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## Rockwood couple's car rammed into path of train Drunk driver who killed couple gets 7 1/2 years

**MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
 Special to The IFF

It was only a matter of time. A Milton man with drinking and driving charges spanning nearly a decade was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years behind bars for the crash that claimed the lives of a husband and wife last year.

It was a near precedent-setting sentence that the judge handed down to Ingram Rahim Bakhsh, 29, late Thursday afternoon, said the Crown attorney.

"It has lifted the bar for this type of offence," said Brian O'Marra outside the courtroom, just hours after telling Justice Richard LeDressay that Bakhsh fit the description of "worst offender, worst offence."

He had asked for a sentence of eight to 10 years.

With Bakhsh already having served more than a year—and getting various amounts of credit for it—he has five years and two months left to serve.

Defence lawyer Bruce Daley—who had asked for a jail term of four to six years—said the sentence was fair.

But Jennifer Miller, daughter of the victims, felt differently.

"I simply don't agree—but I'm not a judge or lawyer, I'm just a regular person," she said.

The horrific accident took place July 19, 2007, when Bakhsh's car

slammed into the back of a vehicle carrying Rockwood residents Andrew and Henrietta Miller, aged 66 and 65, sending it spinning into the path of an oncoming GO train crossing at Trafalgar Road. They were killed instantly.

At the time of the tragedy, Bakhsh shouldn't have been drinking or driving in accordance with release conditions for prior drinking and driving charges still before the courts. In fact, Bakhsh had already been involved in three such incidents in Peel in 2006. He pleaded guilty to two of them yesterday, with the third set of charges stayed.

In addition, the court heard that Bakhsh had been charged and convicted of two incidents of drunk driving in the U.S. in 2000 and 2001.

Earlier this year, he pleaded guilty to two counts each of impaired driving causing death and failing to comply with conditions of a release; he had a blood alcohol level nearly four times the limit when the Millers were killed.

In her emotional victim impact statement, Miller detailed how her family's life has been turned upside down.

At times she turned to face Bakhsh in the prisoners' box and spoke directly to him, expressing controlled rage.

"Never will I forget throwing away your Mercedes hub cap from

the trunk of Mom's car, then seeing my dad's teeth and his watch that was left underneath," she said.

Ironically, she told the court, her mother had volunteered weekly at Maplehurst—the very facility where Bakhsh has been in custody since the crash. Also ironically, her parents were Alcoholics Anonymous sponsors who helped people not unlike Bakhsh with their drinking problems.

Miller also read a statement from her son, seven-year-old Devin.

"Grandpa used to put my nana's roast beef on my plate like a happy face. Nana laughed real hard," Miller read.

Bakhsh's parents and young wife sat in the front row and showed no emotion while Miller spoke.

Across the room sat about 16 members of the Miller family.

When it was Bakhsh's turn to speak, he unfolded a written letter of apology and addressed the victims' family.

"Andrew and Henrietta are gone," he said in a clear voice. "They lost their lives because I drank when I wasn't supposed to and drove while under the influence."

He said if he could change places with them, he would. He admitted to having a drinking problem.

Outside the courthouse, Miller said she didn't believe a word Bakhsh said.

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