

New victim in case involving alleged sexual assaults of mentally disabled boys

A new victim has come forward in the case of a Toronto man accused of preying on young boys with mental disabilities, police said yesterday. Patrick White, 64, now faces an additional charge of sexual exploitation of a person with a disability. Mr. White was arrested on Jan. 23 and charged with sexual assault and sexual exploitation. Police allege Mr. White was working as a vendor at a flea

MAN CHARGED ON JAN. 23

market and would lure boys through fake charities he created. It is alleged that he was targeting people with mental disabilities whom he hired to work for him, either at the flea market or selling chocolates, said police. Police are appealing to anyone who may have worked for Mr. White

to contact the investigators. Relatives of those who have worked for him are also urged to contact police. Anyone with information is asked to contact Toronto Police at 416-808-5505 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Canwest News Service



ANOTHER WINTER WALLOP FOR CITY



PETER J. THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST

A pedestrian makes his way across Queen's Park last night. Yesterday's storm caused more than 100 flight cancellations at Pearson airport and dropped more than 20 centimetres of snow in such areas as Milton and Mississauga.

Officials probe poisoning deaths of dogs near park

SOUTH ETOBICOKE

BY ASHLEY SPEGEL

Toronto Animal Services officials are investigating the poisoning deaths of two dogs near a south Etobicoke park, and are hoping a package of meat found in the area will provide some answers.

The city has yet to verify the toxic source and the individual responsible for killing two dogs and leaving three others ill.

"The problem with [a case like this is] that it's hard to try and determine if the poisoning is being done on purpose. But if there's something that leads us to think that it's done on purpose, we'll do something about it," said Eietta Purdy, manager for Toronto Animal Services.

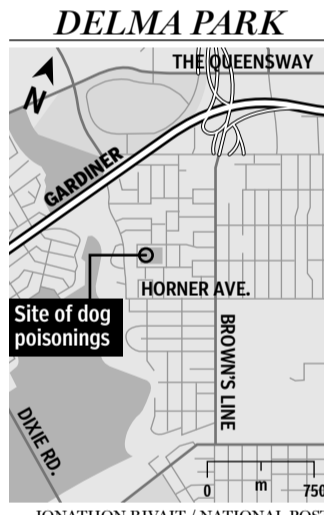
Since the beginning of

January, five cases have been brought to the Pet Vet Lakeshore Hospital. All five of the dogs live in the area of Brown's Line and Horner Avenue and experienced similar symptoms of poisonings, including lethargy, vomiting, erratic breathing and loss of appetite.

Alderwood resident Nadine Powell rushed her nine-year-old Siberian husky to Pet Vet after she spent the night vomiting and had trouble breathing. Clinic staff tried to resuscitate the dog but couldn't.

"The vet said she was in shock and was anemic, the inside of her mouth was white. He put her on oxygen and gave her a couple of injections. Then he came out and said, 'she's gone,'" Ms. Powell told *The Etobicoke Guardian*.

According to Ms. Purdy, in the past 12 months there have been three reported cases in-



JONATHON RIVAITT / NATIONAL POST

volving a grouping of animals that have been poisoned, and two of them were dog-related.

Overall, 1% of dog-related incidences brought to the attention of TAS are related to poisoning.

The Toronto Humane Society treats many animals that

have come into contact with chemicals and toxins. Lee Oliver, senior communicator for the THS, says the individual behind this case is mentally unsound.

"When someone decides to poison an animal, that person has a serious mental issue. Whatever anger that have [inside them] they're taking it out on society," he said. "That's a person that's not just angry at dogs but angry at the world."

This is not the first time this city's dog owners have tightened the leashes when walking their pups.

In February, 2004, Riverdale's Withrow Park was closed by city officials after one dog died and 15 others fell ill.

Public health officials confirmed hot dogs laced with insecticide were discovered in the park, at Danforth Road and Pape Avenue.

"The key to something like this is immediate action if exposure [to poison] has actually happened. Once you've got that under control, let animal services know so we can see if there's a pattern or if anything needs to be communicated to neighbours in the area," Ms. Purdy said.

National Post

'You know what my problem is? The timing'

FEES

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Most prominently the new land-transfer and vehicle-ownership taxes are expected to raise \$175-million. The budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the department in the eye of this week's media storm, is a microcosm of the city's larger money woes, despite the balanced budget.

Like all departments, PFR was asked to survive this year with the same amount of money it received last year. In PFR's case, that figure was \$227.45-million — a target the department could not meet in 2007, let alone in 2008.

Right off the top, the department had to figure out how to cut back or raise revenue to make up for automatic wage, benefit and other increases for its unionized staff totaling more than \$10-million, plus \$3.2-million for the cost of staffing new parks.

So, to help make ends meet, PFR proposed fee hikes in at least seven different areas.

