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THE HUNTSVILLE FORESTER



MUSKOKA'S LEADING WEEKLY SERVING
HUNTSVILLE AND AREA SINCE 1877



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Machete, knives used in bloody downtown rampage



LAUGHING ALL THE WAY TO JAIL: Cameron Simpson, on the left, and Jesse Hickey laugh as they are taken from the Huntsville courthouse on May 3 after pleading guilty to multiple assaults. Hickey, on the right, had just pleaded guilty to stabbing two different men a total of 13 times in the early morning hours of Jan. 3.

BY ROLAND CILLIERS

January 3, 2016, was a remarkably bloody day for Huntsville.

Jesse Hickey, 21, and Cameron Simpson, 20, both of Huntsville pleaded guilty on May 3 for their part in an early morning string of attacks in the downtown core that resulted in a total of 13 stab wounds against two different men and another man being knocked unconscious because he had given the group incorrect information. A third man is also charged in connection to the matter but isn't scheduled to plead until May 11.

Hickey pleaded guilty to two counts of assault with a weapon and one count of failure to comply. Simpson pleaded guilty to assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm.

This was the first criminal conviction for both men. Crown Attorney Ted Carlton argued that a jail sentence was called for in this case despite it being a first offence and both accused having lots of support in the community.

"These men took matters into their own hands. They went in numbers and they went with weapons," said Carlton.

The statement of facts detailed an evening that started with a dispute at a residence on Huntsville's Main Street. That dispute did not directly result in criminal charges but reportedly included a confrontation between the men who were ultimately the victims and the three accused. The two groups separated with the men who

became the victims in the matter leaving for a Princess Street residence.

Hickey, Simpson and the third man then decide they are going to do something about the incident and arm themselves. The weapons the group are carrying include a hatchet, a machete, a multi-tool, a baseball bat and a roughly 8-inch knife.

The group was unaware of where the victims lived. In order to get that information they coerced another man to tell them and at one point in the interaction Simpson punched that man in the head knocking him out.

Now with the correct address the three accused and a fourth individual, who was not charged, went to the victims house on Princess Street. It's now roughly 3 a.m. on Jan. 3.

When the door is answered by one of the victims the three accused men and a fourth individual are standing there. After a brief verbal exchange the violence starts.

"[The first victim] strikes [the third man charged] with an edged weapon, that was never found, and strikes him in the side of his chin," said Carlton.

"[The third man charged] takes the machete and strikes [the first victim] on the top of the head. At that point Mr. Simpson, who is the largest of the three people charged, he moves in, grabs [the first victim] and [the third man charged] and [the second victim] get involved in a confrontation."

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