



AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

21 HAVELOCK ST. • AMHERST, N.S. B4H 0E5 • (902) 667-8600 • FAX: (902) 667-0268

MEDIA RELEASE

2026-04-23

Third Suspect in Homicide Arrested

A third suspect in the April 13th fatal shooting in Amherst Nova Scotia has been arrested and is in Police custody.

Michael James Ryan, Aged 34 of Springhill, NS was arrested this afternoon in Moncton New Brunswick by J Div RCMP Major Crime with the assistance of the RCMP Emergency Response Team and Codiac RCMP.

On the morning of April 16th 2026, warrants were issued for the arrest of 3 suspects believed to be responsible for the death of Chris Leggett. Later that afternoon, 2 suspects, Sean Eugene Patriquin, aged 56 and Natasha Deborah Austin, aged 42, were arrested by Codiac RCMP in Moncton NB.

Patriquin and Austin were remanded into custody and are scheduled to appear on May 6th, 2026.

It is expected that Ryan will appear in court on April 24th, 2026.

At approximately 6:51pm on April 13th 2026, Amherst Police received a call concerning a loud bang heard on Prince Arthur Street and that a male was on the ground and appeared to be injured at that location. Police attended and located an adult male who appeared to be seriously wounded from a single gunshot wound to the lower back. Police in attendance attempted life-saving measures and the male was transported to the hospital and shortly thereafter, was pronounced deceased. The male was 41 years old.

Those responsible fled the scene in a vehicle described as a dark-coloured Subaru SUV after the incident. This vehicle has also been seized by Codiac RCMP and was turned over to the Amherst Police Investigators. The plate affixed at the time had been reported as stolen earlier this month from the Moncton area.

As a result of the incident, APD activated their Combined Municipal Police Major Crime Unit Agreement and have been working with members of the Truro Police Service Criminal Investigation Division, as well as The Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit, the RCMP Forensic Identification Unit, Cumberland RCMP, J Division RCMP and the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Office. The investigation is continuing.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family of the victim at this tragic time.

Investigators are asking anyone with information on this incident to contact the Amherst Police Department at 902-667-8600 or by contacting the Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), text TIP202 + your message to 'CRIMES' (274637) or by Secure Web Tips at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca. Calls to Crime Stoppers are not taped or traced and if police make an arrest and lay charges based on a tip, callers qualify for a cash reward from \$50 - \$2000.

APD Media Contact:

Chief Dwayne Pike

902-667-8600

dpike@amherst.ca