

Sue McNally was a domestic violence homicide victim: family

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a stab wound to the heart, 'I was not aware of that'. How are you not aware of that when you were on the scene when they did CPR on the driveway? Where did all the blood come from?" said Kim.

In addition, the anonymous source mentioned above with ties to the department, said the murder-suicide and the events preceding it was common knowledge among the department's ranks.

"There have been internal discussions at the town and fire department regarding these events.

Any opinions expressed by town or fire department staff during those discussions are personal opinions only and do not reflect the official position of the town or the fire department," said the town in response, adding no one from the department or town ever actively tried to cover up the truth.

"There has never been any attempt by any staff member or elected official to hide any information regarding the cause of Mrs. McNally's death," added the town.

The town and department's position is that suspicions alone were not enough to discourage the bravery medal nominations, despite admissions Marshall and others were actively involved in McNally's case long before his story ended with him murdering his wife and taking his own life.

"Given that there has never been any official determination of the cause of Mrs. McNally's death, both the town and the fire department were of the view that it would have been inappropriate to publicly and/or officially offer any opinion on the cause of Mrs. McNally's death," said the town.

"If her story can help even one person facing something like what she had to deal with, that's all we want."

- Kim Nesbitt, Sue's sister

To be clear, the cause of both deaths was officially determined by the coroner within weeks of the murder-suicide, but that information was withheld from the media by the OPP. It was however made available to the families and the Nesbitts are in possession of Sue's coroner report. To what degree the fire department was informed as McNally's employer the town will not say.

For their part, the Nesbitts credit a number of factors as to why they waited so long to reveal the truth themselves.

Kim Nesbitt said they were discouraged by police from speaking to the media or making public statements about the case until both the coroner's report was issued and the investigation was completed. She added sorting out the couple's estate also made it difficult to come forward early on.

Sue's mother, Denise Nesbitt, passed away just eight months after her daughter's murder, "dying of a broken heart," said Kim Nesbitt.

members of the Nesbitt family, the mother's passing made coming forward at that point too difficult after losing two family members in such a short period. But they added that revealing the truth behind the murder was among Denise's dying wishes.

The family spent the next months building up the courage to do so.

Kim Nesbitt added that giving the McNally family time to grieve their loss also contributed to their decision to hold off on bringing the truth to light.

"I'm sorry that (Trevor) hated his life that much. I wish he would have talked to us or tried to get help, because we would have been there for him 100 per cent. I cared deeply for him," she said.

However, the strain of having to pretend Nesbitt's death was an accident outside an official acknowledgment to the contrary, eventually became too much, and the family felt it was time to clear the air.

"I just think Sue needs to have a voice," said Kim Nesbitt. "It's very difficult, but I think the truth needs to be out there that Sue was a domestic violence homicide victim.

"If her story can help even one person facing something like what she had to deal with, that's all we want."

Two requests for comment sent to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services were not answered.

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