

# Woman, 77, brutally attacked

By: **Staff Writer**

7/04/2007 5:05 AM | [Comments \(0\)](#)

A grandmother preparing for Easter dinner was the victim of a brutal Fort Rouge home invasion Thursday afternoon that her daughter says left the woman lying in a puddle of her own vomit and blood for at least six hours.

A relative found 77-year-old Margaret Peters collapsed at the bottom of her basement staircase in her Dudley Avenue home around 8 p.m. Thursday night.

Two unknown men shoved their way into the back entrance of the one-storey home around 1:30 p.m. and began butting the woman with a large heavy object, believed by her daughter to be a rifle, before pushing the retired nurse down the flight of stairs and leaving her to suffer.

Now, the avid church-going and volunteering grandmother is in the Health Sciences Centre emergency ward.

She has a broken ankle and a purpled face double its normal size.

"Her tongue is bruised. She has blood caked around her lips," said Katherine Gregoire, one of Peters' five grown children. "There's nobody like her, she's like a saint."

It's not Peters' only recent visit to doctors. Last week, the vibrant senior was diagnosed with a high risk of cancer and scheduled for a biopsy.

Gregoire talked to reporters at her mother's modest residence Friday afternoon, and is irate at the attack that left the senior with a seriously fractured face that will likely require extensive reconstructive surgery.

Gregoire said she was disgusted by the two men who knocked on her mother's back door and pushed their way onto the home's small back landing when the trusting woman cracked the door open.

The senior, chopping bread for a dish for her family's weekend holiday celebrations, could not see the visitors through her home's wooden back door.

"My mother is so independent and self-sufficient, and she gets this put on her. It's so ironic... (the cancer) wasn't a big worry, it wasn't bothering her," said Gregoire, nearby a simple wooden wall hanging her mother posted that reads: God is my refuge.

"She has bruising on her legs and hands, like she was holding her hands up to protect her face."

Gregoire said the men rifled through her mother's jewelry box and stole her credit cards and identification, later found abandoned by city workers Friday in a recycling container at Clifton Street and Portage Avenue.

"She had just got a ride with someone back from church. They wanted to look for a vulnerable old lady," said Gregoire. "She's going to need all kinds of help now. She's helpless... there's blood dripping down the side of her face."

The widowed grandmother has lived in her neighbourhood for at least two decades, a relative told the *Free Press*, after her husband died in 1981.

Gregoire showed a reporter gruesome photos of her mother in hospital, a far cry from images of the beaming white-haired senior posing with family members that decorate Peters' living room.

A police duty inspector said Friday night he could not say if anyone had been arrested in connection with the crime, but Gregoire said police had told her no one had been apprehended.

Both men were described as being young, she said.

One man was also described by her mother as being aboriginal in appearance, said Gregoire, and with long black hair. Peters will be in the hospital for at least two weeks, said her daughter.

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# Police release sketches of suspects in home invasion

By: **Staff Writer**

2/05/2007 3:34 PM | [Comments \(0\)](#)

City police released sketches today of two men wanted in connection with the brutal daylight home invasion of 77-year-old Margaret Peters in her Dudley Avenue house on April 5.

Police said Peters, now recovering at home, met with police several times since the attack and gave them enough details to produce the two sketches.

The first man is described as Caucasian, approximately 40 years old, 6 feet tall, with a thin, almost gaunt appearance. He has a prominent Adam's apple and may have been in possession of a sawed-off shot gun at the time.

The second man is also described as Caucasian with a grey streak on the top of his hair. He was several inches shorter than the other man. He also had a thin build.

Anyone with information is asked to contact investigators at 986-6219 or Crime Stoppers at 786-TIPS (8477).

Peters was preparing food for the Easter holiday when she answered a knock at her door. Two men forced their way in and attacked her.

Police said the retired nurse was hit with a rifle, knocking her down her back stairs, and left in a puddle of her own blood and vomit until a relative discovered her hours later.

She was in hospital for several days to be treated for facial and neck injuries and a broken foot.

## Home invasion leads to search for two suspects

By: **Staff Writer**

14/06/2007 5:00 AM | [Comments \(0\)](#)

POLICE released sketches Wednesday of two men wanted in the April 5 home invasion of a 77-year-old woman in her Dudley Avenue home.

Margaret Peters was hit and shoved down a set of stairs by the suspects. Bloodied and bruised, she wasn't discovered for at least six hours.

The assailants stole Peters' jewelry box, credit cards and identification, later found abandoned by city workers Friday in a recycling container at Clifton Street and Portage Avenue.

The first suspect is described as Caucasian, between 5'11" and 6' tall, with olive-toned skin, a noticeable Adam's apple, black combed-back hair and a thin build, and wearing dark clothes.

The second suspect was reported to be about 5'5", Caucasian with pale skin, a thin build and short brown or grey hair. He was also wearing dark clothing.

Call police at 986-6219 or Crime Stoppers at 786-8477 if you have information.