

Femicide List 2011

Women murdered where an intimate partner was charged or committed suicide

Women murdered from December 2010 to October 2011

Antoinette Lavoie, 69. Murillo. Mother of two adult children. Antoinette's body was found in her home, along with the body of her husband, who had called 911. Murillo is near Thunder Bay. A post-mortem examination determined that she had died of a single gunshot wound. Her husband died of a self-inflicted gunshot. Police had charged Joseph Lavoie in October with assault causing bodily harm arising from a 'domestic' dispute in August. Police were trying to track the gun, which was unregistered, and where it might have come from. Lavoie had previously had five guns seized after charges were laid in the previous assault. Serious questions about police and court actions regarding the case were raised by local women's advocates, but their concerns receive only slight response and a report of the systemic review in the murder-suicide was not publicly released. (December 2010)

Tunde Nemet, 46. Ottawa. Mother of three. Tunde was stabbed multiple times in her home in front of her 15-year-old son, who ran to neighbours telling them, "my dad's stabbing my mom" over and over again. The family, which had settled in Sudbury after fleeing war in Serbia for peace in Canada, had been living in Ottawa for a couple of years. Less than two months before the murder, the woman's husband had moved out of the house and was under orders not to communicate with the family after a charge of assault on one of his daughters was laid against him. According to a friend, he had been trying to make amends and get his family back. Said the friend: "After being 25 years with his wife and having those children, you know it's not easy...He did everything he could, and his wife just didn't want to take him (back)." Mihalj Nemet, 56, was charged with first-degree murder. (March 2011)

Maria Rosario Avidago, 43, Mississauga. Mother of two. Maria was stabbed in the kitchen of her home and later died of her injuries in hospital. A neighbor and friend called 911 after seeing Maria's 13-year-old daughter standing in the street in the afternoon screaming that her mother was being stabbed. Apparently, Maria had returned home from her job as a dental hygienist to pick up a child car seat to give to her sister. One neighbor described her as a "beautiful soul, a loving mother, always smiling." "There's no one with a purer heart," said a friend. When police arrived, they were confronted by Maria's husband holding a knife. After a brief stand-off, they used a Taser weapon on him and arrested him at the scene. Victor Avidago, 46, was charged with second-degree murder. (March 2011)

Petty Mahabir-Chaitram, 43, Brampton. Mother of three. Petty was stabbed to death by her estranged husband, Mathura Chaitram, 46, who then committed suicide. Her body was found on the patio of the home where she had recently rented a basement apartment, the home owner said, "to get away from her husband." She had moved with him to Canada a year before from Trinidad, where she had married Chaitram after her first husband and the father of her children had died. Her cousin and niece from Trinidad said that he had been abusive for a long time and very jealous, and that she left him when he started to "rough up the kids and be harsh with them." Petty was described as very nice, quiet and kind. (April 2011)

Elaine Robertson, 61, Thunder Bay. Mother of three adult children. Elaine's body was found at her home after her husband arrived at the police station to turn himself in. No cause of death, or very little else about the murder or about Elaine, has been reported. Police were reported to say that it "appears to have been a 'domestic' incident. Neighbours at the apartment building where the couple lived described them as "nice, with the husband looking out for his wife." An obituary notice described Elaine as a

“loving wife, mother and grandmother” who loved to watch her grandchildren play hockey, cook and spend time with family and friends. John Roberston, 63, was charged with second-degree murder. (April 2011)

Constance Fuhrmann, 43, London. Mother of three. Connie, as she was known, was found dead after police were called to respond to a highrise where a man had apparently fallen to his death. Police identified the man as Ken Fuhrmann, 47, the estranged husband of Connie Fuhrmann, who lived in a 10th-floor apartment of the building. An autopsy was performed but it did not confirm the exact cause of Connie’s death. Police later described the situation as a murder-suicide. Connie had recently separated from her husband and had moved from their home in nearby Thorndale. (April 2011)

