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70 Biscayne Boulevard, Keswick |
| January 25, 2000
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Bogart Public School
855 College Manor Drive, Newmarket |
| January 26, 2000
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Sixteenth Avenue Public School
400 16th Avenue, Richmond Hill |

For further information, please contact:
 Marilynne Sokoloff, Early Intervention Services - Central/West Region
 (416) 741-5524, ext. 269
 Margo Allen, Early Intervention Services - East/North Region
 (905) 830-4444, ext. 2040
 Louise Moreau, York Region District School Board
 (905) 727-0022 or (416) 969-7170, ext. 2236



York Region



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Police investigate the murder of an employee at this Richmond Hill jewelry store Sunday night. Police are releasing few details of the killing, including the victim's name or the name of the store owner who was critically injured by the same gunman.

Jewelry store worker gunned down

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

York Regional Police investigators remain tight-lipped after a Richmond Hill jewelry store employee was gunned down Sunday night and his boss critically injured.

At press time, the names of the victims were being withheld by police, as was the location where the suspects' vehicle was recovered, the hospital where the injured man is being treated and whether anything was stolen. Sgt. John Sheldon also declined to release descriptions of the suspects.

"Some information is not being disclosed at this time," he said.

According to Sheldon, the owner of M. Lash Enterprises Ltd. and a 23-year-old employee arrived at the East Beaver Creek store just before midnight.

"They were making preparations for a move to another location later in the week and hadn't been there long, when they were confronted by two armed gunmen.

"The 23-year-old employee was fatally shot," said Sheldon. "The owner was seriously wounded. The suspects fled the scene."

Police responded to a security alarm, as did

Intercon Security Ltd., but they found the employee dead from gunshot wounds to the torso and the owner suffering life-threatening injuries.

"We don't know who triggered the alarm," Sheldon said.

The store owner underwent surgery yesterday and police hope he can give them more information as he recovers.

Police have also found a 1998 green Land Rover believed connected to the murder. It was found somewhere in York Region, but Sheldon would not be more specific.

Forensic investigators will be working at the scene for the next three or four days, looking for evidence and trying to determine if anything was stolen, he added.

"We have a number of leads we're following," he said.

"The COR (Community Oriented Response) unit is canvassing the neighbourhood, trying to find anyone in the area who may have seen suspicious persons or vehicles in the area at the time.

The surrounding area is also being combed for clues.

Anyone with information is asked to call homicide detectives at 881-1221, ext. 7865, or Crime Stoppers at 222-TIPS.

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