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114th Year - No. 33

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Eganville, Ontario

(\$1.90 plus 10 cents GST) \$2



Although he was too young to enter the inaugural Junior Loggers competition on Saturday in Round Lake Centre, three-year-old Reid Walsh received a "special gift" from games' organizer Stanley Pecoskie for his authentic loggers look, complete with toy chainsaw. Reid is the son of Joe and Joan Walsh of Killaloe. See page 12.

Former Eganville priest is defrocked by Catholic Church

Diocese of Pembroke notified in January of decision from Rome to dismiss former monsignor, Robert Borne

By Debbi Christinck
Staff Writer

Pembroke -- Although Robert Borne only served a few months of house arrest after being found guilty of molesting a teenager, the Roman Catholic Church has been harsher in its assessment, defrocking him of his status as priest.

"The dismissal of Robert Borne has been executed through a decree of a canonical process," Diocese of Pembroke Bishop Michael Mulhall wrote in a letter to clergy throughout the diocese dated January 25. "This decree was upheld by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and there is no appeal."

The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith decree was issued in early December and the Diocese was notified in early January. Bishop Mulhall made the decree public on January 26 and said it was up to each pastor how to notify their parish.

"This is a very sad document that I am sending to you," he wrote to the parish priests. "Especially in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the full impact of this decision is sobering, while, at the same time, just and proper."

The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith is based in Rome and was created to "safeguard and defend the morals of the Catholic Church." It also deals with sex abuse cases in the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Borne, now in his mid-60s, has not been functioning as a priest in the diocese since 2008 when the OPP brought charges against him of molesting several teenage boys.



Former Pembroke Diocese priest, Msgr. Robert Borne, has been dismissed from the priesthood by Rome. The diocese was notified on January 26.

The Pembroke native, who rose to the rank of Monsignor in the Catholic Church and served at St. James the Less in Eganville, was found guilty in 2011 of assaulting and committing an act of gross indecency against a 16-year-old boy at the rectory in Griffith in 1979. He was sentenced to a nine-month conditional sentence, with the first five months in house arrest. Throughout the proceedings, the priest had maintained his innocence to the charges, although he did admit to having had sexual relationships with men. He did admit to "mutual groping"

of the teenage boy in Griffith.

Mr. Borne was also charged with one count of indecent assault and one of gross indecency against a 19-year-old at the St. Columbkille Rectory in Pembroke in 1981, but was acquitted on those charges. At the time of the incidents, he would have been in his 30s, and was serving as the secretary to the bishop.

During the court proceedings Mr. Borne admitted he had been involved in sexual relationship with several men, but denied being a homosexual. During the sentencing process both the victim and his mother spoke of their loss of faith in the Catholic Church because of the assault from the priest. The mother stated when she learned the priest had had sexual relationships with two of her sons she went to speak to him, but he denied the incidents occurred. Because the priest was serving as the Bishop's secretary at the time, she did not try to speak to the bishop. However, she said in her victim impact statement when she spoke to her parish priest, he said his hands were tied.

At one time Mr. Borne faced 19 charges, including gross indecency, sexual exploitation, indecent assault on a male and breach of trust in connection with incidents alleged to have occurred between 1977 and 1993. Most of the charges against several victims would later be dismissed during an examination of discoveries prior to his trial.

Mr. Borne was in Eganville when police began investigating accusations against him.

See Page 2

Goddard sentenced to life imprisonment for murder

By R. Bruce McIntyre
Staff Writer

Pembroke -- Brian Goddard received a life sentence for the Second

Degree Murder of Dan Pietersma and the attempted murder of his wife, Sharlene Pietersma. In a ruling handed down by Justice Timothy Ray

last Thursday in a packed Pembroke courtroom, he will be eligible for parole in 18 years.

Mr. Goddard was also sentenced

to 14 years for the attempted murder of Mrs. Pietersma and six years for aggravated assault for his attack on then 17-year-old Emma Guthrie. The convictions will be served concurrently with the life sentence.

