

Police praise wounded Milton mom for info leading to suspect's arrest

By LINDA KIRBY
Champion Reporter

Halton Regional Police Constable Bruce Lindsay has nothing but praise for young Patti Ilton of Milton.



PATRICIA ILTON

The 22-year-old mother was seriously wounded by a gunman early Sunday morning, but was able to provide sufficient information to Police to lead to the arrest of a 23-year-old Mississauga man.

He was later charged with one count of first degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

"She remained absolutely calm and never panicked," said Constable Lindsay, who was the first on the scene.

He had just begun his morning shift and was on his way to the Georgetown police station when he noticed the young woman waving at him near the CN tracks on Ontario St. near Main St.

"It could only have been a minute after the shooting happened," he said.

"She was sobbing and said she had been shot by a passing motorist."

When the young man rolled down his car window she had presumed he was going to ask for directions, she told the officer.

She had never seen the man before in her life.

"She was badly hurt and seemed numb and in shock, but still kept it all together," said the police officer.

While they waited for an ambulance to arrive, she gave him a description of her assailant and the car he was driving.

"She was able to give me all sorts of important details," he said.

"I was really proud of her."

Patti Ilton's mother was not surprised with her quick thinking and ability to help Police.

"She is a strong girl," said Marilyn Flemington.

She said her daughter is improving in Milton District Hospital following more than two hours of surgery to remove two bullets, and is in good spirits despite being in considerable pain.

"It has been a very traumatic experience for her," said Mrs. Flemington.

She and her husband Ed are caring for their daughter's two children Shauna, two years, and Daryl, four-and-a-half months, at their rural Milton home.

"Her children are her first priority. She is always asking about them."

Mrs. Flemington said she felt her daughter's strength will get her through the horrible ordeal.

"But it is going to be a long haul."

"Her elbow has been severely damaged and she may never regain the use of it again. The doctors are not promising anything," she said.

"It is hard but I know I have to feel grateful it was not worse."

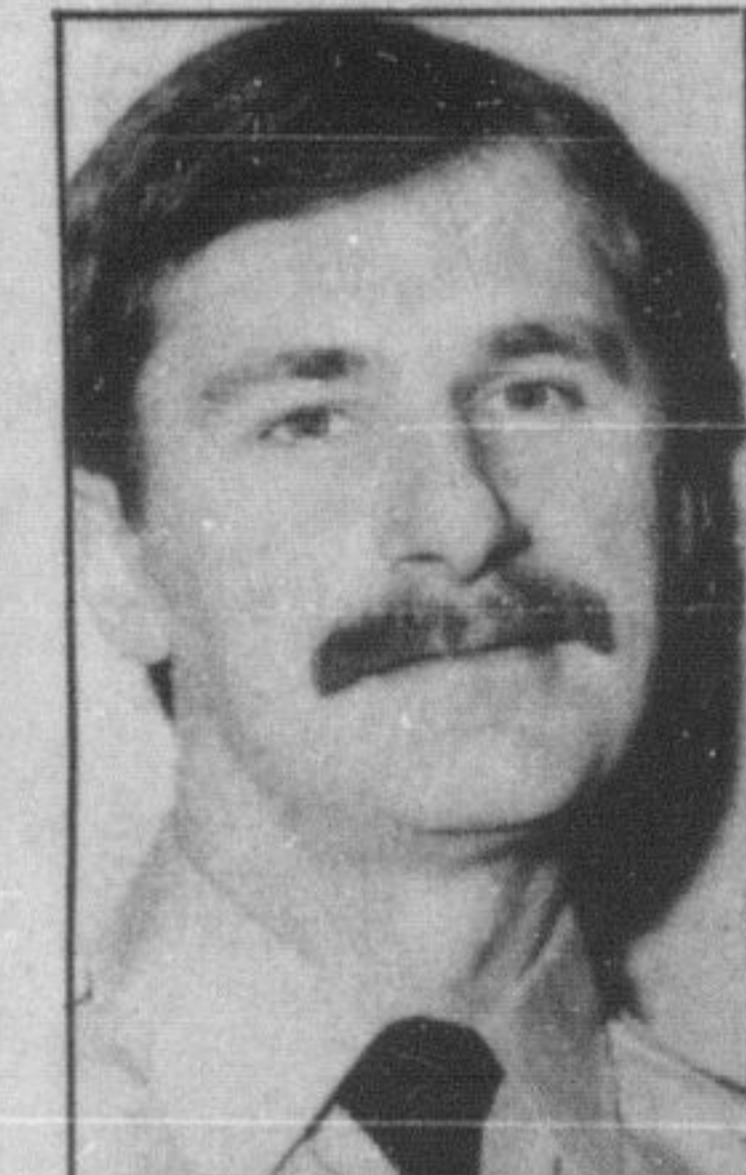
A bullet missed Patti's spine by a mere quarter of an inch. Had it struck her spine, it would have meant almost certain complete paralyzation, said her mother.

