

Jury attaches no blame in carbon monoxide death of Claremont girl

CLAREMONT - A jury of three men and two women has attached no blame in the tragic death by carbon monoxide poisoning of a 16 year old Claremont girl, whose body was discovered at about 11 a.m. March 28, on a sideroad in Pickering Township.

Gordon David Dean, 20, also of Claremont, told a coroner's inquest in Whitby, April 6, he could recall removing Katherine Joan MacGregor, his girlfriend for about one year, from the front seat of his car, but could not explain why he had acted in

such a way. "I couldn't feel anything - I wasn't worried about anything," he said, in a voice that was low and sometimes difficult to hear.

Mr. Dean could recall little of what had happened on the night he left Claremont, drove to Newmarket and then to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vale where Kathy was babysitting for the evening. Mr. Vale said the two left together but couldn't testify as to who was driving the car.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Margaret Dean said her son arrived back at the

house about 8 a.m. She said he looked very pale, and kept falling asleep. She told of calling two physicians for advice but before she could get him to a hospital, the police arrived.

Paul Dean, 23, said his brother looked like 'he'd just seen a ghost'. He was dazed, he said, and his voice was barely audible.

David Dean told how he purchased a 1963 model Chevrolet in February of this year and although given \$10 to obtain a mechanical fitness certificate, he had asked a

friend to fill it out instead. The companion was not a qualified mechanic, he said. He admitted that prior to driving to the Vale home, he had consumed about 6 pints of beer. Later, he remembered 'coming to' in their parked car and seeing Kathy with her head leaning against the window on the driver's side. He thought she was sleeping. His next recollection, he said, was 'coming to' a second time. He said the victim was still in the same position. It was then daylight, he recalled. It was then that he placed his girlfriend's body on the

road. It was first noticed by Walter Murray, R.R.2, Claremont, who called police.

John Benning, a licenced mechanic, employed by the O.P.P. to inspect the Dean auto, described how the tail pipe was rusted away allowing fumes to blow directly into a hole in the trunk and then through the interior of the vehicle. He said that to test the carbon monoxide intake, it was necessary for the driver to open up a window. A 45 percent carbon monoxide saturation was measured in a sample of the dead girl's blood.

Crown Attorney Bruce Afleck, in charge of the hearing, with Coroner J.A. Patterson, said that while Gordon David Dean might have attempted to evade certain responsibilities in connection with the car, there was no indication he had done anything improper. He attributed his loss of memory to the affects of fumes, the same fumes that had killed his companion. "I feel this young man has much to concern himself over the loss of a friend and I question whether he should be punished for the rest of his life". He related the

case to 'a tragic chain of events'.

The jury's findings ruled Katherine Joan MacGregor's death was due to an accidental lethal dose of carbon monoxide poisoning emitted by a faulty exhaust system on a 1963 Chevrolet. There were no recommendations.

Jury members were Hugh Pugh (foreman), Claremont, R.R.2; Barbara Pegg, Claremont, R.R.2; Alan Price, Claremont, R.R.2; Doris Perry, Locust Hill, R.R.1 and Arthur Pollard of Brougham.

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Uxbridge Twp.

Parents are billed for errant fire call

UXBRIDGE TWP. - With the co-operation of brigade chiefs, the Twp. of Uxbridge is forcing its collection policy on persons who, through negligence, set fires and then call for assistance.

A story, with a new twist occurred recently, when a group of four boys came upon the wreckage of an old car and set it ablaze. Brigade units from both Stouffville and Uxbridge were called, one returning a second time, resulting in a service charge of \$600. Each of the boys' parents was subsequently sent a bill for \$50.

At a meeting of council, May 10, David Blackley, conc. 3, complained that while his son was in the party of youths, he shouldn't be penalized for an act he didn't commit.

The By-law Officer argued however, that by being there when the offense was committed, made him as responsible as the other three. He said it was difficult to prove which lad had actually struck the match.

Clerk Donald Kennedy informed council that one parent had already contributed his \$50 share.