Led into the prisoner's box in courtroom number five, Mr. Goddard, appearing clean-shaven with short hair and a grey pin-stripe jacket and white shirt, sat in shackles to await his sentence and to hear first-hand the impact of his actions.

Although scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., the actual proceedings did not begin until nearly 11 o'clock. During that one-hour period, the courtroom was almost in complete silence as the family and friends of Sharlene Pietersma and Emma Guthrie stared at him awaiting the judge's arrival.

The victims were spared a long and painful trial when Mr. Goddard, 28, pled guilty to all charges on January 19.

In an agreed statement of facts read out by Crown Attorney Dallas Mack, the court first heard on January 19 that Bryan Goddard was on a drug-fuelled rampage when he entered a Petawawa Point residence and stabbed Danny Pietersma to death. The fatal attack on Mr. Pietersma followed a vicious attack on Emma Guthrie.

When he pled guilty three weeks ago, Justice Timothy Ray informed him he was giving up his right to a trial and the court was not bound by any agreement that was drawn up between his lawyers, Dominic Lamb

and Michael Johnston, and the Crown Attorney's office.

On that day, court heard that armed with a knife and handgun, the troubled 25-year old Pembroke man was high on cocaine, speed and marijuana when he sought to take out what he called his "rage and sexual depravity on other people" in a deadly home invasion on the morning of June 28, 2013.

Mr. Pietersma, a 56-year-old father and grandfather, died as a result of massive blood loss from multiple stab wounds, while his 55-year-old wife, Sharlene, was so severely injured she is now blind.

The courtroom heard victim impact statements of the effect of the attack on both victims, their families and friends.

Due to her blindness, Mrs. Pietersma was unable to read her statement. Her niece, Angela Merchand, read aloud both Mrs. Pietersma's statement, and the statement of her daughter, Karisma, who was also in the house that fateful day along with her two young children, aged eight and six at the time.

You Took My Dan Away From Me

When Ms. Merchand read the statements, her voice was strong and powerful and when she looked up, she stared directly at Mr. Goddard. During her entire testimony, she never lost her composure, and the confidence of her statement left those in the courtroom in shock of the severity of her

aunt's suffering.

"You walked into our family home on that Friday morning, unannounced, unexpected and uninvited," Ms. Merchand read. "You stood there and watched as we went about our morning routines; my grandbabies, playing in the living room. That should have been all you needed to turn around and walk out that door, but instead you unleashed the most cruel and disgusting acts upon complete strangers, upon a little family that had fallen on hard times."

"Karisma woke up to a nightmare, her children desperately calling for help because someone was hurting Nana and Poppa. While I slowly bled out on my bed, I was powerless to respond to my own child's terrified cries. That sinking feeling of helplessness, of not being able to protect your babies from harm's way, is a burden I wouldn't wish upon any mother."

While reading her aunt's statement, Ms. Merchand detailed the severity of the attacks on her aunt and uncle. Not only was Mrs. Pietersma left permanently blinded from the attack, but she spent months in hospital learning to walk and eat again. The heel of her foot was nearly severed and numerous stab wounds to her throat, arms, legs and back still plague her with pain today.

Ms. Merchand also read details of Mrs. Pietersma's loss of independence.

See Page 2



Sharlene Pietersma, accompanied by her sister, Heather, is all smiles leaving the Pembroke courthouse last Thursday. Bryan Goddard was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Dan Pietersma. He was also sentenced to 14 years for the attempted murder of Mrs. Pietersma which left her blind, and another six years for aggravated assault against then 17-year-old Emma Guthrie.

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Sharlene Pietersma says thanks to a caring community

By R. Bruce McIntyre
Staff Writer

Pembroke -- Two and one-half years later, Sharlene Pietersma may finally get a good night's sleep. A sleep in a home that was built by the love and support of an entire community in the wake of a terrifying day that took the life of her beloved husband and permanently blinded her.

Last Thursday, Sharlene heard the words she thought would never come. "Mr. Goddard, you are sentenced to life imprisonment with no eligibility for parole for a period of not less than 18 years," Justice Timothy Ray read to a hushed courtroom.

