

Evidence recovered in Acton leads to arrest in Kawartha Lakes murder

Accused helped maintain the Blue Springs Scout Reserve west of Acton

Evidence that led OPP to arrest and charge a Kawartha Lakes man with the first degree murder of his wife was seized in Acton following a 12-hour search of the Acton Scout House on School Lane last Thursday.

On Friday, September 27 at 8:50 a.m., Kawartha Lakes OPP found the body of Wendy Taylor, 59, the victim of a "homicide of domestic nature," according to OPP spokesman Sergeant Peter Leon who said the investigation continues.

The Taylor's name is well-known in Scouting circles – the couple were recipients of Silver Acorn awards, the highest Scouting award, and Iain Taylor was a volunteer who helped maintain the Blue Spring Scout Reserve on the Sixth Line, Nassagaweya. It was also searched by the OPP last Thursday, but Sergeant Leon did not believe any evidence was seized at that location.

Sergeant Leon said in-

formation led police to Acton, where "through the course of investigation they were able to locate evidence pertaining back to that (homicide) investigation," he said on Monday, adding the evidence – he would not say what – "greatly assisted" in their investigation and led to arrest Iain Taylor on Sunday morning in Peterborough.

John Petitti, Executive Director of Marketing and communications at Scouts Canada said Taylor has been suspended from Scouts Canada. He said Taylor had been a member of the Baden Powell Guild, retired Scouters who remain members of Scouts Canada. Taylor was involved in maintaining Scout camping facilities Petitti said, but did not work with youth as part of his volunteer activities.

Officers with the OPP Urban Search and Rescue Team with two specialized vehicles based in Bolton searched the Scout Hall and adjacent grounds.



FRUITFUL SEARCH: Last Thursday, specially-trained OPP teams found evidence leading to the arrest on Sunday in Peterborough of a Kawartha Lakes man for the first degree murder of his wife on September 27. The accused, Iain Taylor, is a well-known Scouter who volunteered at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve west of Acton, which was also searched. – Ted Tyler photo

Sergeant Leon said two teams of specially-trained Emergency Response Team officers carried out a methodical search under direction of a Case Manager.

At press time, Taylor was held in a Lindsey jail awaiting a bail hearing. Funeral services will be held for Wendy Taylor tomorrow (Friday) in Hampton, Ontario.



SUSPENDED SCOUTER: Evidence found at the Acton well-known Scouter Iain Taylor of Kawartha Lakes, who is charged with first degree murder in the September 27 death of his wife, Wendy Taylor. Both received prestigious Silver Acorn awards at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve, west of Acton, in 2012. – Submitted photo

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