

Procedures not followed in Sikura's death, chief admits

From page 1.

His charred body was discovered leaning on the passenger side door, one leg over the steering wheel, about 10:30 p.m. Although the ignition was off, all doors were locked.

On June 1, 2001, Const. Lee submitted a report outlining concerns he had about the original investigation and asked that an independent force conduct a further probe.

The 16-year-veteran had launched his own investigation, interviewing neighbours and other witnesses who had not been questioned by police before.

At least two of them reported a car speeding away from the house while the fire raged.

The 16-year-veteran had launched his own investigation, interviewing neighbours and other witnesses who had not been questioned by police before.

He also learned the single fraud investigator assigned to the case was directed to wrap it up just 48 hours after Sikura's death.

The York force issued a brief press release two days later saying the death was accidental before the autopsy was complete and forensic reports studied.

Const. Lee told this newspaper last August he had become aware of new information.

When he began asking questions, he learned many officers at the scene that night were concerned no one called the major crimes unit, despite the fact it was, at the least, a suspicious death.

"The duty inspector ruled it an accidental death," admitted Deputy Chief Terence Kelly on Wednesday.

"An improper decision was made at the scene by the duty inspector not to call the major crimes unit.

"If procedures had been followed,

investigators from the major crime unit would have been notified and, at the very least, been involved in the investigation until after the post mortem."



BRYAN COUSINEAU

Police chief was at scene of death.

Deputy Chief Kelly also confirmed yesterday that former Chief Bryan Cousineau was at the scene as well, but couldn't say whether the chief had directed the duty officer in any way.

"While it is unusual for a Chief of

Police to attend at a scene, it is neither inappropriate nor unheard of," Deputy Chief Kelly said, adding Mr. Cousineau was a friend of the Sikura family.

When asked directly, he admitted Mr. Cousineau was not interviewed in

the force's review, despite the fact a clear breach of policy occurred under his nose.

See YORK, page 15.

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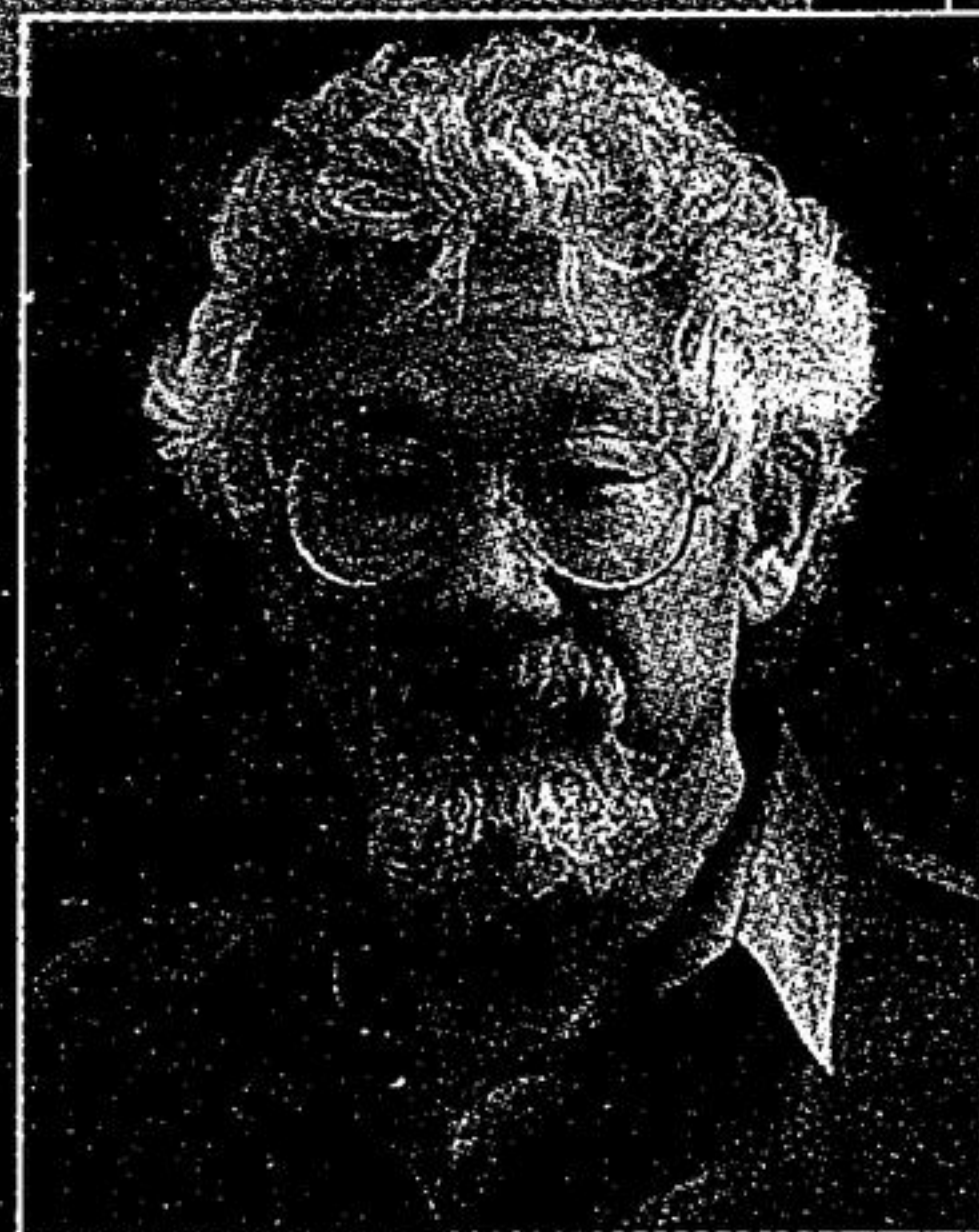
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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL

will be held on

Thursday, June 20, 2002
at 7:00 p.m.

in the Auditorium of
Markham Stouffville Hospital
381 Church Street
Markham, Ontario L3P 7P3

James R. MacLean
Secretary

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
3. Chair's Report
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Nominating Committee Report*
7. Amendments to Markham Stouffville Hospital By-Laws
8. New Business
9. Recognition Awards
10. Adjournment

*For an advanced copy of the Nominating Committee Report, call (905) 472-7084.