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# Police look for leads in Venerus murder

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Almost five months after a Milton man was gunned down near his rural home, police still haven't made any arrests.

But that doesn't mean they aren't actively investigating the murder of 55-year-old Ray Venerus, and officers are continuing to appeal to anyone with information to do the right thing and come forward.

"I certainly believe there's someone out there or more than one (person) with information," said Det. Sgt. Al Frost of Halton Regional Police's homicide unit.

"I'd love to have those people reach out to us. We're always looking for the public's assistance."

Venerus was discovered shot to death near his Dublin Line house, south of No. 5 Sideroad, February 21 by a passerby.

Venerus, a local businessman, owned a building on Regional Road 25, just south of No. 5 Sideroad, that contained an Olco gas station and Miltowne Automotive Services and ran Ray Venerus Enterprises Ltd., a used

auto dealership, out of that building. Frost said there are five investigators currently working on the case.

"We're pursuing interviews and investigating (a number of) avenues."

Since the investigation is ongoing, Frost said he can't reveal much information about the murder — such as how many times Venerus was shot or whether it was a drive-by shooting — or the police investigation, including whether they have suspects in mind.

What he could say is police continue to believe it wasn't a random killing.

The public, he said, can be confident in the resources police have committed to the case.

"We're doing all we can in terms of continuing to pursue this," he said.

This is one of about a dozen unsolved cases in Halton.

Frost said he remains optimistic the killer will be caught. Someone somewhere likely has important information that could lead to a break in the case, he said.

The number to call with information is (905) 825-4747, ext. 5082.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

# Weapon crimes increasing

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have witnessed the assault, and they're asking anyone with information to come forward to assist in the investigation.

"Of course we're concerned over the incident — a Milton citizen was injured by a knife," said Det. Sgt. Murray Drinkwalter of Halton Regional Police, adding, "We're concerned when any sort of weapons are involved in an altercation."

Drinkwalter said police are seeing more of this type of incident.

"It's unfortunate that because of a lack of respect youths in different communities have for each other, this type of incident is becoming more prevalent," he said.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Milton Criminal Investigation Bureau at (905) 825-4747, ext. 2215, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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**Community Service Department**

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Town of Milton, Department of Corporate Services,  
43 Brown St., Milton, Ontario L9T 5H2  
Attention: Coordinator, Human Resources  
Fax: (905) 875-5414  
E-mail: [humanresources@milton.ca](mailto:humanresources@milton.ca)

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