Patricia Pacheco-Hernandez, 41, London. Mother of three. Patricia was found dead by police after a frantic 911 call from a neighbor. The cause of death was not released. Patricia and her husband had fled Colombia as refugees in 2002 after threats were made against the family by militants. She was a lawyer in her homeland and, although she liked Canada, was lonely for her family and country and missed her work there. In Canada, she worked as a cleaner and sold jewelry that she brought from visits back home. Reportedly she and her husband had been arguing in the weeks before her death; that she had wanted a divorce and that she wanted to return to Colombia. Patricia was described as a “remarkable mom” and an avid gardener who had recently become anxious. Friends said her husband was a “really nice guy” and a hard worker. Patricia’s family wanted to bring her body back to Columbia to be buried but could not afford the expense, so she was buried in Canada. Her husband, Daniel Jimenez-Acosta, 43, was charged with second-degree murder. (May 2011)

Marilyn Dellaire, 56, Mississauga. Mother of two adult children. Police found Marilyn in her home with obvious signs of trauma after they received a report of a ‘domestic’ disturbance. The specific cause of death was not released but a police source revealed that a weapon was used. Little was reported about her or her life except to say that she and her partner lived alone in the apartment and that the residence was apparently known to police. Her long-time common law partner, Doug McCoy, 48, was charged with second-degree murder. (June 2011)

Kamillah Keller, 19, Tweed. Mother of two. Kamillah, or Kami as she was known, was found dead in her apartment by police officers responding to reports of a “domestic” at the address. Police would not comment on how Kami died, but other sources said that she was stabbed. One police officer was also reported to have received serious injuries as a result of an attack by the suspect in an altercation at the home, where police then opened fire, shooting and injuring the suspect. Neighbours described both Kami and her partner as nice, polite and well-spoken and said they didn’t know of any conflict between them although one described their relationship as “rocky”. Kami had just returned to the home the night before the murder after staying with friends for a few days, and had reportedly taken the children to the apartment of the building superintendant at the time of an alleged fight. Kami’s partner, Nathan Williams, 22, the father of the children, was charged with first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder. (June 2011)

Joanne MacKenzie, 23, Peterborough. Mother of one. Joanne disappeared on the morning of July 2nd and her body was found several days later in a rural area just north of the city. Joanne had recently moved back to Peterborough to find work after living in a smaller community. An autopsy showed that she died of ‘sharp force trauma.’ Members of her close circle of family and friends had been searching for her since she disappeared. “She was an angel,” one of them reported. “Anyone who knew her was blessed to have known her.” Her daughter, they said, was everything to her. Joanne’s estranged

common-law partner and the father of her daughter, Robert McGregor, 25, was charged with first-degree murder and obstruction of justice. (July 2011)

Shaher Bano Shahdady, 21, Scarborough. Mother of one. Shaher was strangled to death in an apartment she had recently rented after leaving her husband. Although raised in Canada, she had been sent to Pakistan at 18 for an arranged marriage and returned to Canada for the birth of her child. She sponsored her husband to come to Canada and he arrived only two months before she was murdered. Neighbours reported hearing a loud fight and a child screaming in the apartment, but no one called police. Her two-year-old son was left in the apartment after the murder until Shaher's father arrived to check on her 12 hours later. The case sparked media speculation of so-called "honour" killing because Shaher's husband reportedly did not agree with her desire to go to school or work outside the home and opposed her use of Facebook. Her estranged husband, Abdul Malik Rustam, 27, was charged with first-degree murder. (July 2011)

Dawn Bailey, 27, Gilford. Dawn's body was found after firefighters were called to the home where she lived with her parents. Neighbours had tried to enter the home but were driven back by thick smoke. Police later reported that she had been stabbed to death and the house set on fire. Dawn was an avid hockey fan, player, coach and mentor for younger female players in the Aurora Girls Hockey Association and the Barrie Women's Hockey Association. Friends were reportedly "devastated" by her murder, calling her an "awesome person with an awesome attitude." One of her teammates who thought of Dawn as a 'little sister' told media: "It's so tragic and so sad. She was so young and had her whole life ahead of her." Dawn's ex-boyfriend, Ryan Kovacs, 27, of Bradford was charged with first-degree murder, two counts of arson and break and enter with intent to commit a felony. (July 2011)

