

Driver convicted of careless driving in tragic Havelock area motorcycle crash

Victim died in hospital last month after being in a coma for more than a year

NEWS Oct 31, 2018 by [Jessica Nyznik](#) Examiner Staff Writer



Hamilton, Ontario, Sept. 30, 2018-188 riders took part in the 2nd annual Distinguished Gentleman™s Ride Sunday. The ride is a fundraiser for Prostate Cancer and mens mental health raising over \$80,000.00 and counting. Worldwide over 120,000 distinguished gentlefolk in over 650 cities donned their cravats, tustle their ties, press their tweed, and sat astride their classic and vintage styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men™s health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health. The Distinguished Gentleman™s Ride was founded in Sydney, Australia by Mark Hawwa. It was inspired by a photo of Mad Men™s Don Draper astride a classic bike and

wearing his finest suit. Local riders are seen here at their stop at Detour Coffee Shop in Dundas. Cathie Coward/ Hamilton Spectator - Cathie Coward , The Hamilton Spectator

The driver who [crossed the centre line and hit five motorcyclists](#) during the Havelock Country Jamboree last summer was sentenced last week.

Gary Gilson's licence was suspended for a year and he received \$1,000 fine. He was charged with careless driving and pleaded guilty.

The judgment was made in Peterborough's Ontario Court of Justice on Oct. 25.

The charge was laid after Gilson drove over the centre line on Highway 7 and struck three motorcycles carrying five passengers.

John Rocheleau and his wife Kathy were on one bike, Andre Rocheleau, John's brother, was on another and their sister Diane Porter and her husband Brian Porter trailed the group.

They were travelling along the highway on Aug. 19, 2017, getting a ride in before the festival got underway.

Trauma to John's head left him in a coma for a year, and he was removed from life support in September and died at the age of 56, according to Toronto-based lawyer Jasmine Daya, who represents Kathy and the Porters.

Kathy's left leg was severed at the scene and the Porters both sustained fractures.

Andre's left leg was amputated, and doctors had to rebuild his pelvis and replace his hip.

Harvey Lobb and Rita Gordon were also on a motorcycle riding with the pack, but they managed to swerve and avoid the oncoming vehicle. Lobb grew up with the Rocheleaus.



A crowdfunding site was set up a short while after the collision for the victims. They were in Havelock for the Jamboree and live out of town. Nearly \$15,000 was raised.

On Oct. 9, Kathy, the Porters, Lobb and Gordon, along with other Rocheleau family members, filed a civil suit against Gilson and the involved insurance companies.

The complainants are suing for millions, Daya said.

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