



## THE SUDBURY STAR

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### Report on road fatality out today; Culvert collapse claimed life of Skye Whitman, 18

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*Thursday, May 10, 2007 - 09:00*

**Local News** - Virtually a full year after the tragedy occurred, the City of Greater Sudbury is ready to disclose the cause of a fatal traffic accident.

The city scheduled a media briefing session today to release the results of its investigation into the May 12, 2006, death of Skye Whitman.

Whitman, 18, of Whitefish, died of injuries suffered while she was driving from her home to her part-time job in Lively.

Whitman was travelling along Bay Street in the early morning hours, after a night of heavy rain, when her car struck a large trench in the rural road. The trench was created by the collapse of a culvert over Fairbanks Creek. The undercarriage of Whitman's car struck one side of the trench, fell into the hole, then popped back up onto the road.

The Whitman family and many others have been demanding disclosure about the cause of the tragedy for the last year.

The family, as well as Nickel Belt MPP Shelley Martel and former city councillor Terry Kett, also called for a coroner's inquest. An official from the provincial coroner's office has said no decision on an inquest could be made until the city's investigation was completed.

The results of that investigation would be made public today, the city announced Wednesday evening.

"After the incident, the city retained the services of Northland Engineering Ltd. to conduct a technical investigation and analysis to determine the factors leading to the failure of the culvert," stated a news release issued by the municipality Wednesday.

Engineers from the city and Northland Engineering would be available to discuss the investigation's findings, the release stated.

Last month, the city closed a section of Martindale Road in Sudbury as a result of the collapse of another culvert that left a huge hole in the busy street.

The road is expected to remain closed for a few more weeks as the culvert is replaced.

The city also has reported that it has a list of numerous bridges and culverts in need of repair or replacement, at a total cost of several million dollars.

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