

Sketch released in connection with Markham triple murder

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Staff Writer

Homicide investigators are hoping a sketch of a man wanted in connection with February's Mirage Spa triple murder will lead to a big break in the case that has seen few leads.

Two body rub attendants and a man believed to be their friend were shot to death at the Mirage Spa on Warden Avenue in Markham Feb. 8 before being stuffed in the back of an SUV found the next day in the parking lot of the Victoria Square United Church on Woodbine Avenue.

Although they have spoken to hundreds of people, investigators say they have had few leads or tips from the public regarding the crime.

Police are now hoping a description of "a person of interest" may help determine a motive or stir someone's memory.

"There's been a real lack of co-operation from the public. It's really astounding," said Det. Randy Martin. "This is a little piece of the puzzle and I'm not even going so far as to call it a big break right now. We're not saying this man is a suspect. He has been described to us as someone who may have information important to the investigation and we would like to identify him and speak with him."

The man in the composite image is described as Asian, 45 years old, five-foot, eight-inches tall, 180 pounds, heavy set with an unkempt appearance.

Tracking a triple murder around a business filled with people who want to remain anonymous has proved rather difficult, Det. Martin said.

A lack of public co-operation has also been incredibly frustrating for homicide



Police are looking for this man in connection with the Mirage Spa triple homicide in February.

cops following the case, he added. "(Massage parlours) are like their own little communities. Those who frequent them don't want to be known and neither do those who work in them," Det. Martin said.

"Hopefully (the composite) will put the murder back in people's minds and help them realize we're still working on the case. Hopefully this will lead somewhere. We need something."

Anyone with information about this individual or anything else pertaining to these murders is asked to contact the Homicide Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7865, or by e-mail at homicide@police.york.on.ca, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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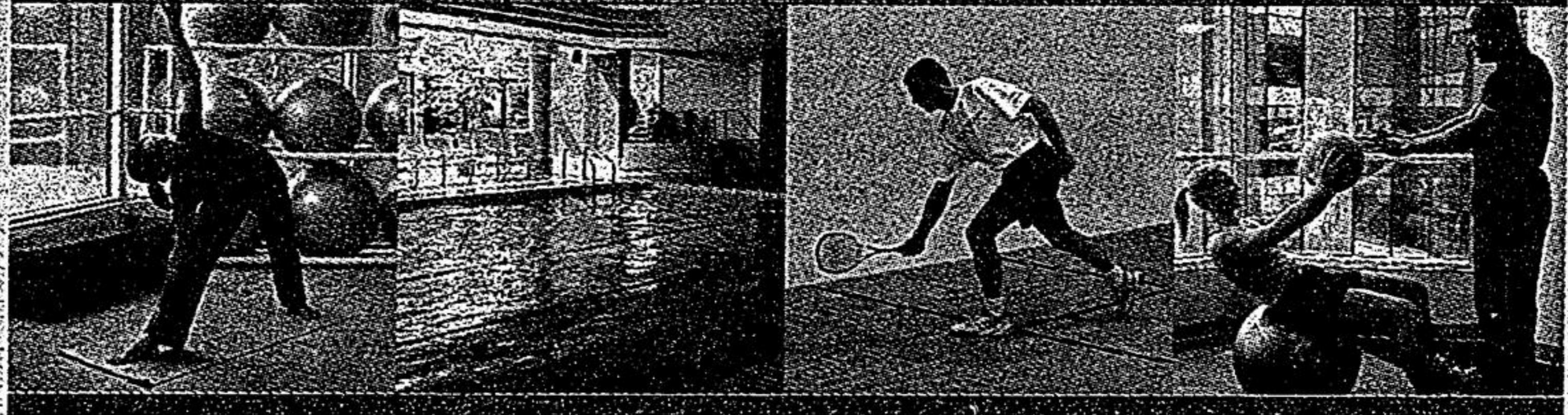


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Teen missing since Oct. 11

York Regional Police is asking for the public's help in locating a teenager missing from a Markham group home since Oct. 11.

Stephanie Buffan, 16, had recently moved to the Markham area and left her Lincoln Green Drive residence to go for a walk in a nearby park around 11 a.m.

She has not been seen or heard from since.

She has been prescribed medication, but investigators do not believe she has it in her possession. She is also developmentally delayed.

Ms. Buffan is white, five-foot one-inch, 186 pounds with short, brown hair and brown eyes.

She was last seen wearing a white sweatshirt, grey shirt and jeans.

Anyone with information about her whereabouts or who may have heard from her is asked to contact police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7541 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Motorist charged in 2002 traffic death

A Stouffville man has been ordered to stand trial for his role in a 2002 accident that killed a Stouffville woman on a motorcycle and injured another driver.

A 1994 Ford Explorer driven by a 59-year-old Stouffville man was eastbound on Main Street approaching Sandford Drive June 7 around 5:30 p.m. when it collided with a motorcycle stopped at the intersection.



STEPHANIE BUFFAN, 16-year-old last seen Oct. 11 when she went for a walk.

The motorcycle driver, Maria Alice Presta, 37, was killed instantly.

Also hit was a stopped 1993 Mazda pickup truck driven by a 49-year-old man from Sunderland. He suffered a head injury.

Six cars were involved in the crash. The driver of the Explorer was charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm.

Following a preliminary hearing, he was ordered to stand trial on both charges Monday. A date for the trial has not been set.



Public Meetings on the Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt

A Greenbelt is key to permanently protecting greenspace and containing urban sprawl in the Golden Horseshoe.

Building on the advice of the Greenbelt Task Force and guided by the input of hundreds of individuals, municipalities, more than a thousand written submissions and the advice of more than 60 stakeholder groups, the Government of Ontario has developed draft Greenbelt legislation and a draft plan.

We want to hear what you think.

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Monday, November 8 - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

If you require special accommodation related to disability, please notify us a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the meeting by calling 416-645-8082 or toll-free 1-866-751-8082 (TTY 1-866-220-2290).

If you are unable to attend a public meeting, visit www.greenbelt.ontario.ca and share your views online.

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