

Winnipeg police nab murder suspect

A 21-year-old man was arrested in Winnipeg Tuesday night in the apparent beating death of a young Saskatoon woman.

John Wayne Donald, whose last known address is Georgetown, Ont. was arrested as he stepped off the CNR Trans-Continental train which arrived in Winnipeg about 9:45 p.m.

The arrest by Winnipeg city police came just minutes after Saskatoon police issued a warrant for Donald's arrest for first-degree murder.

According to CNR spokesmen, the train was scheduled to leave Saskatoon at 6:30 a.m. but was held up until 10:50 a.m. and consequently arrived in Winnipeg three hours late.

Deputy police chief Hugh Fraser said Cindy Heather Haldorson, 19, of 1502 Isabella St. was found dead about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in a room at the Senator Hotel by a hotel employee. The Senator is located at 243 21st St. East.

Fraser said Haldorson had moved to Saskatoon about six weeks ago from

Canwood and was employed at the King George Hotel. Canwood is about 40 miles northwest of Prince Albert.

Fraser said an autopsy is being performed to determine the exact cause of death. Police said the death occurred sometime Monday or Tuesday.

Police have no evidence that a weapon was used.

Fraser did not release details about the room where Haldorson was found and did not comment on the suspect's arrest. Donald also used an alias of Wayne Schertzel.

Donald was scheduled to appear in

magistrate's court in Winnipeg today to be remanded in custody to appear in court in Saskatoon, probably Thursday morning.

Fraser said police have been sent from Saskatoon to escort the suspect back here later today.

Province buys shares in oil venture

The Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Corporation (SaskOil) has purchased a one-third interest in a heavy oil research and development project near Meota, north of the Battlefords.

An agreement making SaskOil an equal partner with TexasGulf Inc. and Total Petroleum (North America) Ltd. was signed at a news conference today in North Battleford.

According to a government release, SaskOil will pay \$1.442 million for one-third interest in all project facilities, as well as 70,000 acres of petroleum and natural gas rights in the area.

The project, which has been operating for some time, contains five special wells capable of injecting steam into heavy oil formations, as well as producing oil. There is also an observation well, a steam generating plant, oil treating facilities and a later disposal system.

Elwood Cowley, minister-in-charge of SaskOil was unavailable for comment.

The project is attempting to improve recovery of heavy oil by injecting steam, making the oil a more free-flowing crude which is easier to pump.

The heavy oil is located at a depth of

about 1,700 feet, and cannot be produced with conventional methods.

The release said immediate plans call for the project to be winterized for year-round operation.

A permanent gas supply will be ensured by construction of a pipeline to a gas well 11 miles north of the project, while studies of the North Saskatchewan River as a source of fresh water for steam generation are also under way.

The release said all participants in the project feel improved recovery rates for heavy oil are essential because of steadily depleting reserves of light crude oil.