

Accused teen takes the stand

BOY SAYS MARC VICKERS KILLED MICHELLE BARNOSKI



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PETERBOROUGH -- The Warkworth teen facing first-degree murder charges in the death of Michelle Barnoski took the stand in his own defence on Thursday.

The 16-year-old, who cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, told jurors that his uncle, Marc Vickers, killed Ms. Barnoski, the teen's mother, and intimidated him into lying to police and family.

Mr. Vickers had been the common-law husband of Ms. Barnoski's younger sister, Nina. He owned and lived in the Warkworth home with Ms. Barnoski and her son. Mr. Vickers is also facing first-degree murder charges in the death.

On the evening of May 27, 2008, Ms. Barnoski was mad with her then 14-year-old son for skipping school and with Mr. Vickers for not working, the youth testified.

The accused said he apologized to his mother, but the argument between her and Mr. Vickers escalated when he said he'd quit his job and had no plans of finding another one.

The teen said he left the room and went upstairs to take a shower, and while he was in the bathroom he heard the fight continuing downstairs.

"I kept hearing them yelling. I heard my mom say 'What the f---?'; then I heard her screaming. Then I heard four pops in rapid succession," the youth told jurors.

While he stood frozen, the teen said he heard his mother call his name. Pulling on his shirt, he ran down the stairs, hearing more 'pops'.

When he opened the door at the bottom of the stairs he saw his mother lying on the floor and his uncle standing in the kitchen holding a rifle.

"I threw my arms up in the air and kind of fell to the ground," said the teen. "I put my

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PETERBOROUGH -- The Warkworth teen charged with the first-degree murder of his mother, Michelle Barnoski, is led from a Peterborough courtroom on Thursday, Dec. 3. He took the stand in his own defence on Thursday, and told jurors his co-accused, Marc Vickers, was the one who shot his mom eight times.

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