



Present Celebration book to Town Library

This is the 75th anniversary of the Girl Guide Association in Canada. The first Guide Company was established in Stouffville, 24 years ago. In honor of the occasion, a 75th anniversary Celebration book was presented to the Town Library, Saturday. Making the presentation here to Sheila McLeod of the Library

staff is District Commissioner Barb Hie. Others (left to right) are: Rear Row-Guide Michelle Tarto; District Deputy Commissioner Phyllis Wells and Brownie Leader Cynthia Smilovsky. Front Row (left to right) are Brownies Marlena Smilovsky and Tara Peever.

—Jim Thomas

"I'm human too"

Prostitute describes assault in corn field

By Christine Koserski

"I'm human too, you know," a Toronto prostitute told one of her attackers last October. "I'm just the same as you — I eat, I sleep, I breathe — just like you. Why'd you do this to me?"

The 18-year-old woman was testifying at the trial of Lloyd Harper, 24, and John Wilkinson, 21, of Uxbridge, last week in Newmarket District Court. The two men were acquitted of sexual assault and dangerous-weapons charges. They were convicted on charges of gross indecency and forcible confinement.

The woman, whose name cannot be published by order of the court, was permitted to sit while giving testimony. She's eight months pregnant.

"What is your occupation?" asked assistant Crown attorney Timothy Power.

"I'm a prostitute," she told the court.

At about 10:30 on the night of Oct. 22, 1984, she said a dark blue tow truck pulled up to where she was standing at the corner of Isabella and Huntley Streets, Toronto. A passenger she identified as John Wilkinson asked her if she was "working."

They negotiated a fee. She climbed into the truck and sat between the two men. She repeatedly asked them where they were going and finally asked to be let out. But Harper, she said, told her "to shut up."

The men drove north from the city up to Hwy 404. Although the complainant said she didn't know where she was, she started memorizing landmarks along the way because she was going to report the men to the police "if they let me go."

She was taken to a field off the 5th Conc. near St. John's Sideroad in Whitchurch-Stouffville, where police later found tire marks and footprints.

She said when she refused to take her coat off, Wilkinson pulled a knife, placed it on the dashboard and played with the blade. Police never found the knife in their investigation.

Throughout her testimony the woman remained calm and spoke in an even voice.

She said she was told to get out of the truck and lie down in the field that was wet and muddy. All she could see, she said, was the light from a farmhouse in the distance.

She had already told them about her pregnancy, but when she asked for a coat to lie down on, Harper refused.

There, both men engaged in oral sex and sexual intercourse with her, she said. Then they went back inside the truck and continued the same activity.

"After she dressed, Wilkinson asked her: 'How do you like being a prostitute now? It isn't very much fun, is it?'" she testified.

They drove her back to Toronto. "I was looking at everything — I wanted to remember everything — so if they took me back, I could tell the police," she said.

She was able to direct York Regional Police officers back to the field the next day.

When Power asked the woman if she tried to resist or run away, she replied, "No, I didn't. There were two men. I was pregnant. They weren't hurting me and I wasn't going to give them any reason to hurt me. I didn't have any clothes on. There was nowhere to go — I was in the middle of a field — the nearest thing I could see was a light in a

house. If I tried to run, they would have caught me — there were two of them."

After the men dropped her off at a main intersection in Toronto at about 5:30 a.m., she said she "collapsed — my legs couldn't hold me up — I threw the chocolate milk away and started screaming 'Why'd you do this?'"

A cab driver took her to Metro Police 53 Division where an ambulance was called. At first, she told police she was hitchhiking when the men picked her up because, she said, "people look on it differently when a prostitute is raped than when a normal girl is raped."

The woman told the court she received no money from the men and would not have accepted any from them. Police said they found about \$7 in her purse.

She was eventually taken to Women's College Hospital where she was examined by a doctor and a counsellor at the Sexual Assault Care Centre.

The counsellor, Anne Kurdyak, testified she had seen about 190 patients since 1984. "Her (the complainant's) injury is probably the most extreme I've seen," she said.

A witness from the Centre for Forensic Science in Toronto testified the soil found in the complainant's clothes did not match a sample of the soil in the field where the incident took place.

Neither of the defendants took the stand, but John Wilkinson's statement to police at the time of his arrest was read to the court.

Mr. Wilkinson told police that when they arrived at the field, the woman had intercourse with him and that she called the other man into the truck and said, "I'll do both of you."

"The whole procedure took 15 minutes," he said. Then they drove back to the city.

"There was no problem," he said. "We were talking — she told me I looked like her boyfriend." Wilkinson said he gave the woman \$35.

"Ask yourselves," Poser urged the jury in his submissions, "why would she put herself through this whole ordeal... unless she was indeed abused by these men?"

Throughout her testimony, the woman constantly mentioned her concern for her unborn child during the incident.

Power said the men hadn't bothered to disguise themselves or change the appearance of their truck because their attitude was: "She's only a prostitute. A prostitute's not going to complain and if she does, who's going to take her seriously?" "They pick up this prostitute and decide to have what they perceive to be fun — they don't care about her feelings — she's only a prostitute after all."


"Nobody has the right to do to her what these men have done," he said, "just as no one has the right to do that to you or me or anyone in our society."

Alex Sosna, in his submission, pointed out the contradiction in the forensic evidence of the soil. He also said the woman may have been motivated by anger at not being paid. "She didn't want to have to tell her friends she'd been taken," he said. He also said she had to come up with a story to explain her lateness to her grandmother with whom she lived.


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