OPEOPLE stell May 1193 p.)

City woman helped in anti-violence drive

Marjorie Tooth rallied support for CAVEAT

By Tom Gavey

The Intelligencer

Marjorie Tooth did not stand idly by when she saw a wrong worth righting.

The city woman died Monday, but not before leading the way in the Quinte area's contribution to a nation-wide fight against violence.

Mrs. Tooth, 82, was shocked and saddened in August, 1991 when 19-year-old Nina de Villiers was murdered by a man out on bail for previous offences.

Her own grandchildren had played with the young university student and now the woman wanted to do more than sympathize with the family.

"I think everyone wants to do something about the violence in our society and petitions to the federal government are a first step," she said in January, 1991 when she began a campaign to petition the federal government to amend the Criminal Code, Bail Reform Act and Parole Act.

Her efforts resulted in more than 7,000 signatures on a petition that eventually contained 1.5 million signatures from Canadians in every part of the country.

Mrs. Tooth rallied the media, her friends, church groups and local politicians to ensure the Quinte area became a part of Canadians Against Violence Everywhere and its Termination (CA- VEAT).

"I am tremendously saddened by the sudden death of Marjorie Tooth. An original member of CA-VEAT, she will remain as a symbol of what motivated the founding of CAVEAT; a citizen touched by the tragic and unnecessary death of my daughter," says Priscilla De Villiers.

She adds the Belleville woman was to have joined her and other CAVEAT members in February to present the petitions to the federal government. However, the trip had to be postponed.

"I am most grateful to Marjo-

rie for her response to CAVEAT. Every member of our organization joins me in extending deepest sympathy to Marjorie's family. She will be sadly missed by all of us."

Marjorie Tooth is survived by her husband Jack, daughter Anne of Whitby and son John and his wife Gwen of Toronto and five grandchildren.

Donations to CAVEAT in her memory can be addressed to: CA-VEAT, Suite 3-164, 3350 Fairview St., Burlington, Ont., L7N 3L5.

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