

Michelle Hanson case pushed back, third hearing set for Dec. 18

Written By **MIKE BAKER**

The case against Michelle Hanson, mother of deceased toddler Kaden Young, was back in front of a judge at the Orangeville courthouse on Tuesday.

It was the second scheduled hearing relating to Ms. Hanson, who was last month charged in the death of her three-year-old son. When the lawyer representing the accused asked the court to put off her case once again, the presiding judge agreed, with a third hearing now scheduled for Dec. 18.

Orangeville lawyer Richard Allman, while speaking on behalf of Ms. Hanson in each of these first two court hearings, noted he had yet to be retained to represent her. He also confirmed he had been provided with the Crown's disclosure of evidence in the case. Back on Nov. 6, Ms. Hanson was told she would have the opportunity to decide how and where she is tried. That decision has not yet been made, with Ms. Hanson set to decide between a trial by a judge or a jury of her peers. As was also the case on Nov. 6, Ms. Hanson was not present during Tuesday's hearing.

The OPP confirmed back on Oct. 11 it had charged the 35-year-old Ms. Hanson with impaired driving causing death, dangerous driving causing death and criminal negligence causing death. Police would make no further comments regarding the allegations so as to not compromise the integrity of future court proceedings.

Young Kaden was lost after the minivan driven by his mother was pulled into the raging Grand River on Feb. 21. Ms. Hanson had apparently failed to stop at a road closure sign. Despite both occupants having managed to escape the vehicle, Kaden was torn from his mother's arms. It was later determined he had drowned in the icy waters. His body was finally pulled from Belwood Lake on April 21.

Ms. Hanson is next scheduled to answer to the allegations on Dec. 18 at the Orangeville courthouse.