Nasrin Toreihi, 47, Thornhill. Mother of two. Nasrin was found by police stabbed to death on her kitchen floor. Her ex-husband, Kaveh Tabatabaeim, 50, was found holding a knife and was shot and killed by police at the scene. Nasrin's teenage daughter witnessed the attack and ran into the street screaming for help. Police had responded previously to the same residence and eight officers were dispatched to the call. Because the case involved a police shooting, it was investigated by the Province's Special Investigations Unit and the officers cleared of any wrongdoing. The investigation reported that police found Mr. Tabatabaeim alternately attempting to stab himself and lunge at the officers. They attempted several methods to subdue him but were unsuccessful and finally decided to shoot. Police did not have Taser weapons with them. A close friend of Nasrin told reporters that her friend had predicted her husband would one day come and kill her. (August 2011)

Raquel Junio, 42, Brampton. Mother of two. Raquel's body was found in a pond near Bolton four days after she was dragged from her home and forced into a pickup truck. Shortly after her disappearance, her estranged husband was charged with kidnapping, forcible confinement and assault, but he did not provide any information about her whereabouts. A friend of the accused was also charged with her kidnapping. After Raquel's body was found, charges against her husband were upgraded to first-degree murder. Raquel worked at a second hand store where co-workers described her as "an amazing human being" with a great sense of humour who talked a lot about her two children, but never mentioned her husband. Friends of the accused reportedly described him as kind, generous and "not violent at all" but that he was upset that the marriage was ending and he apparently thought Raquel was "taking everything from him." Macdermid Ermacora, 42, was charged with first-degree murder, kidnapping and forcible confinement. His friend, Gary Murray, 42, was charged with kidnapping, forcible confinement and accessory after the fact to murder. (August 2011)

Rejina Kendy, 26, Kitchener. Rejina was found by police in her home dead of blunt force injuries. She was six months pregnant at the time and had been in Canada for only about a year, after being sponsored by her husband. Both had fled to Egypt to escape war in the Sudan and had married in 2009 in Cairo. She was described as an easygoing person who could get along with everyone and a very religious woman who believed that everything would work out with the help of God. Her husband was on bail at the time of the murder for a serious assault against Rejina only months after she arrived in Canada. Less than three weeks before the murder he was again charged with breaching his order to stay away from her when a child welfare worker reported to police that the couple was living together. On the breach charge, the judge decided to release him with the same orders to stay away and deemed the first assault “one single incident” with no indication of prior trouble. He was released on a \$3,000 bond with no deposit, with a long-time friend as his surety. Four days before he was to appear in court on the assault charge, Rejina was found dead. Her husband, Ambrose Kose, 28, was charged with first-degree murder and two counts of violating bail terms. (August 2011)

Kiranjit Nijjar, 17, Mississauga. Kiranjit’s body was found by police with ‘obvious signs of trauma’ in a wooded ravine near her high school some hours after a 16-year-old youth jumped from a highway overpass. She had been stabbed to death. The youth later died of his injuries in hospital. Students who organized a vigil for Kiran, as she was called, said the pair had been very close friends for a long time, but that the youth had wanted to take the relationship to another level. Kiran reportedly did not want more than a friendship. The young man had battled depression and apparently bullying, and Kiran had tried to help him get support. School officials told media that everything that could be done was done for him. Before he leapt to his death he left messages on Facebook that indicated both would “RIP” and that he was “leaving this sad world today.” Kiran was mourned by friends as a kind, friendly and very smart young woman who always had a smile for everyone. (September 2011)