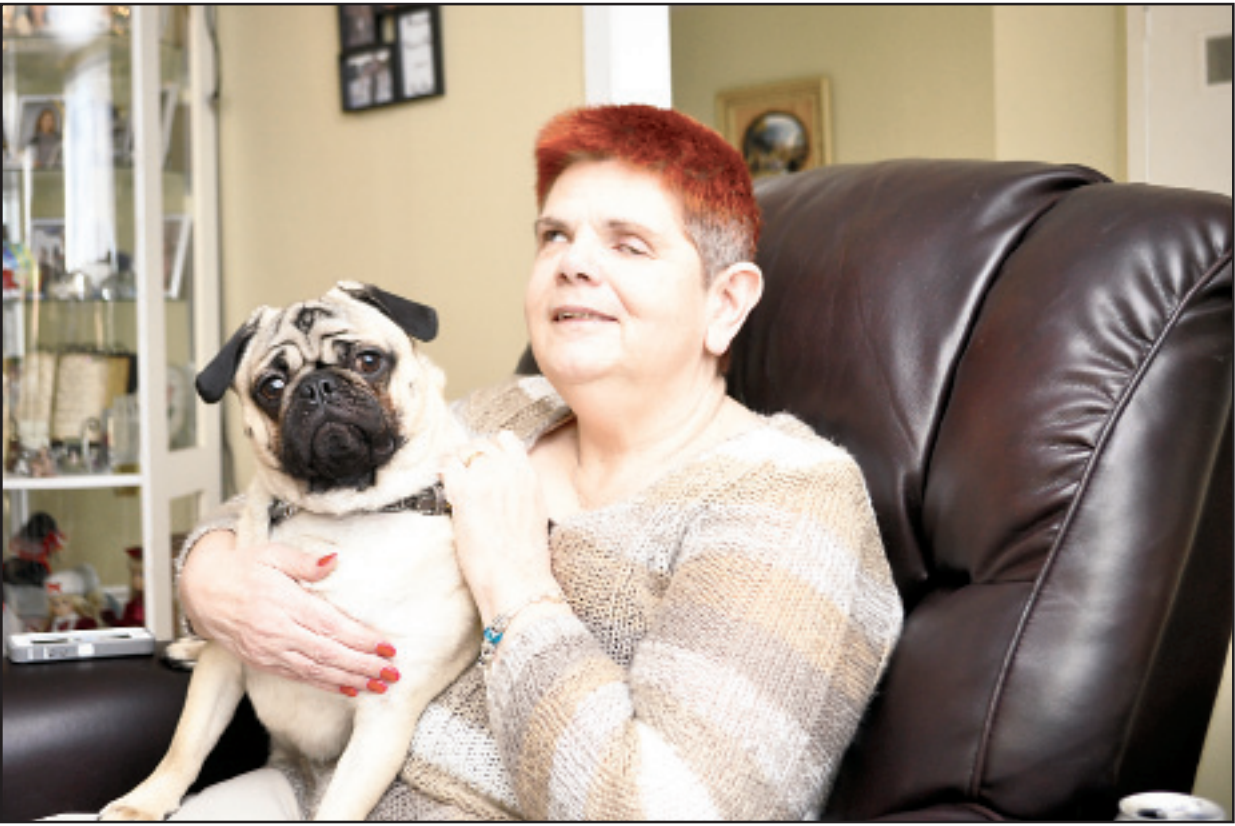
With those simple words, a dark chapter in Mrs. Pietersma's life had come to an end. With the love and support of family and friends, she made her way from Superior Courtroom Number Five in what she hopes will be her last visit to a courthouse.

Although she cannot read due to her blindness, her words were read aloud that day by her niece, Angela Merchand. Ms. Merchand literally gripped those in attendance with a strength and conviction in her tone that showed no hint of intimidation as she stared down at the man who had robbed her family of so much on June 28, 2013.

