

# Police investigation criticized by family

From page 1

If the Trempes are not satisfied with the chief's ruling, they can file an appeal with the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services, Powley explained.

In May, following a three-week inquest held in East Gwillimbury, a jury ruled that the dog attack that killed Courtney was accidental.

The Trempes continue to be disappointed with the outcome of the inquest.

Had the police handled the investigation more thoroughly, the outcome at the inquest might

have been different, Donna said.

The police didn't uncover witnesses that our private investigator did," she said.

She declined further comment on the lawsuit, saying it would not be fair to the parties involved.

Courtney died when Mosley, an 130-pound bull mastiff, was let into a back-yard where the child waited with a playmate.

The dog attacked Courtney almost immediately. She died of a severe bite to her neck.

The inquest did, however, offer a number of recommendations. If adopted, changes will be made to Ontario's Dog Owners Liabilities Act. They

include stiffer penalties for offenders and quicker action for restraining dogs that have bitten or attacked in the past.

This summer, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville adopted a dog bylaw, including a muzzle section. If a dog is classified as vicious, it must be muzzled when off the owner's property. While on the books for a brief four months, the bylaw is being challenged by a Ballantrae resident whose dog attacked a woman while she rode her bicycle.

Donna, an advocate of tougher dog laws, has been attending the Stouffville hearings, set to resume Nov. 29.



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