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matches & lighters
away from children.

Children are naturally
curious about fire.
Always keep matches and
lighters out of **sight** and
out of **reach**.





Georgetown woman pleads guilty in 2012 Guelph St. collison

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

A Georgetown woman is to be sentenced next month in connection with the Dec. 2012 collision on Guelph St. that resulted in the death of pedestrian 89-year-old Patricia McCarthy.

Jennifer Unsworth, 37, pleaded guilty to charges of careless driving and driving with a handheld communications device in Milton Provincial Offences Court on Friday.

Justice of the Peace Marsha Farnand convicted Unsworth, and heard submissions from her lawyer Michael Lacy and Assistant Crown Attorney Laurie Jago on sentencing, which will be held March 10 in Burlington Provincial Offences Court. Unsworth cried quietly throughout the proceedings.

McCarthy, of Georgetown, was out for her daily walk Dec. 17 (2012) when she was struck about 12:10 p.m. by Unsworth's vehicle while crossing on the walk signal in the crosswalk at Guelph St. and Sinclair Ave. Unsworth was northbound on Sinclair Ave. turning left onto Guelph St.

Jago quoted a witness saying that Unsworth struck McCarthy, "not even touching the brakes."

Jago said McCarthy suffered a head injury, collapsed lung, fractured pelvis and leg, and internal bleeding in the crash and was taken directly to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital. She succumbed to her injuries Dec. 20.

Halton Police searched Unsworth's car and found her cellphone on the vehicle's floor, said Jago. Unsworth's cell records showed texts near the approximate time of the collision.

Lacy stressed that all the Crown has to prove is that Unsworth had held the phone while driving.

"She is admitting that," he said. "She is not admitting she was using the phone at the time of the accident" He said that Unsworth does admit to sending a text at 12:07 p.m., as shown by the records.

Jago called the collision a case of "serious, aggravated driving."

"She was distracted. She had the cellphone in her hand contrary to the law," said Jago, adding this will be Unsworth's second conviction of driving with a handheld communications device.

"Those who are operating with handheld devices while operating a motor vehicle are putting others at risk," said Jago.

Lacy said Unsworth is not admitting that holding the handheld device was a contributing factor to the collision or careless driving.

In an interview, Lacy said, "the records of the cellular phone do not support the suggestion she was using the phone at the time of the accident in a way that was prohibited by the law."

Jago is seeking a 30 to 60-day jail term, one-year licence suspension on the careless driving charge and a \$300 fine on the handheld device charge.

Lacy said with regard to the careless driving charge, a \$2,000 fine is appropriate and a driving prohibition in the 18-month range would send a clear message. He added the justice could impose a two-year probation order specifying she can't drive with a turned-on cellphone.

Unsworth is a single mom of two boys and is "the sole breadwinner for her immediate family," said Lacy in court.

Lacy said a psychiatrist assessment report said Unsworth is terrified that if she goes to jail she will lose custody of her children. He said the report states she has "fully accepted responsibility" and is "very upset about the loss of life." The psychiatrist diagnosed Unsworth with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



PATRICIA MCCARTHY

Business openings



CCV Insurance & Financial

CCV Insurance and Financial opened in January at 118 Guelph Street, as Halton Hills Ward 3 Councillor Dave Kentner cut the ribbon, officially opening the business. On hand for the opening were (from left) CCV employees Brian Evans, Graham Baker, Helga Kennedy, Rick Evans, Steven Stoute, Kentner, CCV's Robert Lewis, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce chair Steven Prestipino and Donna Becksted also of the Chamber. CCV Insurance and Financial has its head office in Brampton.

Photo by Ted Brown



One Life Family Chiropractic

One Life Family Chiropractic opened in January at its location at 360 Guelph Street, Unit 47 in Georgetown. On hand to cut the ribbon, officially opening the office, were (from left) Scott Buist, Sarah Bradbury, Emma Thomas, Dave Schmoll, Halton Hills Ward 4 Councillor Bob Inglis, Dr. Matt Bradbury, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and Eve Davenport. To contact their office, call 905-877-5483.

Photo by Ted Brown

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