"Your vicious reign of knife-wielding terror cheated our family of a long, prosperous future of growing old together," Ms Merchand read. "Dan Pietersma was my soul mate. He was my Dan. But most importantly, he was every bit the hero we knew he was, right down to the bitter end. He selflessly put his life on the line to protect me and the children."

Following the attack, Mrs. Pietersma would spend nearly nine months in hospital in Ottawa and Pembroke learning basic living skills and learning to live in the darkness of permanent blindness.

When she began to regain some independence, she learned she needed to sell her home in order to build or move to a home to meet her needs. She commissioned Ted Kent, owner



Now that Bryan Goddard has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the second degree murder of her husband, Dan, Sharlene Pietersma is hoping to try and enjoy her new home that was built through a community fundraising effort in Petawawa. The attack by Bryan Goddard left Mrs. Pietersma blind, but she now has a new dog, Duct Tape, to help keep her company.

and operator of Kent Construction, to do a home inspection to determine what was needed to get it in shape to sell. Following a lengthy inspection, Mr. Kent determined that there was severe structural damage, and it would actually be cheaper to demolish it and build it new.

He informed Mrs. Pietersma's family of the enormous costs involved. However, what Mr. Kent did not realize when he initially did the inspection, was that Sharlene had lost everything on that fateful June day.

Over the next two years, he would lead a massive community fundraising project to build a new home for Sharlene at the same location.

Following the sentence as friends and family gathered around Mrs. Pi-

etersma to offer her hugs and words of encouragement, her niece spoke to the *Leader* about the entire process.

"I don't even know where to begin with the support of the community," Angela Merchand said. "The home they built for Sharlene is beyond words. No words could even describe the feeling that my aunt has every single day. Just last night she said waking up every single morning in that home is something she'll never, ever be thankful enough for to everyone that participated in that for her."

When Mrs. Pietersma emerged from the courthouse, she was leaning on her sister Heather's arm to guide her. She took a moment to address the media. When asked about how she felt about Mr. Goddard, and the

possibility he may seek parole in 18 years, she did not mince words.

"I'll be there," she said. "He's not getting out. I'm happy with 18 years here and now, but I'll be there, my children will be there and my grandchildren will be there. He is still an ogre to me but just because I can't see him. I didn't see the remorse, so it's hard for me to think that he has any real remorse. I am just ready to move on."

Mrs. Pietersma is hopeful she can now lead a quiet life and try to enjoy her grandchildren, and the impending birth of her newest grandchild which was due any day.

"I may not be able to see my new grandchild, but I will be able to hold the baby," she said. "I will think of

Dan every day and I will never forget him. I still miss him, but I have the love and support of my family and this tragedy has brought us together."

When Mrs. Pietersma returned to her home following the sentencing, she was met at the door by her newest companion. Last year Mrs. Pietersma made a new friend in the form of a

pug dog.

She named him *Duct Tape*. Her late husband always said anything could be fixed with duct tape. For Mrs. Pietersma, she may finally get a good night's sleep in her home. And *Duct Tape* will be there beside her and give her a sense of security.



Angela Merchand, one of Mrs. Pietersma's nieces, read victim impact statements prepared by both Mrs. Pietersma and her daughter, Karisma. During her address, Mrs. Merchand outlined the physical, emotional and psychological toll the attacks perpetrated by Mr. Goddard has caused.

Emotional victim impact statements read out to Goddard

From front

"After the attack, returning to my management position was out of the question without my sight," she said. "Putting in my forced resignation was one of the hardest things I ever had to do. I will never see the world around me again. I live in constant darkness. In the closing part of the statement, the words of Mrs. Pietersma echoed a sense of closure.

"I am here today to tell you I am no longer afraid of the dark because I know justice will be served," Ms. Merchand read. "Maybe, just maybe, you'll know what it is like to live in that darkness and never see the light of day again, just like I will never see the light. You have taken so much from me but I refuse to be afraid anymore, I refuse to let you take my joy and my hope in humanity from me. Our Dan did not die in vain. I will not forget, Mr. Goddard, and neither will you."

Ms. Merchand then read Karisma's prepared statement.

