

'Lack of awareness' surrounding inmate's death, inquest reveals

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On November 27, while being transferred back and forth from Maplehurst to the courthouse, Mr. Padda was no different. Witnesses testified that he continued shaking, but nothing was done to help him.

While in an escort van on November 28, he was in a state of delirium, which escort officers thought might be claustrophobia. Since he was speaking Punjabi, they didn't know what he was saying, Ms Borsanyi said.

When his delirium continued into the night, it was decided he should be examined by a nurse at Maplehurst.

By this time, he was "out of control" and hallucinating, Ms Borsanyi said, so he was taken to the segregation area instead to be restrained.

"The solution would have been to send him to the hospital, but they didn't see it that way. There was a lack of awareness," she said.

In a cell, Mr. Padda was left alone in what's called a prone position — on his stomach with his hands behind him. That's when he stopped breathing.

"Suddenly he wasn't moving," Ms Borsanyi said, adding Maplehurst staff thought he was simply exhausted after fighting against being restrained.

A nurse who was then on the scene became worried when Mr. Padda continued to be still and she tried to put him in a different position.

"But she realized too late. His eyes were rolling up," Ms Borsanyi said.

Mr. Padda was taken to Milton District Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 7:40 p.m.

The jury found his death to be a result of

the restraining position he was put in — that Mr. Padda had died from positional asphyxia.

"It's very unfortunate," Ms Borsanyi said of his death.

Victoria Broughton, Ontario Corrections Ministry spokesperson, said investigations were launched by the Ministry and Halton Regional Police after the incident, but she declined commenting specifically on findings of the Ministry's investigation.

The jury's recommendations — made with Peel Region Police, Peel escort officers, Maplehurst correctional officers and Maplehurst medical staff — focused on giving proper training on recognizing and dealing with alcohol withdrawal symptoms and delirium, as well as training on the proper use of restraint so vital functions aren't impaired.

Training would be for anyone the prisoners come in contact with including medical staff, jail guards and police, Ms Borsanyi said.

Also, it was recommended that a more

effective method of monitoring the delivery of health services in the correctional system be devised and that when someone is admitted into Maplehurst, a "comprehensive medical assessment" be performed.

Milton resident Basil Savoy was on the jury. He said he feels good about the recommendations decided upon.

"The recommendations came easy. We were all unanimous. The big focus is training because there's a lack of training in the system," Mr. Savoy said.

He added that alcohol problems are common in correctional facilities, and have to be recognized and dealt with properly.

"Hopefully they'll accept some of the recommendations — because they don't have to accept them. If they accept them, maybe this won't happen in the future — they (alcoholics) won't fall through the cracks."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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"THE PATH TO TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS"
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004
MILTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
396 Williams Ave., Milton
6:30 p.m. Display & Refreshments
7:00 pm Program

The seminar will be presented by Halton Healthcare Services, Milton District Memorial Hospital site, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association. This event is made possible through an educational grant from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, with special appreciation to Milton District Hospital Foundation.

Dr. Nadim Zamar, a psychiatrist with Halton Healthcare's Mental Health Program, will be presenting. Dr Zamar will discuss a number of different aspects of mental illness:

- Recent developments in psychiatric thinking, in diagnosis and in treatment.
- Recent developments in the treatment of the major mental illnesses.
- What are psychiatric illnesses? A discussion of the major mental illnesses - anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder - and their symptoms and causes.
- How the psychiatrist and the mental health multi-discipline team together can best help you and your family.