Hagerman's Corners

School for hostel rejected by board

YORK CTY. - The old Hagerman School will not be used as a youth hostel this summer, the York County Board of Education decided May 10. Despite an appeal from the representatives of 'Morocco', a Scarborough youth group, trustees rejected their request to use the two room country school with only three dissenting votes.

The York County Board had originally given the proposal a sympathetic hearing, April 26. But interest in the project quickly evaporated when it was discovered \$12,000 would be needed to bring the building up to minimum standards.

In a report from the Division of Planning and Development, the Hagerman School was described as 'sound but in need of some repairs'. If the building was to be used as a youth hostel, the Board estimated it would cost \$5,500 to increase the

capacity of the septic tank, \$2,000 to repair the well and \$1,500 to install a new electrical panel service.

The school which was built in 1872 is presently being used as a storage shed.

But trustees remained primarily concerned with the relationship between transient youth visiting the hostel and the community around Hagerman's Corners.

In refusing to support the project until assurance of adequate supervision was given by the group, trustee Louise Aimeone told the Board she had received several letters from home owners in the area objecting to the venture. "The community has to be solidly behind the project if it is to succeed. We need youth hostels but without community support they are doomed to fail".

Dickson's Hill

Refuse to rezone town trailer site

STOUFFVILLE - Despite an appeal from two local businessmen, Planning Committee has once again declined to re-zone the site of Stouffville Trailer Sales, lot 32, conc. 8 from agricultural to highway commercial.

Appearing on behalf of Kenneth Jones and Albert Hudson, solicitor Larry Sutton told committee members his clients wanted to make permanent improvements on the site but were hesitant unless the zoning was changed.

Councillors were told the company was losing sales and might have to lay off some of its employees unless the committee reconsidered its decision of April 6.

But committee members were

not sympathetic. Councillor Tom Lonergan felt Stouffville Trailer Sales deserved little consideration since the company had been arbitrarily located on land designated as agricultural. "We should stick by the decision we made earlier", he said.

Prior to boundary changes initiated under Regional Government, the Town of Markham instituted court proceedings against the company for alleged contravention of municipal land-use-by-laws. Councillor Betty vanNostrand agreed that Planning Committee was committed to uphold their earlier decision. "We can't consider this property until the time comes to consider the whole area", she said.



New reigning 'queen' of Stouffville High

This is Kathy Sheridan, the new reigning 'queen' of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School. Kathy, 19 and in Grade 13, was selected from six finalists at the annual May Prom, Friday night. —Jas. Thomas.

Premier to open V.L.A. project

BALLANTRAE - Although the chickens may still outnumber the human inhabitants by 3 to 1, the hamlet of Ballantrae is soon to become the centre of national interest.

In June, Premier Wm. Davis and officials of the Dept. of Municipal Affairs will preside at the opening of the community's new V.L.A. subdivision, Mike Flecher of Highway 48 Developments told The Tribune.

Located on the former Simpson dairy farm, the 150 acre subdivision will be built in stages. The first phase, to include 57 homes, should be completed early this summer. It is expected that thirty families will have moved in by the end of next month.

But three years from now, when the entire project is completed, Ballantrae will be 'home' to 1,500 veterans. "Unlike most subdivisions, there is no selling job involved with this development", Mr. Flecher told The Tribune. "We have far more people wanting to buy than we have property", he

said. "There are over 7,000 people in the province eligible for benefits under the Veterans Land Act and we only have 150 acres. In a single day, there have been more than 50 visitors to the site."

Subdivision services include paved roads, underground wiring, street lighting and electric heat. All the homes are custom built. Prospective buyers will be able to choose a home from one of seven models and select the type of stone, brick and tile they want.

The smallest home, a 3-room bungalow of 1,200 square feet, sells for about \$28,000. The largest, of 2,100 square feet, sells for \$37,000.

Most of the homes have two washrooms and a fireplace. Mr. Flecher describes the development as 'designed with American ideas but built to Canadian standards'. A three-acre shopping plaza and 7 acres of parkland will be included.

