

Luke's adjusting to life at home

By JANE MULLER

The shock of having her abducted son back home again just wore off four days ago. Until then, says Janet Cipryk "it didn't seem real."

The mother of four-year-old Luke Boudreau was reunited with her child on October 20 after he was discovered in Hawaii with his father, Brian Boudreau. Just more than a week later, mother and son are readjusting to life together in their Milton townhouse.

"He always wants to be in the same room as me," said Ms Cipryk.

As Luke crosses the driveway to a neighbour's townhouse to play with his friends, he looks back and waves to his mom. Another reassuring glance and a brief wave are directed toward her after he meets his playmates.

They eventually mount their bicycles for a game of cops and bad

guys. For Luke, this is less of a game than for his two young friends. He's suspicious of all men, even the three potential 'bad guys' he saw at the donut shop. With his eyes directed at their table, Luke said to his mom "they might take kids."

Ms Cipryk says her son associates men with "taking kids". Luke, she explains, "needs to be really street wise". The blonde-haired little boy is undergoing counselling to help him deal with the abduction, which lasted more than six months.

He had only lived at their current Milton address for a month before his father failed to return him after a scheduled weekend visit. Still, when Luke came home last week, the neighbourhood children presented him with cards saying "Welcome home Luke, we're glad you're back".

"Luke is doing very well. He murmurs in his sleep and calls out. I

go to him and comfort him. Meals and bedtime are the hardest but I'm trying to keep him busy," Ms Cipryk said in an interview Monday.

She says her son gets upset when he sees one of the missing child posters that bears both his and his father's photos. Some of the posters are still displayed in windows around town.

With a face that was publicized extensively over the past six months — Luke was even featured during the World Series in a missing children ad — he's recognized as the boy in the poster. His mom says most people are sensitive to the boy's feelings, although some blurt out questions about Hawaii.

"It's hard on him and it's too hard on me to answer all these questions," she explained.

While her son was missing, Ms Cipryk recalls that she leaned heavily on the Halton Regional Police detectives involved in the case.

"I'd call them every day or second day and sometimes three times a day. They were wonderful," said Ms Cipryk.

She also commended the police for finding her son. She says they took the case "seriously" and "moved on it". There was a lot of "sensitivity and compassion" shown by Detective Mike Eacrett.

Words of praise were also heaped on Barbara Snider of Child Find and the Salvation Army. Betty Zelinsky, a community worker with the local Salvation Army office (aunt Betty to Luke), got involved in the case and put the name of her organization behind the search.

Mrs. Zelinsky says all she did was ask and the community was more than willing to help.

"This is a fabulous community," said the Salvation Army worker.

Ms Cipryk said the ordeal both tested and strengthened her faith in God and she believes He had a hand in the return of her son.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Happy 100th!

Mona McGeachie celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on Sunday at the Halton Centennial Manor auditorium. Sharing best wishes with their mother are Mona Thoms and Jack McGeachie. The centenarian is a resident at the Manor.



Photo by JANE MULLER

Luke Boudreau has had a week to adjust to being back home with his mother and on Monday he was playing happily. A visit from Salvation Army community service worker Betty Zelinsky (Aunt Betty to Luke) resulted in a hug.

No plans to extradite Boudreau from Honolulu

No attempt will be made to extradite a man charged in the disappearance of four-year-old Luke Boudreau of Milton.

Warrants have been issued by Halton Regional Police for the arrest of Brian Boudreau — the boy's father — on charges of extortion, abduction and breach of probation.

The two were located in Honolulu as a result of an intensive investigation by Halton Regional Police, and hearings were held to allow the boy's mother, Janet Cipryk, to take custody.

Mother and son were reunited in Honolulu recently and returned to Milton last week.

The youngster was reported missing in mid-April after his father picked him up in Milton for the weekend

and vanished.

Halton Region Police detective Mike Eacrett said police consulted with the Crown attorney's office about possible extradition proceedings, however, it was decided not to proceed.

The reason, he explained, is that the only extraditable offence is the extortion charge. If Mr. Boudreau was extradited to face that charge, it would mean all other counts against him are void.

Mr. Boudreau, he explained, will be arrested on all outstanding warrants if he is deported to Canada or otherwise enters the country.

U.S. immigration authorities arrested Mr. Boudreau on Monday in relation to immigration violations.

Parking problems at GO

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She expects more commuters will be attracted to the train service because it has been beefed up as of this week from 10 trains on week days to 19.

Judith Lindsay, noting that Milton GO riders pay \$164 per month to ride the train, characterized as "ludicrous" the suggestion that they should pay such a sum and be forced to drive to Meadowvale too.

Mrs. Lindsay said she and fellow commuters "got nowhere" in attempting to explain their plight to GO parking officers.

In an effort to fight back against what they perceive as unfair treatment, some commuters are organizing a campaign to plead not guilty to the GO parking tickets. "A lot of people" will be doing that, Mrs. Lindsay said.

Ms Roberts distributed flyers Tuesday at the GO station urging fellow commuters to plead not guilty and to attend a "strategy/solution" meeting at her home Sunday.

Ed Shea, a senior information officer with GO Transit, said a new gravel lot will be added to the current 324-space paved lot by December 1. It will add 90 parking spaces. A further 40-odd spaces will be added through modification of the existing lot, he said.

It is an interim solution to the parking crunch which GO expects to alleviate through a substantial expansion of the parking area in the future. GO is currently purchasing land adjacent to its property to enlarge the lot, Mr. Shea said.

In the meantime, Co. officials have "no choice" but to ticket cars that "are not in the designated spaces," he added, because they often block emergency access lanes or hem in other vehicles.

Town administrator Roy Main said the municipality is looking at potentially opening up some arena parking and increasing the shuttle bus service to the GO station.

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