It All Started in Portapique

By Maurice Rees

The West Colchester sleepy community of Portapique, unfortunately, became the center of attention around the globe on Sunday morning with a rampage killing a total of 22 innocent victims.

The Orleans-Belmont Fire Hall was used as a staging area by RCMP during the tragic events of the weekend. (Source: Taken from Internet)

Portapique Events Timidts

Media coverage concerned the tragic mass murder which started in Portapique on Saturday, April 18th and continued until late Monday morning. The Shoreline Journal has tried to capture a few highlights and have presented them below:

Queen Elizabeth II was among those sending their condolences. In her message she said, “Prince Philip and I have been deeply saddened by the appalling events in Nova Scotia, and we send our condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who have lost their lives. We also pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other police services who successfully responded to these devastating attacks, and to the emergency services who are supporting those who have been injured and affected. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Nova Scotia and all Canadians at this tragic time.”

Joy McCabe

Onslow witnessed RCMP officers during their investigations. On the morning of Sunday April 19th at the Onslow-Belmont Fire Hall at least three damaged one of the fire vehicles and several bullet holes are visible on the wall of the hall.

Additional details are available because the RCMP referred the matter to the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) which prohibits release of additional information.

RCMP Superintendent Darren Campbell, officer in charge of Support Services, stated in a press conference on Friday, April 24th, “In total, there were seven locations where people were found deceased. There were 13 people who were red dead and one other injured within a two-square-mile area around Portapique. The fire in the area of Portapique Beach Road and Orchard Beach Drive. RCMP received the first call at 10:26 pm on Saturday, and located a man leaving the area around 11:00 pm. Onslow and Bel- mont areas were potential targets of the assailant, but there was no information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, to call the RCMP tip line 1-902-720-5959.

Media reports indicate the assailant had a checkered past involving police, tenants, family members and business associates. The first report he pled guilty in January 2002 to assaulting a 15 year old boy outside his parents" s home in Dartmouth, then proceeded in the following months and probation and an order prohibiting his from owning any guns. Supt Campbell said during the press conference the assailant was reported to have several hands guns and long rifles. One gun has been traced to a Canadian purchase while the remainder are believed to have been sourced from the United States.

Laurie Jennings, owner Masstown Market, who was interviewed by CBC said the RCMP came knocking on his door early Sunday morning, while he was still in bed. He said they were requesting he open the market to several members wanted sandwiches and water. There is a report he acknowledged their request and in total almost 40 officers were provided refreshments.

Surviving family members and concerned citizens have complimented the RCMP for sending a tweet to send out an alert immediately through social media and phone cell phone system. One grieving family member stated that if the EMO system had been used, he may have saved his brother and seven lives in areas outside Portapique.

Zoey, a miniature Pitzcher, who belonged to shooting victims Jamie and Greg Blair, was treated for a gunshot wound by Dr. McKay. Central Nova Animal Hospital in Truro, N.S. The wounded dog was taken to Dr. MacKay by RCMP Const. Rodney MacDonald. MacKay lives in Lower Onslow found out during the procession that the dog was owned by Jamie Blair a personal friend. She said she knew something bad was going to happen on early Sunday morning since her husband and father are volunteer firefighters, and their station had been дополнительно by the RCMP as a search area.

During Friday’s press conference, Supt Campbell said the killer had owned three different vehicles, including a fourth unlicensed RCMP replica vehicle. Police found one of the vehicles at the killer’s primary residence in Portapique, and a fourth unlicensed RCMP replica vehicle, which is the car that he used during his rampage. Knowledge of the fourth unlicensed vehicle didn’t emerge until the early morning hours (Sunday) when the woman he had was having a relationship with emerged from the woods.

