

## Hornby gas bar robbed

Halton Police are looking for two men in connection with a robbery at the Esso Gas Bar in Hornby Monday night. Police say just before the station was about to close at 11 p.m. two men entered the gas bar kiosk at Steeles and Trafalgar Rd. One of the men grabbed the lone attendant, took him to a back room and held him there while the other man stole an undetermined quantity of lottery tickets and a debit card reading machine.

The men threatened the attendant to remain in the backroom while they fled. Although a weapon was inferred, the attendant didn't actually see one.

Both of the suspects are described as East Indian males. One is 35 to 40 years old, 5'7", clean-shaven with short black hair combed to the side and balding in front. He was wearing a beige jacket and spoke good English with an East Indian accent.

The second suspect is described as 32 to 40 years old, 5'9", with a normal build, approximately 170 lbs, and short black curly hair.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2106 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

## Man pleads guilty to crash that killed local man

An Orangeville man who caused a fatal collision a year ago shook hands with the dead man's brother and wept after pleading guilty, Monday.

William Paquette, 50, pleaded guilty in Guelph provincial offences court to careless driving, a Highway Traffic Act offence. His actions killed 44-year-old Andrew Hardcastle of Georgetown. Hardcastle's brother, Tony, was present in court for the guilty plea.

"Everyone was very remorseful and crying," assistant Crown attorney Steve Hamilton said after court, noting the two men "were both understanding of each other's grief."

Paquette was northbound on Wellington County Road 24 in

Hillsburgh about 6:35 a.m. March 24, 2005. He pulled into the southbound lane to pass a road sander, and later told police slush being thrown up by the truck impaired his vision.

As Paquette's Volkswagen Jetta passed the sander, the man did not see Andrew Hardcastle's southbound Pontiac Bonneville. The two drivers tried to avoid a collision, but the Jetta sideswiped the Pontiac. That caused Hardcastle to lose control and veer into the path of a northbound dump truck, resulting in a head-on collision.

Court heard Hardcastle, a father of three, was conscious at the scene. He was airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto where he died three hours

after the collision.

Hamilton read a portion of widow Kimberly Hardcastle's victim impact statement, in which she spoke of the "emptiness" she has felt since that day.

"Not only did Andy die but my world . . . died with him," she wrote.

Paquette, a former truck driver who lost his job after the collision, was fined \$1,000 and had his licence suspended for 14 days.

"Mr. Paquette took responsibility by saying he should not have passed the sander in the manner he did," Hamilton said, noting there was no evidence of excessive speed or aggressive driving.

—From the files of Torstar News Service

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