# Conflicting evidence in death crash

By PAULA CROWELL

STOUFFVILLE — Conflicting testimony has been given by a driver and his passenger, both witnesses to a car accident that took the life of a 17-year-old Stouffville girl.

William Hughes testified before a provincial court that the car ahead of him was trying to make a left turn at a speed of 70 km/hr. The driver of the car Mr. Hughes was riding in told the court earlier the car was travelling about five to 10 km/hr.

Two men are standing trial on a charge of careless driving for their involvement in the accident that took place Sept. 29, 1985 at Ninth Line and 16th Avenue, Markham.

Tony Vetter of Markham was the driver of a Chevrolet Impala making the left turn onto 16th Avenue. Marek Alexander, of Toronto, was driving in the southbound lane of the Ninth Line, attempting to pass Mr. Vetter when the collision occurred.

Mr. Alexander's Honda Civic was propelled toward the ditch and hit a utility pole. It was sent airborne and eventually landed on its roof in the southbound lane.

His passengers, 17-year-old Sharon Watters and Kelly Carrick, 19, both of Stouffville, were thrown from the car. Sharon died as a result of her injuries.

Mr. Hughes said he and Brian Langford stopped at David Spensley's home in Markham to invite Mr. Spensley and his house guests to a party in Stouffville.

The group left the Spensley house in a convoy of four cars.

At the four-way stop intersection of Wootten Way and Church Street, Mr. Vetter and his passenger Brian Hogan proceeded behind Mr. Alexander's car.

The vehicles continued east along Church to the Ninth Line where they all turned north. The order of the cars approaching 16th Avenue was Mr. Vetter's Chevrolet in the lead, Mr. Langford's Camaro in second place followed by Mr. Alexander's Honda. Two other cars brought up the rear.

Mr. Hughes told the court he has been friends with Mr. Alexander about six years. He said the Chevrolet passed the Honda on the Ninth shortly before slowing down to make the turn at 16th Avenue.

In cross examination by Mr. Alexander's lawyer, Glenn MacPherson, Mr. Hughes agreed it was strange that the Chevrolet passed the Honda, only to slow down soon immediately after.

But he was also asked to put himself in Mr. Alexander's place.

Mr. Vetter's lawyer David Hobson asked him, "If the Chevy slowed down to almost nothing and there was another vehicle slowing down (behind it) would you, if you were the driver of the third car, attempt to pass (as Mr. Alexander did)?

Mr. Hughes replied that he wouldn't.

When Mr. Hughes testified that he saw the Chevrolet turn on its signal as it was initiating the left turn at 16th Avenue, Mr. Hobson countered his evidence saying, "You told the police (in a statement after the accident) the Chevy put its signal on one car length before he turned."

Mr. Hughes said he didn't see any difference between the two statements.

In other testimony, David Spensley, a passenger in the fifth car on Ninth Line told the court he didn't believe Mr. Langford's Camaro and the Chevrolet were travelling at five to 10 km/hr at the time of the accident.

"I don't see how that's possible. Maybe Mr. Langford made a mistake. Maybe he was confused or nervous. There's no way he could have been going that slowly or I would have noticed," he said.

The trial continues Oct. 20.

## Head of the class

Marie Lloyd, teacher on the staff of Whitchurch-Highlands School, holds the Howard Cosburn Memorial Award won at Markham Fair for the third year in a row. Students of Whitchurch-Highlands submitted close to 400 entries.
—Jim Thomas

## Don't be caught empty handed

What could be more frustrating than to pull down a fire extinguisher and discover it empty?

It's happened many times.

But don't let it happen to you, warns Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Walter Smith.

As with commercial, industrial and municipal buildings, home fire extinguishers should be updated every year, says Chief Smith. Houses, unlike public buildings, don't come under the Fire Code, he explained.

In Stouffville, fire extinguishers can be taken to Card's Hardware, Main Street West. They are then picked up by Ron Cordingly of Uxbridge, examined and, if necessary, re-filled. The cost is about ten dollars.