There has not been determined where the killer may have had the RCMP decals that were on the fourth replica vehicle printed. Supt Campbell said the killer did not have access to RCMP radio communications. Police have not determined if the events were a result of planned or not. When asked about the conference if a ‘hit list’ of names was found, Supt Campbell said no list has been found information detailing names of family members and other people sought by the assailant are believed to have been provided by the assailant, after she emerged from an outline of being halted in the woods. She is reported to be fully cooperating with police.

At the conclusion of the press conference, Supt Campbell said: “A related shooting Sunday morning is linked to two RCMP officers. Onslow Belmont Fire Hall is under investigation by the Serious Incident Response Team, (SIRT).”

Wes Colchester Privacy Request

The Wes Colchester Privacy Commission has approved a 14 day period of hiring commissioners to prevent access to Portapique Beach Road by persons other than subjects, but were blocked by an RCMP blockade comes down on Monday April 27th. The matter of public interest was asked at council’s special meeting on Thursday, April 23rd. The roadway will be manned by commissioners for 14 hours a day during the 14 day period.

Resident Councillor Taggart was contacted by the Wes Colchester Privacy Commissioners about the decision. He recommended that any information was not allowed unless it was essential to the investigation of the tragedy. The council would request the Privacy has the protection of the Privacy Act. In the area of Portapique, unfortunately, became the center of attention around the globe.

The West Colchester sleepy community of Portapique, unfortunately, became the center of attention around the globe on Sunday, April 18 & 19 when an enraged resident when on a rampage killing a total of 22 innocent people including RCMP officer. Const. Heidi Stevenson. In the area of Portapique Beach Road the RCMP confirmed there were nine victims at seven sites.

The 22 victims of the weekend shooting spree on April 18 & 19, which started in Portapique included: Lisa McCully, a teacher in Debert; Const. Heidi Stevenson, who was killed in a exchange of gunfire in Shubenacadie; Heather O’Brien, Mascouche; Kristen Beaton, a VON employee from Debert; Greg and Jamie Blair Portapique; Alanna Jenkins and Sean McLeod, Wentworth; Tom Bagley, Hants River; Jennifer Hnatyshyn, Oliver; Aaron (Frear) Tuck and Emily Tuck, Portapique; Gina Currie, Inhat Shubenacadie; Margaret Lilian (Hyslop) Campbell, who was killed roadside while walking in Wentworth; Thomas and Joy Bond, Portapique; Joey Webber, who returned to work on Friday, and was gunned down while running an errand in Shubenacadie to get some furnace fuel. Dawn and Frank Golencheny, Portapique; Corrie Ellison who with his brother were spending the weekend visiting their father in Portapique and when to take pictures of a nearby home which was set ablaze and Peter and Joy Bond - Portapique.

Readers will note any of the coverage about the tragic weekend events, which has set a record in the world’s largest mass murders in one day, not mentioning the assailant name. Our policy is to have respect for the families, community and those who have been touched by similar incidents and do not give the assailant’s name.

At last count RCMP said there are at least 8 crime sites including Portapique, Wentworth, Debert Shubenacadie. In.Letford, the area where the RCMP ended the twelve hour rampage. The assailant was also believed to have done in at least four victims, then used the East Mountain way to Hunter Road, Wentworth claiming at least six others. He continues to Portapique Beach Road to get to Debert to continue his carnage. His next victims were in Shubenacadie, where the RCMP believed he had done a previous killing of Sunday, April 19th has been extensive. Two staff and two of their friends, who were at a Tim Hortons in Bridgewater were found dead and two others injured.

The RCMP are instructed to provide refreshments. They believe they have found all victim sites, but have been unable to determine how many homes or vehicles the assailant had visited. When asked during a ‘hit list’ Supt Campbell said a list was not found.

Nathan Staples, Glenholme, when interviewed by the Globe & Mail is quoted as saying he was informed by police he had been a potential target of the assailant and believed he was in 8th period at school. The Shoreline Journal has received information several other people in the West Colchester area were potential targets of the assailant, but we have not been able to confirm who and how many.

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