

# Murder victim a role model

Larry Bosiak 'one of the nicest people (who) lived in this city,' girlfriend says

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A 77-year-old man shot and killed in his northeast apartment's stairwell had dedicated his life to the safety of others.

Larry Bosiak was a commander of the Venerable Order of Saint John, a high honour from the Queen for outstanding service to the community. There are about 40 commanders in Canada.

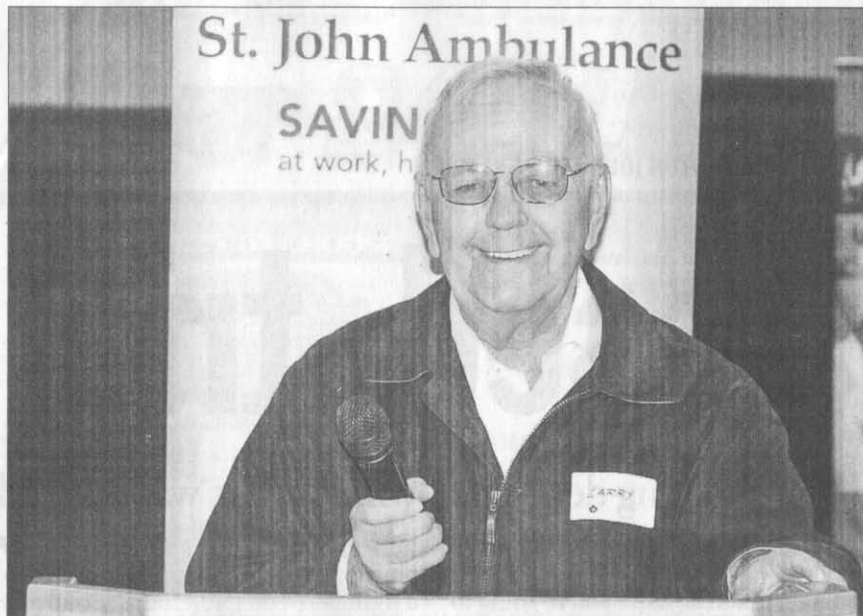
In the 1950s, Bosiak operated ambulances in Calgary. He spent decades with the former AGT as a supervisor in health and safety training. He once ran for a councillor position in Lac St. Anne County.

Born in Calgary, Bosiak had spent 35 years volunteering with St. John Ambulance when he died.

The first-aid organization's Alberta Council president and CEO David Hook spoke to Bosiak two weeks ago. He said the way Bosiak lived and the way he died do not match up.

"He was the kind of person we hold out as role models for the community," Hook said. "He was a very compassionate person."

Homicide detectives have received few tips about what they say appears to be a botched robbery. A black leather wallet police believe belonged to Bosiak was



Larry Bosiak spent 35 years as a volunteer with St. John Ambulance.

SUPPLIED

found in the parking lot of the Clarewood Apartments complex where Bosiak lived and died.

Joyce Froehlich, Bosiak's girlfriend of eight years, is still processing the Edmonton man's violent end. "He was one of the nicest people (who) lived in this city," she said. "If anybody needed anything done, he was there to help."

He leaves behind two sons, Peter and

James, and a daughter, Janie. He had eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

"He had an aura that within five feet of him you could feel it," said his son, Peter Bosiak. "Just by being around him, he'd put a smile on your face."

When his wife died 11 years ago, he went through a difficult time but he found solace by expanding his volunteer

activities, his son said. Recently, he appeared to be the happiest he had been in years.

"Of all the people on the face of the Earth, he's probably the last one I'd expect this to happen to," he said.

Bosiak was gunned down late Sunday night. A building caretaker found him around 11 p.m., bleeding in a stairwell in the condo-style rental complex at 3757 139th Ave.

Bosiak died of a single gunshot wound.

Homicide detectives are still looking for a man seen running away from the building around 10:45 p.m.

Witnesses said the man appeared to be in his mid-20s or early 30s. He had short, dark hair, a dark complexion and a sparse or patchy goatee. He was wearing a dark blue sweater and light-coloured pants, and was about five-foot-11. Police believe there may have been more than one person involved in Bosiak's death.

His death is the city's 24th homicide this year.

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To hear Det. Greg Murray discuss the investigation of Larry Bosiak's death, go to Online Extras.