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Tragedy on the Credit claims two young lives

By Robyn Wilkinson & Danielle Marr
Metroland Media Group



Red long stem roses lay strewn across a withering tree trunk tucked along the banks of the Credit River.

The beginning of a memorial likely represent the love between an adventurous young couple who ventured out on a sunny Sunday afternoon to enjoy an unseasonably warm winter day when tragedy struck. The couple died on the river together.

The bodies of Kaya Firth and Zach Sutherland, both 21, of Georgetown, were pulled from the icy waters just days a part.

Firth was found Sunday, while OPP search and rescue teams discovered the remains of Sutherland, the son of well-known Georgetown resident, Dr. Jeff Sutherland, on Tuesday afternoon.

The pair had gone out kayaking near the Forge Park in Terra Cotta, a popular area for locals, that is often the sight of carefree summer swimming and tubing down the Credit River.

It appears the couple may have attempted to cross a frozen section of the river near the Terra Cotta Inn when they ran into trouble and ended up in the frigid waters.

Officers from the Caledon OPP, with assistance from the OPP's speciality units such as the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU), Emergency Response Team (ERT), Canine Unit, and Aviation Services, were searching the Credit River for the bodies of Zach Sutherland, 21, and Kaya Firth, 21, who both drowned while kayaking on the river Sunday. During the three-day search for Sutherland, a number of local residents and friends stood behind the police barricades while others laid flowers beside the icy waters.

Top photo by Danielle Marr, right photo by Eamonn Maher

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