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'We are broken,' one victim in \$1.3M scam tells judge



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Victims of a \$1.3-million investment scam gather outside court during a break in the trial of Jennifer Killins on Thursday. From left: Jo-An Lauzon, Brian Morrison, Natalie Allaire, Huguette Allaire, Chanelle Lauzon, Donna Morrison, Lydia Allaire and Gerard Ottier.

Former financial adviser Jennifer Killins pleads guilty to stealing from about 20 clients from 2008 to 2012

Brian Caldwell, Record staff

KITCHENER — Jennifer Killins occasionally wiped away tears after admitting she is a thief and a liar on Thursday.

But her brief flashes of emotion paled next to the outpouring of grief and anger as victims of the former financial adviser filed up to the front of a Kitchener courtroom.

One after another, they detailed sleepless nights, dashed retirement plans and the embarrassment of being taken by the Waterloo woman in a fraud with \$1.3 million in losses.

"I hope what you have done to all of these people haunts you forever," said Daniel Lauzon of Guelph.

"We are broken," said his wife, Jo-An. As some victims spoke, others in the crowded courtroom sobbed.

One man was so choked up when his wife tried to have her say, he had to rush out into the hall.

And when his wife couldn't stop crying long enough to even begin talking, Justice Colin Westman took the unusual step of doing it for her.

"She was greedy, dishonest and heartless," Westman said, reading aloud from the woman's written statement.

Killins, 38, pleaded guilty to four crimes in a scam between 2008 and 2012 that roped in about 20 victims from Waterloo Region and surrounding areas.

Many have had to sell their homes or delay retirement after losing their life savings. Others are saddled with payments after taking out loans for investments that were never actually made.

Some also have ongoing problems with the Canada Revenue Agency after Killins filed fraudulent income tax returns for them, or said she had filed returns and actually didn't.

► Killins continued on page A5

Cambridge teacher faces sex-related charges

Linda Givetash, Record staff

CAMBRIDGE — A female Preston High School teacher has been charged with sex-related offences involving two male students.

Sonya Russell, a 40-year-old Waterloo resident, has been charged with two counts of luring by computer, invitation to sexual touching and sexual exploitation. She was arrested Wednesday.

Russell appeared in a Kitchener court Thursday afternoon and a publication ban was put into effect.

"The charges relate to allegations of inappropriate interaction between the accused and two male students at the school," police stated Thursday.

► Teacher continued on page A2



FACEBOOK PHOTO

Sonya Russell

INSIDE

NBA draft stunner

Anthony Bennett of Brampton becomes first Canadian to be No. 1 pick | Sports, D1



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Kitchener bridge could collapse without warning, engineer says

Terry Pender, Record staff

KITCHENER — The Margaret Avenue bridge could collapse without warning and will remain closed to vehicles and pedestrians indefinitely, says the city's chief engineer.

"This is serious," Barbara Robinson said in an interview Thursday.

The bridge was closed on June 13, and will remain closed while the city waits for structural engi-

neers to review the report that triggered the closure. That is expected to take a maximum of three weeks.

A bridge with a similar design collapsed without warning in a suburb of Montreal in September 2006, killing five people. Engineers call these bridges drop-in spans supported by cantilevers.

The Margaret Avenue bridge was built in 1959 and is of a design that was used for a lot of bridges in the '50s, '60s and '70s.

"The design of the bridge has a fundamental flaw, in the sense we cannot inspect the structural components of the bridge," Robinson said. "So these kinds of bridges are no longer being built, and these kinds of bridges can fail without warning."

A routine inspection of the bridge occurred last year. The city received a draft report of the inspection in January 2013.

► Bridge continued on page A2



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

The Margaret Avenue bridge in Kitchener could collapse without warning and will remain closed to vehicles and pedestrians.

SEE THE SIGNS... SLOW DOWN

Our road crews are out daily making repairs to keep everyone safe. Help them stay safe by obeying the signs. You may not be saving time, but you are saving lives.







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On the web



Brawl in the hall

Parliamentarians from Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang party duked it out with opposition legislators in parliament. There was hair pulling, water throwing and even crying over the capital gains tax.

