

# Fatal hit-and-run sentence appealed

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A Toronto man convicted in the hit-and-run death of a Whitchurch-Stouffville teenager is appealing his sentence.

Omar Sharef Hassan, 32, was sentenced to 21 months in jail in late January for failing to remain at the scene of the 2002 crash that killed Matthew Bobbett.

The case is to be heard Monday, according to the Court of Appeal.

Matthew, 16, was struck by a blue and white Ford Mustang while walking with friends along Hwy. 48, near St. John's Sideroad,

Aug. 25, 2002.

Earlier that day, Mr. Hassan had gone to a party north of the collision scene, where he drank an "undetermined" amount of alcohol, a Newmarket court heard.

Despite Matthew's friends and passing motorists' eyewitness accounts, it was dark enough that no one could identify the Mustang's driver.

The Mustang's headlights were then turned off and the car was driven to a rural road in Durham Region, where it was abandoned and eventually reported stolen by

Mr. Hassan, then 24, court heard.

An extensive investigation by Ontario Provincial Police resulted in Mr. Hassan's February 2008 arrest. He was charged with failing to remain at the scene of a collision and criminal negligence causing death.

The criminal negligence charge was dismissed.

During his trial, Mr. Hassan instructed his lawyer to point the finger of guilt for the fatal crash at one of his former friends.

Mr. Hassan denied he was behind the wheel of the vehicle that struck and killed Matthew.

## Former market vendor taking case to council

About a dozen vendors set up their booths on Park Drive Thursday afternoon for the first day of this season's Downtown Stouffville Farmers Market. (See photographs on page 12.)

But there was one vendor noticeably absent - Barry's Gardens Farm Market.

Even if shoppers didn't know the Bethesda Road family-run farm was not there, the signs propped up on the back of a truck and hanging from a piece of farm equipment in the municipal parking lot right beside the market, would have told you.

There were four signs, one of which read: "Dear friends. Our family is not allowed to participate in the market. We are open at farm. Sorry. The Barrys."

David Barry, from Barry's Gardens, will make a delegation to council Tuesday afternoon regarding "being kicked out of the Stouffville Farmers Market by the committee," according to the meeting's agenda.

Barry's Gardens had been a part of the downtown market since it opened in 2009.

Neither Mr. Barry nor a representative from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville returned requests from The Sun-Tribune for an interview yesterday.

- Sandra Bolan

# “Will my Green Bin waste be left behind?”

York Region is asking residents to make the switch from plastic bags to compostable bags to line the Green Bin or kitchen container starting May 1.

It is part of a phased approach to move towards a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly process.

As we continue this mandatory program over the next year, Green Bin waste will not be left behind. Program participation will be reviewed throughout the year. Enforcement needs, if any, will be determined at a later date.

Residents are encouraged to use compostable bags to reduce the amount of plastic sent to landfill. Plastic bag liners are removed from the final composted product and sent for disposal. In contrast, compostable bags are made of plant-based materials that break down naturally into compost.

Compostable bags are available at most grocery and hardware stores throughout York Region. Many different brands are available. Be sure to look for certified compostable bags with this logo:



Make the switch to compostable bags effective May 1, 2011

For more information, please visit [www.york.ca/waste](http://www.york.ca/waste) or call 1-866-665-6752

