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Disconnected 911 call probed

From BI

fied dive inspector, trained to detect explosive devices such as mines and disarm them.

"All sailors, regular forces and reserves, all have to bring a knife on board for safety reasons," said Sub-Lieut. Peggy Kulmala, who handles public affairs for Lee's Victoria naval reserve detachment, HMCS Malahat.

Navy members must carry knives in case they fall overboard and have to cut something entangling them, she said.

There are no standard-issue military knives, and Kulmala could not say for certain whether the murder weapon described was Lee's naval knife.

The bodies of Lee, his wife, and son Christian were found barricaded inside an office off a bedroom on the second floor of the two-level million-dollar home in one of Oak Bay's most prestigious neighbourhoods.

The bodies of Park's parents, Kum Lea Chun, 59, and Moon Kyu Park, 66, were found in the hallway outside.

The coroners' office will decide in the coming weeks if an inquest should be called into the deaths, said Stanton.

Stanton put to rest any speculation that some of the family members may have been alive in the home while a police tactical squad waited about five hours before storming past the barricade and into the bedroom.

Stanton said the five people died around 3 a.m., shortly after a woman



Peter Lee died of self-inflicted knife wounds. The bodies of his estranged wife, child and wife's parents were found nearby.

inside the home made a 911 call to police asking for help.

Police are investigating why that 911 call was disconnected at least once, forcing a dispatch officer to call the number back at one point and reconnect with the frantic woman inside the home.

Reception on police radios that morning was also unreliable, and in spots did not work at all, officers said. Backup cellphones carried by Saanich police were also unable to get reception in

what is a bad spot for cell reception.

"The radios did not perform well and certainly interrupted the communications of the fellows on the ground at the time, making a dangerous situation more dangerous," said Saanich police union president Steve Irwin.

Oak Bay Police Chief Ron Gaudet said he did not want to elaborate on what is an ongoing investigation, but did say he was aware of concerns surrounding the dropped 911 call. Saanich Police Insp. Scott Green said he heard officers had problem communicating on their radios.

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Wally Oppal rejected calls Thursday for an independent review of how the justice system dealt with Peter Lee in the day and weeks before the murder-suicide.

Oppal said the criminal justice branch will gather and review evidence as it does in all such cases. "We'll look at that and determine whether or not any errors were made, and if errors were made, how do we correct them," he said.

Until such a review is complete, however, there's little need for an independent study, he said.

But NDP critic Mike Farnworth said the case cries out for an independent review. He pointed to media reports indicating that Lee was released from custody, against police advice, after deliberately driving his Land Rover into a pole earlier this summer, causing his wife to break her arm. The Crown consented to Lee's release.

CanWest News Service

Keremeos mayor welcomes treatment centre

From BI

to kick her habit, which included pot, meth and heroin.

She is now living back at home with her family, working for Vancouver Coastal and part time at the John Howard Society, plays in a band and has friends.

"It was just amazing; it was the best thing I've ever been to and it saved my life," Gill said. "I still have friends out there with active addictions. I bus by them on Hastings and they're out there dying. There's nothing out there for them."

Keremeos Mayor Walter Despot said he supports the idea of a treatment centre in his city after speaking with may-

ors in Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec.

He said the program operator, Portage Program for Drug Dependencies, will visit Keremeos later this month to outline the plans to the public.

He concedes there will likely be some opposition as the public was not forewarned of the plans because he was asked to keep them confidential.

"It's kind of like sending [Vancouver's] garbage to Ashcroft," he said. "This is human nature. I'm pleased Portage is coming to speak to the community."

"I'm quite sure there will be a couple of hardliners coming in."

Despot said he had been concerned about the potential impact on Kere-

meos's health and policing services but isn't worried about those being factors.

Instead, he said, the treatment centre will be an asset, and could even bring jobs to the community.

"Substance abuse is a mega problem and we have to find better ways to treat it," he said.

"If we're going to start it in Keremeos, I'm comfortable with that."

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