The department is asking people to pay more to ride the ferry to the Toronto Islands (an extra 50¢ per single ticket); to park at parks (the cost will rise to \$10 from \$5 and expand to parks where parking is currently free); to apply to have a tree

cut down on private property (the cost will rise to \$300 from \$200); to rent parks for special events; to sign up for registered recreation programs such as yoga and dance classes; and to rent ice time and sports fields.

That list of increased fees was supposed to bring in an extra \$5.7-million this year.

Now it appears the department may have to look elsewhere for the \$2-million that was to come from the higher

NEW TAXES & FEES: WHERE YOU'LL FEEL THE PINCH

Although \$149-million in one-time transit funding from the province helped Toronto introduce a balanced \$8.2-billion budget, the city also relied heavily on these new taxes and fees to land in the black:

■ **New land-transfer tax:** A tax of 0.5% to 2% levied on the sale price of a home. Expected to bring in \$155-million this year.

■ **New vehicle-ownership tax:** A \$60 annual fee to register a vehicle. Expected to bring in \$20-million this year. Does not take effect until fall.

■ **New garbage fee:** Varies from approximately \$209 to \$360 a year depending on the size of trash bin households choose. Eventually, a corresponding re-

duction in property taxes mean those who chose the smallest bin will not pay any more. Takes effect on Nov. 1. Expected to bring in \$17-million this year.

■ **Property tax increase:** 3.75% for homeowners and 1.25% for business owners. Factor in assessment growth and this is expected to bring in \$101-million this year.

■ **Water rate increase:** A 9.36% increase to water rates, part of a plan to increase rates by about 9% annually. Expected to bring in \$38-million this year.

■ **Registered recreation programs:** They will rise 67% over seven years, but slightly this year, if council approves a proposal this spring. Expected to bring in \$5.7-million this year.

September the backlash around cost containment, I got a pretty clear message that the public wasn't very happy about us reducing service," Ms. Librecz said. "So that's why we proposed the revenues."

Ms. Librecz also defended her decision not to include a discussion of the potential rental fee hikes in "Everybody Gets to Play," a policy document rolled out in January that proposed higher fees for registered programs to offset expanding such programs for needy Torontonians.

"You know what my problem is? The timing," Ms. Librecz said. "My report on 'Everybody Gets to Play' was supposed to happen in September. But because of cost containment we were asked to push it off. And what's happened? It's collided right into the budget process."

Still, Councillor Janet Davis, a member of the Mayor's executive committee who discovered the proposed rental rate increase by combing through the budget documents, said the public deserved a full airing of the issue at the recreation committee which she co-chairs.

"The public should have the opportunity to come and express their views on it, instead of finding it in the back pages of the budget documents," she said.

National Post

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POSTED TORONTO



A selection of postings to our Toronto blog, PostedToronto.com, and more

WHAT I AM DOING TONIGHT

Name Chantal Rousseau

Hometown Montreal

Age 33

Profession Artist and arts administrator

Plans for the night "I will be going to the Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art to see



Oscar Muñoz's exhibition *Imprints for a Fleeting Memorial* right after work. Muñoz is an internationally renowned Colombian artist who is presenting his first major solo exhibition in North America."

Adam Huras, National Post

THE GREAT SCARBOROUGH SLOGAN SEARCH

So, it's a wrap. We have now sent Councillor Norm Kelly all the entries in our Scarborough slogan contest.

The last submissions came from Mr. Kelly's northern Scarborough neighbour, Councillor Chin Lee.

We like both: ■ "Scarborough: Bigger, better, more beautiful." ■ Scarborough: The best from the world over.

Mr. Kelly, you'll recall, asked *National Post* readers to come up with a slogan for Toronto's easternmost quarter, and now gets to pick his favourite. Watch this space.

National Post



BACK IN THE DAY



CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

British Petroleum Etobicoke Service Centre circa 1958 from the City of Toronto Archives (Fonds 1257, Series 1057, Item 5245). This picture, and thousands of other great images, is available for viewing and sale at the City of Toronto Archives. Check out its Web site at www.toronto.ca/archives/

ON THE MARKET

Downtown living

733 Richmond St. W. (Richmond and Bathurst streets)
Asking price: \$779,900; Taxes: \$4,409 (2007)

Selling point Detached circa 1890 restored Victorian home. Most ceiling medallions and mouldings are original. Embossed wall panels, high ceilings.

Details Five bedrooms, five bathrooms, living room with closed fireplace, formal dining room, family-sized kitchen with walkout to yard. Master bedroom with stained glass and built-in closet.

Third-floor loft with ensuite bathroom. Ceiling fan, wall sconces, skylight.

The land 25 x 91-foot lot, front yard parking for one car, private backyard garden. Quiet section of Richmond. Queen West location. CN Tower views.

Listing Broker Urbanlife Realty Inc. (Marina Bolletta) 416-947-0777

Connie Adair, National Post



Compiled by Rob Roberts. E-mail submissions of no more than 300 words to thecity@nationalpost.com. They may be edited.