

Women and children murdered in 2008 where partner charged or committed suicide

Stefanie Rengel, 14. Toronto. On New Year's Day, Stefanie was lured to a meeting with a phone call, stabbed six times and left to die on the street in the snow. Her parents, both police officers, gave consent for her name to be released. Stefanie was described by friends as smart, funny and "an overall amazing happy person" who liked to write songs and poetry. A 17-year-old boy, an ex-boyfriend of Stefanie, was later arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the stabbing. Subsequently, a 15-year-old girl, said to be the current girlfriend of the boy, was also arrested and charged with first-degree murder. Both were denied bail and in an unusual move, the judge in the case stated that the motive for the stabbing was "senseless jealousy" on the part of the accused girl who "used" the co-accused an "instrument of her hatred." (January 2008)

Tashina General, 21. Tashina disappeared in January from her home on the Six Nations Reserve after leaving her mother's house to go to work. Family, community and police searched for her but her body wasn't found until near the end of April. She had been strangled to death. Tashina was pregnant when she was murdered and buried in a shallow grave on the Reserve. Her ex-boyfriend, Kent Owen Hill, was found in North Bay where he was charged with second-degree murder and returned to Six Nations. (January 2008)

Edyta Lewandowski, 32. Toronto. Mother of one. Edyta was found by police slumped against the front door of her ex-husband's foyer with a gun by her side, dead from a gunshot. Over a 4-month investigation, police ruled out suicide and charged her ex-husband, Donald Sneyd, with first-degree murder in June 2008. The couple had been through a divorce and custody battle which was decided with a joint custody ruling. Edyta was picking up her 2-year-old son from his father on the day of the murder. She had identified in court papers that her ex-husband owned guns and had threatened to use them. (February 2008)

Jane Doe. Toronto. Mother of five grown children. This woman was found dead in the penthouse apartment she shared with her husband after a man called police and said he had killed his wife. Police said the woman had suffered severe fatal slash wounds to the neck. Her 60-year-old husband was charged with second-degree murder. Police would not release the names of either the victims or the accused, but the Toronto Sun newspaper reported that a poster at the building offered condolences to "the Khaire family." (March 2008)

Nadine Parker, 36. Dunnville. Mother of three. Nadine was killed when the minivan she was riding in was deliberately driven into a concrete highway pillar. Her husband, former deputy mayor of the town, was driving. He later died in hospital. Police have determined that Nadine's death was a homicide, but were unable to determine if the death of her husband, Norman Parker, was accidental or suicide. (March 2008)

Valerie Ferguson, 44. Mother of two. Elmira. Valerie was found dead in her home after police were called to check the well-being of a resident. The death was originally thought to be a sudden death, but an autopsy determined that Valerie had been strangled. Valerie was a devoutly Christian woman and a homemaker who taught Sunday school and participated regularly in church activities. She was also active in her children's school and within the community. She was described as "a giving person" with "a heart for people." Her husband, Ken Ferguson, was charged with first-degree murder. (April 2008)

Ildiko Szava, 46, mother of one and **Karolyne Gallasz**, 70, her mother. Toronto. The bodies of Ildiko and Karolyne were found after fire gutted two units of a townhouse complex. The body of Ildiko's husband, Majid Ahmad, was also found after the blaze was extinguished. Autopsies found that Ildiko died from a stab wound to the heart. Her mother was strangled. The man was found with a gun beside him, but died of smoke inhalation from the fire he set. The couple's three-year-old son had been locked outside the apartment and sent to the complex superintendent with an apparent suicide note and phone numbers for family members. Majid Ahmad was known to police and had a criminal history of domestic violence dating back to 2005. (May 2008)

Carolyn Carroll, 44, Wahnapiatae, and **Mark Anthony Comeau**, 46, Coniston. The bodies of Carolyn and Mark were found in a remote cabin on Thor's Lake, 80 kilometres north of Sudbury. The cause of the deaths was not released. Carolyn was in the midst of divorcing her husband of 19 years at the time of the murder. Her estranged husband, John Reginald Carroll, was later charged with first-degree murder in the deaths. (May 2008)

Alicia Bateman, 28. Ottawa. Alicia's body was found strangled to death in a Jeep in her garage. She had just broken up with her ex-fiancé the week before the murder. Police also found 28-year-old Ryan Sawchuk, who had dated Alicia since high school, hanging inside the home. He had flown back to Ottawa from their home town of Calgary, where he had been working. Family and friends were "shocked" by the crime and didn't believe he was capable of it. (June 2008)

Lien Angelis, 42. Ottawa. Mother of two. Police found Lien's body wrapped in a carpet in the apartment she shared with her husband after he called police to say his wife wasn't breathing. Police said it appeared that she had been dead for several hours. The two children were inside the apartment when the murder happened. Police said the couple were divorcing. Demetrios Angelis, a senior policy analyst with the Public Health Agency of Canada, was later charged with second-degree murder. (June 2008)

Liana Matthewson, 44. Mother of two grown children. Peterborough. Liana was strangled to death and her body thrown in a dump 35 kilometres away from the city. Her daughters held an Aboriginal ceremony for her at the site of her death, and their friends organized a fundraiser to help cover the costs of funeral and travel expenses for the family. David Paul Dumas, who police described as an "on again, off again" partner to Liana, was charged with first-degree murder. (July 2008)

Karina Neff, 31. Mississauga. After Karina went missing, her family called police to investigate her disappearance. Karina's body was discovered later in a wooded area near her home; she had been stabbed to death. Karina was developmentally challenged and often took walks in the neighbourhood with her dog, a Doberman pinscher. Neighbours described her as "always smiling, always talking" and her family described her as their "ray of sunshine." Jason Osborne, who had what police describe as an "on-again, off-again" relationship with Karina, was charged with first-degree murder. (July 2008)

Yvonne Leroux, 58. Lindsay. Yvonne was found shot to death in a trailer park just south of the town of Lindsay. A number of people heard shots but thought that they were the shots of hunters in the area. Police conducted a manhunt across the region and about eight hours later, arrested her estranged husband after spotting his vehicle on Highway 7. Jack Hale was charged with first-degree murder. (September 2008)

Barbara Short, 48. Sarnia. Mother of two children. Barbara was found dead in her home after a 911 call to police by a family member. Police reported that she died of fatal injuries from an undisclosed weapon. Weeks before the murder, Barbara had filed for divorce from her husband of 28 years. She had provided child care in the home that they shared. Her husband, Craig Short, was charged with first-degree murder. (October 2008)

Susan Ryan, 57 shot to death by her husband in her home he was charged with second degree murder he is a recently retired Toronto Police Officer Mississauga (November 2008)