

## Women and children murdered in 2012 where a partner was charged or committed suicide

**Karissa Grandine**, 30. Toronto. In October 2011, Karissa was rushed to hospital after police were called by her husband reporting that his pregnant wife was in medical distress. Police found Karissa in the bathtub but she later died in hospital. The cause of death was listed as drowning. Over six months later, in May of 2012, her 25-year-old husband Philip Grandine was charged with first-degree murder. The couple had been married for three years and Karissa was expecting her first child. Karissa was described in online condolences as a “beautiful person” and a “pure and gentle soul.” Philip Grandine had been a pastor at a local Baptist Church prior to the drowning but had recently resigned. No reasons were reported for the resignation. Karissa graduated from the University of Toronto in 2006 with an honours bachelor of science in human biology and archeology and had worked for Berkley Canada as a casualty underwriter. She had moved with her family from the Philippines to Canada in 1994. (October 2011)



**Lisa Lebitka**, 45. Mother of three children. Toronto. Lisa was found in the bedroom of her rented house in an upscale part of Toronto after her boyfriend called police from the home on New Year’s Day to report her missing. Her body had reportedly been there for a number of days. Her boyfriend, Paul Hindle, was then charged with second-degree murder. Lisa was an interior decorator who had reconnected with Hindle, who she’d known in high school. She lived in the home with Hindle, her children and one of Hindle’s children from a previous marriage. Media reports following the murder painted Hindle as a fraud artist and troubled man with a scattered past, trouble with the law and unstable relationships. His son commented in one report after the murder that: “He’s was a good dad. He’s just a terrible human being.” About Lisa he said: “She was brilliant. She was extremely creative and loving, wanted nothing but the best for her children—and I’m not even her kid.” One neighbour commented that “they were the happiest family you have seen. They were loving parents.” (January 2012).



**Katherine Newman**, 43. Mother of three children. Oakville. Katherine was found by a friend stabbed to death in her home. At about the same time, a man drove his car into police vehicles in the parking lot of a nearby police detachment, confronted police officers and was shot to death by police at the scene. He was later identified as Kyle Newman, the recently separated husband of Katherine Newman. Katherine’s father, noted retired judge, Walter Stayshyn, reportedly said that there had been increasing tension between the couple as they headed to court on child support issues. He was quoted as saying that: “I’ve been worried for the last year and a half because he’s changed. I was afraid he was going to do something to her.” Police later concluded that Katherine had been murdered by Kyle Newman. Katherine was a registered nurse who had worked in a number of hospitals in the area. She was described as a loving mother and a kind, compassionate person. She had met Kyle Newman in high school and they became a couple some years after graduating. (January 2012)



**Elaine Vawn LaForme**, 48. Mother of two children. Mississauga New Credit First Nations Reserve. Elaine



was found dead in a burned out home. The body of a man was also found at the scene and was identified as **Ricky Powless**, 52, of the Six Nations. Elaine's identity was determined by dental records some days after the discovery. Glenn Owen Hill, 60, who was reportedly "LaForme's longtime and estranged partner," was charged with two counts of first-degree murder. In her obituary, Elaine was described as a beloved mother, sister, special auntie and loving grandmother in an extended family. (January 2012)

**Andrene Graham**, 40. Mother of five children. Toronto. Andrene was found dying of a gunshot wound



to the head in an alley behind a shopping mall, where she was discovered by an area resident. She later died of her injuries in hospital. Her boyfriend, Paul Black, later died in an altercation with police in a Richmond Hill park. Police were unaware of her murder at the time. The Special Investigations Unit determined that when confronted by police Black repeatedly held a gun to his head and eventually shot himself. He had

earlier called police for assistance but disconnected when his calls were answered; police traced the calls and a suicide note was later found in his residence. He had been the subject of a criminal complaint by Andrene in which he was court-ordered to stay away from her. Andrene had decided to end their three-year relationship and Black was "upset" about it. Police described Andrene as well established in her community, very religious and well-respected, "all in all, a very successful and well-liked person." Her daughter described her as strong, stubborn and hard-headed and a really good mother. (January 2012)

**Sonya El-Birani**, 50. Mother of three children. London. Police found Sonya in her home suffering from stab wound; she later died in hospital of her injuries. Two young women were found outside the home visibly upset and crying. Police entered the house and arrested a man later identified as Sonya's husband, Chawki El-Birani, 53. He was charged with second-degree murder. Neighbours described the family as "very quiet." Relatives shared that Sonya and her husband came to Canada to escape war in Lebanon after the birth of their first daughter. They later had two more daughters, who were living at home at the time of the murder. Sonya's husband had been a teacher in Lebanon but had been unable to work as a result of medical issues. Sonya had been supporting the family; she had worked as an early childhood educator in day care centres. Sonya was described as "dedicated to her three daughters and her husband," by one relative who said she did not want to leave the failing relationship. Friends said Sonya was open and peaceful, that she was kind to children and everybody around her. (April 2012)

