



GAITH
FEMICIDE
LIST 2013



WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHOSE LIVES WERE TAKEN IN ONTARIO IN 2013 AS A RESULT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Victoria Doyle, 54. Collingwood, January 1, 2013



The body of Victoria Doyle—also known as Vicky McTaggart—was discovered by police and paramedics after they were called to her Kohl Street home around 4pm on January 1, 2013. Her boyfriend, Paul Alves Faria, 49, of Collingwood, is charged with first degree murder. Victoria worked in a law office and leaves behind three children and two grandchildren. She was described by a friend and co-worker as a good person and though life threw her some challenges, she somehow managed to overcome them.

Bridget Takyi, 27. Toronto, January 19, 2013



Bridget Takyi, of Etobicoke, was found stabbed and burned outside her mother's house on January 19, 2013. Bridget leaves behind her two sons, Nathan, 3, and Jeremiah, 1. The boys' father Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah, age 30, was charged with first degree murder in her death. At the time of the arrest he was on house arrest for a multitude of domestic violence related charges. Bridget's mother, Ante Yaa, wrote of Bridget in a tribute, *"I cherish every single minute we had together and although you were taken away too soon, you will always remain in my heart and in my memories."*

Kelsey Louise Felker, 24. Kitchener, January 26, 2013



Kelsey Louise Felker was a 24 year old Kitchener woman whose torso was recovered from a dumpster on Jan. 26. Stephen Roy Johnson, 37, whose relationship with the victim is unknown, was charged with first-degree murder and indignity to a human body. She was described by a friend as having a positive spirit.

Jeannine Ross-Armstrong, 38. Thunder Bay, February 2, 2013



Jeannine Ross-Armstrong, 38, was newlywed and running the family business, L.C.R. Estates, a garden centre and landscaping business on a rural swath of land just west of Thunder Bay's city centre. She died early on February 2, 2013, at a Richmond Hill condominium far from home as a result of blunt force trauma. Her brother Jonathon Ross, 36, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder.

Nyumwai Caroline Mkurazhizha, 23. Toronto, February 2, 2013

Nyumwai Caroline Mkurazhizha, a 23 year old woman, was strangled in Toronto. Mohamed Adam Bharwani, 18, has been charged with first-degree murder. Mkurazhizha had recently moved to Toronto from Zimbabwe for school. She was enrolled in her first year of an accounting program at the London School of Business & Finance.

Tania Cowell, 36. Stoney Creek, March 9, 2013



Tania Cowell, mother of a five-month-old boy, died from stab wounds on March 9, 2013. Her boyfriend, Haiden Suarez Noa, was charged with second-degree murder. *"She finally had her life on track, she was the happiest,"* said her niece, Victoria Cowell. A resident in her apartment said *"She was friendly with everybody. She was bubbly. She was very outgoing. She talked to everybody."*

Lindsay Margaret Wilson, 26. Ajax, April 5, 2013



Lindsay Margaret Wilson was shot by her ex-boyfriend Jeremy Raymond Pearson in Bracebridge, Ontario on Friday, April 5, 2013. Pearson, 32, then shot himself. Wilson was a fourth-year student in the Child and Family Studies program at Nipissing University's Muskoka campus. She was described as *"a compassionate, kind and beautiful soul, pursuing the vocation she found in herself at the age of 8"*.

Natasha Perez, 28. Toronto, April 6, 2013



Natasha Perez, a 28 year old Toronto woman, was murdered on Monday, April 6, 2013, in Toronto. Brian Harte, 42, also from Toronto, faces a single count of second-degree murder. She was the mother of a young son and described as a beautiful person. The relationship between Harte and Perez is not clear, however one friend suggests he was her boyfriend

Deena Balsler, 50. New Lowell, April 6, 2013

Deena Balsler, a resident of New Lowell, near Barrie, was murdered by her husband, Mitchell Brooks on May 24, 2013. She leaves behind two daughters. Deena was involved in the community as a Girl Guides leader at New Lowell Central Public School, and worked as a medical technician. A publication ban was put on the case, so few details have been released.

Nighisti Semret, 55, & Rigat Essag Ghirmay, 28. Toronto, October 2012 & May, 2013



Nighisti Semret



Rigat Essag Ghirmay

Nighisti Semret, 55 and Rigat Essag Ghirmay, 28 were Toronto women who were murdered at different times by the same man. Semret was murdered in October 2012, walking home from her cleaning job at the Delta Chelsea Hotel. Ghirmay's partial remains were found hidden in a bag in May. Andonay Zekarias, 42, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder. Police said the trio may have lived together briefly in transient housing after immigrating to Canada several years ago.

Xin Ying Lu, 66. Toronto, June 1, 2013

Xin Ying Lu was found with obvious signs of trauma when police were called to her apartment on June 1st. She died on June 3rd of her injuries. Jianwen Chen, 39, of Toronto, was arrested at the scene and has been charged with aggravated assault and attempted murder.

