

GREATER TORONTO

# One officer remains 'subject' in Dawson shooting

## All others who were present now 'witnesses' to man's death

By PHILIP MASCOLL  
STAFF REPORTER

Only one Metro police officer remains under investigation in the fatal Easter Sunday shooting of Hugh Dawson.

André Marin, director of the province's special investigations unit, announced late yesterday that Detective Constable Rajeev Sukurmaran was now being considered a witness.

On Monday, Marin announced that two other detective constables, Phil Chan and Albert Flis, were also being considered witnesses.

That means 27-year-old Detective Constable Rick Shank is the only remaining subject officer, Marin said.

Subject officers — suspects in civilian terms — are those whose conduct appears to have caused the death or injury being investigated and who may be charged. They have the right to remain silent as guaranteed by the Charter of Rights.

Witness officers are those on the scene who did not take part directly in the action leading to death or injury. They are required by law to co-operate with the SIU.

Marin would only say that

their change of status was "as a result of further investigation."

But sources have told The Star that Marin and his investigators met late last week with scientists from the Centre of Forensic Sciences who had been examining evidence, including Dawson's car.

Sukurmaran and Shank were named as the officers who did the shooting right after Dawson, a 31-year-old father of two, was killed by members of a police drug squad on Kennedy Rd. just south of Danforth Rd. in Scarborough.

At the time of the shooting, Detectives Peter Gibson and Keith Rogers, Detective Constable Lorelei McIvor and Shank's wife Nicole, a Waterloo Region police officer who was on the operation as a "ride-along," were also designated witness officers.

### RIGHT TO SILENCE

Chan and Flis were designated witnesses right after the shooting, but a few days later when their notes were seen they were upgraded to subject officers. Since then, they have exercised their right to silence, along with Shank and Sukurmaran.

But now that they are witness officers, they must co-operate with the SIU.

Yesterday, Chan talked with investigators for more than two hours, Marin said.

An interview with Flis was set for today and Sukurmaran is to be interviewed tomorrow, Marin said.

Metro police have said Shank and Sukurmaran shot Dawson after his car was stopped during a drug arrest.

Although investigators have refused to reveal the number of bullets that hit Dawson, The Star has learned he was hit by more than six.



TRAGIC MEMORY: Stuart Cameron's sisters Tracy, left, and Cindy, holding Tracy's son Patrick, look at a picture of their brother. Stuart's housemate has been charged in the Toronto man's death.

# Man faces murder charge after housemate killed in fire

## Father of four dies when blaze traps him in basement

By HEATHER GREENWOOD  
STAFF REPORTER

A man has been charged with second-degree murder after his 33-year-old housemate died behind a wall of smoke and flames.

Stuart Cameron suffered burns to 90 per cent of his body and died in Wellesley-Central Hospital early yesterday morning after becoming trapped in a smoke-filled basement in the east-end Toronto home he and the accused shared with two others, friends said.

Brenda Kilday, who has lived in the Kingsmount Park Rd. house since 1973, said Cameron was asleep in one of two basement rooms when the fire began.

A fourth housemate, Sargon Beddaoui, said he tried to bring the blaze under control before firetrucks arrived.

He said he had no idea Cam-



STUART CAMERON: Father, 33, died early yesterday after house fire.

eron was still in the house.

"He rides his bike all the time. When I looked around I didn't see his bike," he said.

"Usually when he's home there's a bike there."

The cause of the blaze has not been determined.

"Right now we're treating it

as a suspicious fire," Staff Sergeant David Butt said at the scene. "But we have no indication of the cause."

Standing outside the 55 Division police station at Dundas St. E and Coxwell Ave., Cameron's family members tearfully remembered the man.

"I'm going to miss my son," Cameron's mother Ivy Carter said. "I'm going to miss everything about him."

"He could fix anything," younger sister Tracy recalled, her eyes welling with tears. "He was very helpful and he loved his kids."

Cameron was the father of four children, all under the age of 10.

Family members say none of the children, who spent Monday afternoon playing T-ball with their father, have been told about the death.

Neighbors were surprised to hear it was Cameron who died in the fire. Many stood on their porches watching as police and fire crews interviewed witnesses and strung yellow police tape around the property yesterday.

Bits of burned wood, charred brick and broken glass filled a

small alley beside the house and several police vehicles were parked on the small residential street well into the afternoon.

"I don't know the gentleman but he never was a bother to anyone," one neighbor said. "I don't know him but it hurts me."

It was not the first time a building at the address went up in flames.

Both homes on the lot are owned by former white supremacist mayoral candidate Don Andrews.

In the summer of 1995 both this house and the one Andrews lives in, only three buildings away, were firebombed by what Andrews calls "political activists."

Friends, family and Andrews all said neither Cameron nor the accused were involved in the white supremacist movement.

Andrews said he asked the accused to leave the home last month, but a few days later he returned with his rent money.

Jeremy Seymour Booth, 51, has been charged with second-degree murder.

With files from Tony Costa.

## Eight dates scheduled for megacity meetings

The megacity transition team has scheduled eight dates for public meetings in June and July to hear Metro residents' views about community councils and neighborhood committees in the unified Toronto.

All sessions will take place at the local city or borough hall. They'll be chaired by transition team member Paul Sutherland. Meetings start at 7 p.m. except for Etobicoke's, which starts at 7:30 p.m. Scheduled dates are:

- East York, June 17.
- North York, June 19.

- Etobicoke, June 23.
- City of York, June 25.
- Scarborough, June 26.
- Metro Hall, July 8.
- City of Toronto, July 9-10.

Residents who wish to speak can call the transition team to get their names on the speakers' list, Sutherland said yesterday. Call 338-7000. The team will also hear from people who haven't called ahead, he added.