**Theresa Lefebvre**, 46. Mother of two. Stittsville. Theresa was found severely beaten by a baseball bat



after police were called to her home by a man who said he had killed his wife. She was transported to hospital and put into an induced coma as a result of severe head injuries, but died about a week later. Her husband, Peter Lefebvre, was later found hanged in Stoney Swamp Conservation Area. Police classified the incident as a murder-suicide. The couple was going through a divorce. Family members gave

conflicting stories about their relationship. Theresa's mother reported that her daughter had been living in an abusive marriage for a number of years and had called police in the past, but no charges had been

laid. Her husband's family disputed claims of abuse, saying that he had taken the break-up "extremely hard" and had been suffering from a serious depression, but was a devoted father and husband to Theresa and the children for over 20 years; friends described a man who had a "big heart," who coached hockey and organized fundraisers for breast cancer. Theresa was described by friends as vibrant, confident and determined and a doting, loving mother. Co-workers said she rarely socialized and kept her personal life private. (April 2012)

**Mary Hepburn, 32.** Barrie. Mary and a friend were found with their throats slashed in a Travelodge hotel room. Also in the room was Mark Dobson, 22, naked and suffering from injuries to his neck. All three were formerly from Alberta, but Mary and Dobson had moved to Barrie to live together. Her friend had reportedly arrived from Alberta to help Mary, who was facing back surgery. A friend attending court told media that Mary was a "bubbly girl" who was very "witty" and liked to go to dinner and yard sales with her. She referred to Dobson as Mary's boyfriend who had visited for dinner with Mary, but "didn't say much." Dobson was charged with two counts of first-degree murder. (May 2012)

**Lakhvir Dhaliwal, 37.** Mother of two. Brampton. Lakhvir was found shot to death in her home after police received a desperate call from a young child saying his mother was hurt. The children were at home at the time of her murder and were turned over to child protection services, which later placed them with her brother. A short time after the murder, her husband, Jatinder Dhaliwal, was arrested in a single car accident after fleeing the home. He was charged with second-degree murder. Neighbours reported that the police had been called to the home on a number of occasions as a result of problems. The family was described as quiet "nice people" and Lakhvir as an attentive mother who took her children to their sports activities or sat watching them play from her front porch. A vigil was organized by community members to honour Lakhvir and send a message to the children to restore their faith in humanity as well as to denounce all 'domestic violence.' (May 2012)



**Name withheld, 52.** Scarborough. Police found the lifeless body of a woman after a call of "unknown" trouble at a resident. Police did not release the woman's name, but described her murder as "domestic" in nature. They also would not release the cause of death. Kevin Noble, 52, was charged with second-degree murder. Neighbours and residents in her building said he lived on a different floor in the same building and that he and the woman were in an "on-again, off-again" relationship. (May 2012)

**Yvette Lindo, 57.** Mother of one. Caledon. The bodies of Yvette and her husband were found at their home in the rural community. Police ruled the deaths a murder-suicide but refused to publicly confirm the causes of death or to reveal anything else about their investigation. Using other sources, journalists reported that Anthony Lindo, Yvette's husband had called 911 and said he killed his wife. Between that call and police attendance at the scene, he committed suicide. Reportedly neighbours has also heard screams and gunshots during the night, although they didn't know of any previous incidents where police had been called to the house. They described the couple as quiet and polite. In condolences from both Canada and India, where Yvette was born, she was described by family members and friends as a



fun-loving, joyful and caring woman who performed dances in exhibitions and lived for her family in both countries, especially her son and his young family. (June 2012)

**Guanghua Liu**, 41. Scarborough. Mother of three. Over a number of weeks, body parts were found in



areas around Toronto and police investigations of the unfolding horrific details eventually led to her identity. Guanghua had been reported missing by her boyfriend, according to acquaintances and police were able to link these events. Chunqi Jiang, 40, her estranged boyfriend was charged with second-degree murder but police have not yet identified the scene of the crime. Guanghua was a Canadian citizen of

Chinese descent who struggled most of her life, according to her parents. She fled China 10 years previous to her murder and filed a refugee claim when she arrived in Vancouver. She went immediately from there to Toronto. Her refugee claim stated that she was under an order to be sterilized and pay a large fine in China because she had three children. China has a one-child policy and Guanghua and her husband didn't have money to pay, so they went into hiding. They decided Guanghua would go to Canada; her husband and children would follow. With money from family and a loan shark, Guanghua eventually would owe \$10,000 to get out of the country. In Canada, she met more hardship because of language barriers and lack of work, but had in the past year opened up a licensed holistic spa. Unfortunately, the business did not prosper and had recently been closed. Although separated, friends said that Guanghua talked about returning to China with her husband and two of her three children but most contacts knew little about her, her life here in Canada or her flight from her homeland. They could only describe her as a "nice, normal person." (August 2012)