"I would like to start by saying I lost one of the most important images in my life, my dad," she said. "In many ways I lost my mom as well. Another loss came eight weeks after you murdered my dad and that was the death of my grandma. Her son being murdered by some random selfless act caused an impact that she

couldn't handle and it cost her life."

Throughout the statement, Karisma Pietersma told how she gave birth to a child her mother will never see, and currently expecting another child, she is saddened her father will never be able to hold the baby. She was unable to return to her home and she lost three months of work because she was travelling back and forth to Ottawa to be with her mother, and even when her mother did return home, Karisma would spend many evenings with her as her mom was terrified to be left alone.

As she finished reading the statements, Ms. Merchand looked directly at Mr. Goddard.

"This is not the end of the story by any imagination. God can deal with you from here," she said. "In the next life you will answer for everything you say and everything you do."

As she left the witness box, Ms. Merchand stared directly at Mr. Goddard realizing that was the last time she would see him again for at least 18 years.

Dustin Pietersma, son of Sharlene and Dan, had his statement entered into evidence and a statement prepared by Sharlene's sister, Sheryl Liot, was read aloud by family member Kim Ryan.

I'm Scared All the Time

The third victim from that fateful

day is Petawawa teenager Emma Guthrie. Ms. Guthrie was only 17 at the time, and for the first time, she came face-to-face with Mr. Goddard since he attacked her more than two years ago.

Along with her mother, Tricia Bauman at her side, she also made her way to the witness box to deliver a powerful statement.

"On June 28, 2013, I woke up a vibrant 17-year-old lady only to go to bed that night in a hospital bed feeling like a scared and confused child," she said. "I was attacked not once, but twice in the sanctity of my own home and yard. I have been left with three permanent scars that I feel every day. I was left for dead and blinded by my own blood.

"I am scared all the time. I fear someone else will come after me or my family. I now live with severe stress, anxiety, depression and PTSD. No healthy 17-year-old should have these conditions inflicted upon them because of another's actions. These are awful, and at times, debilitating conditions that unfortunately I will now live with for the rest of my life."

Following her statement, her mother, Ms. Bauman took the stand, and fighting back emotions and tears throughout her testimony, told of the helplessness of watching her daughter

in the emergency room covered in blood, and the guilt she felt for not being there to protect her.

She also spoke of the financial impact on their household. Ms. Bauman operated a daycare out of her home and was forced to close it for a number of months while she nursed her daughter back to health.

She concluded her statement by informing Mr. Goddard that despite all the terror and anguish his actions brought upon their family, her daughter has prevailed and he will never again have an opportunity to test a mother's strength or a daughter's will to live.

Life Imprisonment

Following the statements, Mr. Goddard's defence counsels, Dominic Lamb and Michael Johnston, presented Justice Ray with some background on his client.

They described Mr. Goddard as a young man who became addicted to drugs around the age of 16, moved out west to work in the oil fields and returned to the Pembroke area around 2007.

He would remain for the most part unemployed for the next six years and was involved in a serious car accident with his father. Although he saved his life, his father lost an arm and was paralyzed. However, his father never forgave him for not letting

him die and this led to greater drug dependency.

Mr. Goddard had no previous criminal record and his defence argued he showed true remorse for his actions and pled guilty and had letters of support from the manager of the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre citing his good behaviour over the last 2 ½ years.

His defence argued these mitigating circumstances warranted parole eligibility in 18 years.

The Crown Attorney's Office, represented by Dallas Mack and Anya Kortenaar, drafted a joint position that included the life sentence with no chance of parole for 18 years; a lifetime prohibition from owning weapons of any kind; a mandatory DNA sample and a non-communication order with any of the victims.

Justice Ray asked Mr. Goddard if he had anything to say to the court. Mr. Goddard, in wrist and ankle shackles, stood and addressed the Bench.

"Your Honour, I am very, very sorry for the hurt I have caused," he said. "I know the hurt that I have caused is irreparable and nothing I say will make it better. I am hoping the life sentence will bring some closure to everyone."

