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Mom speaks on violence

JIM DAVID
Correspondent

Every now and then, a tear trickles down the side of Carole Cameron's cheek.

Her hand brushes it away as she talks; so few people, if any, know the emotion Cameron is feeling on stage.

Yet, nearly everyone in the room knows what she's talking about.

When people come to hear Carole Cameron, they hear a tragic story about how her son, Mark Massie, was gunned down on the streets of Miami in 1982.

But she remains strong because, in most cases, members of her audience have also had a family member murdered or killed.

The president of Victims of Violence, a 1,500-member national organization for families and individuals 'victimized by violence', spoke to nine members of York Region's Child find in December of last year.

While the two agencies are separate, Cameron has worked with Child Find when a missing child is found dead.

Cameron's son Mark was her first, so he was special. He was also the child of her late husband, who died when Mark was still young.

And even though Cameron remarried, Mark holds a special place in her heart. The Camerons, Carole and Doug, have four children.

Mark was a strapping young man who liked horses, worked out with weights, was polite and liked by everyone. If he had any vices, says his mother, it was he enjoyed a beer with the boys on the weekend.

He saved up his money and went to Florida where he was offered work at the race track.

"I felt kind of apprehensive because he just turned 20," says Cameron. "But that was just the

mother in me. He didn't know the other side of life."

Worry turned to grief when she and Doug were wakened by police Jan. 23, 1982 at 5:30 a.m. Neither were sure what was going on and Doug thought they were delivering a ticket.

"The police don't deliver tickets at 5:30 in the morning," Carole told Doug.

Cameron says the police didn't know much; except her son was killed in Florida.

"I wasn't prepared for what they said. The words felt like a hammer had driven me 10 feet into the ground."

Later, she found out her son had been gunned down outside a Wendy's restaurant by a 21-year-old parolee who shoved a .357 at the side of Mark's head and pulled the trigger.

Mark was the seventh murder of a year in which there would be 700 in Florida.

She got her son back, buried him and found some solace in Victims of Violence.

Cameron joined Victims of Violence soon after the death of Mark, learning about the newly formed organization on television. She phoned the station, talked to the two organizers and joined.

She never left the organization and has been president the last two years.

It was also through television she learned more details of her son's death. The Fifth Estate did a documentary on the killing and the trial. The person accused of killing Mark was acquitted of first degree murder and released back onto the streets.

"There was no justice for my son."

Through the documentary, Cameron learned her son was just three minutes from the hospital. But there was bungling by the police responding to the scene.

The ambulance arrived before the police, but attendants couldn't do their job until police photographers were finished.

The first policeman at the scene later told Cameron her son said, "Help me — I'm dying."

Both were helpless.

Cameron also learned through connections the acquitted person later served from four to eight years for armed robbery in New York. She expects he is out on the street, but still wants to know his whereabouts.

Cameron says she is committed to Victims of Violence and is ready to help when the telephone rings. She does much of the organization's work out of her Bolton home and has strong support from her family.

She is a regular speaker on the circuit telling groups and individuals about her organization. She's quick to point out problems with Canadian justice system and wants to see a toughening of laws.

Cameron says the law is stacked in favor of the criminal instead of the victim. "Bleeding hearts" are one of her biggest road blocks in trying to get tougher laws introduced.

Victims of Violence helps by offering counselling and at times can offer financial help to victims.

Branches are set up in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario. There is also interest in Quebec.

Cameron also works with Bob and Janet Jessop of Queensville. They have petitioned Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn to speed up the Supreme Court appeal hearing of Guy Paul Morin, accused of killing the Jessop's nine-year-old daughter Christine.

The Jessops and Morins live side-by-side, and Cameron says the situation is traumatic for both families.

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Don't be missing on May 12th!

May 12th is the date by which the Municipal Enumeration Notice mailed to your household must be completed and returned.