**Cindy Sullivan**, 40. Trenton. Mother of three. Cindy was found dead in a ground-floor apartment of the



building where she lived. She had been visiting there from her own unit in the same building. Cindy had been reported missing and neighbours within the building reported a lengthy argument and fighting in the apartment and then silence. The cause of death was not reported. Ronald Shorey, 42, a man described as someone that Cindy had been dating before her death, was subsequently charged with second-

degree murder. Cindy was described by neighbours as a "shy, great person" who worked as a retail clerk and had lived at the complex for four years. In condolences, friends talked about her joy, her strength, her humour and her friendship to others. Cindy was described as someone who was a joy to be around and as a hard-working mother who only wanted a better life for her family. (August 2012)

**Joanne Underhill**, 50. Sarnia. Mother of three. Joanne was found stabbed to death in her home after



police responded to a call. Two of her children were present in the home when police arrived. Joanne had separated from her husband in 2010. She worked as a resource support teacher at a health centre for children and was a longtime member of the staff. She was dedicated to working with children and families; friends and family described Joanne as a kind, devoted mother with a positive outlook and zest for life.

She was described as a "role model" and a "vibrant woman of great beauty and character." Her estranged husband, James Province, 52, was charged with first-degree murder. (September 2012)

**Aicha Saludares, 40.** Mississauga. Aicha's body was found in her home with obvious signs of trauma, according to police. Police would not provide details of the trauma but indicated that it was her cause of death. Aicha worked as a mortgage agent and had been married to her partner for about two years. She was described as kind-hearted, bubbly and full of life. The couple was happy at first but the relationship had changed more recently; family members reportedly said that Aicha was planning to leave her husband. An arrest warrant was issued for her husband, Nelson Tayongtong, 39, and he was later found in a local apartment and charged with second-degree murder. (September 2012)



**Noah Kosalka, 6.** Milton. Noah was killed by his father in a murder-suicide that shocked people in his community and beyond. Police would not reveal the cause of death of either Noah or his father. Noah's mother and family members were devastated by the murder and suicide. Noah's mother, Tanya Brancalion, described the relationship between Noah and his father as very close and said he loved his son; she never had any concerns that Noah would be in danger in the care of his father. Neighbours reported that they often saw the father and son playing together at the end of the work day. The murder-suicide became high-profile when a YouTube video filmed by his father was found of Noah playing with a wild fish in a swimming area. In the video, his mother says that her son was an "animal whisperer" and that he loved animals and animals responded to him in an uncanny way. Tanya reportedly said that the couple was having marital trouble but that they were trying to work them out. She told a media contact that "I never in a million years thought I couldn't trust him with Noah, never". She added that despite the marital problems, the couple respected and loved each other very much. (September 2012)



**Shana Carter, 25.** Mother of one. Grimsby. Shana's body was found in a wooded area north of Parry Sound in September of 2012, but she had been reported missing by her family in December of 2010 after her sister was unable to reach her about dinner plans. Shana lived with her boyfriend of five years and the father of her young child at the time of her disappearance. According to media, her boyfriend told police that she had stepped out for a cigarette and didn't return to the home. She had last seen her mother in Halifax some time before when she and her boyfriend had separated briefly. Family members reported that Shana was "loving, caring, dedicated to her son" and that she would never leave him because he was the centre of her life. After her remains were found and identified, her former boyfriend, Christopher Lee Sharples, 35, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. (December 2010)



**Debra Allen, 52.** Mother of two. Georgetown. Debra was shot to death at her home, where her husband was later found dead from self-inflicted gunshots. Reportedly, Debra had arrived home on a Saturday afternoon with a friend, who later ran screaming up the street that her friend had been shot and seeking help from neighbours. Police arrived with hope of contacting the husband but were unable to prevent the tragedy. Debra Allen was the principal of a senior elementary school where she had worked for the previous five years. School staff and students praised her work, team approach, her dedication to the



school and her supportive and upbeat personality, mentioning that each day she would stand at the door and personally welcome the students to the school. Her husband was described by work related contacts as a “gentleman” and a “happy-go-lucky guy who always had a joke to tell” and was well-liked. One told media that he often talked about his two adult children, but rarely mentioned his wife. Neighbours told media that the couple was going through marital problems and that they were headed for divorce. (October 2012)

**Leonilde Cabral**, 70. Toronto. Mother of four. Leonilde was found dead with obvious signs of trauma in the basement of her home. Police found her there after they received a call from the house. They also found her husband, Armando Cabral, 74, suffering from life-threatening injuries. He was transported to hospital where he later died. Police determined the case to be murder suicide. The couple lived in the neighbourhood for many years, where they raised their family until the children moved away as adults. Neighbours spoke of seeing Armando Cabral often but said they rarely saw Leonilde except when she sat on the porch. Police said there were no previous reports of violence from the home. Family members reported that Armando Cabral had recently experienced mental health issues. (November 2012)