

Woman missing, foul play feared

Forensic search of apartment leads police to say she was injured

Linda Givetash, Record staff

KITCHENER — Police suspect foul play in the disappearance of a local woman who was last seen a week ago.

Catherine Todd, 48, was reported miss-



Catherine Todd

ing Thursday after last being heard from on March 18. Waterloo Regional Police announced Saturday they suspect foul play after conducting a forensic search of her apartment at 50 Lorraine Ave.

"It appears she suffered injuries as a result of her disappearance,"

said police spokesperson Insp. Kevin Thaler.

It's not clear how severe Todd's suspected injuries may have been.

"At this time, we can't rule out that she's alive somewhere," Thaler said.

Homicide detectives have taken the lead on the investigation, to which about 25 officers have been assigned.

Todd lives alone with her dog, an older Jack Russell terrier, in a second-floor apartment of the low-rise building that she

moved into in December. Neighbours would often see Todd walking the dog around the neighbourhood.

The dog was found unattended without food or water in Todd's apartment days after she was last seen or heard from, according to the building's superintendent, Otto Kraut.

Kraut said Todd's boyfriend told him that the woman was reported missing.

► **Missing** continued on page A5

Did Ashley Smith belong in prison?

Donovan Vincent

TORONTO — Did Ashley Smith belong in a jail or a mental health facility?

It's a pressing question that arose, particularly during Smith's time in the adult correctional system, and one that echoes throughout the ongoing coroner's inquest into the 19-year-old's jail cell death on Oct. 19, 2007.

In his 33-page June 2008 report into the Smith case, *A Preventable Death*, Correctional investigator Howard Sapers asserts that "most" of the senior managers and front line Correctional Service of Canada staff responsible for Smith "lacked the specialized mental health training required to adequately assess or address" her needs.

Kim Pate, national director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, an advocacy group for women and girls in the justice system that has standing at the Smith inquest, recently said in an interview that Smith shouldn't have been in the prison system, but rather a mental health facility.

Some of the guards in the prisons where Smith stayed expressed the same views, according to evidence at her inquest.

Sapers, who acts as an ombud for federal offenders, noted that management plans for Smith at the Grand Valley prison for women in Kitchener, where she choked herself to death in a segregation cell by tying a ligature around her neck, "were largely security-focused" and "lacked mental health components."

► **Smith** continued on page A5

Local hospitals take high-tech lead in the battle against germs



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Daniel Kaye, supervisor of housekeeping at Grand River Hospital, uses a UV light and marking solution to check for bacteria in a hospital room.

Grand River, Freeport sites using UV light, other tools to improve cleanliness

Linda Givetash, Record staff

KITCHENER — Watching hospital staff determine the cleanliness of a patient's room is like watching detectives on a television police drama assess a crime scene.

At Grand River Hospital, housekeeping supervisors shine an ultraviolet flashlight around hospital rooms to determine if there are any spots not thoroughly cleaned.

If any areas have been missed, the light will reveal a special liquid marking agent only visible under UV light that was smeared on different spots prior to the cleaning.

The UV light assessment is part of a new program the hospital introduced last fall to test and improve cleaning procedures.

While the hospital did have a testing process to ensure rooms were clean, the UV light provides more detail to the visual test, explained Daniel Kaye, housekeeping supervisor. The goal of the program is to reduce the likelihood of spreading germs and bacteria.

"I think really good control, hygienic control, of high touch surfaces in the hospital is one of the pillars of infection control that we rely on," said Dr. William Ciccotelli, medical director of infectious diseases.

"We know that it serves a very important function in helping minimize the chance that outbreaks do occur."

Ciccotelli said high quality cleaning also helps reduce the spread of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms that can be especially harmful to patients already fighting other illnesses.

The UV light test has been particularly revealing of the importance of cleaning high traffic spots — such as light switches, door handles and buttons on equipment — in rooms and around the hospital.

► **Hygiene** continued on page A2

Merger will mean region will be home to Ontario's largest mental health provider

Linda Givetash, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — The region will soon boast the largest and best-funded mental health service provider in the province.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Waterloo Wellington Dufferin branch will launch Apr. 1 with the amalgamation of its Grand River branch and Trellis Mental Health and Development Services. The organization will feature 11 offices including locations in the tri-city

area, Guelph and as far as Orangeville.

"We wanted to maximize the ability of both our organizations to achieve our mission, which is to make a difference in the lives of people with mental health and development disabilities," said Fred Wagner, current executive director of Trellis and future executive director of the merged organization.

