

Man charged with murder of missing woman



VIVIAN BREMNER

Guelph OPP believe a body found in Erin Township Wednesday is that of Vivian Bremner who went missing from her home near Hillsburgh Sunday.

At press time, forensic scientists in Toronto were using laser equipment and performing an autopsy on the body. Police said it was found "off the roadway" approximately three miles from Bremner's home just west of Hillsburgh.

The body was found sometime before 9 p.m. Wednesday and police were "searching the area around the scene very extensively" Thursday, a spokesman said.

Bremner, 31, had not been seen since about 10 a.m. Sunday morning when she was getting ready for a touch football practice in Georgetown.

Police were treating the case as missing person investigation until Tuesday when they charged a 21-year-old Erin Township man with first degree murder after a person was stopped while driving Bremner's car west of Thunder Bay.

During the search Tuesday Bremner's sister Cindy, 20, kept an almost constant vigil outside the Concession Six, Erin home where Bremner and her common law husband Bruno Carnelos lived.

"I hope they find her either way," the younger Bremner said as a police helicopter buzzed overhead. "The hardest part is waiting."

Cindy said her mother — a Guelph resident — was "going nuts" as the search continued.

During the search police received "dozens and dozens" of telephone

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Scott Kline/Week End

OPP Staff Sgt. Terry Balden, the head of the Criminal Investigation Unit heading up the investigation of the disappearance of 31-year-old Vivian Bremner, briefs Bremner's sisters Sharon (left) and Cindy Tuesday as the search for the missing woman continued.

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Commuter rail proposal still on track

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By STUART JOHNSTON



Ted Brown/Week End

Georgetown District High School played host to 25 track teams Tuesday in holding the annual Rebel Relays Track Meet. Here Georgetown's Greg Workman comes through with a good effort in the junior boys long jump event. Workman finished third in his event but the Rebels went on to take the overall crown at their meet. For more see page 31.

Despite last week's announcement of GO Transit's train expansion into Guelph, the Canadian Commuter Rail study, which proposes regular stops in Georgetown and Acton, will not be aborted.

"What we have is a situation in which the Province has made an announcement to expand GO Train service, just two days before the consultants deliver to us the first draft of a report which will conclude if privatization of passenger rail service in Ontario's heartland can be a sound and sustainable business venture," CCR President Paul Pagnuelo stated in a press release last week.

CCR proponents, the Toronto-Peterborough/Havelock Line Passenger Association, has commissioned a \$33,000 study to determine the feasibility of implementing a five-route rail network stretching eastward from London to Kitchener-Waterloo, Orillia, Peterborough and Belleville. The proposed routes include stops in Acton and Georgetown.

The study is entirely funded by Quebec transportation company Bombardier Inc., several municipalities, real estate developers and private businesses. The olde Hide House also contributed funds at the request of Ward One Councillor Rick Bonnette so that Acton would be considered as a scheduled stop.

A rough draft of the study was presented to the executive members of the Association late last week, but Pagnuelo refused to comment on its findings until their investors have a chance to review it.

"I have seen a very rough draft of the study, but I'm not prepared to make any of it public until Bombardier has gone through it in detail," Pagnuelo said in an interview Wednesday. "It would be premature to guess at this point whether or not our proposal will work. We still

have to get the study completed."

The CCR proposal was first introduced earlier in the year after the federal government slashed VIA Rail service in half. Its mandate was to provide a commuter rail service to those left stranded by the government cuts.

Last week Provincial Finance Minister Bob Nixon announced an extension of GO rail services to Guelph, Barrie and Belleville — three of the five routes proposed by CCR, Pagnuelo said.

"It came as a real body slam when I heard that," he said. "It caught us totally off guard. There was an immediate concern that those who supported the study would think it would have automatically been shelved, but it made no sense to do so because we were so close to completing it. I think the GO expansion complicates matters, but it doesn't rule us out. They may be significant enough to abort the whole CCR concept, or it may be insignificant enough to warrant our service. That's what the study will tell us, so we'll have to wait and see."

Pagnuelo added he is hoping to arrange a meeting with Nixon and Ontario Transportation Minister William Wrye to "review the implications of the GO expansion."

If the results of the CCR study are positive, then they will also have to look at the impact of competing with a subsidized government rail service and a reduction in the availability of track access times, he added.

The final results of the study, and the future of CCR, will be made public sometime in the near future, Pagnuelo said.