



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Collision investigators assist in a York Regional Police murder probe in Markham Sunday. A car carrying a shooting victim crashed next to Denison Square.

Quick arrests in murders

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inside her Richmond Hill apartment after worried co-workers reported her missing.

In all four cases, police made quick arrests, pleasing Det.-Sgt. Bill Sadler.

"Of course, we like to have a suspect in custody as soon as we can," he said. "These definitely don't carry the same kind of burden as those who-dunit cases."

But even quick arrests do not mean the work is done.

"Just because we have a suspect in custody, our jobs are not over," Det.-Sgt. Sadler said. "We still have to put

together a case."

Which means those living near the crime scenes will continue to see police tape up while a forensic team collects evidence.

Neighbours can also expect a knock at the door as investigators canvass for witnesses and any other information.

Police will conduct forensic tests inside the crime scenes depending on the nature of the case, Det.-Sgt. Sadler said.

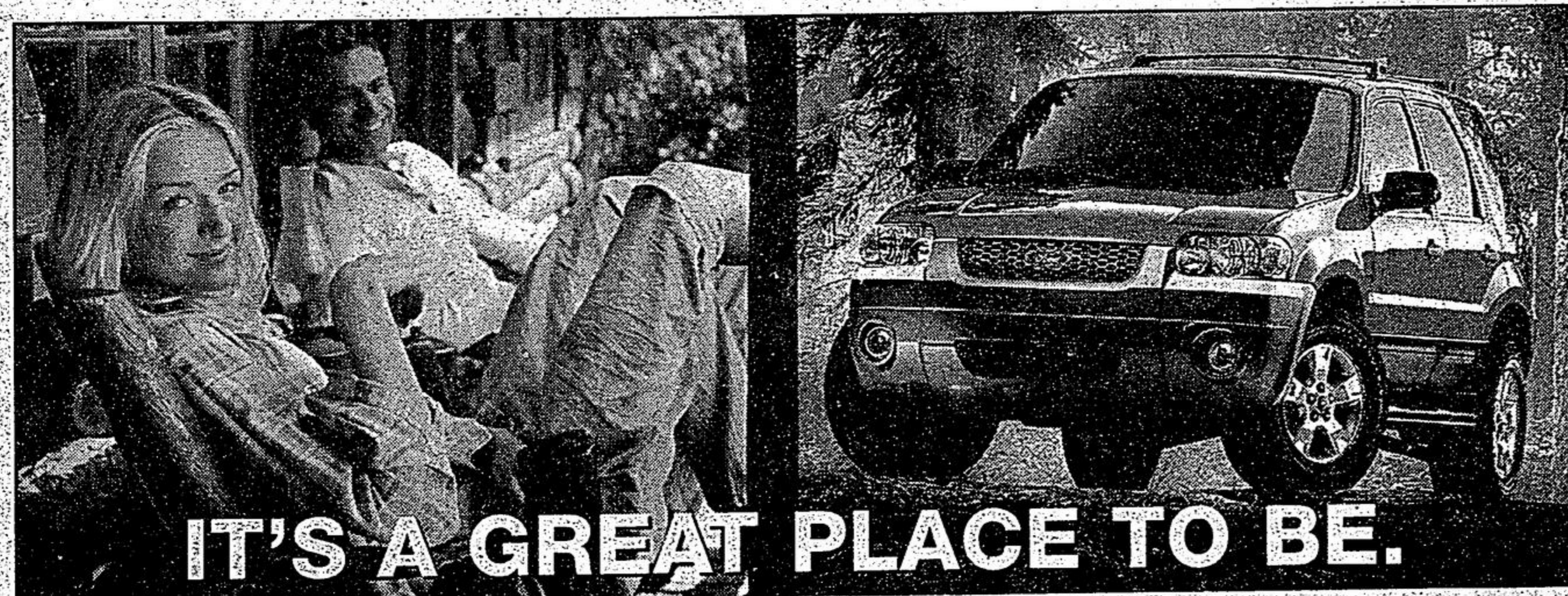
"Each one is different, whether it's a gun shot, stabbing, bludgeoning or strangulation," he said. "Each one is treated very differently with different kinds of tests." Knowing a suspect is

guilty is not enough. Homicide investigators need to be able to convince a judge and, possibly, a jury with concrete evidence that can take days, weeks or even months to collect.

"Now the hard work begins," Det.-Sgt. Sadler said.

After a record-breaking 15 homicides in York Region last year, the unit is adding seven new faces to the team, bolstering its ranks to 16, a number Det.-Sgt. Sadler is confident will enable them to better handle a week such as this one.

There have been eight homicides in York Region this year, one fewer than in all of 2003.



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