

Woodbridge man charged in wife's brutal murder

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A Woodbridge man is charged in the stabbing death of his 33-year-old wife, whose partially clad body was found in a Toronto dumpster Saturday.

Michael Luciano, 38, is also being questioned in connection with the suspicious death of his longtime friend James Cooper, 38, whose body was found in Luciano's car outside his niece's Egmondville home early Sunday morning.

Police believe Colleen Richardson Luciano was killed in the basement apartment she shared with her husband on Brandy Crescent in Vaughan and dumped behind the Keele Street school.

York Regional Police charged Luciano with one count of second-degree murder late Monday, after he was picked up by the Ontario Provincial Police.

He appeared briefly in Newmarket court Tuesday and remains in custody.

The couple's two children, 14 and 6, are being cared for by the woman's sister.

Meanwhile, an autopsy conducted Monday failed to reveal how Cooper died, said OPP Det-Insp. Klancy Grasman.

"Additional forensic testing is being done," he said. "Until we have a cause of death, the investigation is ongoing and we don't know what direction it will take."

He said as a result, police can't call the death a murder. "It is classified as a suspicious death," he said.

Yesterday, York Regional Police obtained a warrant to search Luciano's apartment, which has been sealed and cordoned off since the weekend.

"We anticipate going in sooner rather than later and extracting evidence we believe is at that scene," said Sgt. John Sheldon.

CELEBRATING YEAR OF THE DRAGON

People will be preparing this weekend for the Year of the Dragon, which begins Saturday, Feb. 5. Here are a few events to welcome the Lunar New Year.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28

Times Square (Hwy. 7 at Leslie Street)

4-6 p.m. — Chinese calligraphy, knots, thread candy and dough figures

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

First Markham Place (Hwy. 7 east of Woodbine Avenue)

2-4 p.m. — Feng Shui expert and Chinese dancing group

Fortinos Super Mall (Denison Street and Kennedy Road)

1:30 p.m. — Ribbon-cutting, followed by Dragon Dance and Lion Dance, martial arts

2:50 p.m. — Money God and Dragon King

3 p.m. — Nancy Chiu Dance Company

3:45 p.m. — Chinese New Year Songs, Money God and Dragon King

Unionville Public Library (Library Lane, Unionville)

2-3:30 p.m. — Family celebration with Chinese martial arts, music, storytelling and knot-making

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY — JAN. 28, 29 & 30



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