

Man convicted for killing wife

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

A 48-year-old Vaughan man was found guilty of second-degree murder Wednesday following a five-week jury trial.

Cosimo Pasqualino was charged after the body of his wife, Marisa, 36, was found inside their home on Iona Crescent, in the Martin Grove Road/Hwy. 27 area, on May 1, 2002.

'We're relieved to see the justice system has recognized the need to take these homicides seriously.'

The mother of four children, ranging in age from eight to 18 at the time of her death, died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds.

Mrs. Pasqualino was a client of Yellow Brick House's outreach program for women in abusive relationships when she was murdered.

Her husband was arrested by York Regional Police after turning himself in to a lawyer.

He will be sentenced in the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket on April 5.

Det. John Braybrook, the officer in charge of the case, said the guilty verdict brings about closure for the Pasqualino children.

"I sat together with (Mrs. Pasqualino's) mother, father and the four children waiting for the jury," he said. "It was a trying time, emotionally charged."

Det. Braybrook said the accused had been willing to plead guilty to a lesser charge of manslaughter, but the Crown pressed for the second-degree murder conviction.

Paulette Senior, executive-director of Yellow Brick House, said violence against women is a serious issue.

"We're relieved to see the justice system has recognized the need to take these homicides seriously," she said, but added, "It's too bad it had to be this way for it to happen."

Toronto officer heads disciplinary hearing

Toronto Police Supt. Tony Warr has been chosen to preside over a discipline hearing of a York Regional Police detective who investigated the drowning of a Markham woman in March 2000.

The Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services, a civilian watchdog body, ordered the discipline hearing after one of its senior investigators concluded Det. Jim Killby did not properly investigate the possibility of foul play.

The family of Anja Broadfoot, who was found face down in mud at Milne Dam Conservation Park by police dogs, believes she was murdered. A coroner ruled she drowned "by means undetermined".

Det. Killby is accused of "serious

misconduct" in his investigation of the woman's death.

In addition to Supt. Warr, the prosecutor will be Insp. Kimberly Greenwood, a member of the Toronto Police professional standards bureau.

Mrs. Broadfoot's daughters claim Det. Killby did not properly investigate their mother's death. They accuse police of simply assuming the death was a suicide and not adequately protecting the scene, allowing potentially valuable evidence to be contaminated.

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge lost a court bid to avoid holding the discipline hearing. Det. Killby is to appear before the tribunal April 8 in Newmarket.

— TorStar News Service

Guns stolen from collector

A collection of 13 guns was stolen from a Richmond Hill home Tuesday.

York Regional Police said the guns were stolen sometime between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., after someone broke into the residence.

The guns — eight rifles and five shotguns — were properly registered to a collector, police said.

The stolen guns were made by Ithaca, Walters and Son, Remington, Mossberg, Lakefield, Toz, Savage Arms, Cooney and SKS.

The guns were properly stored and locked in the residence, Det. Steve Rushton said. No ammunition was stolen.

He braves the elements.
He makes small talk
with the neighbours.
He misses parts of his
favourite T.V. shows.
He's the outside smoker.
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