

Bravery application did not include murder/suicide

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In November 2016, three senior members of the Halton Hills Fire Department (HHFD) were presented provincial bravery medals for their part in attempting to rescue one of their own and his wife in a fire in their Eden Mills home.

Then fire chief Brent Marshall, Deputy Chief Harry Olivieri and Assistant Deputy Chief Bruce Morrison were recognized with the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery for their efforts in trying to gain access to the burning house where Trevor McNally and his wife, Suzanne Nesbitt-McNally, died in 2015.

"On the morning of Nov. 20, 2015, Deputy Chief Harry Olivieri and Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Morrison received word that one of their firefighters had not reported to duty. This deeply concerned both men as this firefighter had previously attempted suicide. They made several unsuccessful attempts to contact his spouse on the way to the residence," reads the intro of the official account posted on the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery website.

Absent from the story presented to the Ontario Ministry Community Safety and Correctional Services for consideration for the medals was the fact McNally murdered his wife before setting the couple's house on fire to kill himself.

"The medal applications

were prepared on the basis of the actions taken by the men who entered a smoke-filled home without fire protection or breathing apparatus in a search and rescue attempt to save the occupants," admitted the town when asked if the murder or McNally's long history of mental illness were included in the application documentation.

At least one party involved in the case — the Nesbitt family — took issue with firefighters being publicly honoured with bravery medals, while their loved one wasn't even granted the basic dignity of being publicly acknowledged as a victim of domestic homicide.

"My family felt like it was another slap in the face. We felt like: 'Why the hell are you awarding them bravery (medals) for coming into a home where your firefighter murdered his frickin' wife?' I could understand if it was a legit situation where they were at a house fire and these firefighters valiantly tried to get in to save them - 100 per cent. But knowing what you know in hindsight ...," said Kim Nesbitt, Sue's sister.

The nominations for the provincial bravery medals were announced on Feb. 23, 2016 - three months after the murder - by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette during an evening of recognition for the HHFD.

"My mother was so upset. She said: 'When is the truth going to come out? Why are they saying (Sue) died in a fire?'" said Kim.



Contributed family photo

A year and a half after Trevor and Sue McNally were found dead in their Eden Mills home, the Nesbitt family has set the record straight on what actually happened on Nov. 20, 2015.

Until recently, the circumstances and history behind the couple's deaths were not public knowledge. The facts of the case were kept quiet by the Wellington OPP, which refused to release any details of the murder to the media once the causes of death were determined.

That was until the Nesbitt family decided to break the silence and reveal the full story behind the deaths in an article in The IFP in June, confirming what was initially suspected - Trevor McNally murdered his wife before taking his own life.

Kim Nesbitt told The IFP Sue had informed her that

she had told Trevor of her intention to end their 14-year marriage just days before her murder.

"(Trevor) had been drinking non-stop and she was really, seriously leaving the marriage. She was done after Christmas," said Kim.

According to the Nesbitt

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**-Kim Nesbitt,
Sue's sister**

family, McNally had long history of alcoholism and mental health issues. He had tried to commit suicide twice before in the three years leading up to the murder-suicide.

The first time was in November 2012, when two Halton Hills firefighters discovered Trevor trying to hang himself in the garage of the couple's previous home in Acton - where McNally worked as a firefighter.

The pair, with the help of a neighbour who serves as a Mississauga firefighter, managed to gain access to the home and saved Trevor's life. The Mississauga firefighter, Bradley Maguire, was recognized for

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