Quote of the day

"Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before."
Mae West

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By Dave Green

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	9				4	6
6		2				
	7		1			3
		6	4			
3			7		8	
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1	9				2	
	5	9				

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

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Previous solution

6	2	4	3	9	7	5	1	8
9	5	7	1	8	6	3	4	2
1	3	8	2	4	5	9	7	6
4	9	2	6	7	3	1	8	5
8	6	3	5	1	4	7	2	9
5	7	1	9	2	8	4	6	3
3	4	5	7	6	2	8	9	1
2	8	9	4	3	1	6	5	7
7	1	6	8	5	9	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

How to play

The object is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in empty squares so that each column, row and 3x3 box contains each number only once. The difficulty level of Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Teacher will work from home, board says

► **Teacher** continued from A1

Police spokesperson Olaf Heinzl said the alleged inappropriate activity occurred over the past year.

News of the allegations against the history and social sciences teacher came as a shock to the school community.

"This is very unsettling news for us. We really put student safety at the forefront of everything that we do," said Laura Hodgins, superintendent of education for the Water-

loo Region District School Board.

Students and parents with concerns about the matter are welcome to call Preston High School and speak to principal Bill Lemon, Hodgins said.

Prior to Thursday's hearing, school board officials said Russell was placed on "home duty" for the time being; she will continue to receive pay while working from home.

"We're co-operating fully with the police investigation and we are awaiting the out-

come of that investigation in terms of what further action we will be taking," Hodgins said.

Russell maintained a public Twitter account where she actively corresponded with students.

Her husband is also a teacher at Preston High School.

Since the arrest was made, several young people have taken to using the hash tag "#FreeSonya" on Twitter in support of the teacher.

Pending the investigation, the school board will also review current policies regarding staff and teacher use of computers and technology.

The police investigation continues and anyone with information can call police at 519-650-8500, ext. 8646, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

lgivetash@therecord.com
With files from Fran Barrick

McGuinty named senior fellow at Harvard

News services

TORONTO — Former premier Dalton McGuinty has been named a senior fellow at Harvard University, the Toronto Star has learned.

McGuinty, who governed Ontario from 2003 until last February, will decamp to Cambridge, Mass., for the fall semester at Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

While in office, McGuinty made education his top policy priority, but he also devoted time to international affairs, conducting numerous trade missions to China, India, Israel, Lebanon, Pakistan, the West Bank, and the U.S., among other places.

The fellowship at the prestigious Weatherhead Center — co-founded by former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger — will allow McGuinty to again follow in his father's footsteps.

Dalton McGuinty Sr., a Liberal MPP until his death in 1990, attended Harvard Business School.

The Weatherhead Center hosts more than a dozen senior fellows each year.

They include former politicians, officials from non-governmental organizations, journalists, and top U.S. military officers.

According to its website, the school "is structured to encourage the highest practical level of personal and intellectual interaction among a diverse community of scholars and practitioners."

McGuinty and his wife, Terri, who have four adult children, will be in the Boston area from September through to October.

McGuinty retired as Ottawa South MPP two weeks ago after representing the riding for 23 years.



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

The Margaret Avenue bridge was closed on June 13, and will remain closed while the City of Kitchener waits for structural engineers to review the report that triggered the closure. More than 7,000 vehicles use Margaret Avenue every day.

'We don't want to take a chance — it's not worth the risk'

► **Bridge** continued from A1

The draft report said a structural investigation of the bridge was urgent, because the Margaret Avenue bridge is similar to the one that collapsed in Quebec.

"It was becoming more known in the industry that these bridges are at risk of sudden failure," Robinson said.

The city also retained another engineering firm to review the findings of the 2012 inspection. That peer-review report should be done in three weeks.

"Until we get that peer report, because

there is a risk of sudden failure, we don't want to take a chance with anybody on that bridge — it's just not worth the risk," Roberson said.

At the same time, a plan is being developed on the options for making the bridge safe or taking it down. The city has to weigh the costs and benefits of spending money on a 55-year-old bridge with substandard design. It will take a couple of months to research and write that report for city councillors.

"The next step is to say: 'We have a problem here. Now what can we do about it? Can we provide additional support to the existing

bridge? Do we need to take it down?' All of those questions will be answered by professionals and I don't have the answers today," Roberson said.

The city shared the inspection reports with the railways using the tracks below.

"All the users of the railway are looking at the risk with this bridge," Roberson said.

More than 7,000 vehicles a day use Margaret Avenue, which is classified as a major collector road that connects several neighbourhoods.

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WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE
Our flyer distributed between June 26 - 28 and effective June 28 - July 4, 2013. Page PO1 : Granada Backyard Grill (#30500767) at \$296. The description indicates that a cover is included. This is an error. A cover is not included.
We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.