

Hit-and-run driver handed nine-month prison sentence

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

A Brampton man charged in the hit-and-run death of an Etobicoke cyclist on Tremaine Road last summer was sentenced to nine months in jail yesterday.

In his ruling, Justice Harry Edmonstone took into account that Paul Carroll, 30, accepted full responsibility for his actions that fateful day and has appeared remorseful.

However, Justice Edmonstone acknowledged Mr. Carroll displayed callous and cowardly behaviour when he didn't stop to offer assistance to Jacek Wierzbicki.

Along with the jail term, Mr. Carroll had his driver's licence revoked for four years.

"This was a very difficult case with sensitive issues," Justice Edmonstone said during his ruling in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Oakville.

Mr. Carroll showed no emotion when the sentence was handed down.

Family members wept outside the courtroom.

Defence lawyer Fred Fedorosen, who previously argued his client should receive a conditional sentence to be served in the communi-

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ANNA WIERZBICKI

ty, refused comment outside court.

During the three-day sentencing, Dr. J. Paul Federoff testified Mr. Carroll left the scene because it triggered the trauma he experienced when his father committed suicide 12 years ago.

After the death of his father, the psychiatrist testified Mr. Carroll suffered from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and showed traits of the disorder after the hit-and-run.

Although Crown psychiatrist Dr. Scott Woodside agreed Mr. Carroll suffered from PTSD following the death of his father, he didn't believe symptoms of the disorder were evident the day of the accident.

Anna Wierzbicki told The Champion she was pleased with the jail sentence but nothing could bring back her husband of 17 years.

"I'm glad he didn't get house arrest. I wouldn't have been satisfied," she said.

"This was dragging on too long. It's been really painful for the kids. I think he got what he deserved."

Although she said life had to go on, it wasn't going to ever be the same before her husband died.

"It's going to be extremely hard. Our sense of values as a family are destroyed. We will try to rebuild what we can. The fact that he (Mr. Carroll) left is the most upsetting."

Mr. Wierzbicki also leaves behind a daughter, Alicja, 15, and sons Tomasz, 12, and Daniel, 5.

Mr. Carroll was travelling on Tremaine Road, just north of Derry Road at about noon August 14 when he struck Mr. Wierzbicki, 41. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

At the prompting of his ex-wife, Mr. Carroll turned himself into Halton Regional Police two days after the accident and confessed to the hit-and-run.

Mr. Carroll pleaded guilty in March to careless driving causing death and failing to remain at the scene of an accident.

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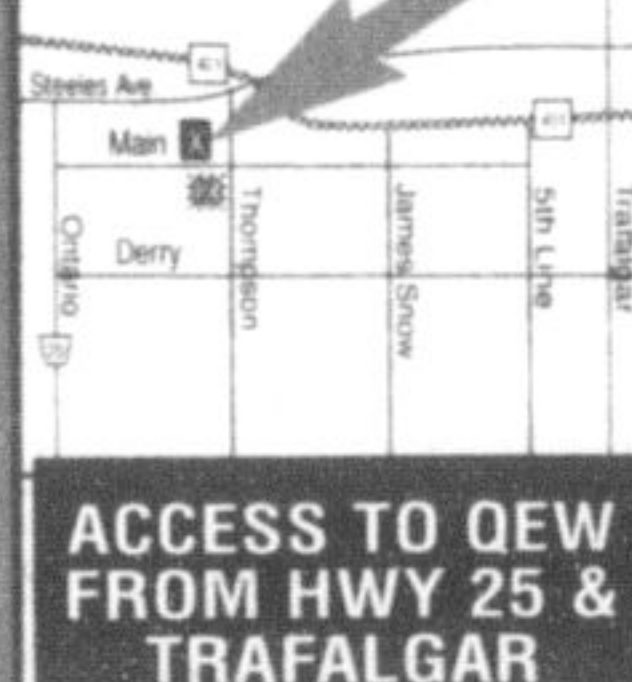
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