

ALMAGUIN NEWS

\$1.50 | CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY | NORTHBAYNISSIPING.COM

LOOKING FOR:
news events ?
information

GO TO
NorthBayNipissing.com

PM41933050

NEWS

'I WILL BE MY DAUGHTER'S VOICE'

SIU INVESTIGATION WAS LAUNCHED ON AUG. 6, 2021

SARAH COOKE
scooke@metroland.com

Sheena Jackson was more than just SIU case file #21-PFD-244. She was a daughter, a sister, a partner, a grieving mother. She was a survivor who had dreams of someday writing a book about her extensive travels.

But 38-year-old Sheena's life was cut short on Aug. 5, 2021 when she was fatally shot four times by Almaguin OPP officers, according to an Aug. 23, 2022 report from the Special Investigations Unit.

The police watchdog was called in to investigate the circumstances surrounding Sheena's death following the OPP's response to a call of an "unwanted person" at Ye Olde Cutter Camp, a campground in Burk's Falls where Sheena, originally from Oshawa, loved to spend her summers.

A year after her death, the SIU found the two OPP officers who fatally shot the mother of three did not commit a criminal offence.

Days before the SIU ruling, Al-

See MOTHER, page 2



IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY

Melanie Jackson, Sheena Jackson's mother, says she spoke to her daughter last just hours before she was shot.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.

FROM THE ISSUES TO THE CANDIDATES AND THE CAMPAIGN, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE ON OCT. 24.

NORTHBAYNISSIPING.COM /2022MUNICIPALELECTION

Metroland Media Group Ltd.,
1 Yonge Street, 4th floor,
Toronto, ON, M5E 1E6

POLICE

OPP NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE IN SHOOTING DEATH: SIU

JACKSON WAS SHOT FOUR TIMES

PAMELA STEEL
psteel@metrolandnorthmedia.com

UPDATE: 'I will be my daughter's voice': Mother of woman fatally shot by Almaguin OPP reacts to SIU ruling

An SIU investigation into the fatal shooting of Sheena Jackson, 38, by police, in Burk's Falls on Aug. 5, 2021 has concluded.

"On my assessment of the evidence, there are no reasonable grounds to believe that either subject official committed a criminal offence in connection with the complainant's death," stated the director of the Special Investigations Unit, Joseph Martin.

On Aug. 5, 2021, Almaguin OPP responded to a call of an unwanted person at Ye Olde Cutter Camp, a campground and trailer park where Jackson and her partner spent their summers. She lived in Oshawa the remainder of the year.

Jackson allegedly attacked police officers with a 10-centimetre



The SIU investigation into the fatal shooting of Sheena Jackson has concluded.

hunting knife, according to the report. The report is based on one of the officer's testimony and notes. The other officer refused to provide either testimony or notes, which the report indicates was his legal right.

Jackson was shot four times by two OPP officers, who fired seven

shots from two 9-mm Glock semi-automatic pistols. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Below is the incident narrative from the report:

"The following scenario emerges from the weight of the evidence collected by the SIU, which included interviews with

one of the two subject officials — SO #2 — and two civilian eyewitnesses. As was his legal right, SO #1 chose not to interview with the SIU or authorize the release of his notes.

"In the evening of August 5, 2021, the OPP received a call from CW #3 (civilian witness) reporting a disturbance involving the complainant in Burk's Falls, where the two were sharing a cottage. According to CW #3, the complainant, who had warrants outstanding for her arrest, had kicked his cat and swung a rake at him multiple times. She was inebriated, suffered from mental illness, and might have access to a hunting knife. CW #3 wanted her removed from the property. Police officers were dispatched to the address.

"SO #2 and SO #1 arrived at the scene in separate vehicles shortly before 8:30 p.m. SO #2 stopped his police SUV facing east, south of the entrance to the business office. SO #1 parked behind him. A few metres south of the passenger side of SO #2's vehicle, facing

See 'THE', page 3

CRIME



Heidi Lynn Slessor, who was fatally struck by a vehicle on July 15, 2019.

TRIAL DATE IN DEATH OF SLESSOR

CHARGES LAID IN 2019

SARAH BISSONETTE
sbissonette@metrolandnorthmedia.com

A trial date in the death of Heidi Lynn Slessor has been set.

Thomas Stevens, who was 26 in 2019, of Perry, was charged after first responders were called to a Perry Township residence at approximately 8:40 p.m. on July 15, 2019, regarding a woman being struck by a vehicle. Stevens is charged with with dangerous driving causing death, refusing to give a sample and impaired driving. Slessor died as a result of the collision.

Stevens chose to be tried by jury. The trial is set for Dec. 5 in Parry Sound.



See SHARING, page 2

NEWS

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF ALMAGUIN LAKE LEVELS

SARAH COOKE
scooke@metroland.com

Low water levels, high water levels, reactive and proactive responses — how does the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry maintain water levels in Almaguin?

In a presentation at the Katrine Community Centre on Aug. 18, the ministry addressed water level maintenance and issues on Doe Lake, where many resort owners, cottagers and residents

"We're looking to share the pain across the watershed in order to move that excess input through the system as quickly and as safely and as responsibly as we can."

- Adam Wakefield, district manager MNRF Parry Sound

express concerns with water level response during extreme weather events.

Adam Wakefield, district man-

ager for the Parry Sound region, said there are 64 ministry-owned dams in Parry Sound, Almaguin and Muskoka, and that dam oper-

ations are more reactive than proactive.

"What we do is we look at the watershed as a whole ... 90 per cent of the time when Almie and Coche's (dams) are operated, the Watts Dam is operated at the same time," Wakefield explained, adding Watts Dam is the dam that mitigates levels in Doe Lake.

"There is the intent to create ... an equitable impact across the watershed," he said. "In some cases, what it just comes down to is we're looking to share the pain across the watershed in order to move that excess input through

Home
FOR BUILDING SUPPLIES

Great Price Friendly Advice

- Lumber • Building Supplies • Hardware
- Plumbing and Electrical • Propane
- Paints/Stains • Toys and Gifts
- Garden Centre
- Bottled Water • Bottle Return

Monday - Saturday 8 - 5
Closed Sundays

Magnetawan "In the Heart of the Almaguin Highlands"
Proudly Canadian

705-387-3988
1-866-582-3988

E-mail: magnetawanbuilding@belnet.ca