

Oak Ridge death an accident: jury

Oak Ridge patient Joseph Perisien died as a result of an accident, a coroner's jury has determined.

Perisien, 54, was found lying on his back in his locked room in Ward 5 on the evening of March 30, 1987. He died, without regaining consciousness, on April 5 in Penetanguishene General Hospital's intensive care unit.

Bad winter weather at the time of the accident and for some hours afterward made his transfer to a Toronto hospital by road or by air impractical.

Dr. Germain Gauthier told the jury that Perisien fell and hit the back of his head because he had a seizure. The resulting brain

damage was irreversible, in his opinion.

Dr. Gauthier was on call at PGH when Perisien was delivered by ambulance. All of the on-call doctors at PGH are general practitioners, he said. He would prefer that the hospital have a neurologist and other specialists on call. "We have to live with reality," he said. A local surgeon and internist were called to assist Dr. Gauthier.

Dr. Gauthier conferred by telephone with specialists in Toronto. Perisien was put on a respirator soon after his arrival at PGH, making moving him more difficult. "When do you stop (assisting an unconscious person to breathe)? I think that no one knows the

answer to that yet today."

The five person coroner's jury was told that Perisien was a chronic paranoid schizophrenic. The paranoia was a likely factor in his criminal record between 1949 and 1960. Perisien was committed on a lieutenant-governor's warrant, after acquittal in a Toronto court on a charge of wounding by reason of insanity.

Psychiatric drugs and drugs to relieve his high blood pressure were prescribed. He sometimes refused, as was his right, to take the drugs for his blood pressure, and did so minutes before he was found on his back.

Two attendants gave evidence that Perisien was observed standing with his back to his

room's door, turning on and off the water taps in his sink, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. He did not respond when addressed. He was seen on his back at 9:19 p.m.

Perisien could be seen from the outside of his room's door to be lying in a pool of water. Attendants found he was bleeding from a cut in the scalp on the back of his head when they examined him a minute after he was first seen on his back.

The cause of death was head injury with cerebral edema coupled with loss of consciousness caused by imbalance of electrolytes and low sodium.



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Summerama events schedule all set

With Summerama just over a week away, plans for Penetanguishene's summer, fun event are in full swing.

Beginning Thursday, July 30, with the annual side-walk sale the four day fiesta includes the CKMP Rock Video Road show and dance at the Penetanguishene Arena on Friday evening, the Rotary Fish Hunt wind up dance on Saturday.

On Sunday the Molson's powerboat challenge takes place in Penetanguishene Bay and the waterfront park. And at 3:00 p.m. on the same day the Huronia Skydiving Association is scheduled to thrill spectators as they free-fall over the bay.

There will be five jumpers in all including Claude Lalonde from Penetanguishene.

These are just a few of the events planned for Summerama and the Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce is hoping its members will come out and help make the event a success.

Summerama committee chairman Bill Stevens says volunteers are needed to help on Saturday and Sunday with, among other things, crowd control, policing and clean-up.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help on either day, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 549-2232.

Tentative settlement

There may be an end in sight for striking workers at AFC Grew Boats in Penetanguishene. Company president Peter Francis says a settlement was reached on Friday and he hopes the agreement will be ratified by Local 1411 of the Canadian Autoworkers Union today.

Francis said he could not disclose details of the agreement before it went to the union membership.

Joe Papaleo, a member of the CAW negotiating committee says a meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. today at the Penetanguishene Curling Club.

Papaleo would not say whether he thought the rank-and-file would accept the tentative agreement.

"There are 111 votes," he said.

Workers at Grew walked off the job two weeks ago today when 111 of the union's 161 membership voted against the company's contract proposal.

At issue was the 18 cents and hour increase which workers said was inadequate.



Free-falling

Jim Price of the Huronia Skydiving Association free-falls above Penetanguishene Bay.

The Huronia Skydiving Association are scheduled to appear during Summerama.

Five jumpers will be featured during the Sunday, August 2, event.

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