These women will be added to our list this year, but were murdered in previous years. Either charges were not laid until 2011, or the relationship of victim and accused was not previously reported

Therssa Wilson, 30. 2010 London. Mother of two. Therssa disappeared in November of 2010. Her badly decomposed body was discovered four months later on the banks of the Thames River near Chatham. An autopsy eventually revealed that she died of head trauma. At the time of her disappearance police described her as having a “high-risk lifestyle” because she had a history of drug use. Therssa was an Aboriginal woman with a large extended family whose parents had died years previously and who had just reunited with an older sister who had been put up for adoption as an infant. Almost a year after her disappearance, police arrested her boyfriend after finding blood spatter in the apartment that they had shared. Family members held out hope but feared the worst when Therssa did not contact family or call at Christmas, something they said she would never have done to her children. Her ex-husband and father of her children, with whom she maintained regular contact, described her as strong, smart and fun-loving. Bryan Robinson, 52, was charged with second-degree murder in October 2011. (November 2010)

Samantha Collins, 29, Bracebridge. Mother of two. Samantha’s remains were found by a caretaker at a Wood Lake cottage near Bracebridge in July of 2010. The cause of death has not been reported. Samantha had moved with her common-law partner to Bracebridge from the Toronto area before the birth of their second child and then in 2007 just vanished without a trace. Her sister has described her as a free spirit who just went off and did her own thing. At the time of the disappearance, her partner told family that she had just taken off to British Columbia. No one heard from her again. During her time in Bracebridge she made the front page of a local newspaper for helping to organize a public protest

against impending closure of the hospital emergency room services she needed as a result of epilepsy. Her mother told media that she was “so beautiful, with so much potential.” She didn’t have any close friends in Bracebridge, however, so family had little to go on. Eleven months after her remains were found her estranged partner was arrested. According to family members, the couple was in a bitter custody dispute at the time Samantha vanished. Ian Charles Borbely, 35, of Orillia was charged with second-degree murder and indignity to human remains. (Month unknown 2007)

Whitney Van Der Wouden, 15, Sudbury. Whitney, or ‘Dolly’ as she was called, disappeared in April of 2009 after calling her mother to ask if she could stay with a friend overnight. She was told to come home, but never heard from again. In June, police investigating her disappearance found her burned and crushed remains in a campsite in the woods where two men, one a 17-year-old youth that she was seeing and “sweet on” and an older 28-year-old man had been living. She had been stabbed before her body was burned, dismembered and buried under the fire pit. The two men left town after the murder but were later arrested in Quebec after they turned themselves in. The older man told a friend of the murder saying that they murdered Dolly after she refused sexual advances. Dolly’s family described her as “rebellious,” but with a big heart. The two men had been at the family home for lunch on the day of Dolly’s disappearance. The youth (who cannot be named until his appeals are heard) and the older man, Kristopher Lavallee, 28, were charged with first-degree murder and indignity to human remains. The youth was tried and convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced as an adult in 2011. Lavallee will be tried in 2012. (April 2009)

Denise Bourdeau, 39, Waterloo. Mother of three. Denise was last seen leaving a restaurant with a man police described as a “close acquaintance” on New Year’s Eve, 2006. Her body was found on the banks of the Grand River four months later. The Native Women’s Association of Canada website for missing and murdered Aboriginal women described Denise as someone who could “light up any room” with her “easy, beautiful smile and her amazing sense of humour.” Although police said they were working the case and that it never went ‘cold’, it was four years later that an arrest was made. In July 2011, Denise’s mother, Amy Miller, was featured in a Kitchener newspaper recalling the murder of her daughter and calling for action on the case. The story described her frustration with lack of information from police and justice for her daughter. She said the man with Denise on the night she disappeared was her former common-law partner and that Denise had broken off the relationship before her disappearance. Two days later, her ex-partner was arrested. David Robert Thomas, 48, was charged with second-degree murder. (January 2007)