

OLYMPICS: Torch relay passing through Colborne December 15

COMMUNITY: Houses to be judged week of December 7

Committee firing up

COLBORNE — The Colborne Olympic Torch Run Relay Committee has a number of items appearing in the village promoting the upcoming Olympic Torch Relay Run. It will pass through Colborne on Tuesday, Dec. 15 around 3:25 p.m.

The committee has a \$2,000 budget to promote the event with items such as 22 pole banners, two of which can be seen in the photo at left. As well, 1,000 little flags will be given out. There are also 200 posters.

The signature red mittens for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics can be bought at Zellers in Cobourg.

The committee is beginning to coordinate with other groups such as service clubs and the Legion in order to supply hot chocolate and warm places to wait in the event of inclement weather.



TED AMSDEN Sun Media

Seven-year-old Geordie Runciman helps members of the Colborne Olympic Torch Run Relay Committee (from left) Rebecca Goddard, Elizabeth Kuschnik, Maureen Young, Pat Westrope and Krystal Beaudry display some of the items promoting the upcoming Olympic Torch Relay Run. Missing from the photo are Harold and Rachel Kuschnik.

Christmas in Cramahe contest will light up township and villages

CRAMAHE TWP. — It's that time of year again as the Township of Cramahe launches its annual Christmas in Cramahe Lights Contest.

Residents of Cramahe Twp. are encouraged to show their Christmas spirit by decorating the exterior of their home in

festive lights and holiday cheer to win.

Houses will be judged on their best presentation with the winners receiving gift certificates.

For the villages of Castleton and Colborne, first prize is a \$50 gift certificate, with a \$30

gift certificate for second place.

The same two prize levels are also offered for rural Cramahe residents.

Judging will take place the week of December 7 with the winners announced shortly thereafter.

Shell casings found in home of boy accused of murder

Officer didn't report finding spent bullets in bedroom for two weeks

BY JEFF MITCHELL
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PETERBOROUGH — Police investigating the disappearance of a Warkworth woman found spent bullet casings in the bedroom of her son, who is now on trial for the woman's murder, a jury heard Wednesday.



MICHELLE BARNOSKI

But the officer who made the discovery didn't mention the find in his notes until two weeks later because he didn't think the casings were relevant to the case, court heard.

OPP Detective Constable James Evans said he noticed the spent ammunition mingled with spare change and other items in a cigarette contain-

er on a computer table in the boy's room during a search of 116 Concession St., on June 4, 2008, several days after 33-year-old Michelle Barnoski went missing.

"In the bottom of the container I could see what I believed to be several .22 calibre casings," Det. Const. Evans testified.

Ms. Barnoski's body was found several days later in a grave in the backyard of the home that had been concealed with tires and debris. She had been shot several times in the head and bludgeoned, jurors in this Superior Court trial have heard.

At the time of the June 4 search there was no indication a gun was involved in whatever had happened to Ms. Barnoski, Det. Const. Evans said Wednesday in Peterborough. He said he did not seize the casings from the room of the boy, now 16. Police had obtained a search warrant in order to seize computer hard drives from the residence.

He said it wasn't until two weeks later - June 18 - that he amended his notes and added information about the spent cartridges he found. By that time Ms. Barnoski's cause of death had been determined, the boy and another suspect had

been arrested, and police had recovered a .22-calibre rifle, believed to be connected to the killing, from a creek near the Hope Township hamlet of Garden Hill.

Defence lawyer Howard Goldkind asked the cop why he hadn't advised the lead investigator on the Barnoski case about the spent shells, especially since the woman had been missing for some time and foul play was suspected.

"Why wouldn't you put down that you observed something of interest, namely spent shell casings?" Mr. Goldkind asked.

"On the fourth of June, spent casings had no relevance in this investigation," the officer replied.

He said he notified other officers in the house of the casings but their reply was that the potential evidence wasn't of interest.

In other testimony the officer said he encountered Marc Vickers, the uncle and co-accused of the boy now on trial, at the home during a subsequent visit when police went to interview the teen.

"I think he was certainly surprised to see me," Det. Const. Evans said. "He appeared to be rattled."

In other testimony Wednesday, Warkworth resident Andrea Sullivan told jurors she had seen Mr. Vickers and the youth busy at 116 Concession on May 26, 2008, with what she assumed was yard work.

"I saw what I thought was cleaning - raking and moving rocks and stuff," she said.

Out for an early morning walk a few days later, Ms. Sullivan saw freshly-turned earth she took to be a garden, court heard. But returning to the village from Cobourg later in the evening, she saw a pile of wooden skids and "random tires" had been placed over the spot, she testified.

Mr. Vickers and the boy, who shared the house with Ms. Barnoski, have both been charged with first-degree murder in her death; Mr. Vickers will be tried separately from the boy, who was 14 when he was charged. His identity is protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The trial, before Superior Court Justice Alexander Sosna and a jury, continues Thursday, with the Crown expected to conclude its case this week.

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