

Teens in fatal crash 'improving', OPP awaiting reports

The single-vehicle crash that claimed the life of Stouffville's Sara Girard and critically injured two of her friends a month ago is still under investigation, according to the Almaguin Highlands OPP.

OPP specialists outside the Almaguin detachment were called in to investigate, according to Staff Sgt. Stacey Whaley, who added while the investigation work is done, a report still needs to be completed.

"We don't rush those things and wait for reports to be completed," he told The Sun-Tribune.

Ms. Girard, 17, along with Meghan Timewell, 18, also from Stouffville and

Markham's Allison Neville, 17, were on their way home from a cottage July 2 when their van rolled over in the southbound lanes of Hwy. 11 in Armour Township, just south of Burk's Falls, at about 5:30 p.m.

All three were recent graduates of St. Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham.

Ms. Girard, a passenger, was thrown from the van and died at the scene.

The two others were brought to Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in critical condition.

"They're improving and they're continuing to improve," Staff Sgt. Whaley said. "We're patient with our investigation as they're improving."

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Stouffville's first female councillor dies

The Village of Stouffville's first female councillor has died.

Ethel Lucas Mole Harper served as a councillor from 1968 to 1970. She died July 18 at B.C.'s Saanich Peninsula Hospital Extended Care facility. She was 95.

"Mrs. Harper was a dedicated member of our community. She was a pioneer who opened the door for many generations to participate in the building of Whitchurch-Stouffville. On behalf of members of council, I extend our condolences to her family," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson in a media release.

Mrs. Harper was born in Swastika, Ont. and graduated as a nurse from Sick Children's Hospital in 1939, where she worked until 1942, when she married her first husband Alfred Mole.

Four years later, the couple moved to Stouffville and established Mole Motors.

ESTABLISHED MOLE MOTORS

Following Mr. Mole's death in 1954, Mrs. Harper obtained a degree in advanced public health from the University of Toronto. She was the director of public health nurses for Ontario County until 1971.

Along with being a councillor, Mrs. Harper was involved with the annual Santa Claus parade, figure skating club and school board. Mrs. Harper also worked her way up to become a Girl Guides commissioner.

SON RAN FOR MAYOR

Although family was always her top priority, also high on her list was a love for chocolate, bridge, antiques, shopping and a good round of golf, especially during the winter in Florida.

Mrs. Harper is survived by her daughter Melodee and sons Rodger and Randy.

Randy Mole tried to follow in his mother's footsteps by sitting on council but his bids for Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor in 2003 and 2006 were unsuccessful.

Mrs. Harper also leaves behind grandchildren, a great-grandchild, brother, brother-in-law and nephew.

She was predeceased by her son Robert, second husband and sister.

A celebration of life will take place Aug. 17, 1:30 p.m. at Stouffville United Church, 34 Church St. A reception will follow. All flags at town facilities will be at half-mast that day.

Sandra Bolan

LCBO open for Civic Holiday, town facilities, Beer store closed

The town hall, library, arenas and museum will be closed Monday for the Civic Holiday.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre will be open Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. It will also be open its regular hours Saturday and Sunday.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and

Community Centre will also be open its regular hours Saturday and Sunday.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will be open as per usual on Saturday, but closed Sunday.

The Stouffville Arena and Clippers Sports Complex are both closed Saturday and Sunday.

The Beer Store will be closed Monday, however, the LCBO will be open Monday from noon to 6 p.m.

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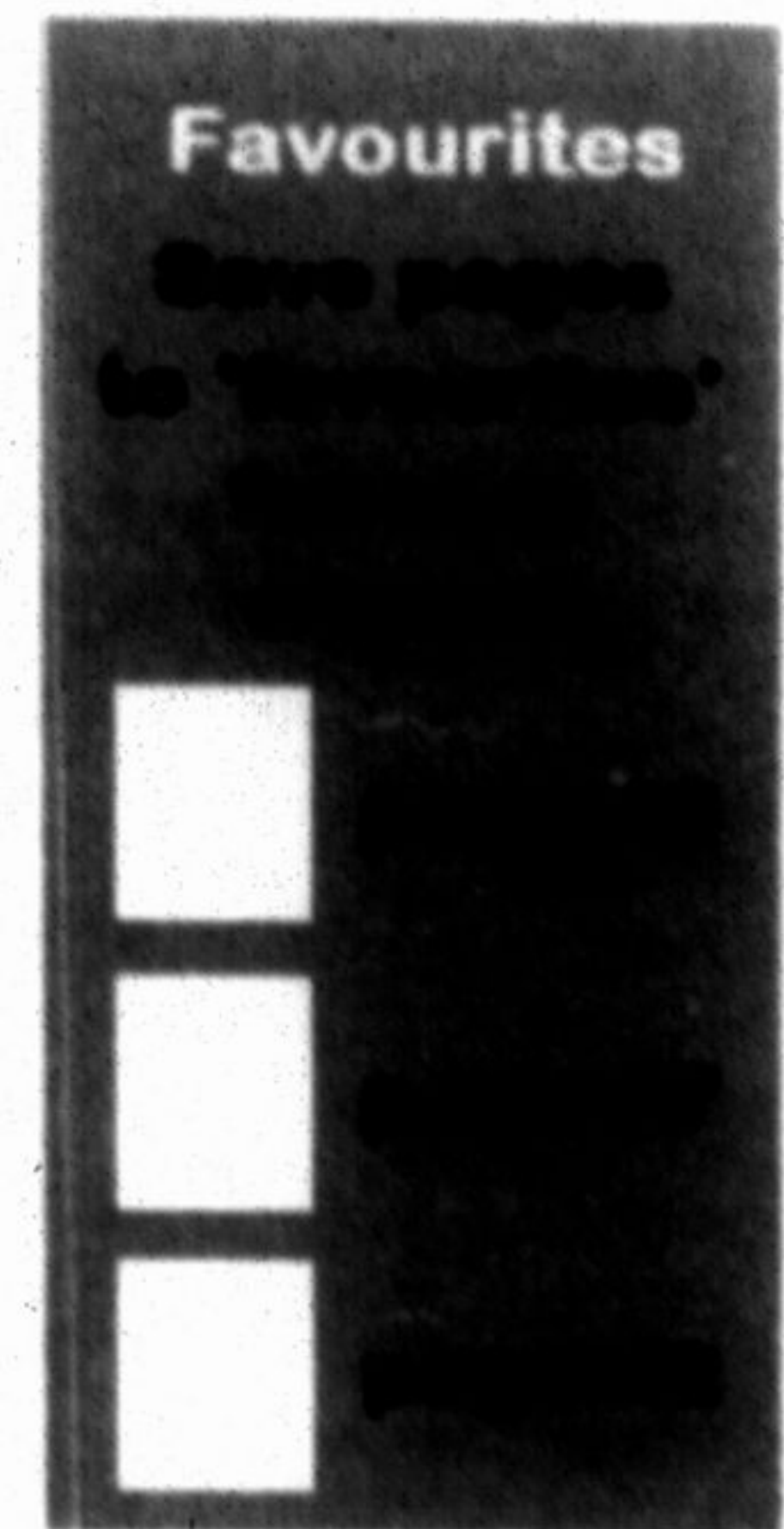
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