But all applications for home ownership must meet V.L.A. conditions. A minimum down payment of \$12,000 cash on a

\$28,000 home is required. The balance is financed through a 6 percent mortgage, which comes to approximately \$88.00 per month.

"Estates of Ballantrae was designed to appeal to the veteran whose family is almost grown and through school", said Mr. Flecher. "Ballantrae is the perfect place to retire. The land is 11,000 feet above sea level so the atmosphere is always clear. And the village is only 30 miles from Toronto."

When asked what kind of impact the subdivision would have on the original residents of the village, Flecher replied it was probably the best thing that ever happened to Ballantrae. He described the kind of people who would be moving in as 'extremely responsible'. "We've just concluded a transaction with a member of the Canadian Diplomatic Corps who will be retiring soon", he said. "The subdivision will incur few expenses for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville since all the services are provided," he concluded.

Century City

Govt. approval by end of '71 or 'game over'

Want answer — yes or no

UXBRIDGE TWP. - The next six months is a critical period for 'Century City'.

If the 7,000 acre project is approved by Queen's Park, even in principle, Development Manager Roger Cunningham told The Tribune, financial support would soon be forthcoming and the plan would move ahead. "We have to have an answer from the province this year or it's game over," he said.

Mr. Cunningham ruled as impractical, the suggestion that Revenue Properties Limited should absorb the indebtedness of its branch firm. He said this would only weaken the financial status of the parent company and impair its position on the stock market.

With respect to 'Century City' itself, the magnitude of the venture has not been reduced. "Anything less than 32,000 people and you have a glorified subdivision," said Mr. Cunningham.

The company spokesman said he was sympathetic concerning the plight of some former owners who had invested their down payments in other

properties. He noted too that without their patience and consideration, the project would already be 'dead'.

In spite of apparent problems, Mr. Cunningham remains optimistic. "A year ago, it was touch and go, but now we're rebuilding," he said, "we're regaining a lot of the respect we lost". Through a program of consolidation, many branch offices have been closed and the entire operation is handled from Toronto. Revenue is also engaged in large residential projects on the outskirts of Metro, including Etobicoke, Brampton, Orangeville and Guelph, he said.

Mr. Cunningham was high in his praise of the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Dalton Bales. "He's a fantastic man," he said. "I'm sure he'll come up with the answer soon".

He also commended the efforts of Uxbridge Twp. Council and Planning Board. "By proving to the majority of members that 'Century City' would benefit the municipality, we've vaulted the first hurdle," he concluded.

Dadson development

Rejected by planners

STOUFFVILLE - The Planning Committee, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, has rejected an application that would have established a 315 acre estate-type development on the Dadson Farms, Hwy. 48 near Ringwood.

Members explained that the proposal was contrary to provisions in the Official Plan and an amendment should not be considered at the present time. They also argued that good farming land should be

preserved for agricultural use.

The Committee is now working on the consolidation of 21 existing bylaws from the former Twp. of Whitchurch and Village of Stouffville. The target date for completion is mid-July.

However, a lapse of at least six months is anticipated before consideration can be given to proposals for 'estate subdivisions'. Locations include lot 8, conc. 6; lot 11, conc. 4 and lot 35, conc. 8.

Regional government

A slap in the face

MARKHAM - The concept of regional government was given a backhanded 'slap in the face' by Markham Town Council, Monday, when members, by a vote of 4 - 1, supported a St. Catharines resolution, calling for a holdup in further implementation of the system.

The decision was even more surprising since it rejected the stand taken by councillor Jim Jongeneel in support of the scheme. Councillor Jongeneel chaired the meeting in the ab-

sence of Mayor Anthony Roman. Councillor Murray Henderson said he was concerned mainly with costs under the regional plan, indicating there had been no sign of any decrease in expenses since Jan. 1.

While Whitchurch-Stouffville refused support, Uxbridge Township endorsed it unanimously.

Uxbridge council want no part of a Region that would include the City of Oshawa.