

Driver gets 4-year jail term in woman's death

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

A Campbellville couple is struggling to digest the news that the man responsible for their daughter's death will likely be out of prison within a year or two.

This comes after a 21-year-old Calgary, Alta. man was recently sentenced in Calgary to four years and four months in jail for the drinking and driving collision that resulted in the death of 29-year-old Paula Ashby.

"It's not much, is it?" said Janice Ashby, Ms Ashby's mom. "We wanted more (prison time)."

Ms Ashby, who grew up in Milton, was living near Calgary and driving to work December 12, 2004 when a car slammed into hers, killing her.

The driver of the vehicle, who was 20 years old at the time and carrying a passenger, was charged with criminal negligence causing death and impaired driving causing death for Ms Ashby's death, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and impaired driving causing bodily harm for injuries to the passenger, plus hit and run and having over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

The four years of prison time he received was for the two criminal negligence charges and the four months for the hit-and-run charge. The other charges were dropped.

"Realistically, will he (the convicted man) serve the full four years? No," said Calgary Police Const. Jeff Leimer. "He'll probably be out in one to two years."

Const. Leimer said the sentence the convicted driver received is consistent with others handed down in similar cases.

"Am I satisfied with the time he got? Yes," he said. "Could we have done better, could the justice system have done better? Probably, but for similar cases, that's what the going rate is."

The Crown had originally wanted a sentence of seven or eight years, Const. Leimer said.

Ms Ashby said the passenger testified against the driver in court. Court heard the passenger had yelled at the driver to stop and let him out moments before the collision occurred, Ms Ashby said.

The younger Ms Ashby lived in Milton until about 10 years ago when she left to attend Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. She then moved to Alberta, where she became a fitness trainer.

Her mother said she'll probably soon get involved with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) to do her part in bringing about heavier sentences for people who drink and drive.

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

Man charged in 5-year-old theft

A Hamilton man has been charged in connection with a front-end loader worth \$140,000 that was stolen five years ago.

Police said the Caterpillar Payloader was stolen from the Milton area in April of 2000.

After a long police investigation, a search warrant was executed in Hamilton July 28 and the front-end loader was recovered.

A 65-year-old Hamilton man has been charged with possession

Police Blotter

of stolen property over the amount of \$5,000.

Police said more charges are expected.

Also being looking into is a backhoe valued at between \$40,000 and \$60,000 that was seized recently in the Hamilton area. It had been stolen from York

Region.

Lawnmower stolen

A riding lawnmower was stolen from a Sixth Line backyard July 27 or 28.

Police said unknown suspects stole the John Deere lawnmower sometime between 9 a.m. July 27 and 9 a.m. July 28.

The estimated value of the stolen property is \$6,000.

Murder case on TV tonight

A CourtTV Canada program will focus on the unsolved 1982 murder of 25-year-old Oakville resident Delia Adriano.

The Crime Files Cold Case Special will air tonight at 6 and 11 p.m. In addition to being shown on Cogeco (Channel 144), the program will air on Rogers Television, Bell ExpressVu, Star Choice and Look TV.

Ms Adriano, a Wildwood Drive resident, was last seen on Sunday, Sept. 26, 1982 walking toward the side entrance to her home around 9:30 p.m. where she was dropped off by a friend.

More than a month later, on Saturday, Nov. 6, 1982, Ms Adriano's body was found in a wooded area near Second Line and No. 3 Sideroad in Milton.

Crime Stoppers of Halton Vandals target school

Halton Regional Police Service are investigating damage to a school under construction.

Monday at 3 p.m., four suspects entered the building at 850 Bennett Blvd. and damaged three windows. They also pulled the fire alarm, but it wasn't yet hooked up. Outside, the culprits damaged four uninstalled windows and defaced five walls with graffiti.

If you have any information, call 1-800-222-TIPS or go to Crime Stoppers' Web site at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com.




