

THREE-TIME ESCAPEE WAS SHOT BY BRADFORD POLICE IN 1997

# Convict on loose again

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
Staff Writer

Bradford police continue to be on the alert for a violent escaped convict shot by police three years ago during a family dispute.

It is the third time Steven Hamilton has fled a halfway house, says South Simcoe police Insp. Kerry Emms.

It's been three weeks but so far police have no significant leads on his whereabouts.

"We don't have anything concrete to go on," said Insp. Kerry Emms of South Simcoe police.

"But with his past, he doesn't usually fit into society, so sooner or later, we'll find him. In the meantime, just hope he doesn't do anything."

Hamilton is said to be easily recognizable because he has numerous tattoos, including one of a snake that covers his face and neck.

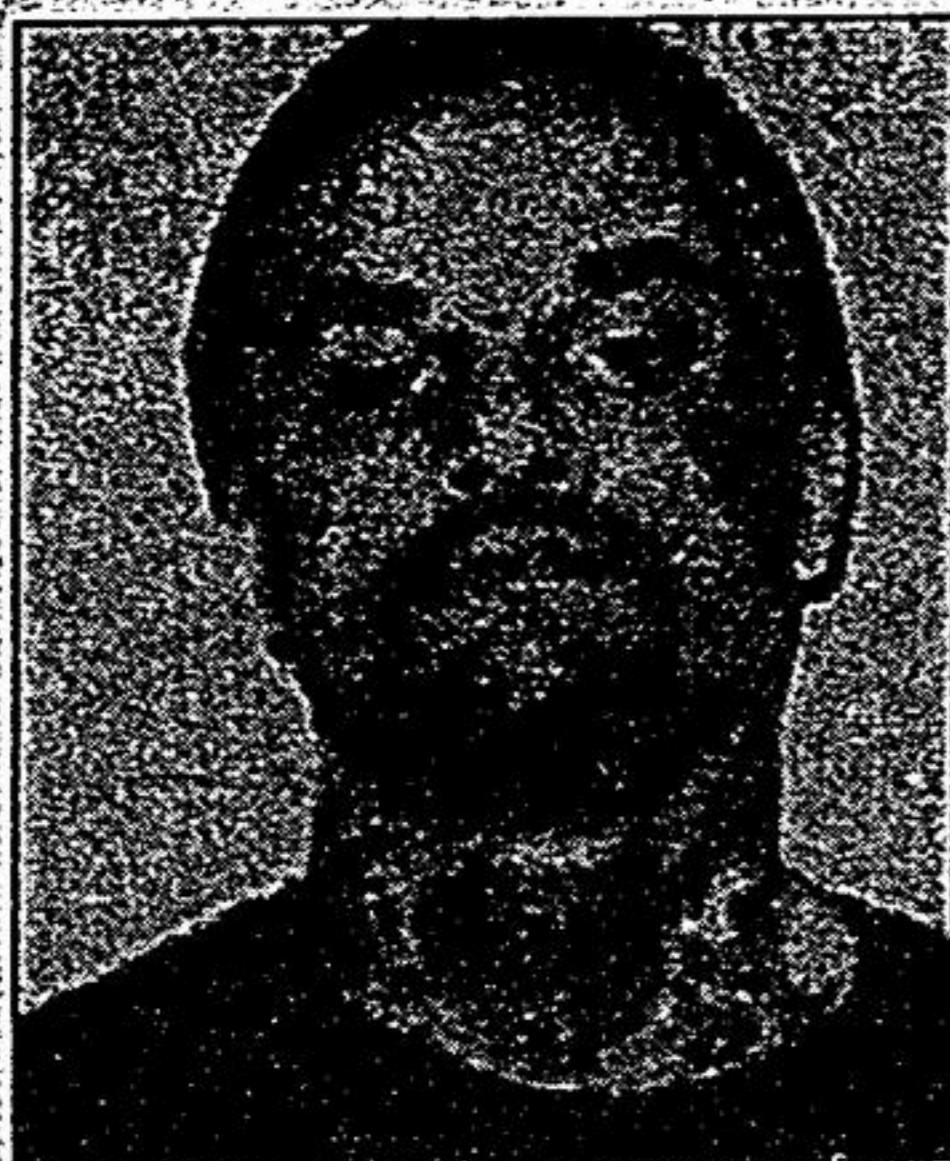
It is believed Hamilton might return to Bradford because his family is from the community.

"It's one of the reasons, and we have another we are not revealing for investigative purposes," said Emms.

South Simcoe police say they have contacted Hamilton's family but they are unaware of where he might be.

"We've spoken with the family and they're aware he's on the loose. It was his father he originally attacked so they're concerned too," he said.

"He does have a violent past and you never know what he'll



STEVEN HAMILTON: Convict shot by police three years ago, walked away from a halfway house.

do. If he is on drugs or alcohol I would not be surprised what he'd do."

Police believe Hamilton, 35, may be in the Bradford area, following his escape from a Sudbury halfway house April 18.

Hamilton was shot twice in the abdomen by South Simcoe police in February 1997 after he approached a police officer with a broken beer bottle, despite repeated warnings to drop the weapon.

At that time he had been involved in a family dispute in Bradford in which he stabbed his brother-in-law and beat his father.

Officers attending the incident were confronted by Hamilton with the broken bottle and he was shot by a South Simcoe police officer. He was later convicted of assault causing

bodily harm, uttering death threats and assault. He received three years in jail and has convictions for other violent crimes.

Two years before, he was wounded by OPP officers in Northern Ontario during a failed attempt to escape from the back of a police cruiser.

And Hamilton made headlines last summer when he escaped from a Toronto halfway house and was seen in the Newmarket area.

He was captured by OPP three days later in Mono Township after he was tracked to his girlfriend's home.

"It's beyond me," said Emms. "Here we are, nine months later, and he is walking away from another one of these facilities. Why they keep letting him go to a halfway house when he's walked away from two previous halfway houses, I don't know."

Emms said police are powerless in saying where he will go when and if he is captured again.

"We have no authority — it's all up to corrections (Canada)." Hamilton is described as 35 years old, North American Indian, 165 pounds, black hair (was long), brown eyes, with numerous tattoos on his body.

Anyone with information should contact South Simcoe police at 775-3311 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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# Brother charged after sibling found collapsed

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

One Markham brother is in critical condition on life support, while the other is charged with aggravated assault after a fight between the two Sunday night.

Information remains sketchy, but York Regional Police Sgt. John Sheldon said when emergency crews responded to a 911 call on Featherstone Avenue about 8 p.m., they discovered a 33-year-old man collapsed with no vital signs.

He was rushed to Markham Stouffville Hospital and remains on life support systems.

"We are so concerned about the victim, the homicide unit is looking at it,"

Sheldon said. "It was an altercation over a family matter that got physical."

Sheldon would not release further details of any injuries the man may have suffered or any previous medical condition that may have prompted his collapse.

Both brothers live in the same house. The injured man resides upstairs with his mother and sister, while the 29-year-old accused lives downstairs with his wife and children.

Stephen Sheppard is charged with aggravated assault and was to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket late yesterday for a bail hearing.

Homicide detectives are continuing the investigation.

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