

Dentist died from being hit on head, police confirm

Police are confirming that the Milton dentist who was murdered near Orillia last weekend died from a blunt force head injury.

"That means he got a smack to the head from a fall or a weapon," said Sgt. Dave Lee of Orillia OPP, adding he couldn't confirm at this time whether a weapon was used.

He declined comment on whether police have any suspects.

Dr. David Dumencu, 42, was found by an employee lying unconscious in the parking lot of

the Atherley Arms Tavern at about 2 a.m. last Friday.

He was taken to an Orillia hospital and then transferred to Toronto Western Hospital where he died early Sunday morning.

The post-mortem, which revealed the cause of death, was conducted in Toronto Monday.

Sgt. Lee said the investigation into the murder of Dr. Dumencu is continuing full force.

"This investigation is really going strong. We have at least eight

detectives on it," he said.

He added police are reluctant to release information as they're still interviewing people about the incident and don't want any facts made public that might differ from their recollections.

A funeral mass will be held at Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church on Martin Street today at 11 a.m. Visitation was held at the J. Scott Early Funeral Home yesterday and Wednesday.

Suspects in drug case in court

Two Milton men charged last month in connection with a marijuana-growing operation will appear at Burlington court August 17.

The date was set last week during an appearance at Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington.

Halton Regional Police charged Robert Gordon Popp, 36, and Troy Vernon Burton, 23, with production of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and

theft of electricity under \$5,000.

Police raided a grow operation June 9 in a barn on a Hwy. 7 property on the Milton/Acton border, between Fourth and Fifth lines.

They seized 259 marijuana plants in various stages of growth with a potential street value of \$259,000.

Also facing the same charges is Wesley Guy Whitford, 43, of Rockwood. He'll appear at Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington August 10 and 11.

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