

# Victim's family feels for murderer's parents

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home that was the scene of the tragedy. "It was a long haul and it was tough on the girls, I just hope it will give some measure of closure for them."

The jurors were not kind to Mr. Kenyon, a former OPP drug investigator and crack addict, when they gave their recommendations for sentencing, which will be handed down by Justice Fuerst at the end of June.

Despite being able to suggest as little as 10 years in prison before the chance of parole, nine jurors recommended the 47-year-old receive the maximum 25-year sentence and only three said anything else would suffice, including 22 and 20 years.

## LENGTHY SENTENCING

Mr. Deacon said he felt it was the nature of the attack that prompted the stiff recommendations.

"The brutality was probably a factor, she suffered 10 blunt force traumas to her body, six on her back and four on her front," the Whitchurch-Stouffville resident said.

The harshness of the sentence suggests the jury may have also been swayed by the nature of Mr. Kenyon's defence, which said he was a victim of an attack by his drug dealer, Marlon Jackson, who broke into Ms Deacon's home looking for a \$200 crack debt from earlier in the day.

During his testimony, Mr. Kenyon

claimed Ms Deacon was beaten to death by one of the alleged intruders, at which point he himself was held captive for up to eight hours by an unnamed man who then lit the house on fire.

He further suggested, under cross examination, that it must have been the mysterious man who tried to access Ms Deacon's bank account and who made a number of calls to his crack dealer, Mr. Jackson, on her landline.

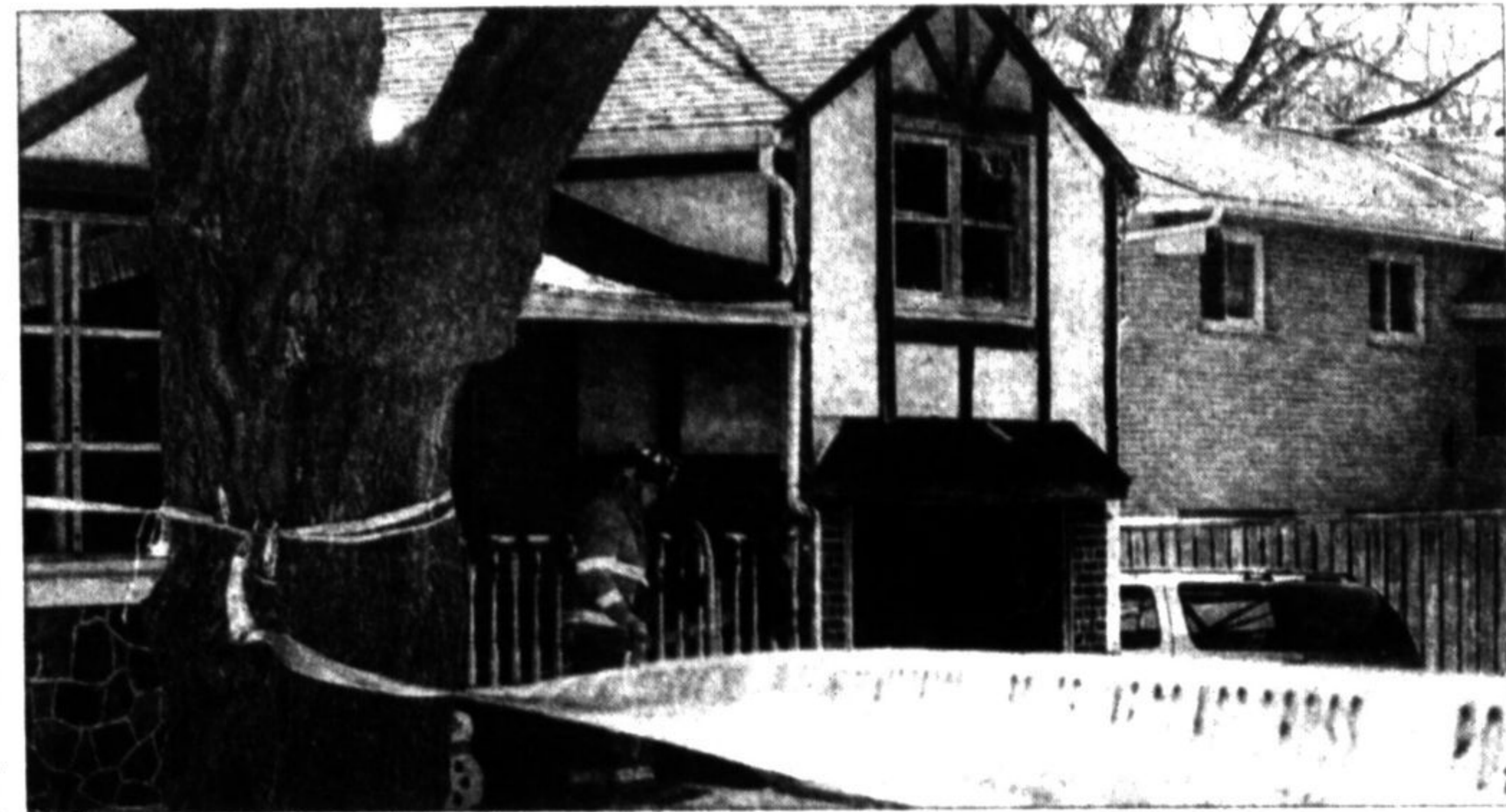
He later added he lied to the police in a follow-up interview more than 45 times because he was scared of the repercussions and feared for his life if he told police that it was Mr. Jackson who killed Ms Deacon.

