

OPP say 'No inquest in Hwy. 7 deaths'

Oak Ridges OPP have now made a statement about the events which led to the death of four people on Highway 7 just east of Bayview Avenue March 10.

Constable Michael Norton said a vehicle driven by Christides Ballis of Willowdale, travelling westbound in the passing lane, veered over the centre line, sideswiping an eastbound vehicle.

The sideswiped vehicle was driven by James Woods of King.

The Ballis vehicle then struck an eastbound vehicle killing three of the occupants, Fritz and Kiarana Arthur and their seven-year old daughter, Sandra.

Mr. Ballis was also killed.

Constable Norton said no charges will be laid as both drivers are deceased. At this time there are no plans for an inquest.

Eight-year-old Wayne Arthur, driving with his family, was taken to York Central Hospital suffering a broken leg and internal injuries.

A spokesperson for the hospital said young Wayne was transferred to the Hospital for Sick Children to be close to family members and was in satisfactory condition at the time.

The stretch of highway where the accident occurred has been under discussion with the town of Richmond Hill and the

Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) for the last two years.

Residents of the Doncrest-Rockwell Road area have complained to the town, saying driving conditions are "hazardous" in the area.

A resident of Rockwell Road, Steve DiMarco said he does not agree with an OPP statement published last week that this stretch of highway is not dangerous, in fact is one

of the safer areas for number and severity of accidents.

Mr. DiMarco said he had seen ten to twelve accidents, or the remains of them, just over the last year.

MTC also made a statement last week which said they had reviewed the situation at Doncrest and Rockwell roads and found the highway was "operating satisfactorily".

Mr. DiMarco said

studies done by MTC were done from a time early in the morning until 4 p.m. only.

"If they want to find out how dangerous it really is, they should watch until after 7 p.m.," he said.

The Rockwell Road resident said he and his neighbors are "terrified" to turn into their streets at night or during rush hour because of inadequate lighting and the speed limit of 80 km. per hour.

Councillor John Birchall, in whose ward lies this stretch of highway, said Mr. DiMarco had "a valid point" and said as far as he could see the problems occurred during critical rush hour periods.

Councillor Birchall said he had spoken to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, James Snow, who assured him there was going to be some action on this part of the highway.

The Richmond Hill councillor said he asked Mr. Snow to reconsider the date of construction, as well as the possibility of lowering the speed limit and increasing lighting in the area.

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'Operation Come Back' will attract blue birds

Richmond Hill Naturalists are undertaking a project called "Operation Come-Back", hoping to entice blue birds to settle in our area so everyone can enjoy them.

Art Briggs-Jude of Gormley said because bluebirds are "cavity nesters" usually in holes in fence posts (now replaced by steel poles) or trees (taken down for construction) they now are often displaced by

house sparrows or starlings.

When bluebirds come back from their winter migration they find there is no place to nest, said Mr. Briggs-Jude.

About a dozen members of the Naturalists club decided to build nesting boxes and put them in areas where bluebirds have been sited.

Mr. Briggs-Jude said the club expects to put about 150 homes up this year, primarily from

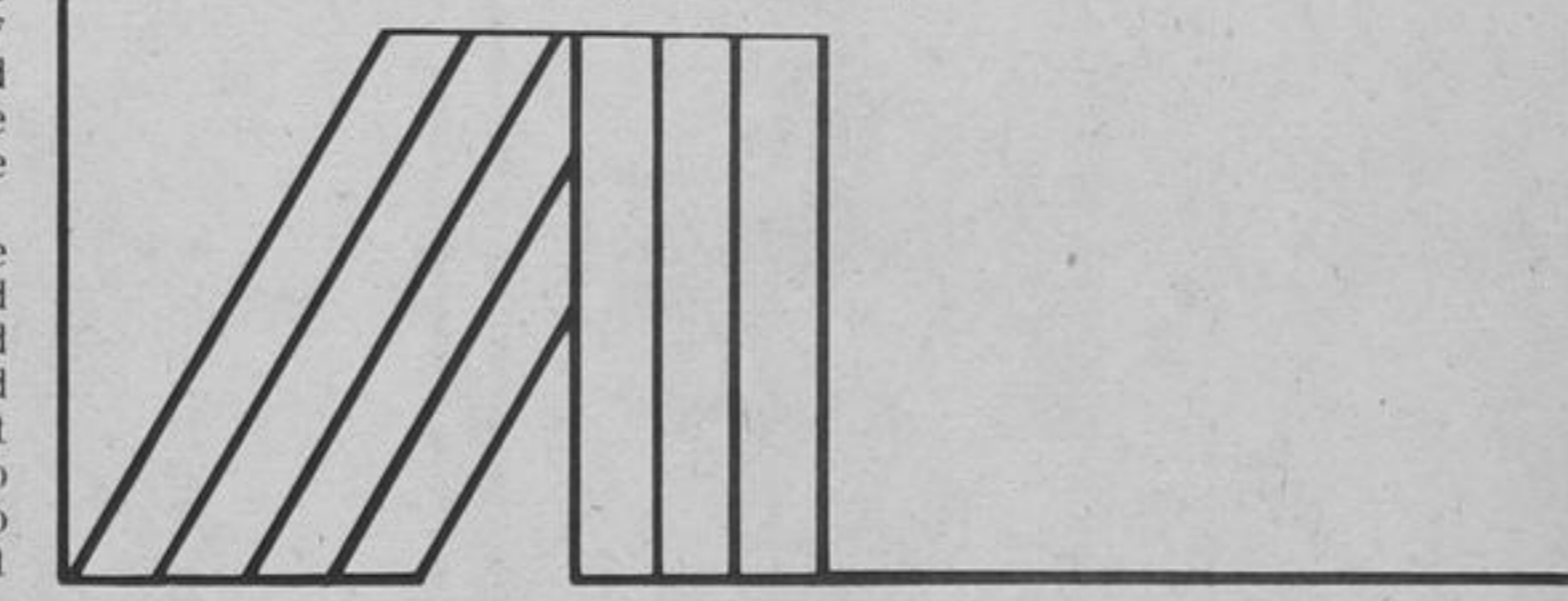
Woodbine Avenue west to Highway 27 and Highway 7 north to Bloomington Sideroad.