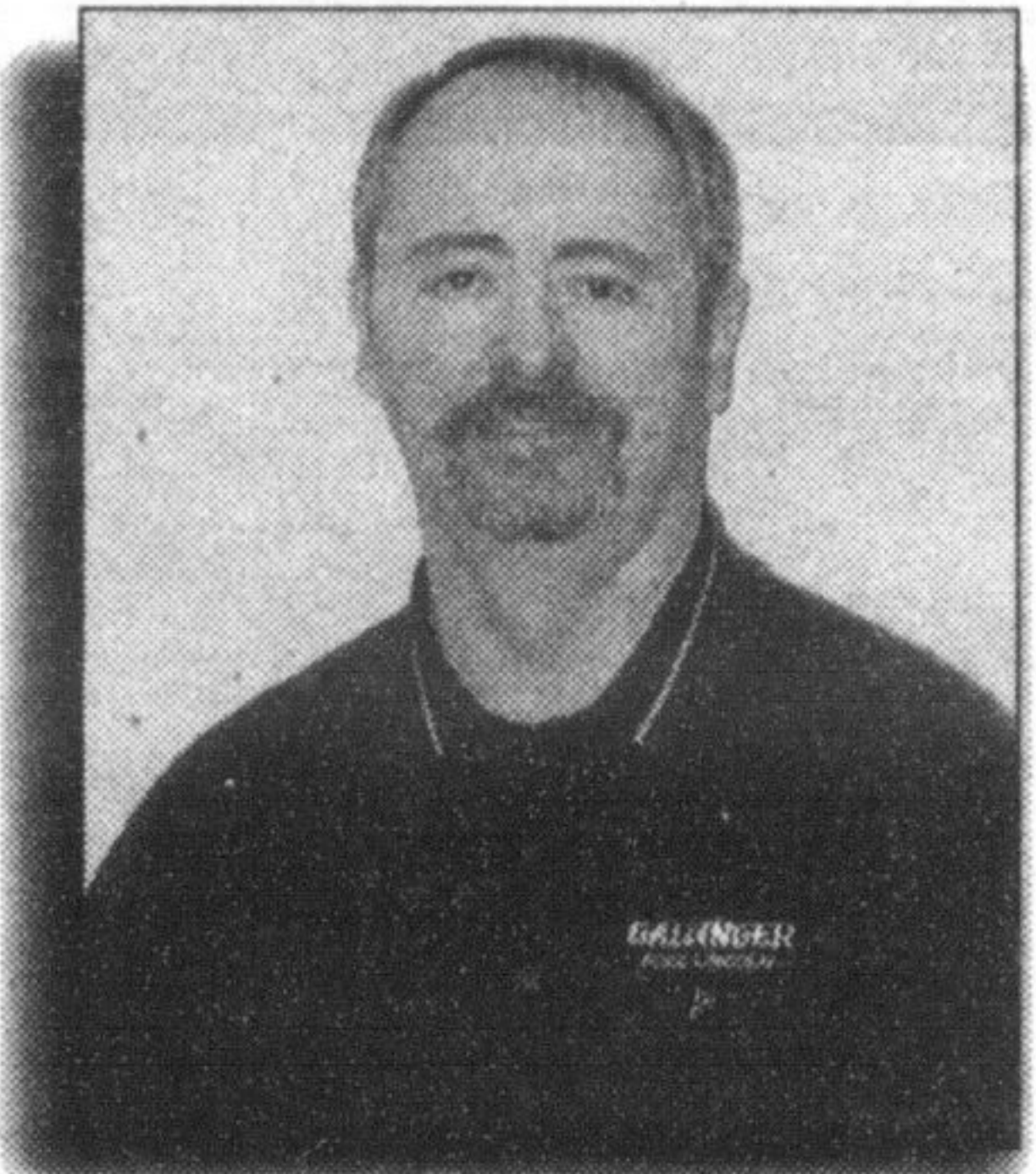
To reserve a seat and for more information please call **905-338-4379**
ASL interpreter services will be available if booked by February 13th
or by emailing cpopp@haltonhealthcare.on.ca or faxing 905-878-0498

If you are unable to attend this event, but would like more information on this topic, speak with your physician or contact:

Canadian Mental Health Association
1-800-875-6213
www.ontario.cmha.ca

Milton District Hospital 30 Derry Road East Milton, ON, L9T 2X5 Tel: 905-878-2383	Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital 327 Reynolds Street Oakville, ON, L6J 3L7 Tel: 905-845-2571
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