

St. Marys woman charged in slaying

By David Pugliese
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ST. MARYS — A St. Marys woman has been charged with murdering her husband after he was stabbed once through the heart early Sunday.

Police said Judith Kent, 28, of 277 Church St. S. will appear in provincial court in Stratford today on a charge of second-degree murder.

She was arrested about 1:30 a.m. Sunday after town police found her husband, Stephen, 37, stabbed in the couple's home, Chief Robert Dundas said. Kent died a short time later in St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

Dundas said an autopsy showed Kent died from a single stab wound

to the heart. A knife was seized at the home, he said.

The couple's child, Jessica, 3, who was at home at the time, now is staying with relatives.

Kent worked as a welder at his father's business, Walter Cull Welding.

The couple's small single-storey house was under police guard as officers from St. Marys police and the London OPP detachment continued their investigation. The OPP joined the investigation at the request of Dundas.

A procession of cars and curious townspeople on foot continued past the Kent house on the quiet residential street for most of the day.

"It's been like a freeway," said Steve Shaw, an auxiliary police officer guarding the house. "Nothing like this happens in St. Marys."

Ted Ingram, who lives at 150 Victoria St. near the Kent home, said he saw an ambulance and several police cars outside the house early Sunday but "before they showed up, I didn't hear anything unusual. This is usually a real quiet neighborhood."

Some neighbors said the Kents were quiet people who kept to themselves.

"He was a good, hard worker who was always pleasant to talk to," said one neighbor who refused to be identified. "His wife kept to herself but she seemed nice."

"They didn't really socialize except for a few words here and there," said another neighbor. This whole thing is terrible. You read about this happening in London and Toronto but you don't expect it in your own back yard."