The Grand River branch and Trellis voluntarily explored the idea of a merger. Finding many of

their programs and services to be complementary and therefore beneficial to clients, Wagner said the two groups went ahead with the proposal.

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network approved the decision to amalgamate on Jan. 31 and is providing one-time grants of \$1.1 million for infrastructure development and \$2.1 million for base operations.

► **Merger** continued on page A2

INSIDE



Rangers win
Gibson comes up big, Kitchener takes 2-0 series lead | **Sports**

INDEX, A2

EDITORIALS	A6	ARTS & LIFE	C
INSIGHT	A7	CLASSIFIED	C5
LOCAL	B	SPORTS	D



JACK'S
FAMILY RESTAURANT

THIS EASTER MEET YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS AT JACK'S

• GREAT FOOD • GREAT PRICES

\$3.99 Breakfast Special Mon. - Fri. until 11am (excl. Holidays)

Kids eat free Mon. & Tues. after 4 (ask your server for details)

20 BENJAMIN RD.,
WATERLOO
(ACROSS FROM ST. JACOBS OUTLET MALL)

519-746-4800

WWW.JACKSFAMILYRESTAURANT.CA

OPEN EVERYDAY
7am-9pm

Pet terrier was found in apartment

► **Missing** continued from A1

“He (the boyfriend) had not been in the apartment for three days, since Sunday evening,” Kraut said, recalling their conversation. “This was Wednesday evening he found the dog there and it was quite messy there because the dog hadn’t been out for days. He also told me that the door had been ajar. The door was not even closed.”

“The dog was her life ... I don’t think she would have left that dog behind,” Kraut said.

Police said Todd’s disappearance was reported by an acquaintance, but did not confirm if she had a boyfriend.

Police also said a loveseat from her apartment was missing.

The loveseat is described as cream-coloured with a tweed pattern and a rip along the right arm. It is believed that the furniture was covered with a sheet or blanket.

Kraut said it would be difficult to move a piece of furniture from the building, which does not have an elevator, and that two people would have been needed for the job.

Police also received reports that a pickup truck was seen in the



ROBERT WILSON, RECORD STAFF

A police forensic van leaves the parking lot of 50 Lorraine Ave. Saturday afternoon.

area on Tuesday or Wednesday morning around 9 a.m.

“The focus remains on trying to

determine a timeline surrounding her disappearance and trying to locate or identify a pickup truck

that was reported in the area,” Thaler said.

He added that information is

being sought about any occupants of the vehicle. There are no suspects in the case and police did not say if there is a concern for public safety.

“It’s too early to say if this was a random event or not,” Thaler said.

Residents of the neighbourhood were shocked to hear about the incident.

Andrew Murray, 20, who has friends who live near the Lorraine Avenue apartment, said it’s a quiet, peaceful area. “They’ve got a school close to here,” he said.

A resident of a neighbouring low-rise apartment building similar to Todd’s said she moved to the area because it’s quiet and safe.

“I walk my dog around here all the time,” said Danielle Hilborn, 30. “I never worry around here.”

Police are appealing to the public for information on when and where Todd was last seen, who she was with and what she was wearing. Todd is described as white, about five feet, one inch tall and 115 pounds. She has short brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information is asked to contact the homicide branch at 519-650-8500, ext. 8314 or Crime Stoppers a 1-800-222-8477.

lgivetash@therecord.com

Expert views on how to treat Ashley Smith diverged widely

► **Smith** continued from A1

Smith presented significant security challenges as an inmate. She was kept in segregation during most of her three years in the youth system in New Brunswick, beginning in 2003, and went straight into segregation when she entered the adult prison system in late 2006.

The rationale for segregation was that Smith was at high risk of harming herself and others. She assaulted staff, and hurt herself by at different times scratching, banging her head on the floor, or using ligatures. The latter was especially problematic because although she told some jail staff she enjoyed the sensation of asphyxiating, and while some staff felt she tied the ligatures to draw attention from guards, she was often despondent, talking and writing frequently about wanting to kill herself.

One prison staffer testifying at her inquest likened her drawn-out time in segregation to a Catch-22 situation — her confinement in solitary contributed to her severe acting out, but that same acting out kept her in segregation.

Views about the best treatment for Smith sometimes differed.

At the Nova Institution prison for women in Nova Scotia, where she was sent to serve her federal sentence in late 2006, two mental-health providers came up with vastly different evaluations and treatment recommendations for her within a one-day span.