Written briefs can be mailed to the team at 4110 Yonge St., Suite 502, North York, Ont. M2P 2B7, or fax 338-7050.

## New ferry service seeks more riders

By BARBARA TURNBULL  
STAFF REPORTER

The operators of the newest transit route between St. Catharines and Toronto are hoping ridership will rise with the outside temperatures.

The month-old commuter ferry service, operated by Shaker Cruise Lines of Toronto, has been averaging half the passengers needed to make the trip worthwhile, spokesperson Peter Green says.

"We knew it would be a kind of hard sell to get people away from the existing routes," he said.

But the cool weather until recently made it even tougher, and Green is hoping warmer temperatures will bring more passengers.

"The weather has not co-op-

erated," Green said. "Every weekend has been terrible in terms of weather."

The ferry makes one daily return run from St. Catharines to Toronto during the week. It leaves Lockhart Point in Port Dalhousie at 6:45 a.m. and docks at the foot of Yonge St. at 8:05 a.m. In the evening it leaves Toronto at 5:15 p.m. and reaches St. Catharines at 6:35 p.m.

There are extra runs on weekends for sightseers.

The ferry can accommodate 300 people, but is averaging 40 each trip, Green said.

He said a new computer chip to control the motor will soon shave 10 minutes off the current 80-minute run.

A one-way trip costs \$13.50; return fare is \$27.

## Briefly Truck driver kidnapped at gunpoint

A truck driver was kidnapped at gunpoint by two masked bandits at a service centre on Highway 401 early yesterday.

Police say after the suspects dumped his truck in a Pickering parking lot and left him bound with duct tape in the cab, the driver was able to squirm over to the steering wheel and sound his horn. About one-third of the tractor trailer's load of clothing had been taken.

The 32-year-old Brockville man was not seriously injured.

## Gardens' victim files for bankruptcy

The man whose sensational allegations prompted a massive police probe into sexual abuse at Maple Leaf Gardens has filed for personal bankruptcy.

Martin Kruze, 35, owes at least \$47,000, and lists his assets as personal effects worth only \$200, documents show.

After suing the Gardens for \$1.75 million in 1993, Kruze agreed to an out-of-court settlement, believed to be about \$60,000 in 1995. Part of the agreement was that he keep silent about the settlement.

## Call hotline before swimming in lake

The City of Toronto's public health department advises swimmers to call its summer beach hotline at 392-7161 to check on contamination levels.

The department will begin sampling and testing the water for bacteria levels at Toronto's western, eastern and island beaches this week.

## Maple Leafs in overtime with Union Station plan

### Team misses key deadline with Toronto planners

By BRUCE DEMARA  
AND PAUL MOLONEY  
STAFF REPORTERS

The Toronto Maple Leafs have failed to meet a major deadline to provide documentation to the City of Toronto on a joint arena project at Union Station.

"I am becoming increasingly concerned about your ability to meet the ambitious schedule you have proposed," said John Morand, Toronto's urban development commissioner, in a letter to the Leafs.

The city's planning director, Paul Bedford, said a series of reports the Leafs promised to deliver by yesterday have not been received.

### NOVEMBER DEADLINE

"What I understand is (the Leafs) are working away and they know they haven't met their deadlines and they're conscious of that and they're trying to get the stuff to us as soon as possible," Bedford said.

"When we get it, we'll look at it and we're prepared to work hard on all the fronts to try and pull things together. But without having the stuff in front of us, it's pretty hard to comment," Bedford added.

The Maple Leafs have proposed building an arena directly behind Union Station, which they hope to share with the Toronto Raptors.

But the project is contingent on Raptors general manager Is-



RAPTOR SALE: Isiah Thomas, right, wants to buy team from Allan Slaight.

iah Thomas winning control of the team from majority owner Allan Slaight. And arena construction must be under way by November, to allow the Raptors to meet a deadline imposed by the National Basketball Association.

Toronto council has tentatively agreed to a fast-track process that will see final approval on July 14.

Meanwhile, construction of the Raptors' Air Canada Centre at Bay St. and Lake Shore Blvd. is proceeding rapidly, something that concerns Toronto Councillor Steve Ellis, chairperson of the city's land use committee.

"I'm getting quite concerned the Raptors stadium is being rapidly built and construction is going full steam ahead ... and we're still waiting for paper on the Maple Leafs project," Ellis said.

Morand's letter also warns the Leafs their documentation must include how they plan to incorporate the Air Canada Centre site into the over-all project. The Leafs propose turning the Raptors project into a major bus terminal.

But the Leafs have been unable to obtain permission from Slaight to begin planning the terminal, said Dale Martin, the hockey team's development consultant.

"Mr. Slaight is not co-operating in making the site available. At this point, the city says it has to be one package. We agree with them. It's definitely a nut that has to be cracked in this deal," Martin said.

If the terminal proposal remains on hold, city council will have to decide whether to deal with the Union Station project on its own, Martin said.

The Leafs plan to submit detailed studies and reports for the arena project by June 9. The delay is due to the sheer volume of work that needs to be done, Martin said.

### JULY 14 MEETING

Martin added the Leafs will be asking the city to schedule a special land use committee meeting in July. That would still allow city council to approve the project at its regularly scheduled meeting July 14, he said.

If the package isn't available for council then, the project will be in trouble because construction must begin by November for the arena to be ready for the Raptors' 1999 season, Martin said.

"If it's delayed much beyond July 14, there's no point doing it because it's too late," he said. "The right time is July 14."

But city council could opt to hold a special meeting after the mid-July meeting, Martin noted.

Bedford said a status report will be presented to the city's land use committee tomorrow.