

# Officers to stand trial in fatal shooting

BY STEPHEN SHAW  
Metroland Staff Writer

Three constables charged in connection with the fatal shooting of Tony Romagnuolo and wounding of his son Rocco — including one officer accused of second-degree murder — were ordered by a judge to stand trial Thursday.

Seated behind their lawyers, the officers displayed no expression of emotion as Mr. Justice Rhys Morgan read his decision following a three-week preliminary hearing held in the Ontario Court of Justice in Oshawa.

Some relatives of the constables wept in the arms of family members as the courtroom emptied. Outside the King Street East building, their lawyers expressed confidence the officers would be vindicated.

"I feel sorry for all the parties involved. The police officers, their families and the Romagnuolos. The truth will come out. Unfortunately, all of the parties will have to wait until this goes to trial for that to take place," Terry Ryan, president of the Durham Regional Police Association, remarked following the decision.

Morgan delivered his ruling after hearing at times emotional testimony from 11 Crown witnesses, including the widow and sons of Tony Romagnuolo.

York Regional Police Const. Randy Martin will stand trial on the charge of second-degree murder in the death of Romagnuolo, 44, of Sunderland.

The father of three died of multiple gunshots fired during a confrontation which occurred Dec. 28, 1998 outside his family's residence on the 17th Sideroad.

During the clash, Rocco was shot in the abdomen.

The altercation erupted when two Durham and two York officers went to the home to arrest Enzo Romagnuolo, the oldest brother.

The province's Special Investigations Unit, which probes police incidents resulting in civilian death or serious injury, last spring laid the charges against three of the four officers involved in the incident.

Durham Const. Al Robins, assigned to 26 Division in north Durham, faces charges of aggravated assault and discharging a firearm with intent to wound in relation to the shooting of Rocco, who was 17 at the time.

York Const. Mike Hoskin also faces two charges: assault with a weapon and careless use of a firearm.

The fourth officer involved in the incident, Durham Const. Nancy George, was the only officer not to discharge her gun and was not charged by the SIU.

A publication ban prohibits the media from reporting on the evidence heard during the preliminary hearing. The case now moves to the Superior Court of Justice in Whitby, where the officers, their lawyers and Crown counsel will appear June 2 to set a date for a pre-trial. A jury trial is expected to be held some time this fall.

## Cops issue warning about stabbings

York Regional Police are warning residents who live near Bathurst and Steeles to be wary of a man who has stabbed four people in the past month.

The stabbings all occurred in Toronto. Three of the incidents were near Bathurst and Steeles

between 9 and 10 p.m. The fourth attack, the most recent, occurred May 18 just before 6 p.m. in the Fountain Head and Sentinel Road area.

In all the cases, the victims were walking and were approached by a man, who stabbed them in the back and then ran away.

The suspect is described as a white male, 18 to 22 years old, between five feet, nine inches and five feet, 11 inches tall, with a medium build and short dark hair. He was wearing a dark shirt or jacket, dark pants and white running shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact York Regional Police at 881-1221 ext. 7441; the Toronto Police Service at (416) 808-3204 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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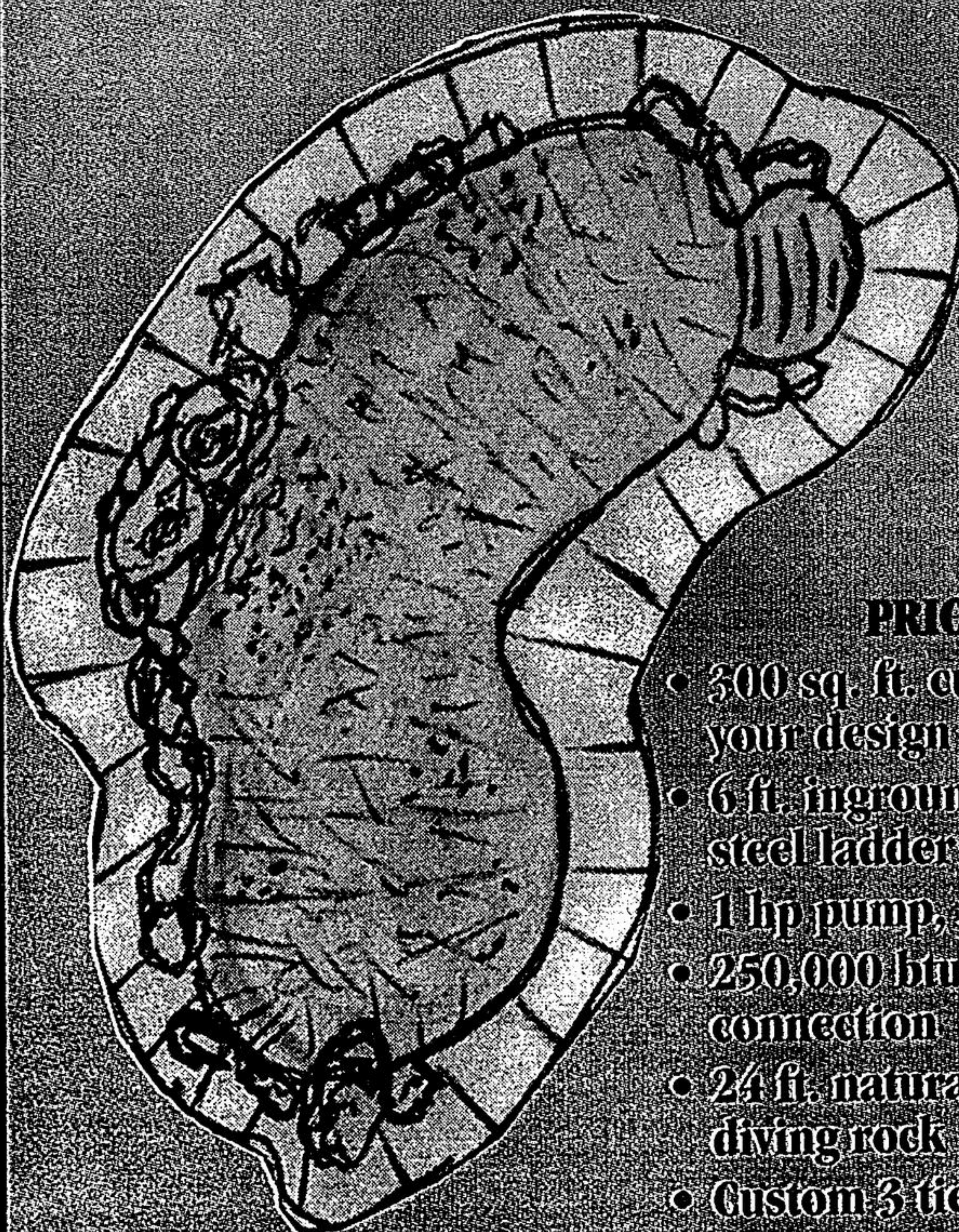
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