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The Times

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www.mindentimes.ca

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An SIU investigator looks for evidence at the Indian Point Road residence of a 73-year-old Dysart et al man, who was killed in a police-involved shooting on Wednesday morning, July 15. The shooting followed an incident at Minden's Valu-Mart where the man refused to wear a mask upon entering the store and allegedly assaulted an employee. /DARREN LUM Staff

Fatal incident stemmed from face mask dispute

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

A 73-year-old man is dead and the Ontario Special Investigations Unit is investigating after a dispute that began

when the man assaulted an employee at Easton's Valu-Mart in Minden on the morning of July 15, after the employee requested that he put on a face mask to enter the grocery store.

"What we're doing is giving out free masks, if you don't have one," store owner Linda Easton told the Times. The health unit has mandated that face masks be worn inside businesses and indoor public spaces amid the COVID-19 pan-

dem. Easton explained she has an employee who's responsible for greeting people at the store entrance, providing face masks to those without them, and sanitizing carts.

"The guy just didn't want to wear a mask," Easton said. "... He just started pounding on my employee."

"My staff got together and tried to escort him out the door,"

see SIU page 3



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Broker

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54 Anson St - \$389,000

6 bedroom, 2 bath Minden home within walking distance to town. Raised bungalow with 4 bedrooms on the main and 2 bedrooms in the partially finished walkout basement (with separate entrance). Nicely updated family home with a large level lot. A pleasure to show.

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Ideal family home, retirement property or cottage retreat. Recently renovated cedar Viceroy home - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, vaulted ceilings, large windows & a detached garage with workshop all on a flat, level .86 acre lot. Public access to Moore Lake is a short walk across the road.





An OPP vehicle sits in the driveway leading to the Indian Point Road residence of a 73-year-old man, killed in a police-involved shooting on Wednesday morning, July 15. /DARREN LUM Staff

SIU recover weapons from the scene

from page 1

Easton said, explaining the police were called following the assault, the OPP receiving that call at approximately 8:19 a.m.

“He was speeding away, and hit a truck, turning it sideways,” Easton said, adding the man also attempted to run down store employees with his vehicle, and crashed into the side of the store, before speeding off on Highway 35.

According to the SIU, an officer followed the man’s vehicle for a short period of time, and based on his licence plate number, officers then made their way to his residence on Indian Point Road, north of Haliburton.

“Outside the residence, there was an interaction with the man and two officers discharged their firearms,” reads a press release from the SIU. “The man was struck. He was transported to hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 11:47 a.m.”

On July 16, the SIU confirmed members had collected firearms, along with those of OPP officers, at the scene.

“The scene was searched yesterday, and those efforts will continue today,” a press release reads. “From the scene, a semi-automatic rifle and a pistol were collected. The firearms of two police officers were also secured.”

A post-mortem examination was conducted on the morning of July 17, and the SIU is continuing to attempt to locate the man’s next of kin. At press time, there was no update on the post-mortem and the SIU has not yet made the name of the man public.

“The OPP has notified the province’s Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and they have invoked their mandate,” reads a press release from the OPP that was sent out the evening of July 15. “As a result, the OPP will not be able to provide any further information.”

Easton thanked the OPP for their response to the call, and paid homage to her employees, as well as all grocery store workers.

“All I want to say, I want to give credit to my staff, who were very competent in handling the situation,” she said. “They were the real heroes in this situation. I want to give credit to all grocery store workers, who are faced with interactions every day with challenging people.”

She also noted the tragedy of the situation, and that a life had been lost.

Four investigators and two forensic investigators from the SIU have been assigned to the case. The SIU investigates incidents involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

“The SIU is urging anyone who may have information about this investigation to contact the lead investigator at 1-800-787-8529,” reads a release from the agency. “The unit is also urging anyone who may have any video evidence related to this incident to upload that video through the SIU website.”



I want to give credit to all grocery store workers, who are faced with interactions every day with challenging people.

— LINDA EASTON, OWNER OF EASTON’S VALU-MART





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COUNCIL MEETINGS

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be conducted virtually via web conference; and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings are held virtually, starting at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council office, 7 Milne Street.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

July 30 – Regular Council Meeting August 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one meeting a month in July, August and December.

During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of paramount importance. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS/PROPOSALS

The Public Works Department is currently accepting bid submissions for the following projects:

RFT #RDS 20-04 Rehabilitation of the Sunnybrook Bridge
RFT #RDS 20-05 Salerno Lake Road Bridge Deck Rehabilitation
RFP #ENV 20-06 Scotch Line Landfill Design and Operations Report Update

Visit www.minden hills.ca/tenders/ for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hiring! The MHCC is currently seeking summer students for the 2020 season, ending August 22. Visit www.minden hills.ca/employment-opportunities/ to view the posting and job description and how to apply.

GELERT DECORATION DAY

On behalf of the organizers, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we announce that the Gelert Cemetery Decoration Day originally scheduled for August 16, 2020, has been cancelled.

CAMPING FUEL CANISTERS

Please bring empty camping fuel canisters to a hazardous waste event. The next event is Saturday August 8, 2020. Do not put camping fuel canisters in the Blue Box

DISPOSABLE MASKS AND GLOVES

Please ensure you deposit your used disposable masks and gloves in the garbage. These are not recyclable.