

Murder victim fought cocaine habit

From page 1

member of a motorcycle gang and left Mr. Thornhill and his mother when he was just a boy, according to close family friends.

Mr. Thornhill had difficulties with cocaine in the past and while friends say he had been clean for some time,

many worried a recent move from Stouffville back to his old Newmarket neighbourhood would ignite more trouble.

"We were just afraid he would get caught up with the same people again," Ms Taylor said.

He had a job working with his family in the landscaping business and Mr. Thornhill, whose relationship with the church was described as on-again, off-again, told friends he was considering becoming a youth pastor one day.

An avid guitar player, singer and songwriter, music was an important part of his short life.

"He was always trying to start a band," Tamara Britton said. "He was even teaching me to play guitar."

Friends remember him as a young man full of energy and life and said he was the kind of guy who could light up

a room

"He was always making some dramatic entrance or giving you that huge smile," Ms Taylor said.

The house he shared with his mother in Newmarket was always open to friends and, despite his own problems, Mr. Thornhill would look to help people out any way he could.

'EVERYBODY LOVED HIM'

"Mike will definitely be missed," Ms Taylor said. "Everybody loved him."

The family has set up a trust fund to help cover funeral costs. Donations can be made at CIBC branches to transit number 812, account number 1410636.

The name of the account is Michael Thornhill in Trust. Any excess money will be given to the Salvation Army, according to family members



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