

# Girl 'coping well' after parents' deaths

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE  
Staff Writer

Seven-year-old Katie Manchester just smiled and nodded when Father Ron Cote suggested she was spoiled by her parents.

"You were really lucky to have a mom and dad who loved each other so much and who loved each other more than words can say," he told young Katie in front of the more than 300 mourners gathered to say goodbye to her parents, Rob and Lisa Manchester, at a Richmond Hill church Friday.

"Some say they spoiled you and if that's true, it wasn't such a bad thing anyway. If you live to be a 90-year-old woman, you will always remember their love."

The couple was killed last Saturday when, according to police, their car was struck while making a left turn onto Stouffville Road from Yonge Street by a suspected street racer.

Mr. Manchester, 47, and his wife Lisa,

43, were out for dinner to celebrate their anniversary the night they were killed.

Fr. Cote, a retired member of the clergy who is Lisa's uncle and who performed the couple's marriage ceremony, said each was the other's anchor.

"Let's just say they were a perfect match and if any marriage was made in heaven, this one surely was."

Making note of the tragic and senseless way they died, Fr. Cote also asked mourners to press politicians for laws to end street racing.

"Let us pray and make our voices heard in the hopes that no other families have to endure similar pain," he said. "Let us insist that legislation be passed to curb the selfish disregard for public safety that seems to be such a problem today."

Following the sombre service, Michael Gray, brother of Katie's guardians Jeff and Cathy Gray, said the girl is doing well.

"Our main concern at this time is Katie's well-being and she is coping as well as can be expected," he said. "She is

such a bright, articulate and lovely little girl."

He also took the opportunity to question anyone involved in street racing.

"Why would anyone want to travel 150 km/h on a public road and through a busy intersection?" he asked. "I would like an answer to that. Being in that church service, there's only one message here: It has to stop."

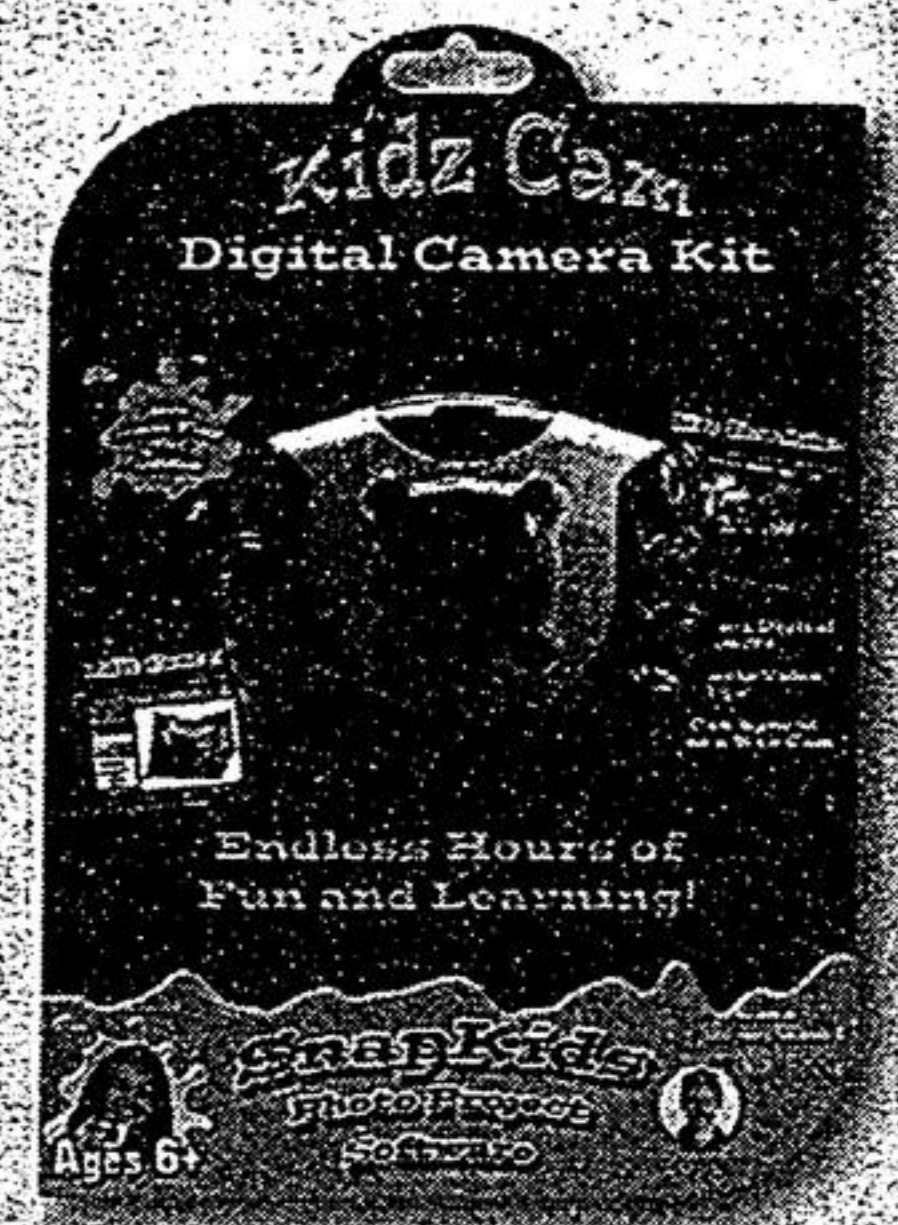
Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees agrees.

He raised the street racing issue in the provincial Legislature Thursday, questioning why the province has not followed through on legislation introduced by the previous government. Among other provisions, the bill called for a ban on the nitrous oxide fuel systems found in many street racing vehicles.

"The tragedy that the Manchester family has endured just highlights the need for this legislation," Mr. Klees said. "I will be putting pressure on the government to revisit that legislation."

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### PUBLIC MEETINGS PRIVATE PROPERTY PARKING IN FRONT AND EXTERIOR SIDE YARDS

The Town of Markham has developed a draft strategy to regulate private property parking in front and exterior side yards, subject to additional public consultation. A Working Group has been established, comprised of one representative from each Town Ward, to review this proposal, collect information, and refine the recommendations. The recommendations are to be presented to the Development Services Committee and to Council by the end of June, 2006.

Meeting dates for the Community Meetings and Working Group meetings relating to the extended driveway/front yard parking issue have been confirmed, as follows:

Wednesday, June 7 7:00 p.m.	Community Meeting (Ward 1 & 2)	Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre
Thursday, June 8 7:00 p.m.	Community Meeting (Wards 7 & 8)	Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre
Thursday, June 15 7:00 p.m.	Working Group Meeting	Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre
Monday, June 19 7:00 p.m.	Special Development Services Committee Meeting	Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre
Tuesday, June 27 7:00 p.m.	Report to Council from Special Development Services Committee	Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre

Members of the public are invited to observe the Working Group meetings, and to attend and participate in the Community Meetings.

Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk



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