

Slain woman's mother testifies

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PETERBOROUGH — The mother of a murdered Warkworth woman got a visit from her 14-year-old grandson two days after her daughter went missing, in which the boy revealed shocking theories about his mother's disappearance, she told the Superior Court of Justice.

Sitting across from her now 16-year-old grandson, who is on trial for first-degree murder in his mother's death, the woman testified Monday her grandson came to her Oshawa home the afternoon of May 29, 2008.

Her daughter had last been seen May 27, 2008. Her body was discovered buried in the backyard of her Warkworth home 16 days later. For the most part, the boy was non-communicative, only responding to her questions with one-word replies, the grandmother testified.

But during a lull in the conversation, the boy started her with a question, she said. "He said to me, 'Do you think it could be because of the drugs that's she is missing?'" she told court.

The boy informed his grandmother that his mother used and sold drugs, she said. "I was so shocked. I just shut down," she said. "I was so worried about (my daughter)." The boy continued asking

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Testimony stopped during defence's cross-examination

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questions, she said.

"He said, 'Do you think it could be the men that had something to do with her missing?'" she testified. "He said there was always men lined up out the house."

The woman's mother said she didn't know how to respond to the boy's questions, so she didn't answer him.

She grilled the boy a steak on the barbecue and his common-law uncle came to pick him up in the late afternoon, she said.

His common-law uncle is also charged with first-degree murder and is being tried separately.

The testimony stopped when the boy's lawyer, Howard Goldkind, began cross-examining the woman's mother about her conversation with the boy's common-law uncle.

Jurors were excused for the day and were asked to return this morning so legal matters could be discussed in their absence.

The boy cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and *Northumberland*

Today isn't naming the woman to protect his identity.

Earlier in her testimony, the woman described a close-knit relationship between herself and her three daughters.

The last time she saw the victim was May 25, 2008, she said.

Her daughter expressed frustration with getting her son to go to school and was happy about getting a new job, she said.

Family members began sounding alarm about the woman's disappearance May 28, 2008, court heard.

In earlier evidence, court saw surveillance videos showing the boy using two bank machines in Oshawa — one at a Royal Bank of Canada location and one at a convenience store — the same day he visited his grandmother.

His mother's bank card was used on that day at an Oshawa convenience store, court heard in previous testimony.

The boy's thumbprint was discovered on a bank receipt seized by police, forensic identification officer Heath Crichton testified.

The trial continues today.

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NORTHUMBERLAND

Deaths



CHAPMAN, Ian Thomas (Ian 65) - In his 76th year, suddenly at home on Wednesday November 18th, 2009. Beloved husband of the late Rose. Dear father of John (Barbara) Chapman, Ian Chapman, Susan (Tony) Middleton and predeceased by his daughter Angela Ruta. Cherished granddad of Lisa, Ian, Anthony (Kelly), Andrew (Autumn), Jamie (Janice), Curtis, April and Kay and predeceased by his grandson Robert. Loving great-granddad of Rylan. Dear brother of Selwyn Chapman, Alister Chapman and predeceased by his brother David Chapman. Visitation will be held at the **Bowmanville Crematorium Chapel**, 1200 Haines Street on Wednesday November 25th, 2009 from 2 - 3 pm. Funeral Service will be complete in the Chapel at 3 pm. Memorial Donations may be made to The Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or The Heart & Stroke Foundation through **THE NORTH CUTT ELLIOTT FUNERAL HOME**, 53 Division St. N. Bowmanville, with whom arrangements have been entrusted. www.northcuttelliott.com

Deaths



LAVER, Cheryl Anne - At the Northumberland Hills Hospital, Cobourg on Thursday, November 19, 2009. Cheryl Anne Laver, in her 50th year was the beloved wife of Bill Fraser. Dear mother of Travis Reitsma of Windsor and step-mother of Michael Fraser (Lisa) of Cobourg. Grandmother of Jake, Josh, Bella and Victoria. Daughter of Malcolm and Barbara Laver of Warkworth, daughter in law of Gerald and Marion Fraser of Cobourg. Sister of Gary Laver (Stephanie) of Korea and aunt of Desiree. Sister in law of Gail Adams (Elwood) of Cobourg. Please join Cheryl's family for a celebration of her life to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Orr Street, Cobourg on Monday, November 23rd from 2 - 4 p.m. Donations in memory of Cheryl can be made to Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation, Northumberland Humane Society or the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. Condolences to www.Maccoubrey.com

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COMMUNITY: Castleton raises more than \$600 for refurbished facility

Library benefits from revived corn roast

CASTLETON — The Castleton Fair and Corn Roast ran a very successful day on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

Although the weather was not too co-operative and rain threatened the day several times, attendance showed that it was great to revive the corn roast. Added features this year were the street vendors and the Rev. Kevin Fast who showed his prowess with his amazing strength to pull a fire engine along the main street.

The purpose of reviving the corn roast day was to raise money for the refurbished Castleton Library. Due to the extremely hard work and thorough organization of Sue LaBerge, it was a great success. Also, so many volunteers came to her aid and provided help and back-up all day. Everyone, from the setting up and taking down of tables, from popcorn to the dunk tank, from the corn huskers and roasters, to the face painting, from the clown to the candy floss, and so many others in the background, the day would have not gone so smoothly without

their help. A special thank you goes to Sunnyside's Esther and Dave Barth for their jumbo hot dogs. Ian Chapman deserves a round of applause for organizing the Castleton Cruisers who brought out their valuable antique cars on a day that, weather wise, was not too promising.

Organizers also acknowledge the help received from Cramahe council and their staff. From allowing planners to use Castleton Town Hall, liability coverage, roads closure, loan of tables, help with the dunk tank and permission to use a fire engine, the support for this event was appreciated.

The Castleton Church United Church Women was one of several donors to the event, Bob Bellamy and other donors wishing to remain anonymous are also thanked for their generosity.

Draws were held and the winners were: first prize — Janice Wilson, a framed Trish Romance print donated by Rhonda's Antiques & Framing; second prize — Conor Gilligan, a ladies necklace and earrings

donated by Sue Van de Wyst; third prize — Jay Robinson, a wireless Lexmark printer donated by the Norcutt family; fourth prize — Bob Morrison, a three-headed electric shaver donated by the Norcutt family.

Although it was a lot of work, the event was great fun and it is hoped that next year the fair and roast can be expanded and made even more successful.

This year the fundraising initiative was for the refurbished Castleton Library. Next year planners look forward to another local group or organization in Castleton to benefit from the special day.

This year's effort raised more than \$600 for the Castleton Library and it is hoped this will somehow help to show that the residents of Castleton do care about their local library. Although not a large amount, organizers noted, it shows what can be done in a small hamlet, north of the 401.

A cheque was to be given to the renovated Castleton Library at its November 17 open house.

— Submitted article

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CRIME: Visitor charged after surrendering two packages

Cocaine, tobacco seized at Warkworth prison

WARKWORTH — Between \$3,950 and \$6,500 of contraband drugs and tobacco were intercepted at Warkworth Institution Sunday, the federal prison reported Monday.

Around 1:45 p.m., staff noticed a visitor acting suspiciously, the prison stated. The

visitor was questioned by staff and a security intelligence officer. Eventually, two packages were handed over, one had 10 grams of tobacco, the other had 7.9 g of cocaine.

The OPP were called and charged the visitor with "possession for the purpose of traf-

ficking."

The Correctional Service of Canada has a zero tolerance policy on drugs in its facilities, the institution stated.

Warkworth Institution, a medium-security facility, currently houses 569 male offenders.

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