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Couple die in knife battle — Colleague is shocked, puzzled

A couple, well-known in local real estate circles, are dead as a result of a domestic dispute. The double fatality has sent shock waves rippling through the Milton business community.

Nancy and David Turner leave behind three children ranging in age from eight to 10 years.

The incident took place in the early morning hours last Thursday night (Aug. 16) at their Jordan home, in Niagara Region, which they purchased about a year ago.

A Niagara Regional Police spokesman said the children, who were home at the time of the incident, are being cared for by the deceased mother's brother in Markham.

"Totally unexpected... definitely a shock," was the reaction of one colleague from Royal City Realty in Milton, who asked his name not be used.

He explained that Mrs. Turner was listed with the local office while Mr. Turner worked out of the Toronto area, where he had built up many contacts during a 20-year high school teaching stint in Mississauga. Mr. Turner had formerly worked out of the Milton office, too.

As far as he knew, he said they operated as a team with Mr. Turner apparently doing a lot of the legwork while Mrs. Turner handled the office work and looked after their three children.

He said he knew Mr. Turner as an energetic agent who toiled long hours and did a "lot of business."

Police say an autopsy has ruled out suicide and they are treating it as a double homicide.

Niagara Regional Police received a call from Mrs. Turner, apparently as the assaults unfolded, and responded to the home.

When they arrived, the 35-year-old mother was observed lying in the driveway, bleeding heavily. She died later in a St. Catharines hospital.

The 48-year-old father was spotted running from the home. He collapsed a short distance away. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Both suffered numerous stab wounds. A knife was recovered.



Photo by NORMAN NELSON

Icy shopping spree

What they saw as excessive packaging sparked a demonstration by the environmental group Incineration Counteracts the Environment (ICE) at a Milton grocery store last Thursday. About a dozen members, including Mergot Walker, pictured here, ripped the packaging off the products they had purchased and left it in an incriminating heap. Please see story on page 8.

No solution in sight in Fair Grounds standoff

By KAREN SMITH

Tension between members of the Halton Agricultural Society and the Milton Horsemen's Association continues to build, yet no solution is in sight.

Two more loads of dirt and rock were dumped across the track at the fairgrounds last week, making it impossible for the horsemen to train their animals on the site.

Barney Henderson, the agricultural society's lawyer, said court action is pending, but none has been taken in the dispute over a small strip of land in the centre of the track.

Meanwhile, the horsemen, claiming ownership of the land, are planning to build a fence around the 72 by 409 foot piece of property, said Gord Cartwright, a spokesman for the group.

"It rained like hell yesterday (Sunday) so we didn't get started yet," he said. "Hopefully, we're putting some of the posts in this week."

The fence would mean the land wouldn't be accessible for the Steam Era show on the Labour Day weekend or the Milton Fall Fair next month.

The horsemen, who rent boarding facilities at the fairgrounds and train horses for harness racing there, were evicted by the society August 1 but are refusing to leave.

The agricultural society has shut off the hydro and the water which service the barns and have dumped three loads of dirt on the track so far this month.

Holding a deed dated 1889, the horsemen have said they will only give up their claim to the property if the agricultural society provides facilities equal to what the horsemen now enjoy.

But agricultural society members, who may sell or upgrade the fairgrounds, insist their organization owns the land in question. They have argued the Milton Driving Park Association, named in the deed, is a different group from the horsemen today.

The Halton Agricultural Society and horsemen have shared use of the fairgrounds for more than 100 years, and the barns were built more than 30 years ago.

HRCA negotiating to purchase Lac Minerals land

By NORMAN NELSON

An agreement has been worked out for Lac Minerals to sell property it had hoped to strip mine to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA).

If it goes through, HRCA general manager Murray Stephen confirmed the 390 acres would be the authority's second largest acquisition, next only to that of Hilton Falls, which involved more than 500 acres.

The deal was announced on Tuesday at the start of a related provincial hearing being held at Milton Town Hall, and the meeting was subsequently adjourned until Dec. 11.

The arrangement, confirmed Mr. Stephen, is subject to the HRCA obtaining a commitment for provincial funding, and the two parties working out a price.

"It was an alternative to pursuing a three to four week hearing under the Niagara Escarp-

ment Plan," he explained. "It was a desire to explore this option rather than continuing a process where no one was really sure what the end result would be."

Lac senior vice-president of operations Gerald Gauthier also expressed optimism about the deal.

"We feel it's in everybody's best interests," he said. "We were in a very confrontational situation. There's more important things in this world than to fight with people."

He said he's "confident something will be arrived at. The people I dealt with (at the HRCA) were very honest and fair... and I think we can come up with an equitable solution for all."

If it goes through, the sale would end almost two years of often bitter confrontation between the company and a citizens' group called Keep the Escarpment Environment

Protected (KEEP) that sprung up in opposition to company plans.

The company initially sought to expand its present quarry operation (about 175 acres on the east side of Bell School Line) onto the adjacent property on the west side.

KEEP, however, applied for an amendment slapping tighter land controls (that would ultimately prevent any further quarrying) on a 600-acre chunk of escarpment land that included just under 390 acres of land owned by Lac Minerals.

It was this amendment that Tuesday's provincial hearing centred on.

The hearing would basically pit Lac Minerals against all other parties — including KEEP, the Town of Milton, Halton Region, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Halton Region Conservation Authority — who all, in one form or another, were seeking

stricter land use controls on that tract.

Lac Minerals, on the other hand, wanted the same designation on the land that was in place when they bought it.

"We would not want to see it rezoned. It is very valuable land. If it is rezoned, our hands are tied," Mr. Gauthier said in April.

Although Tuesday's surprise development represented yet another delay for the hearing (the Tuesday hearing was actually postponed from its originally scheduled June date at the request of Lac Minerals), KEEP member Patricia Guenther termed it a "very positive" change because it now appears likely the land rezoning will get through uncontested.

However, she reiterated that, sale or no sale, the battle will not be over until the land is successfully redesignated.

With such restrictions in place, "it won't matter who owns the land."