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CRIME

Teen says he didn't kill his mom NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS BY PEG MCCARTHY NOV. 12-169 changed when they got home, when

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PETERBOROUGH - When asked if he murdered his mother, a boy, now 16, told police he did not.

That statement was made during a taped police interview with the accused on June 4, 2008, at the Cobourg OPP detachment. It was conducted by Detective Sergeant Paul Baldassare Nuccio, of the professional standards branch of the OPP.

A DVD of the interview was played Tuesday, Nov. 10, for a the jury, which will decide the fate of the youth who is standing trial for the first-degree mur- WARKWORTH -- Michelle Barnoski's der of his mom, Michelle Barnoski.

The interview was conducted before the accused was arrested, and during the over three-hour tape, the teen was asked to recall many details and events of the days surrounding his mother's disappearance from her Warkworth

Michelle Barnoski disappeared on May 27, 2008. Her red Sunfire was subsequently found in a farmer's field near Warkworth. On June 12, 2008, a school bus was pulled over and the 14-year-old teen was arrested for second-degree murder. Ms. Barnoski's body was found the next day buried in her backyard. She was shot eight times in the head and neck, Crown Attorney David Thompson told the court last week.

The Det. Sgt., who asked the teen to call him Baldo, told the accused the interview was voluntary, and taking place because police believed his mother had been murdered, and was not just missing.

"You're not under arrest or being detained," said Det. Sgt. Baldassare Nuccio.

"I want to help," replied the accused.



NEWS FILE PHOTO

body was found buried in the backyard of her Warkworth home last

"Someone is responsible for her death," the officer said. "How do you feel?"

"I don't believe it," said the accused. "She's a drug addict and a whore. I think she ran away."

"Did you kill her?" "No," replied the accused.

When asked to describe his mother, the accused said Ms. Barnoski liked to drink, fish, and he said she was a whore and a drug dealer. He said landlord Marc Vickers, who also resided at the house and is charged with seconddegree murder in the case, told him about the drug dealing. He described how Ms. Barnoski would stay three days with a man and return with boxes of food.

During the past months, "she only came home to shower," and he said she was "a really angry person."

On the night of her disappearance, the accused told the detective sergeant his For nightly trial updates: mother had picked him up from a job site and was in a good mood, but that

and that Mr. Vickers did not work.

After drinking from a half bottle of Dry Martini, the accused said his mother grabbed her purse and a black book from a table by the door and told him, "f--k ya's all," and walked out the door.

"She was in one of her freakouts. I wasn't going to argue with her," the boy

The following day, the accused said he didn't go to school because of a recent breakup with his girlfriend, and got a bit worried about his mother. He messaged friends and asked if anyone had seen her.

"She just abandoned me and ran away. My life's all screwed up right now."

"Do you think she was killed?" the officer asked.

He said no, adding his mother had just left.

The detective sergeant told the teen the police believed his mother had been murdered.

"What kind of a person would do this?" he asked.

Someone who is crazy and unstable, replied the youth, adding her boyfriends would have the best opportunity, one in particular whom he described as, "Creepy... but he wouldn't kill her, maybe kidnap her."

The DVD was filed as an exhibit. The trial continues Thursday, Nov. 12, with forensic evidence, and cross-examination of the detective sergeant by defense counsel Howard Goldkind.

- with files from Jennifer O'Meara

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