"It could have been worse."

Peel police commend Halton constable for cool handling of murder suspect

By LINDA KIRBY
Champion Reporter

Two Milton Police officers have been commended by Peel Regional Police Inspector Jim Wingate for their Sunday morning arrest of a 23-year-old Mississauga man wanted in connection with the shooting death of his 73-year-old grandmother.



CARL SAPELAK

John Philip Rives was later charged with the first degree murder of Ruby Larson, the attempted murder of his 26-year-old brother Joel Rives and the attempted murder of Patti Ilton, 22, of Wilson Dr. in Milton.

Inspector Wingate said he will make a personal recommendation to Halton Region Police Chief James Harding that both constables Carl Sapelak and Ian McNally be commended for their handling of the arrest.

had been shot.

But, while Constable Sapelak is being heralded as something of a hero in some circles, he is quite matter of fact about the entire episode.

The 29-year-old officer said he had no feelings of fear at the time.

He was looking for a car matching the description given by Mrs. Ilton when he spotted the car at McDonald's.

He then saw a man emerging from the restaurant and thought he noticed something suspicious.

"He was watching me, but I didn't feel nervous," said the constable.

"I was getting out of my cruiser as he was getting into his vehicle. I told him I was a police officer and not to move."

One man dead, another is hurt in car crash

One man was killed and a second man critically injured in a two vehicle crash at the intersection of Britannia Rd. and Trafalgar Rd. at approximately 3:30 p.m. Monday.

Dead is 28-year-old Paul Wetselaar of 1375 Caroline St., Burlington.

A passenger in his car, 40-year-old Gary Vernon Young of 5473 Hickson Ave., Burlington is listed as unconscious and in fair condition at Hamilton General with severe head injuries.

Halton Regional Police said the fatality occurred as Mr. Wetselaar was travelling westbound on Britannia Rd. through the intersection. He was driving a 1980 Renault.

The car was struck broadside by a Georgetown truck driver travelling northbound on Trafalgar Rd. Ronald Anderson, driver of the truck, escaped with no injuries.

Witnesses at the scene said the Wetselaar car went through a red light.

Halton Regional Police have laid no charges.

Both men employees of Dominion Food Store in Streetsville, were returning to Burlington at the time of the accident.

Constable Sapelak apprehended Rives after spotting the accused man's car in the parking lot of McDonalds Restaurant at approximately 8:30 a.m.

He was the sole officer to approach Rives and arrested him without incident. A high Powered rifle and bayonet were also seized at that time.

Constable McNally arrived within a minute of receiving a call from Constable Sapelak requesting a back up, and handcuffed the accused man.

"They did an excellent job in locating the accused and apprehending him without incident," said Inspector Wingate.

"I was very impressed with both officers," he said, adding they had successfully arrested the man and averted a potentially dangerous situation.

Approximately 40 people, including many children, were eating breakfast inside of McDonalds Restaurant when Rives was apprehended.

Halton Regional Police, at that time, had no idea of the Mississauga shooting, but had responded to a call at Ontario St. and Main St. where Patti Ilton

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