



ANDREA PIKE

'Nothing nor anyone can replace a mother,' victim's mom tells judge

From page 1.

Woodbine Avenue more than two years ago. Mrs. Pike, 29, of Newmarket, was taking a left turn from a plaza near Riviera Drive about 2 p.m. when Mr. Lam, traveling southbound at more than 170 km/h, T-boned her car on the driver's side.

Peter Stock, a witness, was one of the

first to reach the critically-injured mother and bank teller. He told Justice Stong how that day's events have affected him.

"I witnessed...the horror of the crash, saw the twisted metal that was once the family car, and the crushing injuries Andrea sustained that were to take her life," the emotional Newmarket man told the court, adding he still cannot discuss

the collision without breaking down.

Andrea's mother, Nancy Pennefather, said she has spent many months finding it almost too painful to live. She described the very close relationship she had with her oldest daughter, who she called a gift from God that brightened every room she entered.

"She loved and laughed and was always aware of making her corner of the world a little better," said Mrs. Pennefather, adding her grief and depression led to her withdrawing from her family, even grandsons Jordan and Evan, now 7 and 5.

"Jordan and Evan were treasured by their patient and loving mother. The boys asked if she had her seatbelt on. They asked if she was flattened. They are fortunate to have a truly devoted father, but nothing nor anyone can replace a mother."

Mrs. Pennefather also did not mince words about Mr. Lam's apparent lack of remorse. "Mr. Lam's demeanor in court — detached, unemotional, stoical — only caused further pain," she said.

'FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASS'

Her father, Robert Pennefather, thanked witnesses to the crash who were with his daughter at the last; he said they were victims too. And he looked directly at Mr. Lam when he said: "I also consider you a victim, a victim of your own actions. You have to live with what you did for the rest of your life. But, Mr. Lam, I forgive your trespass against my family."

Mr. Lam's lawyer, Barry Fox, remind-

ed the court Mr. Lam was so badly injured he doesn't even remember the day of the crash. He broke both his legs and his neck and spent three months in a rehabilitation hospital. He still suffers from memory problems and hasn't driven a car since the collision.

A single salesman taking part-time university courses, Mr. Lam does not have a criminal record and has honoured his bail conditions for more than two years, Mr. Fox pointed out.

'ONE LAPSE OF JUDGEMENT'

"Mr. Lam is here to be sentenced for one single, solitary incident, one lapse of judgment in a case where all of the facts took place in less than 60 seconds," he said. "While Mr. Lam is not a person who shows emotion, I want to make it clear to the court Mr. Lam sincerely regrets his actions."

He's asking for a conditional sentence, with conditions similar to bail restrictions but no jail time unless the conditions are breached.

Crown attorney Chris Chorney wants Mr. Lam to serve three to five years behind bars.

"It is an inescapable fact that Mr. Lam was driving at a horrific speed, speed in excess of 170 km/h in a 70 km/hr zone, on a weekday around 2 p.m., in a busy commercial area," he said. "You can't get a car going 170 km/h without doing so deliberately."

Justice Stong reserved his sentencing judgment to Friday, Oct. 11. There are several legal issues the layers need to clarify before he can rule, he said.

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