles. At the same moment, an unmarked police van carrying seven GVERT members turned into the parking lot.

Before attempting to exit the vehicle, the report stated officers deployed a flashbang device, intending to surprise the suspects in order to make their arrest easier and safer.

IIO investigators were unable to determine definitively who fired first but gunfire ensued immediately.

One GVERT officer who was shot in both legs and one arm said "it was almost like a continuation right with that was another boom, and then just more boom, boom, boom." He noted the gunfire was close range, stating he could feel the "percussion" of the bullets.

He was shot and fell back into the van.

The officer exiting the van in front of him was briefly able to return fire but was also shot – in the upper abdomen and thigh – and was now laying beside him on the floor of the van.

At the same time, a third officer at the back of the van shouted he had been shot in the neck and suffered a severe shoulder wound.

The officer who threw the flashbang device was the team's medic and was only armed with a pistol. He stepped out of the van and took a position in front of his injured colleagues, facing incoming gunfire while shooting at the suspects.

The driver of the van was a sergeant leading the team, he fired at least 28 rounds from his pistol through the windshield before exiting the van and continuing to fire from beside a bush in the parking lot. He was hit in the foot by a ricochet from a police bullet.

The two other members of the team exited the van from the rear and both were wounded in the legs. One worked to fasten a tourniquet on the other's badly bleeding leg while the shooting continued.

Meanwhile, members of the Saanich Police Department were running towards the scene. Some engaged with the suspects while others moved to help injured officers.

One of the brothers was struck in the head by a police round and fell to the ground.

The other was hit by several police bullets before falling, damaging his weapon so it was unable to fire. A civilian eyewitness told the IIO he was still trying to crawl once on the ground. It is unclear if he was at-

tempting to crawl to his brother and his brother's weapon or the suspects' vehicle which had more weapons and improvised explosive devices.

Both brothers were dead when police got to them.

"It is estimated that altogether, police fired just over 100 rounds, which is not surprising given the circumstances and that many officers were firing rounds during the incident," the report stated. "Given this, the number of wounds suffered by each (affected person) was relatively low, a likely testament to the effectiveness of their body armour," the report stated.

No civilians in the area were injured, but the report found that bullets from the suspects' guns hit the window of a bistro across the street and another travelled into a dry cleaning business, nearly missing customers and staff.

The IIO's investigation found that officers reacted within the law and that the suspects "posed a clear and imminent threat of deadly or grievous bodily harm to officers and the public."

The report stated, "when those affected persons offered lethal force or the imminent threat of it, the officers were justified in using lethal force in response."

In a separate statement, Saanich Police Chief Dean Duthie said he was grateful for the work of the responding officers and the investigation.

"They put their own lives on the line to save lives, protect innocent people, and restore peace and safety in our community," Duthie said in the statement. "Oversight by the IIO is a vital part of police accountability and transparency, which is very important to earn and maintain the public's trust and confidence."



2023-2024 Student Registration and Transfer Process

Register Online!

Are you registering a child in the Greater Victoria School District for the 2023-2024 school year?

Our registration process is online. To register, families must provide proof of their child's age and their home address. Applications will be accepted during the following registration periods:

January 9 – 13, 2023	Early French Immersion Registration Week (Kindergarten and Grade 1)
January 23 – 27, 2023	Kindergarten Registration and Kindergarten Transfer Week Grade 6 - Late French Immersion Registration Week
February 6 – 10, 2023	Kindergarten to Grade 12 Transfer Process Registration open for new Grade 1 – Grade 12 students for 2023-2024 school year
February 10, 2023 by 3 p.m.	Deadline to submit transfer requests
March 17, 2023	Deadline to inform families of all transfer decisions

To register and learn more about documentation requirements, school catchments and students enrolment priorities, visit: www.sd61.bc.ca