Following closing arguments, Justice Ray complimented both sets of legal counsels for their collaborative efforts and recessed to chambers

where he wrote up his decision.

When he retired to chambers at approximately 11:45 a.m., the *Leader* interviewed Ms. Merchand outside the courtroom.

"I think this will really bring a sense of closure for everyone involved," she said. "I looked him in the eye and I saw a little tear. But it doesn't matter because no matter how he feels now, he can never take back the hurt he has caused my family. But at least everyone can move forward."

During the recess, Mrs. Pietersma, accompanied by her sister Heather, also spoke of closure, but she also spoke of a possible parole for Mr. Goddard.

"I'll be there," she said, leaving the courthouse for lunch. "He's not getting out. I'm happy with 18 years here and now, but I'll be there, my children will be there and my grandchildren will be there. He is still an ogre to me but just because I can't see him. I didn't see the remorse, so it's hard for me to think that he has any real remorse. I am just ready to move on."

When Justice Ray returned nearly four hours later with his ruling, he accepted all the conditions of the joint position and sentenced Mr. Goddard to life imprisonment.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Goddard is eligible for his first parole hearing on June 28, 2031.

Former priest held high positions in Pembroke Diocese

From front

The Renfrew County Crime Unit of the Ontario Provincial Police started its investigation in early 2008 after receiving a complaint a sexual assault allegedly occurred while a then-teenage boy visited the priest.

During his time as a priest in the Diocese of Pembroke, Mr. Borne was the bishop's assistant and worked with the chancery office. Shortly before his arrest, he was the parish priest in Eganville as well as at the church in Pikwakanagan, Nativity of Mary. He served as pastor in the Eganville area from 1996 through 2008. He was also the co-ordinator of activities at

St. Ann's Parish in Cormac where he held a high-profile position during the annual pilgrimage which attracts thousands each summer.

Ordained in 1974, he was a curate in Mattawa between 1974 and 1975. From 1975 until 2003, he served in a number of administrative roles including chancellor of the diocese and secretary to the bishop. He became pastor at St. James in Eganville in 2003.

At the time of his arrest, Mr. Borne had been transferred to the diocese office in Pembroke and assigned administrative duties.

In his letter last week to the clergy

in the Diocese, Bishop Mulhall said as sobering as the defrocking of Mr. Borne has been it is good to recognize the church has the right "to impose a just penalty for the good of the community.

"With this action, the Church has not denied Robert Borne something that is his right or that he deserves," he wrote. "On the contrary, by this decision, Robert Borne will no longer be able to exercise a great gift which had been given to him by Christ through the church."

However, he will still be able to receive the sacraments, Bishop Mulhall added.

Bishop Mulhall celebrated weekend masses at St. James in Eganville and Nativity of Mary in Golden Lake and personally shared the news with parishioners.

Mr. Borne is not the first priest to be defrocked in the Diocese in recent years nor the first priest to be charged and convicted of molesting teenage boys. Wilno native Bernard Prince was charged and pled guilty in 2008 to charges of molesting numerous boys in the Wilno area. He was defrocked in 2009.

Other Diocese of Pembroke priests have also been found guilty of molesting young men, either in the

court system or through civil action. Father Dan Miller pled guilty in 2013 of molesting teenage boys and sentenced to nine months in jail. In 2014, he faced charges again, but this time pled not guilty and was found not guilty.

In May of 2015, the Diocese of Pembroke settled a civil case in which a man accused the late Father Henry Maloney of abusing him when the priest was serving in the Bancroft area.

The extent of cases of the sexual abuse of young people by priests have gained media notoriety in recent months with the Oscar nomina-

tions of the movie *Spotlight*. It deals with abuse by clergy in the Boston area and the media investigation which uncovered the extent of the abuse. In the movie, other areas of the world are cited where there has been a number of abuse charges against a priest and Wilno is given as an example. The Catholic Church in Ireland, Canada and the United States have seen numerous priests charged and convicted of sexually abusing minors. In 2014, the Vatican reported 848 priests were defrocked in the last decade. During that time over 3,400 cases of abuse were reported to Rome.

