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FILMING: A television crew from America's Most Wanted spent Monday in Windsor doing a segment on accused murderer Jesse Imeson. Videographer Bob Bishop, left, tapes Imeson's upstairs apartment on Erie Street West where Carlos Rivera's body was discovered while technical manager Peter Schlitt looks on. *Star photo: Scott Webster*

Mother hiding out of fear

CONTINUED FROM A1

Police launched a manhunt July 19 after finding Rivera, 25, dead in Imeson's Erie Street West apartment. The Regiers' bodies were found July 23 in their farmhouse on Bronson Line, between Mount Carmel and Dashwood near Grand Bend.

Donnelly said the chance that Imeson will come to Windsor is something police are investigating along with all the other tips and possible scenarios they've come across.

He added that the mother of Imeson's daughter had been in hiding out of fear for her safety, but he wouldn't say if she's in protective custody.

"It's her personal life," he said. "What she wants to comment on is up to her."

Imeson and the woman had an argument four days before he allegedly killed Rivera, Donnelly said, and the woman has the conversation on tape.

She didn't want to talk to The Star

about it on Monday.

Donnelly also wouldn't say whether Imeson has contacted the woman or any of his family members while on the run.

Since the manhunt began, he said, police have received about 100 tips that Imeson was in Essex County. There were two reported sightings in Windsor on Monday.

On top of that, he said, there have been a "staggering" number of tips from almost every Canadian province, including British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Investigate tips

"They pop up all the time," said Donnelly. "We investigate them all to see if they bear any fruit."

So far, none of the tips has panned out.

That's why the involvement of America's Most Wanted, with millions of viewers, is so critical, he said. Especially as the manhunt goes on longer and longer.

"The search area is so wide that every day we literally add hundreds if not thousands of miles," said Donnelly. "They are donating significant resources to the investigation."

The TV crew was in Windsor on Monday talking to police and filming

outside the Erie Street crime scene.

"This is a pretty major manhunt," said AMW producer Paula Simpson, who flew in from Washington, D.C.

"This is a big deal for everybody in Canada and we understand that. It's certainly a big deal in Huron County. I've had several people tell me that it's innocence lost. We're doing everything we can to get that innocence back and get some justice for these three victims."

She said Imeson was briefly mentioned on last Saturday's show, which generated several tips.

But it's company policy not to reveal the actual number of tips or their content, Simpson said.

"We don't have any interest in tipping off fugitives as to what is known and not known about them," she said. "I will say we've got several tips that the cops have been following up on."

They will head to Exeter today to meet with the OPP and gather information about the Regier slayings.

"We have two stories to tell," said Simpson, who reached out to local police after reading about Imeson online. "There are two really terrible homicides that we have to cover."

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TIPS POUR IN ABOUT SUSPECT

Imeson's girlfriend taped spat over child

Fight preceded murders

By TREVOR WILHELM
STAR STAFF REPORTER

After already investigating 100 tips that fugitive murder suspect Jesse Imeson is in the Windsor area, police said Monday there's a chance he's headed this way for his toddler daughter.

Days before the start of an alleged three-person killing spree, Imeson had a "big blow-out fight" with the mother of his daughter, and said he was coming to take the little girl, police confirmed.

The three murders have garnered so much attention that a crew from America's Most Wanted was in Windsor Monday filming a story for this Saturday's TV show.

"We can make the assumption he might be coming back to this area because his family is here," said Staff Sgt. William Donnelly.

"That is a guess that anybody could make."

Imeson, 22, is wanted as the



FINAL FAREWELL

About 1,000 mourners attended the funeral of murder victims Helene and William Regier in Mount Carmel, Ont., on Monday.

One family member, in a voice choked with emotion, said: "Their love was so strong that not even death could tear them apart from each other." See A2.

suspect in the strangling of Windsor bartender Carlos Rivera and the shooting deaths of Bill and Helene Regier.

SEE MOTHER, A4