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## NEWS

# Woman guilty of misleading police in shooting

Brenton "Junior" Charlton and Leonard Bell were innocent men returning home from a late afternoon trip to a bank when gunmen pulled up alongside and raked their car with gunfire.

By **Betsy Powell** Crime Reporter

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Brenton "Junior" Charlton and Leonard Bell were innocent men returning home from a late afternoon trip to a bank when gunmen pulled up alongside and raked their car with gunfire.

Witnesses said it was a black Nissan Pathfinder that sped away from the intersection of Finch Ave. E. and Neilson Rd., leaving behind stunned rush-hour commuters. Charlton, 31, an outgoing and popular SkyDome worker, died. Bell, now 51, survived despite numerous wounds.

The March 3, 2004, shooting triggered Project Pathfinder, a homicide investigation that evolved into a much bigger takedown in October that year, targeting members of the Galloway Boys, a gang that claimed the Kingston and Galloway roads area as its turf.

This week in Ontario Superior Court, the woman who owned the Pathfinder that gave the probe its name admitted lying about the vehicle

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committing an offence for the benefit of a criminal organization.

Newby's plea does not mean she was a gang member nor had anything to do with the shooting, according to the joint submission presented by Crown attorney Lesley Pasquino.

Yet when police approached Newby about the Pathfinder in July 2004, she was "vague and inconsistent" and tried to mislead them by suggesting it had been stolen, according to the agreed statement of facts.

But police intercepted phone calls that demonstrated she knew more and was trying to deflect culpability from the suspected killers. Three members of the Galloway Boys including the purported leader, Tyshan Riley, face murder charges in the crime. Newby brings to four the number of people who have pleaded guilty since a preliminary hearing for the 17 co-accused ended in December. Twelve await trial.

The accused are alleged to be involved in a myriad of crimes connected to a turf battle with the Malvern Crew. Newby was freed after a total of 13 months in jail, the equivalent of her receiving a sentence of one year, one month for each of the two offences, Justice David Watt said. She was initially freed on bail in October 2004 but was re-arrested and had been in custody since being convicted of breaching bail conditions in 2005 by communicating with a co-accused.

As Newby left, she hugged relatives, including her 12-year-old son. Her lawyer, Geary Tomlinson, said the case showed how serious the province is about gang-related prosecutions.

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