

Security tight at murder hearing

BY STEPHEN SHAW
Metroland Staff

Surrounded by her three sons, the widow of a Sunderland man shot to death during a confrontation with police sat in an Oshawa courtroom Tuesday as three constables, including a York Region officer charged with murder, appeared at their preliminary hearing.

The hearing is being held to determine if the officers should stand trial on the charges.

Before being allowed into the courtroom, Linda Romagnuolo and sons Enzo, Rocco and Michael, were searched by plainclothes Durham Regional Police tactical support officers.

Outside the courtroom, six casually dressed officers, only their headsets giving them away, patrolled the hallway as part of the intense security

measures police plan to take during the preliminary hearing, which is slated to last a month.

York Regional Police Const. Randy Martin is charged with second-degree murder in the death of Tony Romagnuolo, a 44-year-old contractor who was fatally shot outside his Uxbridge-area home Dec. 28, 1998.

Rocco, then 17, was shot in the stomach during the incident, which erupted when two Durham officers and two York officers arrested Enzo, the eldest brother.

The Province's Special Investigations Unit charged three of the four officers involved in the shooting.

York Const. Mike Hoskin has been charged with assault with a weapon. Durham Const. Al Robins faces charges of aggravated assault and causing bodily harm by discharging a firearm.

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