At the time Smith was causing

a commotion, smearing her feces in her cell, and exhibiting other “maladaptive behaviours.” She wanted to be transferred to another institution.

Dr. Jeffrey Penn, a psychiatrist who saw Smith Dec. 15, 2006, described her his way: “She openly admits that she has some, but little capacity for remorse, often enjoying hurting others (sadistic) and also gets gratification in hurting herself (masochistic).”

Penn later writes: “She shared that even with consistent positive reinforcement, she just gets bored with her good behaviour and has to act out. She also cannot tolerate any prolonged lack of attention — has to periodically act out to get any kind of attention, generally negative.”

She’s a high suicide risk, he notes.

Penn, who is set to testify when Smith’s inquest resumes this week in Toronto, referred to her as a “fearful tyrannical child” who cannot accept authority or limits, noting Smith wasn’t making progress at the time — “deteriorating” in fact — and that morale among prison staff was low as a result.

Having diagnosed her as exhibiting a personality disorder, with borderline paranoid features, Penn recommended that Smith be transferred to a secure facility with a 24-hour behaviour modification program, something Nova didn’t have.

Days later she was sent to the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon — a secure forensic centre that is part prison, part



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Different experts disagreed about whether Ashley Smith should have been at a mental-health facility rather than a prison.

mental health facility — a move Smith volunteered for.

(Nova did seek psychiatric beds elsewhere in the province for Smith, the inquest has previously heard, but none were found at that time.)

Meanwhile, on Dec. 14, 2006, the day before Penn’s report, Dr. Allister Webster, then a psychologist at Nova, wrote a “management plan” for Smith based on his belief she could be treated at the jail.

He wrote, in part: “While Ms. Smith appears to be of average intelligence, her presentation is frequently consistent with that of a young adolescent.”

In outlining his plan, Webster later writes: “It remains my clinical opinion that Ms. Smith can be effectively managed and assisted

toward the adoption of prosocial behaviour.”

Further on he states: “Her engagement in appropriate behaviour will result in opportunity to meet with (prison) staff, as her risk for aggression toward others will become reduced.” Webster recommended that prison staff “engage with her in a respectful and professional manner,” adding “we must model the behaviours that we want from her.”

During the inquest, Webster testified that he left for vacation after writing his management plan for Smith, and was surprised to learn upon his return that she’d been transferred to the Saskatoon centre.

Webster told the inquest he felt “undermined” by the decision to

ship Smith out, though he has a high regard for Penn’s professionalism and judgment.

Webster also told the inquest he had concerns that the transfer hurt the therapeutic relationship Smith was developing with him and others who were trying to help her at Nova, including nurses.

Smith’s move to the Saskatoon centre was one of 17 institutional transfers she endured in the space of less than a year.

In his report Sapers says this series of transfers “eroded Smith’s trust, escalated her acting out behaviours” and made it increasingly more difficult for the correctional service to manage her. Attempts to get a full psychological assessment of her were thwarted by the constant moves, Sapers notes.

Smith stayed at the Saskatoon facility from Dec. 20, 2006, until April 12, 2007, when she was on the move again. Stops included the Grand Valley prison in Kitchener, back to Nova in the summer of 2007, and finally Grand Valley again, where she died that fall in her segregation cell, in front of her guards.

The inquest hasn’t yet been told the full story about her time at the Saskatoon facility, but the inquiry has heard it didn’t end well. She was moved out for her own safety.

Smith’s mother, Coralee, went to the Saskatoon centre in February 2007 to visit her and found her daughter was “reserved, stiff and withdrawn.”

News services

GRAND MAGAZINE

From spectacular gardens to exciting fashions, spring is in full bloom in our March issue! Other features: visit design consultant Tim Tanz in his sensational Cambridge home; find out why residents are passionate about living in Conestogo; sample successful fundraising on the Gourmet Trail; and tour Manulife’s innovative new office – treadmill, anyone?

To subscribe call 519-895-5214



AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS!

KITCHENER

K-W Bookstore
Pioneer Park Pharmacy
Walper Tobacco Shop
Waterloo Region Record

WATERLOO

Casa Mia Deli & Café
Dana Shortt Gourmet
Lion’s Den Cigar Store
Words Worth Books

CAMBRIDGE

Book Express
HeartStrings

GUELPH

The Bookshelf

ST. JACOBS

A Word or Two