

A fatal stroll

Man, 69, struck and killed in hit-and-run minutes away from his west-end apartment

JONATHAN JENKINS
Toronto Sun

Jure Kozina was so close to home when he was knocked down and killed by a hit-and-run driver, the fleeing vehicle passed within a block of his apartment.

Kozina, 69, died at St. Michael's hospital yesterday, about 24 hours after he was hit at the corner of Dundas St. W. and Bloor St. at 8:50 a.m. on Saturday.

The car that hit him headed east on Bloor St., then turned north on Perth St. Kozina lived just one block east on Rankin Cr.

Police are urging the driver to turn himself in.

The car is described as a North American make, dark in colour, with damage to the front end and possibly the hood.

Three accidents

The callous hit and run was just one of three serious accidents over the weekend.

On the opposite side of town from where Kozina was hit, police are searching for a Pontiac Grand Am that side-swiped a motorcyclist in the intersection of Sheppard Ave. E. and Morningside Ave. in Scarborough about 9:20 a.m. on Saturday.

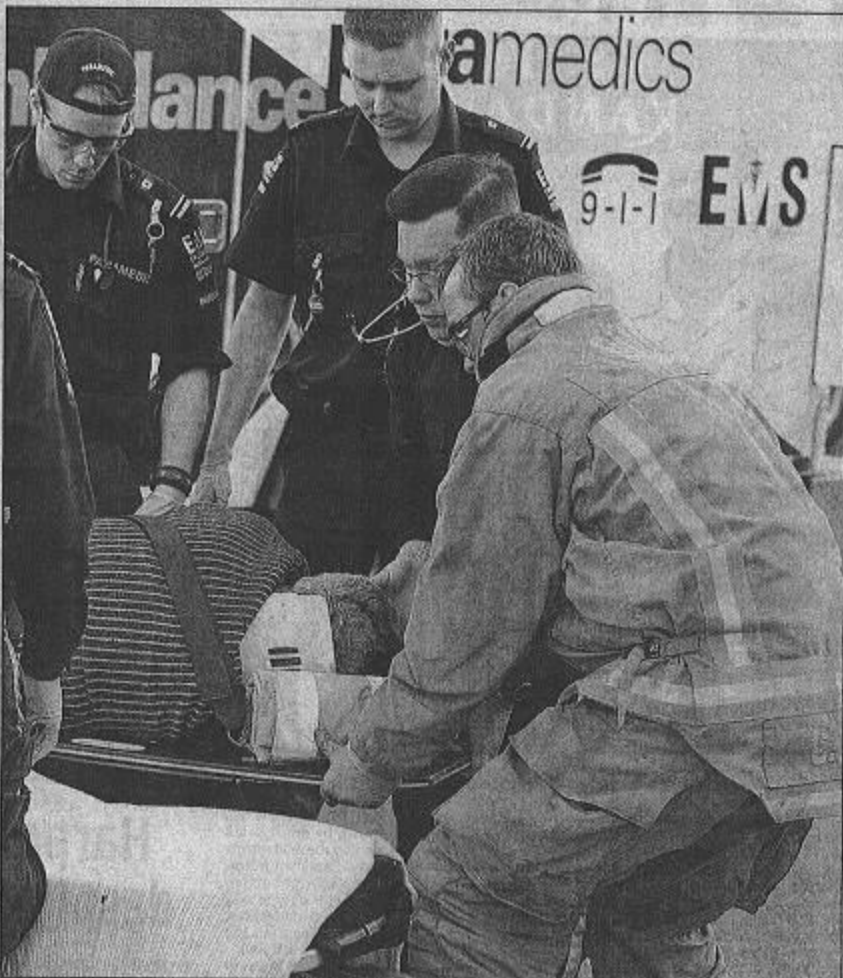
The motorcyclist, who lost control and crashed, is in Sunnybrook hospital in critical condition.

Police say the driver of the Grand Am stopped and looked back before driving away.

A man was charged with impaired driving yesterday after two people were hit crossing Eglinton Ave. in Scarborough.

One of the pedestrians was critically injured.

Anyone with information on any of these incidents is asked to call police at 416-808-1900 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



DAVID O'LEARY/SUN

Jure Kozina, 69, is removed from the scene of an accident Saturday at Bloor and Dundas Sts. Kozina, who was the victim of a hit-and-run driver, died yesterday in hospital, one of several people injured in traffic accidents on the weekend.



GIACOMELLI
Killed in hit-run accident

Tougher laws sought by dad

JONATHAN JENKINS
Toronto Sun

Laws that are supposed to punish drivers who run down pedestrians and leave them dying in the streets are too weak to discourage anyone from fleeing the scene of a crash, says a Calgary man who lost his daughter to a hit-and-run driver last year.

"It's like an epidemic," Gerald Giacomelli said yesterday. "It would have made a world of difference to me if the person stopped. People make mistakes. But to not stop and offer assistance — you wouldn't do that to dog or a deer."

Giacomelli's daughter Lindsay, 20, was killed last year on March 17. The driver who ran down the University of Calgary dance student allegedly went home, ordered a pizza and watched a movie.

No deterrence

He's still awaiting trial. Giacomelli said he's learned that most people convicted of leaving the scene of a fatal crash get a sentence of six months to two years, and they usually have an excellent chance at early parole.

"There's no deterrence, he said. "The judges say, 'Sorry, don't do that again.'"

That's why he joined a campaign to toughen federal laws and enshrine a mandatory seven-year sentence for drivers who leave the scene of a fatality.

The drive had earlier been successful in getting a bill, pushed by former Conservative MP Randy White, into the Commons, but it was defeated in 2003. Giacomelli is hoping the new Conservative government will back similar legislation.

Man charged after 2 struck crossing road

Drunk driving charges were laid yesterday after two people were hit by a car as they crossed Eglinton Ave. E. in Scarborough, the third time this weekend someone was critically injured on the roads. "It's been a bad couple of

Services Staff-Sgt. Andrew Onyszkiewicz said.

In the most recent incident, a man, 43, and a woman, 30, were crossing Eglinton Ave. near Commonwealth Ave. when they were hit by an eastbound car around 2:40

The man was walking in front and suffered the brunt of the blow, while the woman had only a minor injury.

The man was taken to Sunnybrook hospital in critical condition. Onyszkiewicz said. The driver of the car was

Onyszkiewicz said police have spoken to a few people who saw the crash but are still interested in hearing from anyone else who was in the area.

"We've got some witnesses but we always need more," he said, adding that the two

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Gary Edward Mayors, 27, is charged with impaired driving causing bodily harm and refusing a breath sample.