

## **Sprague inquest adjourned until February**

Orangeville Banner  
By Todd McEwen

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Adam Sprague's family wanted the inquest surrounding his death behind them, according to their lawyer Elisabeth Widner.

With the third anniversary of the night he died in an Orangeville jail cell around the corner, the family was hoping to resolve the inquest before Nov. 11.

The coroner's court started on Oct. 16 and was expected to last eight days and hear from about 18 witnesses.

On Friday (Nov. 1), Widner confirmed the inquest has been adjourned until February. The tentative date is Feb. 11.

"It looks like the inquest will go into the New Year," she said. "Likely February, but the date hasn't been confirmed yet."

New evidence recently surfaced in the coroner's inquest examining the events surrounding the night Sprague died in an Orangeville jail cell.

The inquest has now been delayed as a result of the newly discovered information.

"From the family's perspective, obviously the date of Adam's death is coming up," she said. "They were hoping to have this inquest behind them because it's very painful for them to relive this."

Widner couldn't reveal what type of information has to come to light.

"We'll proceed in February with whatever new information will be available and provided," she said. "I can't really tell you what that new information is, because we signed an undertaking with the coroner's office."

While Widner and her law firm have a hand in many inquests, she said the protocol is to have the evidence in the bank before entering coroner's court.

"Normally you try to have everything ahead of time," she said, "so the inquest can proceed smoothly. Obviously, it's disruptive to a lot of people, not the least the jury. But you know, I can't really speak to why and wherefores in this case."

Sprague, who was arrested for public intoxication, died of an oxycodone overdose while in a holding cell at the C Line police station early in the morning of Nov. 11, 2010.

On Oct. 24, the tribunal was adjourned until Tuesday (Oct. 29), citing more information was being gathered.

On Tuesday morning, however, the courtroom was locked.

“Mrs. Sprague has told me it’s like reliving her son’s death,” Widner said. “At the same time, they are anxious to have a full and public airing of all the issues so they can have a full understanding of not only what happened to Adam, but in the hope that no one else has to die this way.”