

# Acton man aided Bosma family

Peter Lowe showed up to Tim Bosma's house in an old sweatshirt and rain boots on May 9, prepared to pitch in a couple of hours of search time out in a field somewhere.

Instead, almost by fluke, Lowe, 33, gained the trust of a woman who had every reason to trust no one, and became an instant member of the Bosma family.

He'd learned of Bosma's disappearance on Facebook through a mutual friend a couple of days earlier. He and Bosma had known each other

in their teens but had been little more than acquaintances, attending different high schools but the same church in Ancaster.

After two days of hemming and hawing, he hopped in his car and made the hour drive from Acton to the Bosma house.

He pulled into the driveway and trekked up to the volunteer-filled garage, where he spotted his friend Peter Lise, and asked to be put to work. When Lowe mentioned casually that he had been working in social media, Lise gave him a look.

"He said, 'Hold on a second,' and he ran inside the house," Lowe said.

"Three or four minutes later, he came back and said, 'Do you mind taking a look at our Facebook page?'"



**PETER LOWE**

Lowe grabbed his laptop out of the car. But as he sat down at the kitchen table, nervously, the house was getting crowded and it was decided that everyone had to go—only family would stay. Lowe turned to leave with everyone else, but Sharlene stopped him. "You. Stay," she told him.

And he did and never left. Lowe became the driving force of the viral Find Tim Bosma social media campaign.

That trust was uncomfortable at first. This woman's husband was taken by strangers, yet she allowed Lowe—a man she'd never met and he'd barely even known—to stay on their couch.

Lowe also convinced the family to talk to the media.

But even when Hamilton homicide detective Matt Kavanagh came by the house last Tuesday with the horrifying news of Tim's gruesome murder, Lowe received the news with the family.

He felt their pain.

"There's no way to describe it, so I just decided I'm not going to try. It was a thousand times worse than anything I ever imagined," he said.

• For more visit [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca)

—By Hamilton Spectator



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