

Caledon Citizen

Publications Mail Agreement Number 0040032702

Covering all of Caledon

Office Administrator: Cheryl Phillips

Telephones: 905-857-6626 or 905-857-5846

Fax: 905-857-6363

Email: admin@caledoncitizen.com

Website: www.caledoncitizen.com

Main Office: 25 Queen Street North, Bolton
Mailing Address: 25 Queen Street, North, Bolton L7E 1C1

Owned and operated by
Caledon Publishing Limited

Publisher: Bruce R. Haire

Advertising Manager: John H. Archibald

Editor: Mark Pavilons Email: editor@caledoncitizen.com

Staff Reporter: Alan Liczyk Email: alan@caledoncitizen.com

Tots' deaths a result of two systems' failures

IT WILL LIKELY BE MANY MONTHS before we know just what happened in the weeks and months leading up to a Barrie mother's seemingly senseless slaying last week of her two little daughters.

However, one thing is already clear: the deaths were eminently preventable, and were the result of failures in Ontario's child welfare and justice systems.

Had the Simcoe County Children's Aid Society made the inquiries that reporters made within days of the homicides, they surely would have concluded that the two children were at risk and ought not to be in the custody of either parent.

Those inquiries would have shown graphically that Frances Elaine Campione, who now faces two counts of first-degree murder, had serious mental problems involving mood swings that could predictably leave her either suicidal or homicidal.

Meanwhile, the 31-year-old had been separated from her husband Leo, 36, since last year and Leo faced a string of criminal charges, one of which dated from 2004 and none of which had ever come to trial.

Clearly, had the justice system worked as it ought to, a trial judge would long since have heard evidence demonstrating, if nothing else, that there were serious problems in the family unit that potentially put the children at risk if left with either parent.

It would seem that another branch of the justice system - family court - was involved, yet for some reason had seemingly not made any orders designed to protect the children, having temporarily awarded the mother full custody.

We think it's fairly safe to conclude even now that this was by no means an ordinary case of first-degree murder, conviction for which leads to a mandatory sentence of life with no eligibility for parole for 25 years. After all, it's fairly safe to say that no mother "in her right mind" would take the lives of her two healthy young children.

However, there's a considerable gap between being seen by others as not "in your right mind" and meeting the requirement in Section 16 of our Criminal Code for a finding that an accused is not criminally responsible for his or her acts or omissions. It stipulates that an accused must prove that at the time of the act in question he or she was "suffering a mental disorder that rendered the person incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the act or omission or of knowing that it was wrong."

This is by no means the first time that an Ontario mother has been charged with murder in the death of her children, and no doubt will not be the last. Prosecutors often push the accused to trial facing the Code's most serious charge, arguing that the victims are particularly helpless and the mother's actions involved at least some element of planning and deliberation.

However, experienced trial judges often view the matter differently, and in one case a judge now on the Ontario Court of Appeal forced the Crown and defence lawyers in mid-trial to appear privately before another judge who managed to get the Crown to agree to a manslaughter plea and a six-year sentence, which the appeal court ultimately cut to a reformatory term.

In that case, as in the latest, the mother (who unsuccessfully attempted suicide) was depressed to the point where she saw her actions as committing her beloved daughters to Paradise.

A few facts in this latest homicide are painfully clear. One is that the mother made no attempt to conceal her act, and in fact was the person who called police to report the deaths. Barrie police answering her 911 call at 6 a.m. Wednesday found the bodies of Sophia, 3, and sister Serena, 1, in her apartment.

The picture that quickly emerged was of a family that was unhappy and dysfunctional long before the homicides, the husband facing the assault charges against both his wife and Sophia (but staunchly praised by his family and former neighbours in Bradford) and the wife, described by those who knew her as deeply unhappy, unsociable, jealous and prone to rash behaviour.

On at least one occasion she had talked of suicide and on another, in the midst of a custody dispute, had dropped her daughters off at their paternal grandparents' home in Woodbridge, apparently saying she couldn't cope with them any more.

In Woodbridge, neighbours noted how proud the girls' grandparents, Diego and Anna Campione, were this summer, having taken the girls on daily walks and regular visits to parks and church.

One thing for sure is that this case cries out for a coroner's inquest to be held. Only then will we be able to see clearly why systems designed to protect the public, and children in particular, failed so miserably, and what might be done to minimize the risk of future such events.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOK LAUNCHES:
ADRIENNE CLARKSON BALLOONS *



*SELF-INFLATING.

