

OPP Officer Laurie Hawkins Succumbs To Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

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December 9, 2008

When dedicated OPP Constable Laurie Hawkins failed to show up for a shift December 1st, her colleagues were concerned.

Officers immediately drove to her home in Woodstock. What they found left even their chief of police in tears.



Her husband Richard Hawkins and their two children, Cassandra, 14 and Jordan, 12, were dead and Laurie was barely clinging to life.

She was rushed to a Toronto hospital for treatment, the victim of carbon monoxide poisoning that had emanated from a poorly vented fireplace in the family basement.

When it became apparent that she would not survive, Laurie was transferred to North Bay General to spend her last days surrounded by friends and family.

She passed away at 12:30am Tuesday.

“We have worked extensively with Laurie, my staff has, and I have,” noted an emotional Chief Ron Fraser of Oxford Community Police.

“Our children have grown up together. It’s a very difficult time.”

In a press release, the Hawkins and Gignac families thanked everyone who supported them since the tragedy. Funeral arrangements are being made and will be made available at a later time.

To sign a book of condolence for the family, [click here](#).

Carbon monoxide is a colourless and odourless substance that can cause death with prolonged exposure. It can happen when a heating source malfunctions or isn’t properly ventilated.

And because you can’t smell it, it can cause victims to lose consciousness without being aware of its presence. It can often overtake people as they sleep, adding to the danger that they’ll simply never wake up.

For more on carbon monoxide and the warning signs you need to look for, [click here](#).

[Find out more about CO and fireplaces here.](#)