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Teen comes face to face in courtroom with attacker

By R. Bruce McIntyre
Staff Writer
Pembroke -- On March 18, Emma Guthrie of Petawawa will celebrate her 20th birthday. A day after Saint Patrick's Day, she is hoping to finally have a birthday party and leave her teen years behind with a sense of hope and change. Most of all, she hopes to leave behind the horror and fear that has gripped her life since she was 17.

She was always known as 'the 17-year-old victim.'

Due to her age, her name was never linked to the horror and carnage brought about by Bryan Goddard. On June 28, 2013, Emma's life was forever changed when Mr. Goddard invaded her home, knocked her unconscious with a pipe, chased her out of her own home, repeatedly beat her before he panicked and continued his drug-induced rage when he murdered Dan Pietersma and blinded Dan's wife Sharlene in a brutal knife attack.

However, last week in a Pembroke courtroom, her name was officially read into the court transcripts and she faced her attacker as she delivered a powerful and moving victim impact statement in front of her friends and family.

At her side, as has been the case for the last few years, was her mother, Tricia Bauman. Together, they stood tall in that courtroom and for the first time, the general public gained a greater insight into their challenges, but more importantly, their strength and resolve.

In an interview with the Leader, Ms. Guthrie opened up about her experience and how it affected her life.

"I just want people to know who I am and where I am going," she said. "What this community has done for Sharlene has been absolutely incredible and she deserves everything people have given her. She lost her

husband and her eyesight and she deserves a good life. I hope she somehow has a wonderful life.

"But I think with all the attention, people don't realize what happened to me. I will never be the same, and my mom will never be the same. I

am still scared today. I know that I have PTSD and I know that I will have that for the rest of my life. My life changed on June 28 as well, and I am doing my best to go on."

When Bryan Goddard attacked Ms. Guthrie, it was a case of being in the



Emma Guthrie, now 19, was only 17 when Bryan Goddard attacked her in her home on June 28, 2013 in Petawawa. Here, Ms. Guthrie holds a copy of her victim impact statement she read aloud in court last week. For the first time, Ms. Guthrie spoke publicly about the incident when she faced Mr. Goddard last week in a Pembroke courtroom when he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

wrong place at the wrong time. It is hard to imagine your home as being the wrong place, but when Mr. Guthrie's intended victim left the area with a boy, he randomly targeted Ms. Guthrie.

Within her victim impact statement, Ms. Guthrie goes into great detail about the actual physical injuries she sustained and her time of rehabilitation in the hospital.

Instead of heading out to look for a summer job that day and thinking about her last year at General Panet High School, she was literally running for her life to escape the clutches of Mr. Goddard.

After he left her for dead and proceeded to the Pietersma's house, Emma was able to regain consciousness and call for help. Paramedics arrived at her home and transported her to hospital. Her mother would arrive an hour later and see her daughter covered in blood and fighting for her life.

Once her immediate physical injuries were treated, the long road to mental and physical recovery had just begun.

"At 17, I had to have my mom bathe me, do my hair and dress me," she said. "I couldn't sleep because of night terrors and it took months before I could even move out of my mom's bed and on to a cot at the foot of her bed."

I have memory loss, which will never come back. I have frustration due to the memory loss. Try writing exams when you can't remember what you were taught. My vision was impacted so severely that I couldn't walk or properly drive a car."

Today, Ms. Guthrie appears as a vibrant and normal teenager. But underneath that appearance is a young lady who still struggles with anxiety and stress. She took an extra year to complete her last year of high school.

She originally planned to attend college away from Petawawa in order to gain some life experience. However, after the attack, she was terrified to leave home, so she enrolled in Algonquin College in Pembroke.

She was forced to quit dance classes. She loved to dance and even went four times a week. But since the attack, she couldn't handle the echoes of the studio or the loud music or crowds of people. She also lost the simple physical co-ordination which once came so easily to this happy-go-lucky girl.

