

COURTS: Joel Clark convicted in murder of elderly Thornhill couple

Accused killer found guilty

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
STAFF WRITER

In the end, a Newmarket jury didn't believe Joel Clark's claim that a steroid-dealing bouncer killed his elderly Thornhill neighbours.

After 13 hours of deliberation Thursday, the jury convicted Clark of two counts of first-degree murder in the slayings of William Tweed, 86, and his wife Phyllis, 81.

Clark stabbed his next-door neighbours as they lay in their bed in the early hours of Boxing Day, 1995 to cover up a credit

card theft.

During his trial, Clark, 25, claimed a now-dead Toronto bouncer named Marcel Whyte murdered the Tweeds, during a botched attempt to get a personal identification number for the credit card.

But Crown prosecutors, who were initially caught off guard by the defence tactic, were able to find an alibi for Marcel Whyte, who killed himself in October 1996.

Justice Peter Howden sentenced Clark to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

"This was a merciless crime," Howden told Clark. "These were two people you knew, who liked you..."

Janice Langlois, one of William Tweed's two daughters from a previous marriage, said the long-awaited verdict was "heart stopping."

Langlois, who sat through every day of the three-month trial, said she felt "numb" in the aftermath of the verdict late Thursday night.

"This Christmas will be better," she said. "But there will never be a good Christmas again."

ADVERTISING CORRECTION

In our Christmas Dreams #4 insert (promo #643) included in this newspaper. Please note: Page 15 - 25% off Distinction Sportswear. Silk shirt or merino wool sweater. Our reg. \$89.99 sale \$67.49 - was incorrectly described. Copy should read: "Our reg. \$89.99 to \$140 sale \$67.49 to \$105"

We sincerely apologize to our valued customers and regret any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

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In our Christmas Dreams #4 insert (promo #643) included in this newspaper. Please note: Page 70 - 25% off all Cascading Ice Lights (indoor and outdoor) our reg. \$12.99 and \$24.99 sale \$9.74 and \$18.74 - due to the popularity of these items, they are COMPLETELY SOLD OUT.

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