

**Jury selection in 2003 murder**

Jury selection starts this week for a Buffalo man accused in the 2003 murder of a Toronto resident found dumped in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Mark Luke Rogers was arrested in February 2009 in connection with the May 31,

2003 death of Joshua Anthony Julien, 20.

He was charged with first-degree murder and extradited from the United States.

Mr. Julien's body was found in a field on the southwest corner of St. John's Sideroad and Warden Avenue in Whitchurch-Stouffville. An autopsy revealed he had been shot to death.

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*Tipped outhouses, buggy on school roof recalled*

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decades ago.

Truth is, today's kids can be candidly classed as timid compared to the shenanigans perpetrated by now-virtuous fathers and grandfathers.

Think back, self-righteous dads and granddads, of whom I am one.

For it wasn't unusual for a farmer to rise at an early hour and discover a wagon roped to the top of his barn. How this misadventure was executed, no one ever explained.

One teacher remembers walking from a boarding house to her rural school to be greeted by a jersey cow tied to the door. Whose cow? None of her students knew.

The same teacher recalls opening her desk the same morning and finding a live garter snake hidden under several books. Who put it there? None of her students knew.

Outhouses, (yes, there were outhouses back then), were prime targets for pranksters. They could be toppled with ease. One Gormley resident obviously grew tired of resetting his privy on its pedestal. He simply moved the building back a few feet with pleasurable results. The hooligans sank to their knees.

So what's the story on Halloweens past in Stouffville?

"We gathered at the old fire hall and waited for something to happen," remembers former volunteer firefighter Bob MacAloney. "Some played euchre — we entertained ourselves." Often, firefighters' wives brought sandwiches.

"Nothing major," says brigade volunteer Don Donor, "just a lot of nonsense."

A few outhouses were moved and some tires were burned.

"They'd have (the brigade) running from one end of the town to the other. It was kind

of confusing."

Jim Rennie, a volunteer firefighter for 45 years, recalls "a lot of stupid things — nothing important."

"Some Halloweens we had no calls at all."

Lloyd Jennings says the volunteers would enjoy "a little party" at the hall while awaiting the first call.

*'I remember a bunch of us pushing an outhouse over. Ira Rusnell, police chief at the time, gave chase — on foot. He could run fast but only for short distances. None got caught.'*

Del Jennings, Lloyd's father, was fire chief for a time, followed by Bill Malloy and Walter Smith.

Ken Wagg, a 37-year brigade veteran, enjoyed Halloween experiences as both a reveler and a volunteer.

"I remember a bunch of us pushing an outhouse over. Ira Rusnell, police chief at the time, gave chase — on foot. He could run fast, but only for short distances. None got caught."

He recalls another group placing a buggy atop the roof of Summitview school.

On a given Halloween, the brigade would respond to a half-dozen calls, he said.

"But there was never any serious damage."

There you have it. On Halloween night, once quiet little Stouffville remains quiet big Stouffville.

Fire Chief McKenzie says "thanks."



**MCO Stouffville Orthodontics HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE!**

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