

Seven held in Essa murder case

In a multi-jurisdictional murder investigation that originated on Aug. 25, 2013, and progressed almost as swiftly as TV's Crime Scene Investigation, there are already seven suspects in custody; six of those charged with first degree murder and one with being an accessory after the fact.

The latest to be charged and remanded in custody by the Ontario Court of Justice at Orangeville pending a further appearance Oct. 21 was Narankar Dhillon, 51, of Brampton. All other suspects are from the Brampton area.

The homicide investigation commenced after an autopsy revealed that Herminder Bhandal, 39, of Brampton, whose body had been recovered from a burned vehicle in Essa Township, had been murdered.

OPP media officer Sgt. Peter Leon said Wednesday it was his understanding that Mr. Bhandal had previously been reported to Peel Regional Police as missing, and further that something of an evidentiary nature had been discovered in the Bolton area of Caledon.

Hence, an investigation team including Peel Regional Police, Caledon OPP and Nottawasaga OPP was quickly assembled under the able direction of CIB Detective Inspector Colleen McCormick.

Although there are now seven persons in custody and the progress is gratifying, he said the investigation is continuing.

By Wes Keller