

David Lea, Oakville Beaver | Jan 24, 2011 - 4:41 PM | Report a Typo or Correction

Two charged in fatal stabbing

Kerr area resident says police tried to revive dying man

Halton police have arrested two men in connection with the murder of an Oakville man who was stabbed to death at the intersection of Kerr and John Street, Saturday night.

Police and EMS were called to the area of Kerr and John Street at around 11 p.m. after receiving reports of a fight.

The victim, who has now been identified as Christopher Stairs, 31, of Oakville, was found in the middle of the intersection suffering from multiple stab wounds.



David Ritchie/Special to...

Maro Alchamaa, who lives and works in the area, was drawn to the scene by the police sirens and witnessed efforts to save Stairs.

"I got there just as the second police car arrived. His friend was trying to talk to him to stop him from going into a coma or something. The cops were doing CPR on him. His friend was just screaming, 'Chris, stay with me, Chris.' When they moved his friend away from him you could see the blood on him because they moved him under a light. He was crying and there was blood like mad on him."

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Alchamaa suspected Stairs was dead when the ambulance remained at the scene for some time instead of driving immediately to the hospital.

Stairs was eventually transported to Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The incident left Alchamaa shaken.

"It was a very tragic, very emotional moment, you don't want to see that," he said. "The first night after I didn't sleep very well at all."

Two men have since been arrested in connection with Stairs' death.

Nazir Akbari, 18, of Oakville has been charged with second-degree murder.

Angar Langer, 18, has been charged with accessory after the fact to murder.

As part of the investigation, police said two other young males were arrested in relation to this incident and were subsequently released unconditionally.

Police said there is nothing to indicate Stairs knew either Langer or Akbari and would not say if Stairs was robbed during the incident.

While it was business as usual on Kerr Street, Monday morning, traces of what happened Saturday night can still be seen.

A piece of torn police tap still clings to a pole at the vacated Mexicali Rosa's.

A makeshift memorial of flowers and stuffed animals has also been set up at the intersection where Stairs fell.

One teddy bear at this memorial hugs a note, which reads, 'We love you Chris. Be at Peace.'

Residents and merchants in the area can be heard talking about what happened and struggling to understand why it happened, however, few have any direct knowledge.

One local merchant, who drove through the intersection of Kerr and John Street about an hour before the murder took place, said that due to the intense cold that night the area was like a ghost town with no one on the streets.

The few merchants who were in the area at 11 p.m. said they didn't know anything was happening until police cars and fire trucks arrived on the scene.

One Kerr Street merchant, who identified herself only as Jane, said she is relieved police have someone in custody for the murder.

She said the incident was out of character with the area.

"This is an excellent area," she said. "Nothing like this has ever happened here before. It's usually pretty quiet, which is just the way we like it."

Stairs' family declined to comment on his loss.

"I'm sorry we don't want to speak right now," said a woman who answered the phone at the Stairs family home.

"We're dealing with our family."

Reached at their home Monday afternoon, a woman who said she is one of Akbari's sisters called the past two days "extremely difficult."

"He is a very good boy. And the whole neighbourhood knows him and everybody in the neighbourhood is shocked," she said, adding.

"He's not the kind of person who would ever do this."

A woman who identified herself as Langer's sister said her brother is "a good person."

"All I know is wrong place, wrong time," she said, adding that she had nothing more to say at this time.

The two accused are scheduled to appear in Milton court for a bail hearing on Thursday morning.

- With files from Toronto Star

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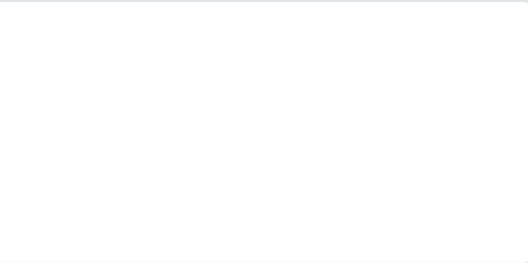
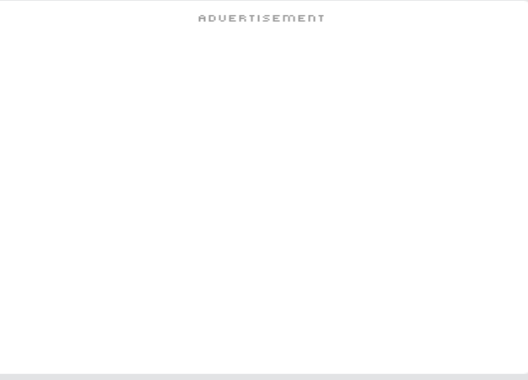


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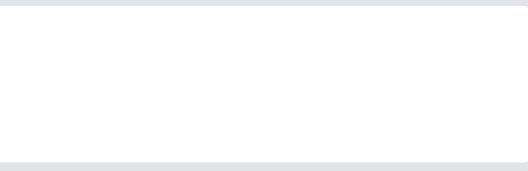
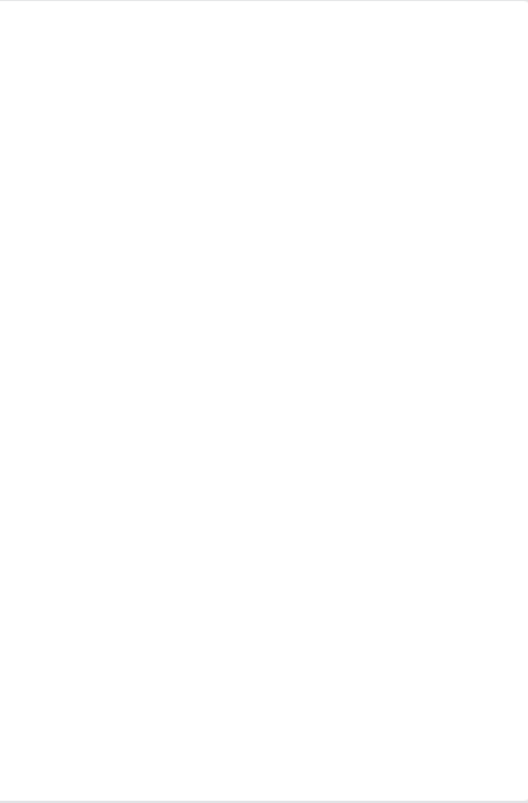
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