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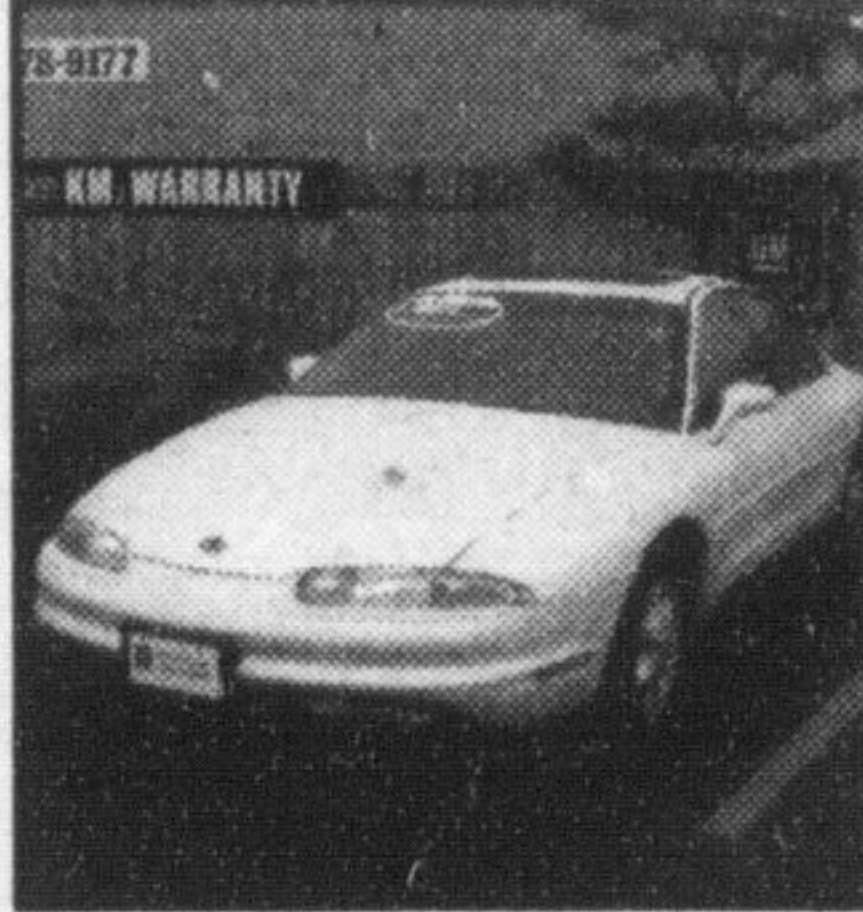

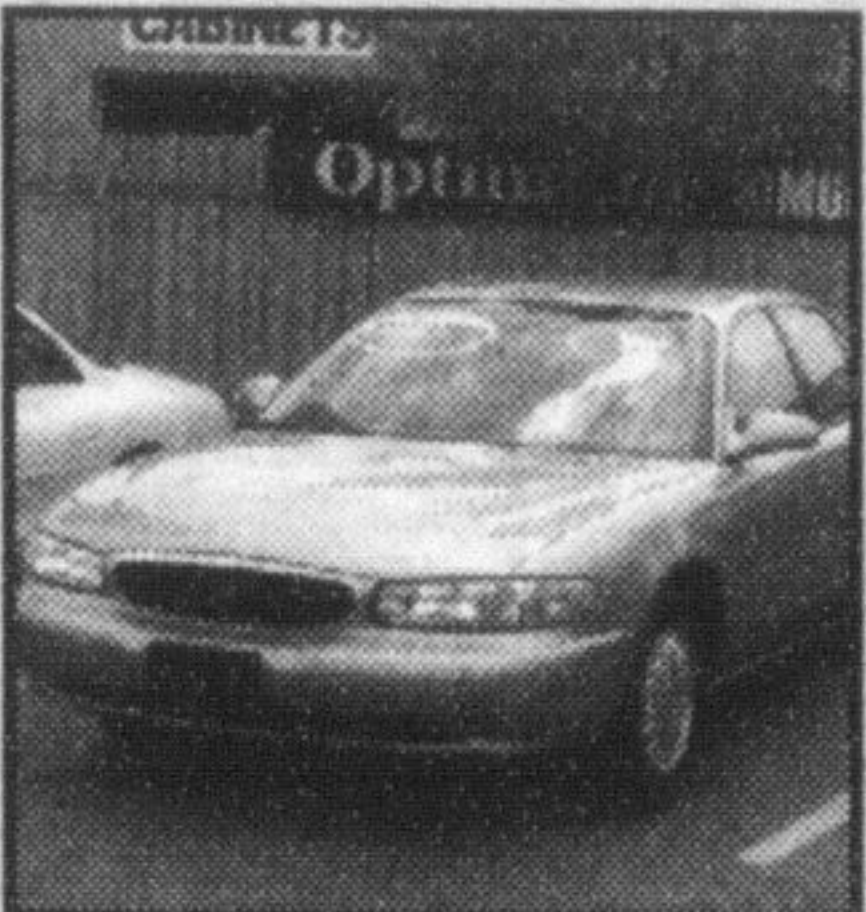
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