



Saugeen Players (sitting) Jean Vennard, Kym Moore, Debbie Curleys, and (standing) Clint Turcotte and Kevin LeNestour, are presenting Move Over, Mrs. Markham.



In honour of the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 1888, anniversary cakes were served during the afternoon breaks each day of Grey-Bruce Farmers' Week, held last week at the Chesley Community Centre. Bruce County Agricultural Representative, Mac Bolton, and Bruce County Cattlemen's president, Clarence Ackert, of Kincardine, get ready to cut the cake on Friday - Beef Day. Attendance was down at this year's Farmers' Week, due mainly to poor weather conditions, which cancelled events on Tuesday; however, as in the past, attendance was good for Friday's Beef Day.

Mother charged in Kincardine baby's death

After first scaring area residents with thoughts of a baby abductor, 24-year-old Kincardine resident Julie Bowers was charged on Friday with the first-degree murder of her 11-month-old son, Dustin.

With a large crowd of curious onlookers, Bowers, who emigrated from England 10 years ago, appeared in provincial court in Southampton yesterday morning. She was remanded to Walkerton provincial court on February 4.

Later at a press conference attended by Bruce County Crown Attorney Brian Farmer, Kincardine Police Chief Bill Sweedland and Det. Inspector Bud Brennan from the criminal investigation branch, OPP headquarters in Toronto, Farmer announced that no decision had been made about a possible psychiatric assessment of Bowers. No further information was released and she was taken back to the Bruce County Jail in Walkerton.

The case came to public attention on Thursday afternoon when Bowers reported her infant son missing from the family car. She told police she had gone into the Royal Bank in Kincardine for five minutes with her two-and-a-half-year-old son, Ben, while Dustin slept in his car seat in the family's station wagon, parked, unlocked, in the town's main parking lot, behind the central business core.

Kincardine police say they had road blocks set up within four minutes of receiving the call at 1:05 p.m. Thursday. They were removed after two hours. By 4 p.m. they had searched all apartments in the vicinity and 12 officers were out combing the streets.

All members of the municipal and provincial police detachments in Kincardine assisted in the search Thursday night.

Police sent out alerts to Mount Forest, Barrie and London, and were appealing to anyone in the area at the time who may have seen something unusual.

A OPP Det. Inspector Brennan arrived late Thursday night and went out on patrol with local police.

Phones were "ringing off the wall" at the police station with tips from concerned citizens and police department

secretaries were asked to come back to work through the night in case any leads came up.

After an exhaustive 26-hour search, the frozen body of the little boy, who would have celebrated his first birthday on January 26, was found near some isolated cottages, about three kilometres north of Kincardine on Shore Rd.

That afternoon, Crown Attorney Farmer said that Dustin's body had been found at 3 p.m. by a Mount Forest OPP team, and that Kincardine coroner Dr. Rick Mann had pronounced the infant dead.

Farmer also said the body was being taken to Toronto for a post-mortem examination.

The results of that autopsy, which was expected to show whether Dustin was dead before his body froze, have not yet been released.

At a press conference Friday night Chief Sweedland announced, amid sounds of shock and disbelief, that Julie Bowers had been charged with first-degree murder and would be taken to the Walkerton jail.

Sweedland declined further comment, saying he had to protect the rights of the accused to a fair trial.

One report stated that Bowers' brother Alan Sears said the family was "shocked."

"The sister I know is not this one," Sears said to reporters Friday night.

He added it is the family's understanding that the baby froze to death but they were waiting for autopsy results for confirmation.

"If it comes out she did it, she doesn't realize it," he said. "She's just lost and thinks someone took her child. She definitely needs help."

"It just doesn't seem that this has happened. I feel sorry for her," Sears said.

"I don't believe she knows what's going on."

Julie's father, Harry Sears, had spent the afternoon searching for his grandson.

But leaving the police station in mid-afternoon, he said to reporters, "I know all there is now. And it's not good."



50th Anniversary

Ormond and Janette Wallace celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 26, in Kitchener, at their daughter, Carole's, with their three boys and two girls present along with eleven grandchildren. We wish to thank everyone for flowers, cards and the curling club for the cake and party on January 21. The five in the family have given their parents a trip to Vancouver in late May.