The Naturalists ask residents to let them know if they sight bluebirds — but don't mistake bluejays for bluebirds, said Mr. Briggs-Jude.

Bluebirds have blue wings and back, but a red breast like a robin. They do not have a tuft or crest on top of their head as do bluejays.

Plans for nesting boxes for bluebirds can be obtained by calling Mr. Briggs-Jude at 887-5157 and any bluebird sightings should be reported to the same telephone number.

Mr. Briggs-Jude said he hopes to have a good response from Richmond Hill residents, but added "Bluebirds did not disappear over night, so we don't expect them to come back over night either."



Police Briefs

SHE DIDN'T AGREE WITH THEIR CHOICE

On March 18 between 2 and 2:30 a.m. Silvia Sawyer of Oshawa was at a party in the area of 18th Avenue and the 6th Concession in Markham. She was asked to go into an upstairs bedroom by members of the Satan's Choice Motorcycle Club, who were also at the party.

She refused and as a result was beaten and kicked. She escaped and was helped by a resident at Lot 26, Concession 6 in Markham. At that time, York Regional Police were called and Ms. Sawyer was taken to York Central Hospital with lacerations and bruises to her face and abdomen. She was to have appeared at 28 Division to try and identify her attackers.

NATURE'S PRECIOUS PRODUCT

On March 17, two men visited a farm belonging to Robert Burns of the Town of Vaughan. They stole two truckloads of horse manure and in the process, damaged Mr. Burns' lawn.

Charged with theft under \$200 and mischief to private property were Ranjit Singh, 19, of Caledonia Road in Toronto and George Leonard Douglas, 28, of Brookwell Drive in Downsview. They will appear in court on March 26.

NEVER TRUST AN EX-WIFE

On March 13 at 10 p.m. Robert Duckworth of Sussex Avenue in Richmond Hill was paid a visit by a man and his ex-wife. At that time a fight broke out and the man struck Mr. Duckworth in the face several times. He was taken to York Central Hospital, treated and released.

York Police charged Thomas Maxwell Post, 28, of Ivy Avenue in Toronto with assault causing bodily harm. He was later charged with being unlawfully in a dwelling and possession over \$200. Charged with theft over \$200, possession over \$200 and being unlawfully in a dwelling is Diane Marie Duckworth, 20, of Major Mackenzie Drive. They appeared in court March 19.

POLITE THIEVES

Between March 13 at 9 p.m. and March 14 at 8 a.m. the Maple Airport on Major Mackenzie Drive was entered through the front door. An office was forced open and \$47 in cash was taken. A display case was broken into and five pairs of aviation sunglasses worth \$50 each were taken.

Total of the damage and thefts was \$800 and the culprits re-locked the front door before they left.

DRINKERS OBLIVIOUS TO THE ACTION

At about 11:30 p.m. on March 14 Albert Duffield, 19, of Kennedy Road in Unionville was at the Sherwood Tavern in Markham. At that time he was approached by another man, punched and knocked to the floor. He was then kicked several times in the head and body and left momentarily unconscious.

Mr. Duffield was taken to York Central Hospital and treated for a swollen hand and lacerations to the scalp and released. York Regional Police have a suspect in the case.

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