

Drug dealer killed Marion Deacon: accused

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Paul Kenyon, the man charged with the murder of Marion Deacon, got a chance to tell his version of events in a Newmarket courtroom Wednesday afternoon.

During his testimony, the 47-year-old explained his rocky relationship with his then-girlfriend, his extensive crack use and the lies he used to cover up that habit.

However, he insisted he did not kill her.

The former OPP drug investigator said instead it was his drug dealer, Marlon Jackson and an unidentified accomplice, who caused her death and a fire at her Gormley home.

Ms Deacon, a 46-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville mother of three, died March 7, 2010 from blunt force trauma to the head and face. The incidents of the previous day, March 6, 2010, began after Mr. Kenyon picked up \$200 worth of what he said was "garbage" crack on loan from Mr. Jackson, he told the court.

After going to pick up a further \$100 worth of better quality crack from another dealer, smoking a portion and drinking a third of a "26er of vodka", the former OPP drug investigator told the court he called Mr. Jackson to complain about the drugs he initially picked up.

"I called him and told him what he sold me was garbage ... sh**%", he said.

CONVICTIONS REVEALED

However, during a number of follow-up conversations he said he explained to an angry Mr. Jackson that although he was good for the cash, he couldn't pay him immediately due to banking issues.

Mr. Jackson did not accept this, explaining he needed the cash that night, he said.

Soon after Mr. Jackson began to threaten Mr. Kenyon, saying he wanted his money and would get it, even if he had to come to Ms Deacon's house, where Mr. Kenyon was staying, he testified.

After a number of conversations, Mr. Kenyon told the jury he heard the dogs barking before he looked out a window and saw a white SUV outside the home.

Next, he said, he heard the sound of glass smashing in the kitchen.

It was only when Mr. Kenyon ran downstairs that he found Mr. Jackson and a "black"

male accomplice in the kitchen.

"What the hell are you doing in here," he said he shouted at the two men. "I came to get my money," he said he heard in reply.

It was at this point Mr. Kenyon said he saw Ms Deacon's headlights shine through the home.

"I didn't see what he was hitting her with. ... I just saw him swinging"

Paul Kenyon
accused tells murder trial

When she entered the front door, Mr. Kenyon said she saw the men engaged in a scuffle at which point she ran towards them.

Mr. Jackson then ran towards Ms Deacon and began beating her, he said.

"I didn't see what he was hitting her with. ... I just saw him swinging," he said.

After having his life threatened, Mr. Kenyon said he heard the accomplice yell something about Mr. Jackson leaving.

He then added that he said he was held captive in the home's upstairs bedroom and remained "scared" and on the ground even after his captor left.

Eventually, he said he smelled smoke before his throat and eyes began burning. It was at this point he said he ran down the stairs and out of the home, before making several attempts to re-enter the home in order to get to Ms Deacon, who he said could have been in the kitchen or in the basement.

When complete, his lawyer, Jennifer Penman, asked him if he beat or killed Ms Deacon, to which he replied: "No, I did not".

He said he didn't explain that version of events to police when he was initially questioned because he was in a state of shock.

"I was just told that I was charged with a murder that I didn't do," he said. "I was in shock, I was scared and they also told me Marion was dead."

He also said he did not implicate Mr. Jackson at the time because he thought he would kill him.

Earlier in the day, the jury heard a number of details about Paul Kenyon's dishonest history.

Mr. Kenyon, for the first time, admitted to



STAFF PHOTO/SANDRA BOLAN

The daughters of the late Marion Deacon – Laura, Amanda and Natasha – walk outside the Newmarket courthouse where their mother's boyfriend is standing trial for her murder.

the jury he has been convicted of fraud, theft and breach of trust for which he received an eight-month sentence and probation over the years.

He also admitted to lying constantly to his then on-again, off-again girlfriend Ms Deacon about his crack habit.

ROCKY RELATIONSHIP

"Goodbye Paul, you have lied to me the last time," she wrote in a February 2010 text.

"Today will be a new start."

Despite the conviction of this text, the couple would reunite and continue dating, Mr. Kenyon would later testify.

Ms Deacon lived on Doner Street, at Woodbine Avenue and Stouffville Road, in the community of Gormley.

The Crown contended Mr. Kenyon murdered Ms Deacon and then set fire to her home in the quiet neighbourhood.

The trial continues.



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