

**POLICE: Cops work to solve major crimes**

# Officers need tips on Tammy case

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

Two leads alerting York Regional Police last week to possible burial spots for missing Newmarket woman Tammy Lamondin-Gagnon turned out to be dead ends.

The tips ended up leading police to a buried deer in East Gwillimbury and a pile of soil in Whitchurch-Stouffville over the past few weeks.

But while the searches ultimately proved fruitless, Det. Sgt. Mark Tatz said they prove police officers and residents are still hunting for the well-liked 20-year-old, who went missing more than two months ago.

He said officers with the homicide and missing persons unit are also actively investigating the region's two other major unsolved crimes this year.

Maria Wong, a 44-year-old Markham woman, was found stabbed to death in the garage of her Raymerville Drive home on the night of Feb. 11.

Popular Mississauga teenager Sandy Ebrahim, just three days shy of her 17th birthday, was fatally shot in the back with a 12-gauge shotgun while she stood talking to friends in the parking lot of a Markham plaza at about 3 a.m. June 27.

"We don't get frustrated. We just keep on plugging." Still, police are relying on the public to keep feeding them leads, especially in the case of Lamondin-Gagnon, whose family is desperately searching for her.

"We're still getting calls. These are the kinds of calls that are going to break the case for us," Tatz said.

The sole suspect in Lamondin-Gagnon's disappearance, Pol Claassen, hanged himself at his family's Vandorf business June 7, the same day police wanted to interview him for a third time.

Deputy chief Armand LeBarge has no doubt his officers will solve all three crimes.


"I'm confident we will resolve these outstanding cases. Never a day goes by that I'm not confident," he said.

"If I could tell them (the victims' families and residents) one thing, what I would say is: Be assured we are working on these cases. We are working on them aggressively and I'm confident, given the individuals involved from our homicide and missing persons unit, we'll solve these cases."

LeBarge said many officers become emotionally attached to victims and their families. For example, he and other officers take detours along rural roads looking for Lamondin-Gagnon when they're off duty.

"These cases also hit hard on a police officer. We've got sisters and mothers as well. Police officers are human. When tragic deaths happen, they affect those officers."

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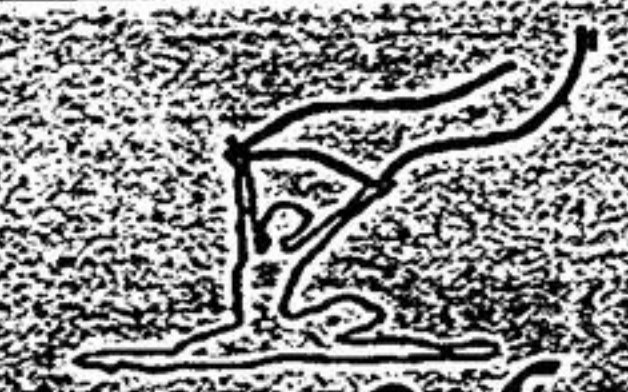
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## Focus on Faith

# Restraints on evil are disappearing

In light of the recent shocking events at Columbine, Oklahoma, Taber, Alberta, and now in Atlanta, Georgia, we have to ask, "What's gone wrong? What's happened to a society to a society where children are killing children?"

Some have suggested that things began to get worse when prayer in schools was prohibited and display of the Ten Commandments was removed from public buildings.

When the U.S. Supreme Court enacted this ruling they justified it with this explanation: "If the Ten Commandments were to have any effect at all, it would be to induce students to read them. If they will read them, they will meditate on them. And if they will meditate on them, they will respect and obey them and that will be unconstitutional."

A bit confusing isn't it? It certainly seems that since then we have substituted illicit sex, drugs

and guns for a discipline of morality and integrity.

The laws of God were given to provide security and safety. Confusion and violence seem to be taking their place. When restraints on evil are removed, the depraved nature appears free to express itself without embarrassment or shame.

Unfortunately, when God is left out, mankind seems ready to seek satisfaction in the wrong places.

Is there any hope things will

improve? The situation does look hopeless. Legislators are at a loss to find a way out of this moral morass. We really can't expect government to legislate morality.

But there's still a place for home and church.

A parent's positive example can still provide a solid foundation for the coming generation to build upon.

Children want to know the boundaries. If we talk and walk the truth with authority, love and conviction, it will make a difference.

If we are not involved with our own families, setting a good example for a meaningful life and helping our children to distinguish between truth and error, then the future remains bleak.

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