"I don't think there was any question for any one of us that he had done it and he was guilty," Mr. Deacon said. "But it's always stressful until that gavel hits that bench."

However, Mr. Deacon holds no ill-will against the family of Mr. Kenyon.

"I feel badly for his parents because he's still their son, they still lost a son here," he said. "What he did is not what they did and they're going to feel a loss. When you become a parent, your kids do things that you wouldn't do, but that doesn't change the fact that they're still your kids."

This was Mr. Kenyon's second trial after the first ended in a mistrial. The court heard lengthy submissions about the couple's rocky relationship, which began in 2005 after they were introduced to one another by a mutual friend.



JIM MASON/SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Marion Deacon died in her Gormley home four years ago. Her boyfriend killed her, a jury decided Tuesday.

Ms Deacon was only made aware of Mr. Kenyon's crack habit afterwards, Mr. Kenyon said, when he pulled out a pipe and began smoking it in front of her in her back yard. The next morning she confronted him about the drug use and asked him never to do it again.

The next five years of the relationship the habit would cause countless fights and result in never-ending separations. Mr. Kenyon readily admitted he would steal money from Ms Deacon and her daughters, would often go on days-long crack binges, lie about where he was to her and ceaselessly take advantage of her forgiving nature.

This caused strain in the relationship and he was told he could never be at the Doner Street home - south of Stouffville Road between Hwy. 404 and Woodbine Avenue - alone and that Ms Deacon's daughters refused to be in the house when he was home.

Cellphone records showed Mr. Kenyon led two lives, his life with Ms Deacon and another, where he was committing frauds to get money for crack and regularly mingling with drug dealers.

Phone records also showed another side to Mr. Kenyon - he appeared to display deep emotional love for Ms Deacon. One particularly rocky period occurred after Ms Deacon told Mr. Kenyon's parents about his drug habit during a breakfast.

According to Mr. Kenyon, his father stood up for him, before insisting he leave Ms Deacon's home and live with them in Gravenhurst. It was at this point that Mr. Kenyon began holding down a steady job at a Sobeys.

Mr. Kenyon said the pair were on their way to working out their difficulties and were planning on moving back together in Gormley.

*'The brutality was probably a factor, she suffered 10 blunt force traumas to her body, six on her back and four on her front.'*

However, the day before the murder he told the court how he smoked hundreds of dollars' worth of crack and drank vodka at Ms Deacon's home.

The Crown argued that Ms Deacon, who was later found to have one of Mr. Kenyon's crack pipes in her purse, came home that night to confront him about his continued use of crack behind her back.

## POLICE BACKGROUND

Crown lawyer Gemma Sang said it was only after she told Mr. Kenyon the relationship was over that he beat her to death with a baseball bat he found in the home.

The Crown further suggested it was at this point Mr. Kenyon, with his knowledge of how to get rid of evidence, from his years in the OPP, lit the house on fire.

It was her contention he then tried to get hold of more crack before she believed he planned to kill himself.

Mr. Kenyon will be sentenced June 25.

-with files from Sandra Bolan



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