Our Readers Write

More notice needed for traffic rerouting

First of all I would like to clearly indicate that I appreciate all the efforts put together by everyone involved in the Bolton Fall Fair. I am very pleased as a member of the community that we do have an event such as the fair and would like to see this continue in the years to come with appropriate planning.

However, as a member of the community I was very concerned with the organization of the parade and the safety risk it posed to

Concerns for Bell tower

Some of your readers hopefully will be outraged to know there is a plan to install a Bell Canada communications tower at the rear of St. Patrick's Church in Wildfield. This tower could be as high as 80 to 90 feet.

The parish priest, Rev. V. Papais, is proceeding with this project with almost no consultation or input from parish members or local residents, most of whom at this stage are not even aware of it. There has been neither a public meeting nor a display of construction drawings of the structure.

Not only will this tower be an eyesore to the community at large, it will seriously impinge on the character and dignity of St. Patrick's Church. Constructed in 1894 on the site on earlier frame building, it is a local landmark that is appreciated by residents, historical buffs and by people simply passing through the area.

Apart from the esthetics, there are the potential health implications of microwave radiation. Area residents, especially families with children attending St. Patrick's School, need to ask questions about this project.

Anyone wishing to voice their opinions can contact Rev. Papais at 905-794-0486. Letters of opposition can also be sent to David Finnegan, director of planning, Archdiocese of Toronto, 1155 Yonge Street Toronto, Ont. M4T 1W2 or planning@arch-toronto.org. The phone number is 416-934-0606.

Dan O'Reilly
Wildfield

the community.

I would like to raise a concern to the person/persons responsible for organizing the parade.

It is fair to state that the Town of Bolton has increased in population. Over the past 5-10 years there has been a considerable increase in both residential and industrial areas. It is unfortunate that the Town of Caledon's planning department does not have a clear understanding that appropriate roads need to be established before issuing residential and industrial permits. Regional Road 50 (Queen Street) is the only major artery for accessing and exiting Bolton with the exception of Albion Vaughan Road.

My point is that this is a serious problem and we cannot afford to conduct parade on an important road such as Regional Road 50 without sufficient planning and proper regulations in place such as sufficient community signage; alternative routing with OPP staffing, and emergency planning.

As a member of the community, I was very distressed to see that none of these measures were addressed that morning of the parade (Sept. 23), especially when I saw an EMS vehicle stopping to ask an OPP officer for routing information. This is serious. There was major traffic in all directions as vehicles had no indication which route to take. Increased traffic in the residential areas with vehicles exceeding the speed limits can endanger children and all other pedestrians.

We all like to have a good time but we need to put our helmets on before we go biking.

The Santa Clause Parade is a yearly event and the community is well aware of the road blockages and extent. Alternative routing is provided and enough notice and signage to the community is given.

As a member of the community, I was not aware of how far the blockage of 50 (Queen Street) extended. I saw no signs in either direction indicating closure or extent.

Please turn to page 7 >

Caledon Citizen



Distributed throughout the Town of Caledon, the Citizen is published every Wednesday in the year by Caledon Publishing Ltd. from production offices at 34 Main Street W., Beeton, Ont.
Visit our website: www.caledoncitizen.com

Member Canadian Community Newspapers Association,
Ontario Community Newspapers Association and the Ontario Press Council

The CALEDON CITIZEN is a member of the Ontario Press Council, an independent body set up by the newspapers of the province to uphold freedom of expression and deal with complaints from readers. The Press Council encourages complainants to first give the newspaper an opportunity to redress their grievances. If not satisfied, they may then write to the Council, enclosing a copy of material that is the subject of the complaint, at 80 Gould St., Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5A 4L8.

Subscriptions: \$37.50 + G.S.T. within 65 kilometres
\$54.00 + G.S.T. beyond 65 kilometres and in towns with letter carriers
Advertising Representatives: Aileen Robbins, Greg Wigner
Printed by Central Ontario Web Ltd., 705-733-1349

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors which do not lessen the value of the advertisement are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

DEADLINES: Unfortunately deadlines do not allow us to take ads after the following specified times:

DISPLAY ADS and CLASSIFIED ADS: Monday at 10 a.m.

All ads must be paid in advance by deadline or the ad will not run. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD & AMEX PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE.