

# Girl, 4, chokes to death on candy

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

A four-year-old Thornhill girl choked to death on a candy at her home Tuesday afternoon.

Two York Regional Police officers, who were investigating an accident involving another officer nearby, were able to respond to the 911 call almost immediately as it came through dispatch about 5 p.m.

They were met in the driveway by the girl's frantic aunt, who was holding her in her arms. The child was not breathing. Officers tried in vain to resuscitate her, as did paramedics who arrived minutes later.

York officers provided a police escort for the ambulance and blocked seven intersections along the route as the vehicle raced to York Central Hospital.

The girl was pronounced dead shortly afterward. An autopsy performed Wednesday determined the cause of death to be asphyxiation due to choking.

The candy was a South Asian specialty called mango jelly. It is about the size of a coffee creamer, with jelly on the outside and a fruit preserve inside.

Sgt. John Sheldon said the candy had been purchased recently from a store in the Jane Street-Finch Avenue area.

Investigators were speaking to the family as well as medical staff at the coroner's office late yesterday as the probe continued, Sheldon said.

"I don't know what direction it will take, it's still very early," Sheldon said, adding he was unsure if an inquest will be called.

## Mortgage scam

A sophisticated mortgage scam that bilked more than \$3.5 million from financial institutions and private lenders has York Regional Police on the hunt for a Vaughan man.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Emanuel Tesoro, 47. Police believe area lenders were defrauded when fake documents were used to secure mortgages for at least six properties in Markham and Richmond Hill.

Between last October and February, its alleged standard forms available at any business supply store were filled out with information on other people's properties obtained from Newmarket's land registry.

The land transfer tax was filled out so the homes would be registered in the suspect's name, who applied for new mortgages and requested the money be paid directly to him.


Police estimate the fraud value at \$3.6 million. Anyone with information is asked to call the fraud squad at 881-1221, ext. 7115 or Crime Stoppers at 222-TIPS.

## Bikers charged

Two Satans Choice motorcycle gang members were charged with stealing a front-end loader from the Business Depot on Yonge Street in Newmarket.

A tip from a citizen about a pick-up truck pulling a flat-bed trailer with the \$10,000 tractor on it led police to London Road.

Two Keswick men were arrested and charged with theft and possession over \$5,000.

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