

Collision in Newmarket kills Stouffville woman

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

A Stouffville woman is dead after an early morning crash at Bayview Avenue and Mulock Drive in Newmarket Friday — the second crash in as many days at the busy intersection.

Dead is Erika Haeefe, 23, one of six passengers in a car involved in the crash, according to York Regional Police.

Interviews with police and a witness who was working at a gas station nearby indicated two vehicles — a southbound Chevrolet Cavalier-carrying six people and a northbound Plymouth van — collided at the intersection when the van attempted to make a left turn, police said.

Ms. Haeefe was pronounced dead at the scene. She was not wearing a seat belt.

"Erika was seated in the centre of the front seat; it's a two-seat car," said Sgt. Bradley Bulmer of York Regional Police's traffic unit.

Sgt. Bulmer said as of Friday, police had not yet laid charges in connection with the accident.

It has not yet been determined if alcohol was a factor in the accident, he said.

Darryl St. Cyr was working the night shift at the Petro Canada station on the southeast corner of Bayview and Mulock when the collision occurred around 2:30 a.m.

"I pretty much saw it occur; I saw the car slide down Bayview here," Mr. St. Cyr said Friday morning, as spectators watched accident

reconstruction specialists work on the scene.

Mr. St. Cyr, 20, of Newmarket, said he heard a terrific crash and went out to try to help.

"It was a big bang," he said.

Mr. St. Cyr said occupants of the vehicles got out on their own after the collision.

"They looked OK, but later I heard ... people were injured," he said.

The accident scene gave indications of a spectacular crash.

The Cavalier sat several metres south of the intersection, its front end smashed with the hood buckled to the windshield; deflated airbags hung limp inside the vehicle.

The damage made it appear as if the brunt of the impact had been borne by the driver's side of the front end.

Police cordoned off a large area, preventing traffic from accessing Mulock, Bayview and Prospect Street, as their investigation continued for more than six hours.

For many, the scene brought to mind an accident that occurred just a short distance away last Monday evening.

A Hyundai Tiburon, which witnesses said had been racing another car east on Mulock, clipped a vehicle that was making an illegal u-turn and was catapulted through a fence at the corner of Mulock and Willowick drives.

Two people in the Tiburon were injured.

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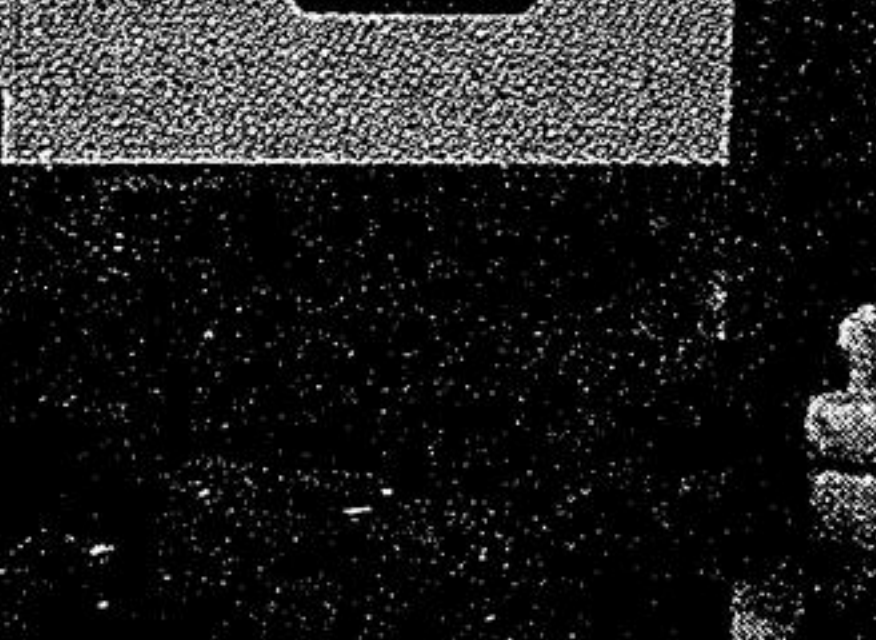





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