Five easy steps to complete your notice

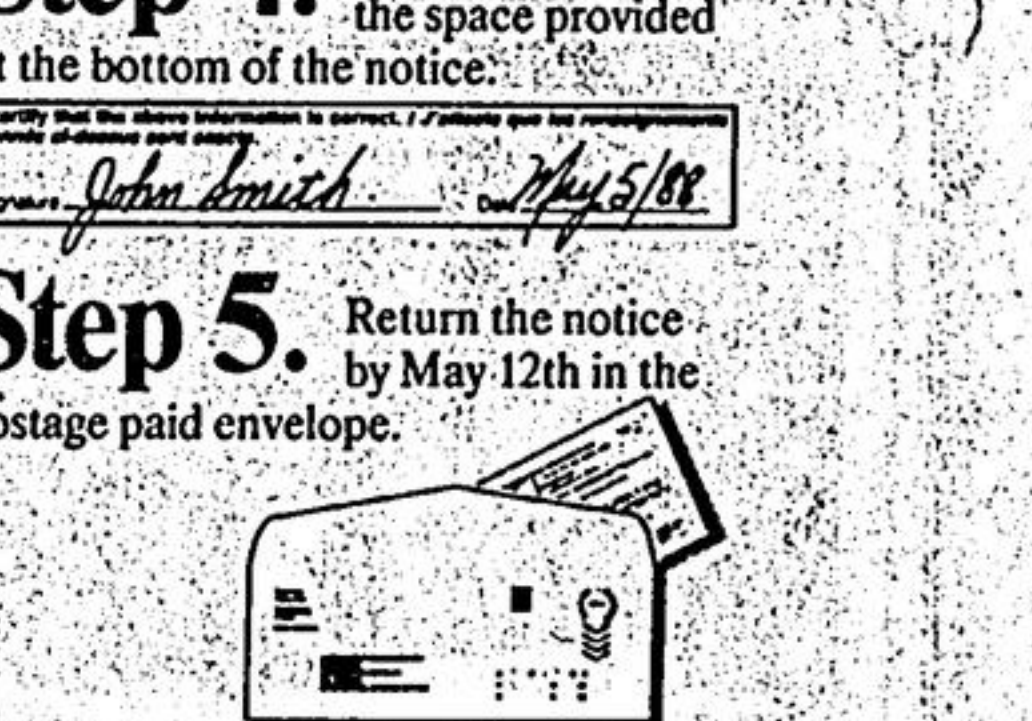
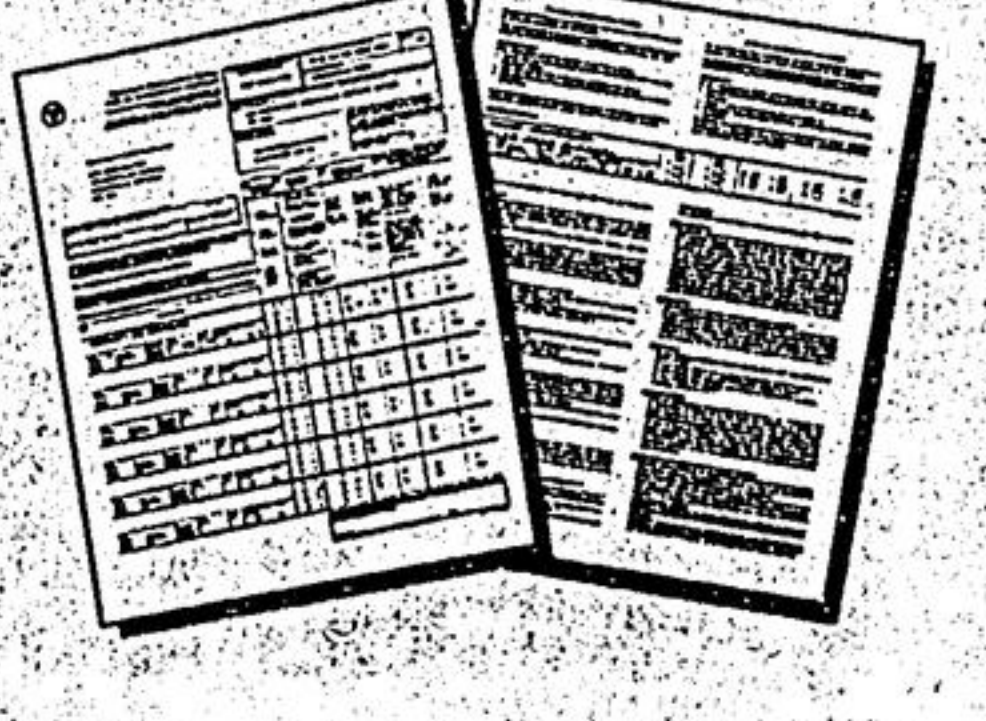
Step 1. Just look at the front of the notice and check the information shown — that's all you have to do. The explanations on the back are to give you further details if you need them.

Step 2. If any of the information shown about occupants is incorrect, simply cross it out and write in the correction. Add information about new occupants, including children. If you don't have enough space on the notice, attach a separate piece of paper with all the details.

Step 3. Complete section 5 about French-language education rights — it's new for this enumeration. In areas of the province where school boards operate both English and French schools, English and French-language school trustees will be elected. If you have French-language education rights, you will be able to vote for French-language school trustees.

Step 4. Sign your name in the space provided at the bottom of the notice.

Step 5. Return the notice by May 12th in the postage paid envelope.



The information you give will be used by your municipal and provincial governments to:

- prepare the voters list for local government elections to be held on November 14, 1988
- direct your school taxes (as a tenant you can do this since part of your rent is for taxes)
- identify English language and French language electors for school board trustees
- select prospective jurors
- prepare the Ontario population report
- update assessment records on ownership and tenancies
- help municipal and school board planning

The information will be used for these purposes only and the confidentiality of all personal information will be protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987).

You are required by law to complete and return this notice.

NATIONAL TRUST MONEY NEWS
MAY, 1988

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Our new Total Life Card is unlike any other card you've heard of. Starting May 9, you'll find benefits so comprehensive, this ad isn't big enough to list all 59 of them. Here are just a few:

- Get instant cash at any money machine across Canada displaying the Interac® or Circuit® logo
- Savings at major retail establishments.
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Until June 30, 1988, you'll get the Total Life Card FREE for 1 year when you get a National Trust Mortgage.*

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NATIONAL TRUST
MARKHAM - Markville Shopping Centre 479-3544

NEED HELP? If the information on the back of the notice doesn't answer your questions, call toll free 1-800-263-1988 or contact the Regional Assessment Office shown on your notice.

Ontario