# use hastened aut of man's nother, Ont. court rules

National Post TORONTO

Ontario man who admitted ated his dog better than his ailmother was convicted of laughter Wednesday, even this actions didn't directly her death—setting a legal first elder abuse case.

ce Edward Then found Donald rorthy of Scarborough guilty of ficantly contributing" to the of his 78-year-old mother, Mary,

ars ago.

suffered from Alzheimer's and fongestive heart failure.

ost cases, a manslaughter conn hinges on a person directly g someone's death.

hen agreed with a pathologist estified Noseworthy's regular gs on the woman, along with hartition, "accelerated" her

elerating death is a manner of buting to death," Then said.

asonable person would have

ne bodily harm in striking Mrs. orthy ... it precipitated, accelor exacerbated the diseases

d to her death."

worthy, 55, pleaded guilty to to provide the necessities of life nother, who died July 14, 2005. Irown prosecutor Rosemarie ovic pushed to have the man sted of the more serious aughter charge after a police gation revealed Noseworthy call 911 in the last days of his r's life, fearing he'd be charged abuse inflicted on the incontioman.

worthy told police he slapped ked his mother, didn't feed her eral days and gave her little waronto police officer Joel Kulisaid outside court Wednesday beworthy treated his dog bet-

n his own mother.

had an elderly dog in the basehat he admitted to us he fed, he ed the water regularly," Kul-

vever, he allowed his mother in squalor."

worthy will be back in court ch 2 for sentencing.

maximum sentence for ughter is 25 years in prison.

st News Service, with files from The Canadian Press

## CANADA DIGEST

### Bizarre scheme to hide from police

KITCHENER, ONT. / A man who missed a date in a Cambridge, Ont., courtroom last November went to great lengths to hide from the law, court heard Wednesday.

Barry Kirkpatrick, who was to plead guilty to driving while disqualified, decided to elude the police by digging a tunnel under the cement floor of his basement.

Kirkpatrick's bizarre scheme actually worked for a while, his lawyer, Tom Brock, said after his client pleaded

guilty to the charge on Wednesday.

Police were in Kirkpatrick's home in Kitchener several times and couldn't find him. He was hunkered down in a dirt room under his basement. A dresser screwed to the floor covered the hole in the floor. Kirkpatrick unscrewed it from inside his tunnel to get out. An air supply and electricity had been routed to his makeshift room.

"He simply wanted to conceal his whereabouts and elude detection and arrest on his charges," Brock said.

Asked why Kirkpatrick didn't just move to another city, Brock said his client didn't want to be far from his large family and his drug supply. Instead, "he commenced the excavation," Brock said outside court.

#### Copper thieves cost company millions

VANCOUVER / Thieves raiding B.C. Hydro installations last year — three of whom died and one who was badly injured — cost the Crown corporation millions, an official said Wednesday.

Now, the company is fighting back and implementing measures to deter thefts of copper wire and equipment, such as spraying items with microdots so items can be

traced, said Elisha Moreno.

High copper prices are driving the rash of thefts, which police believe are mostly being done by drug addicts.

Pure copper wire might become a thing of the past as the utility has begun using copper weld — a mixture of copper and steel which is just as conductive but worth only pennies a pound and not worth stealing.

### Sex may have sunk B.C. ferry

TORONTO / The federal Transportation Safety Board says it looked into whether sex was taking place on the bridge of the B.C. ferry Queen of the North when it sank last year.

A board spokesman tells the *Toronto Star* that scenario was part of its investigation.

A B.C. Ferries spokesperson acknowledges there has been speculation about sex playing a role in the sinking, but wouldn't comment further.

A draft report on the sinking — in which two of the 101 passengers are missing and presumed dead — is to be delivered to the board within days.

The draft report goes next to interested parties for comment and a final report is expected in three to six months.

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