

Man faces charges of firearm violations

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

The father of a Prince Edward Island woman accused of gunning down her ex-husband in Dundas in August has been charged with 24 counts of firearm violations.

Donald Pelz, 70, of Bell School Line was charged September 23 after Halton Regional Police, Hamilton Police and the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU) seized nine guns and 1,000 rounds of ammunition from his home August 22.

Hamilton police issued a search warrant at Mr. Pelz's residence August 21 as part of the investigation into the murder of Russell Bailey, who was shot dead in front of his Watson Lane home.

Mr. Pelz's daughter, Ruth-Anne Willis, 39, has been charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of her ex-husband.

According to Hamilton police, Ms Willis

left her father's home, where she was visiting, to confront her ex-husband on the day of the murder.

Upon searching Mr. Pelz's home for clues into the homicide, investigators allegedly stumbled upon unregistered and unsecured firearms throughout the house, in a car and in a barn.

It's alleged one of the guns was loaded.

"Firearms have to be stored unloaded and with the safety on," said Halton police spokesperson Sgt. Val Hay.

Mr. Pelz, who twice ran unsuccessfully for public office, faces charges of nine counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, nine counts of careless storage of a firearm, one count of possession of a loaded prohibited handgun, two counts of possession of a firearm with readily accessible ammunition and three counts of unauthorized possession of a prohibited device.

He will appear in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton October 31.

Youth, police van struck

A 45-year-old Halton Hills man is charged with impaired driving causing bodily harm after a motorist hit a police van and a civilian Saturday.

Const. Al Bryer was speaking to a 17-year-old youth on Heslop Street at about midnight when a vehicle travelling east-bound struck the van and the teenager. The car continued to travel for several feet before stopping in a ditch.

The youth was taken to Milton District

Hospital where he was treated for a broken arm and bruising. He was released later that night.

The officer was also taken to hospital and treated for bruising before being released.

The driver of the car wasn't injured. Damage to the police van is estimated at \$10,000.

The accused will appear in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton October 31.



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