"Today, as I sit in this courthouse waiting for the sentence, I am still scared," she said. "The slightest thing might set me off. It is really frustrating, but I am getting better. If it wasn't for my mom and my brother, I don't know what I would have done."

Within her mom's victim impact statement, Ms. Bauman made reference to the enormous guilt she felt for not being home that day to protect her daughter. Her older brother also expressed that same sense of guilt.

"The guilt that I felt that day and still feel is unbearable," she read to the courtroom. "I was not there for my daughter in her greatest time of need. But what was worse, is that in the minutes, hours and years that followed, there were times I didn't know how to be her mother because of the side effects of her injuries."

"I couldn't hug my daughter because it caused a memory or unwanted touch to resurface. I couldn't speak in a certain voice or make certain hand gestures because it triggered something of that day. I couldn't cry when I was frustrated or overwhelmingly sad that this happened to my precious daughter, because it would upset her and she would cry and feel guilty. Guilt is something you have no control over."

Through it all, Emma has been able

to find a way to move on and even smile. She recently completed one semester at Algonquin College in Ottawa in the dental hygienist program. She is taking some time off to regroup and plans to return to Ottawa in September to resume her studies.

Both she and her mother recognize the delivery of a life sentence for Mr. Goddard allows them both the time to heal and reflect. They are both determined not to let hate and self-pity consume their lives.

Her mother reopened the daycare from their family home. Even though the terror of those attacks in the sanctity of her home still haunt her, Emma feels safest in her home.

"I know every creak and sound of my house," she said. "I know the lighting in the house and I know it is a safe place despite what happened. Today, we always lock the door and I still get anxious when someone comes to the door or a car pulls in the driveway."

"But I want people to know I am doing better. I have come to accept that no matter how much I try, I will still need to deal with this for the rest of my life, and I am okay with that."

When Justice Ray delivered his verdict last week, Emma quietly put her head down and shed a few tears. She had the chance to look her attacker in the eyes and tell him he may have beaten her down, but he did not defeat her.

"I will continue to forge ahead and get my life back despite your cowardly actions," she said to him. "It is now your turn to pay for what you have done."

As Emma and her mother left the courtroom she was asked how she planned to celebrate her upcoming birthday.

"It is the day after St. Patrick's Day. I am hoping to finally have a real party and have fun."

Province denies request for extrication aid in Head, Clara, Maria

By Debbi Christinck
Staff Writer
Stonecliffe -- Travellers on an isolated stretch of the trans-Canada highway in Head, Clara and Maria Township still have no extrication services if there is an accident and it seems the province is unwilling to step in to help.

"The province has told us they have nothing to offer us to assist us in any way," Head, Clara and Maria

Mayor Jim Gibson said. "So from Bisset Creek to Colton Lake there is no extrication."

Although the population of his township is small, the township does cover a long stretch of highway in the westerly end of Renfrew County. Since Head, Clara and Maria has no fire department, the extrication was covered by an agreement through the North Renfrew Emergency Response Unit

Board. However, a recent trend of neighbouring fire departments to limit services to other municipalities means this stretch of highway has no one to provide extrication. Although Deep River had been providing the service, there was a concern there was not enough staff to handle providing extrication in the neighbouring township. Laurentian Hills was also approached about providing extrication. There

was the possibility of purchasing extrication equipment for Head, Clara and Maria, but at \$30,000 the township could not afford it, Mayor Gibson said.

The township is divided by Highway 17 and runs parallel to the highway on both sides, so council asked the province to step in and provide coverage.

"We got a call back and they are not going to do anything," the mayor

said. "So we are in limbo."

The township had argued since this is a provincial highway, the province should provide fire suppression and extrication on the highway.

Although there is an agreement with Mattawa to provide services to Bisset Creek, there is still a stretch that has no coverage. This is an issue not only for the township but also for the county since the paramedic service still will respond to

highway collisions throughout the township. However, paramedics have no extrication equipment.


Mayor Gibson said he is unaware if there have been calls for extrication on this stretch of highway since the extrication agreement ended with Deep River.

The County Health Committee has been charged to look into the situation, and a report is expected in the coming months.

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