Rebecca Ransome, 27. Toronto, June 26, 2013



Rebecca Ransome, 27, died from stab wounds to the chest in her Toronto apartment on June 26, 2013. Her boyfriend Kyle Padmore, 26, was charged with second-degree murder. Another tenant in the building said *"I would hear a woman screaming off and on over the past year ... I heard her scream last night."* Rebecca, a legal assistant, was described by co-workers as a *"very bright, outgoing young professional who was always willing to help."*

Janina Rabsztyn Wigglesworth, 72. Toronto, July 13, 2013



Firefighters found 72-year-old Janina Rabsztyn Wigglesworth dead in her second-floor apartment in Toronto on July 13, 2013. An autopsy determined Wigglesworth was slain before a fire was sparked, making her the city's 30th murder victim of the year. Toronto Police have arrested a 26-year-old man, Anthony Wilson, who is facing first degree murder charges related to her death and setting her apartment ablaze in an apparent effort to cover his tracks.

Svetlana Babaega, 76 & Tatiana Khalidova, 49. Etobicoke, July 15, 2013

Svetlana Babaega, 76 was murdered as part of a triple homicide committed by 22 year old Alexander Khalilov who is charged with second degree murder. Cause of death not released but victims were found with 'obvious signs of injury.' Originally from Russia, she was visiting her nephew (Khalilov) in Etobicoke. Tatiana Khalilova, 49 was Khalilov's mother and she was also murdered at this time.

Shannon Ashley Hogan, 30. Thunder Bay, July 16, 2013



Shannon Ashley Hogan, 30, was the victim of what police call a violent assault in the early morning hours of July 16, 2013. Her obituary said that she was a very happy and vibrant child with a great sense of humour. She was an “A” Student, very bright and intelligent with a passion and eagerness to learn. Shannon was very athletic and enjoyed ringette, downhill skiing, swimming, gymnastics and hockey. Shannon also loved spending time with children, doing crafts and attending many Native traditional activities and events..

Nasira Fazli, 31. Ajax, July 19, 2013



Nasira Fazli died from multiple stab wounds on July 19, 2013. Her husband Feraidon Mohammad Imbrahem, 31, has been charged with second-degree murder. According to media reports there were previous reports of violence within their relationship. Her son, Yasin, 17 months, had just started calling her “*ma-ma*” days before she was murdered. Nasira Fazli was the rock of her family. She bought a house for her parents and siblings, with whom she lived.

Melissa Kelly Richmond, 28. Winchester, July 27, 2013



Melissa Kelly Richmond was found murdered on July 27th, 2013. Her body was found in a ravine, and it appeared Melissa had been stabbed to death. Her husband and former Canadian soldier Howard Richmond has been charged with first degree murder in her death. Kelly was described as an extremely kind and generous person. One tribute message said of Kelly *“no matter what kind of day she was having she would always try to see the good in everyone and everything. The world will definitely be a little darker without her.”*

Pearl Brown, 84. Woodstock, August 13, 2013

Police found Pearl Brown’s body when they were called to a duplex in the east end of Woodstock, on Tuesday August 13th. The exact cause of her death has not yet been released, however a 41-yr old man, Stephen Dustin, has been charged with first degree murder in her death. Their relationship is not clear.

Courtney Tourand, 31. Port Colbourne, August 27, 2013



Courtney's body was found at 3 am after a report to the police. Henry Gleason Leavere, 44, of Port Colborne, was charge with second-degree murder and indignity to a body. Their relationship was unknown.

Amy Paul, 27. Ottawa, September 17, 2013



Amy Paul was a 27 year old woman from Ottawa who went missing on September 3, 2013. Her body was found in a farmer's field on September 17, 2013. No one has been charged in her death. She was the mother of an eight year old girl.

Merlishar Holder, 31. Toronto, September 21, 2013

Merlishar Holder was found dead in the hallway of her Toronto apartment building on September 21, 2013, from an apparent stabbing. A man (believed to be her husband) fell from a 14th floor balcony and was pronounced dead at the scene. Police believe it to be a murder-suicide.

Wendy Taylor, 59. Kawartha Lakes, September 26, 2013



Wendy Taylor, a mother of three children, was found dead in her home in Kawartha Lakes, Ontario on September 26, 2013. Her husband, Iain Taylor, 57, has been charged with first-degree murder. Wendy was a huge supporter of Scouts Canada, and was a recent recipient of the prestigious Silver Acorn Award, given to Wendy for her dedicated work for the organization.

Teresa Dias, 72. Vaughan, October 12, 2013

Teresa Dias died from stab wounds on October 12, 2013. Her estranged husband, Edmundo Diaz, 82, has been charged with second-degree murder. Teresa lived with her family in Vaughan, Ontario. A neighbour said the victim was *"just a wonderful human being who didn't deserve this. She was a lovely woman."*

Leila Chandrapaul, 37. Toronto, October 13, 2013



Leila Chandrapaul, 37, was fatally stabbed in her King/Weston St. apartment on October 13, 2013 by her boyfriend, Areef Khan, 34, of Toronto. He faces a second-degree murder charge.

Anonymous. Hamilton, November 12, 2013

A woman was murdered on November 12, 2013 by a 35 year old man who has been arrested and is in custody. Their relationship is now clear yet.

SOURCES

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This year, in an effort to honour all women who have been murdered in Ontario, we have widened the criteria parameters to include women murdered as a result of gender-based violence. If we have missed any women who have been murdered as a result of gender-based violence, let us know by contacting OAITH: 416-977-6619 x2 or Susan@oait.ca.