"By putting out one grease fire, an extinguisher will pay for itself ten times," Chief Smith stated.

## Larry to unveil new cars Saturday

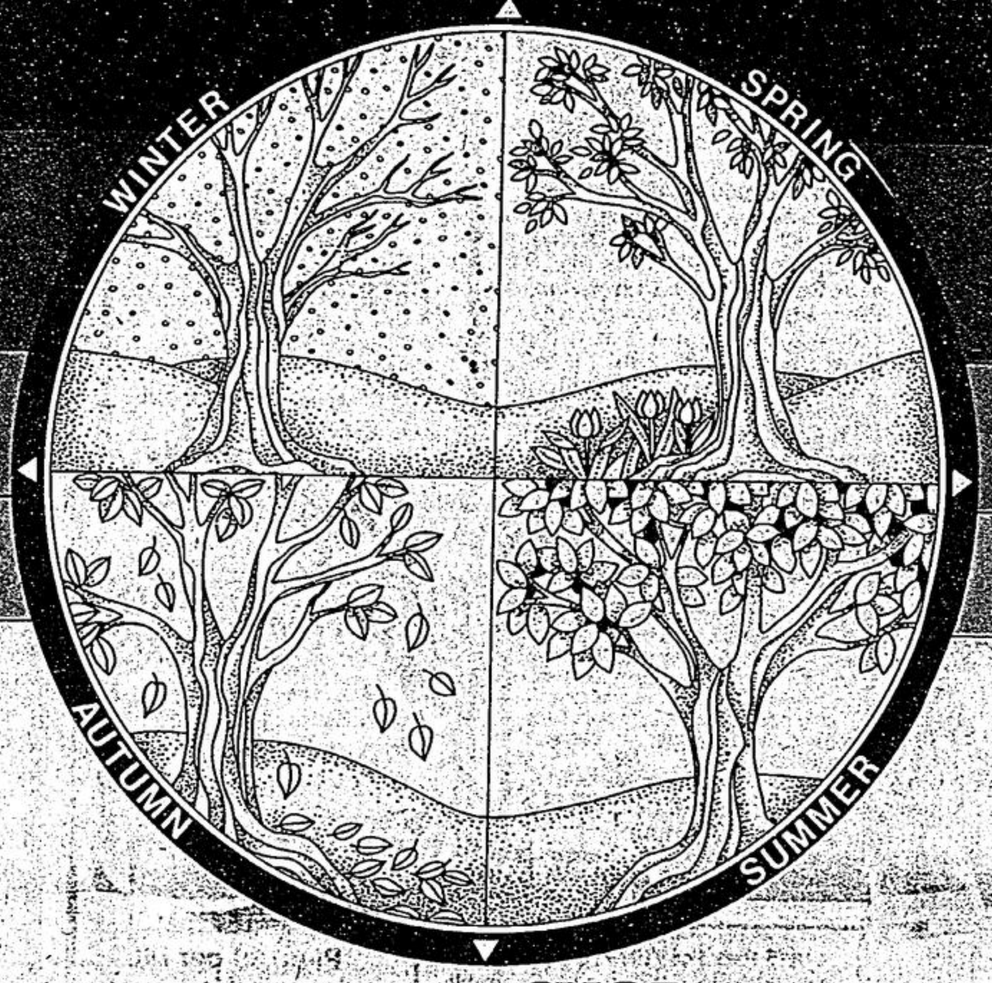
STOUFFVILLE — The 1987 Fords are here and Larry Cotter is celebrating.

The local Ford-Mercury-Lincoln dealership on Hwy. 48 near Dickson's Hill is holding an 'open house' this Saturday, (Oct. 11), from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There will be free hotdogs, soft drinks and balloons for the kids. Larry and staff will also be introducing their new '87 models--the Ford Crown Victoria, the Mercury Grand Marquis, the Tempo, the Topaz, the Tracer, the Tauras, the Sable, the Ranger and the Bronco II.

For Larry Cotter Ford-Mercury-Lincoln it's also an official opening, an event postponed from an earlier date when the firm first commenced business.

ALL SEASONS

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