

Sentencing tomorrow

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become too much. She can't escape the image of Lauren lying on Second Line or the sound of her husband's panicked voice upon finding her.

Last month, their house was sold and she was faced with the painful task of packing up Lauren's room.

She and Stuart are planning to return to their native England. But although being with family will offer some comfort, it won't change anything, the court heard.

"We're no longer a family of four. The empty seat at the table is a constant reminder wherever we go," Deborah said. "No one should outlive their children."

In his statement, Stuart spoke of how hard he tried to revive his daughter after discovering her. The passersby who stopped to help will always be in his heart, he said.

He told the court he hopes no other parent will have to suffer the way he has.

"That one second took away our daughter, a sister, a granddaughter, a friend," he said.

Referring to Stunt's efforts to ensure Alchin avoids imprisonment, Stuart said his family doesn't have that option.

"As victims of this crime, neither myself nor my family can escape (this) incarceration."

Alchin offered his condolences to the Coopers when asked by Fragomeni if he had anything to say.

"I'd just like to tell the family I'm terribly sorry for this tragic event... I can't take the day back. I'm truly sorry for their loss," he said, facing the judge.

In his submissions, Fraser said Alchin refuses to take responsibility, maintaining he

did nothing wrong.

Not only did Alchin leave the scene, he had no intention of returning, the court heard.

"His actions can only be described as callous and inhumane," Fraser told the court.

He said a conditional sentence (house arrest) wouldn't be appropriate.

Fraser also submitted that Alchin should forfeit his truck as "offence-related property" — it was seized the day after the accident — and he should be prohibited from driving for five to eight years.

Stunt told the court Alchin couldn't avoid striking Lauren that night.

"At the end of the day, the one fact that remains unchallenged is that he's responsible for the offence he's convicted of, but he's not responsible for the death of Lauren Cooper."

Stunt read numerous letters from people attesting to Alchin's character.

He said Alchin has already been penalized, particularly with the court case being publicized through the local media. His 13-year-old son has been ridiculed as a result, Stunt said, and will suffer further if his father is jailed.

Alchin shouldn't receive a driving prohibition, Stunt said, particularly since he wasn't permitted to drive for at least two years after the accident.

And Alchin's truck should be returned to him, he told the court.

Fragomeni will hand down his sentence tomorrow afternoon.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Joy, too, in being caregiver

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60th wedding anniversary.

On June 8, Peggy moved into Allendale with her husband.

"We thought, 'This is good, the two of them are together.' They had been lonely for each other," Limpert said.

But just six days after the reunion, Alex passed away of a cardiac arrest at the age of 89.

Peggy, now 86, remains at Allendale. It's difficult, Limpert said, because her mother's

happiness depends on whether she's going to visit that day — a huge responsibility to bear.

But Limpert is proof there's joy in being a caregiver just as there's pain, something the series helped her discover while both parents were still alive.

"I really got to know my parents really well — more as people than parents."

For more information or to register for the series, call (905) 691-0367, ext. 2319.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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