

# When 'we get this guy is the only time I'm going to get closure'

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## Centenary Hospital.

"From what the witness said, (the vehicle) appeared to sort of slow, then accelerate again and turned north onto what we believe is the Ninth (Line)," said York Regional Police Const. Mark Walton of the collision reconstruction unit.

Const. Walton discovered the case last year while working on other reconstruction cases and decided it was time to revisit it.

The only clues, then and now, were red and grey paint chips found on the girls' clothing.

Thanks to advancements in technology, last year Const. Walton re-submitted their clothing to the Centre of Forensic Sciences.

What came back was a list of about 12 potential vehicle types, although these are not the only possibilities.

"Our hope is somebody from the community may be aware of somebody around this area that was driving those vehicles that may have potentially been involved and come forward at this time," he said.

The list of potential cars include: 1964 and 1965 Ford Mustangs, 1968 and 1969 Mercury Comet, Cougar and Montego as well as the 1969 Ford Mustang and 1970 Ford Falcon and Mustang.

"I'd like to think that with the community behind us, we'll be able to figure out who did this," Const. Walton said.

Bill Blundell, one of Sheryl's younger brothers, would like nothing more than to know who killed his sister.

"You can't replace what you've lost," said Mr. Blundell, who was seven when his sister died.

That night, Mr. Blundell and their then-three-year-old brother Bruce stayed behind with the babysitter.

A short time after the girls had left, Mr. Blundell heard the fire trucks roar by.

"At the age of seven years, you're totally tickled pink when you see fire trucks go by your house," he said.

The trucks stopped only a few blocks away from their home.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Blundell recalled someone coming to their door to tell them about the accident.

## 'SHE'S NOT COMING HOME'

"The babysitter got hysterical," he said. "I had no idea how serious it was."

"I didn't realize what had happened. For weeks and weeks I kept asking my mom when (Sheryl) was coming home. She'd say: 'Bill, she's not coming home,'" he recalled. "Many nights I cried myself to sleep. What my mother said was true. She wasn't coming home. I didn't want to believe it."

An investigation was launched. A \$2,500 reward by the police commission was even offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible. It was never claimed.

In 1978, it looked like the case would finally be solved. A Stouffville man in his 20s was arrested. But there was not enough evidence to charge him, according to Const. Walton.

In 1988, a Crimestoppers re-enactment was aired on television. Tips came in. They

were followed up on, but again, nothing concrete came from them. The same thing happened a year later when the clip was re-aired.

"It's a small town. Somebody knows something," Mr. Blundell said. "You cannot keep a secret. People cannot keep a secret forever. They have to tell somebody."

That, along with a more narrowed scope on the vehicle, is what Const. Walton is hoping will finally close this case.

"I think it needs to have a successful conclusion. I'm sure the family would like to see that and so would I," Const. Walton said.

Ms Sprague, now 48, lives in Oshawa and has two children and a granddaughter.

Twice a year, on the anniversary of the accident, Feb. 6 and on Sheryl's birthday, Oct. 6— Ms Sprague visits her best friend at the Claremont Cemetery.

"I often wonder how my life would be different if she were here. She's always in my thoughts," she said.

In 1979, the Blundells moved to Uxbridge. About a year ago, Bill Blundell moved into a new home in Uxbridge. Unbeknownst to him, one of Sheryl's friends is now his neighbour.

Their mother, Beverly, died about a year-and-a-half ago from cancer.

"She wasn't afraid to die because she was going to visit her daughter and her other family that died," Mr. Blundell said.

Mother and daughter are buried just a few feet from each other.

On Jan. 27, Ms Sprague and the Blundell family saw each other for the first time in nearly 40 years for a photo arranged by The

## The Tribune

### Police Commission offers reward of \$2,500\* for information leading to hit-and-run arrest



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Town Public Library

Paint seems only clues to finding wanted aunt

Trip to the store ends in tragedy

Sun-Tribune.

"It was very hard. It just brought back a lot," Ms Sprague said. "I broke down. Until we get this guy, is the only time I'm going to get closure, I think."

If you have information on this unsolved case, contact Const. Mark Walton at 905-830-0303 ext. 7704 or Const. Steven High at ext. 2930. Or call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222TIPS.

The front page of the Feb. 15, 1973 Tribune carried stories on Sheryl Blundell's death.

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Join us at our Community Open House for a brief presentation to learn more about our expansion project and what it will mean for you and your family.

Following the presentation, visit the cafeteria for more information on some of the hospital's programs and services and more expansion information.

**We look forward to sharing our excitement with you!**

**WHEN:**  
February 15, 2011  
from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Presentations will be held at 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
Markham Stouffville Hospital  
381 Church Street,  
Markham, ON

**Parking is FREE -**  
Please bring your gate ticket with you for validation

For more information about the event, visit [www.msh.on.ca](http://www.msh.on.ca) or email [myhospital@msh.on.ca](mailto:myhospital@msh.on.ca)