

Taped interview with accused watched over two days

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request to lie to police at the exact moment his mother went missing.

to protect his identity. The jury, consisting of five women and seven men, watched half of the boy's June 11, 2008 taped interview with police on Thursday, Nov. 19 and the other half Friday morning, Nov. 20.

The boy asked to speak to police that day, court heard, and told Albert that his housemate and common-law uncle told him to lie to police about the uncle's whereabouts the night his mother disappeared.

The uncle is also charged with first-degree murder, and is being tried separately.

Court heard that the trials were separated because the boy is being tried under the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the uncle is an adult.

During the interview Albert tried to coax the boy into telling him more about what happened.

"Your mom's missing," Albert said to him.

"She wasn't really missing to me," the boy replied. The boy told Albert that his uncle told him he and his mother got into an argument that night and she left the house, and asked the boy to tell police he wasn't at the house from the evening of May 26, 2008 to the morning of May 28, 2008.

He just took his uncle's word that that's what happened, the boy told Albert. "You took his word even though he asked you to lie for him?" Albert asked.

Albert told the boy he thought it strange that he would shrug off his uncle's

public or the woman's family.

After the interview was over Albert, the boy and forensic identification officer Heath Crichton drove to the area where the boy believed his uncle threw the item in the river.

Albert testified the uncle was interviewed that evening. Following that interview, he told court, a decision was made to charge the boy with second-degree murder.

A surveillance team monitored the home where the boy was staying, Albert testified, and the plan was to bring in a marked cruiser to arrest him once he left the home.

But the boy left before that cruiser arrived, Albert testified, so a decision was made to arrest the boy on his school bus.

Albert told court police didn't want to arrest him at school because there would be too many people around and it would be harder to keep track of him.

The boy's charge was upgraded to first-degree murder following a preliminary hearing.

The uncle's charge was upgraded to second-degree murder in September, 2008 and to first degree this summer.

Albert testified that police believed a first-degree murder charge could be laid in July 2008, and were waiting for written transcripts from witnesses who saw the boy and uncle digging in the backyard prior to the woman's disappearance.

The trial was to continue today.

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COURT: Jury hears part of youth's statement

Lead investigator testifies in boy's murder trial

SARAH DEETH
Sun Media

PETERBOROUGH – The day before his arrest, the boy accused of murdering his mother told OPP Det. Sgt. Jody Albert that his common-law uncle told him to lie to police about his whereabouts the night the woman disappeared.

The boy made the statement June 11, 2008, after calling his aunt and telling her he wanted to talk to the police earlier in the day.

The next day he was charged with his mother's murder. She was last seen Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Her body was discovered buried in the backyard of her Warkworth home 16 days later.

The boy is being tried for first-degree murder before a jury of five women and seven men.

He can't be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. *Northumberland Today* isn't naming the woman to protect the boy's identity.

His common-law uncle is also charged with first-degree

murder and is being tried separately.

Part of the boy's statement to Albert, lead investigator in the case, was played to the jury yesterday.

At the onset of the interview, the boy asked Albert if there was any way what he was about to tell him would be kept confidential or treated like a Crime Stoppers tip.

With his hands clasped together and resting in his lap, the boy told Albert he was afraid to tell him what he knew, and he didn't want his uncle to know he was there.

Albert asked him why. "Because it's regarding him," the boy replied.

"Are you afraid of (the uncle)?" Albert asked him.

"A little bit, yeah," the boy said.

Albert told the boy it's his job to find out where his mother was, and he could tell that whatever the boy was about to say was weighing heavily on him.

"Tell me what you know. Tell me why you're here," Albert

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Lower floor of home smelled of bleach, boy told investigating officer

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said. "My uncle was there Tuesday," the boy replied.

The boy went on to say that his uncle told him to tell officers that he was absent from the home from Monday evening until Wednesday morning.

But he wasn't, the boy told Albert.

His uncle was sitting on the couch when he went to bed the night his mother disappeared, he told Albert.

In previous interviews the boy told police that his mother had gone out that evening following an argument and didn't return home.

He told Albert that he was actually home all night that night, and had gone to bed in his upstairs bedroom.

Albert asked the boy to recall every detail he could from that night, from what the uncle was wearing to his exact location on the couch.

He asked the boy if he noticed anything odd the next morning.

"Bleach," the boy replied.

The whole lower floor smelled of bleach, he told Albert, and he noticed that a telescope, previously stored in the living room, was missing.

The rest of the boy's statement will be played today for the jury.

That interview with police was at odds with earlier attempts to speak to the boy, court heard.

Albert told court he tried contacting the boy to set up an interview for June 2, 2008.

The boy agreed, Albert testified, but told him it was the last time he was agreeing to come in.

"He said, 'I'm sick of this s---. She abandoned me. I'm pissed off. It's all about her. She's a crack whore. She walked out the door. I watched her leave.'"

During his testimony Albert outlined the investigation's steps that eventually led to the boy's arrest.

Albert first became involved in the case May 30, 2008.

At that point the woman was still considered a missing person, he testified.

Police were interviewing family members, discovered her car parked in a field and had taken a computer from the home for examination.

They checked to see if her bank or credit cards were being used anywhere, he told court.

An intelligence officer discovered that the woman's debit card was used to withdraw

money from an Oshawa convenience store May 29, 2008, Albert testified.

Officers tried to get video surveillance footage but were hampered by a storm that knocked out power to Oshawa, he told court.

By that time an officer examining the computer noticed that someone, using the boy's name and profile, deleted the mother's profile on the family computer at about 2:40 a.m. May 27, 2008.

By June 2, 2008 officers were able to secure the video footage from the convenience store, he testified.

It clearly showed the boy using his mother's card to withdraw cash, Albert testified.

That evening, Albert testified, the boy was formally identified as a suspect.

The Crown alleges the woman was shot seven times in the head and once in the back, and killed in the home she shared with her son and the uncle.

The trial is to continue today.



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