Biker funeral Monday

More than 1,000 are expected to attend the funeral of Hells Angel John Gray in Woodbridge Monday.

Mr. Gray, 54, of Musselman's Lake, was killed instantly Tuesday when his motorcycle hit a fuel truck on Aurora Road, east of Woodbine Avenue.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. in the chapel of the Fratelli Descio Funeral Home on Weston Road.

Members of the Hells Angels from across North America are expected to pay their respects.

Following the service, Mr. Gray will be buried at

Churchill Community
Church Cemetery alongside
his two sons.

Pair rob store

York Regional Police are looking for a pair of thieves who jumped the counter of a Markham convenience store Thursday and stole cash and cigarettes.

The two men walked into the Countryside Convenience on Hwy. 7 East around 9 p.m.

One jumped the counter and pushed the 57-year-old female clerk aside.

Both filled a bag with cash, cigarettes and other merchandise.

Law makes hospitals report shootings

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE

Staff Writer

Provincial legislation passed this week makes it mandatory for hospitals to tell police the names of anyone they treat for a gunshot wound.

But while police and politicians are applauding the new law as a way to reduce gun violence, local health care providers aren't sure it will have much of an effect in York Region.

The legislation won't really change things at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, vice- president and chief of nursing Annette Jones said.

The hospital sees less than one gunshot victim a year on average, she said. Staff will comply with the legislation and are awaiting instructions and guidelines from the province on how to do so, Ms Jones said, but with so few gunshot cases, it should have little impact on day-to-day operations.

Ontario is the first province in Canada to enact such legislation.

It will remove the uncertainty over whether health-care facilities and medical staff should report gunshot wounds to police, Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter said.

Provincewide statistics for 2002 and 2003 show 196 gunshot victims went to Ontario hospitals for treatment. Ninetysix were the result of an assault, 69 were

accidental and 31 were self-inflicted.

Yet York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill sees only one or two gunshot victims a year, chief of staff Dr. Richard Schabas said.

The hospital followed previous legal requirements not to report gunshot victims to police to protect patient privacy and will adhere to the new legislation as well, he said.

Officials at Markham Stouffville Hospital had no comment.

Local hospitals may not see many shooting victims, but York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge said gunshot victims in the south end of the region who might head into hospitals in Toronto are still of interest to local police.

The legislation will help make our streets safer, he said, adding he's been asking for it for years.

"It's a logical step when you consider body shops were already required to report to police any bullet holes found in a vehicle," he said. "It will most certainly improve public safety."

Chief La Barge said police need to investigate shootings, even if they are accidental, to prevent the possibility of further danger.



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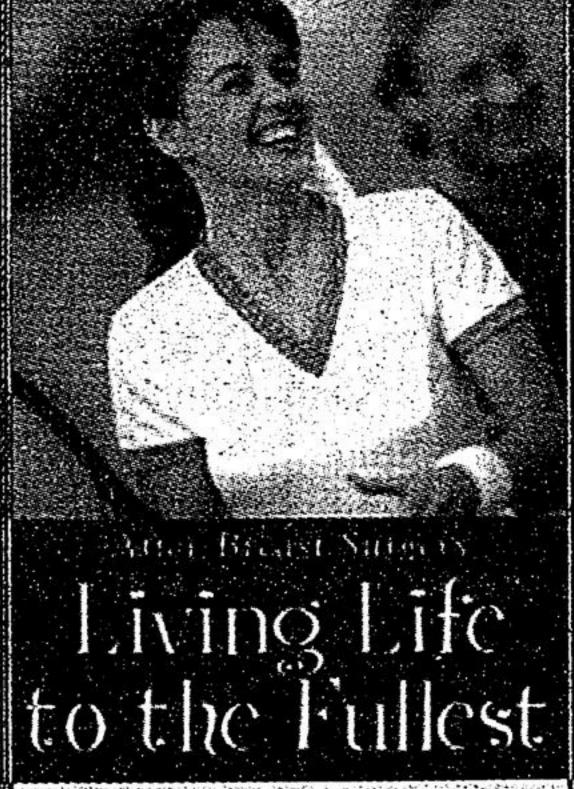
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