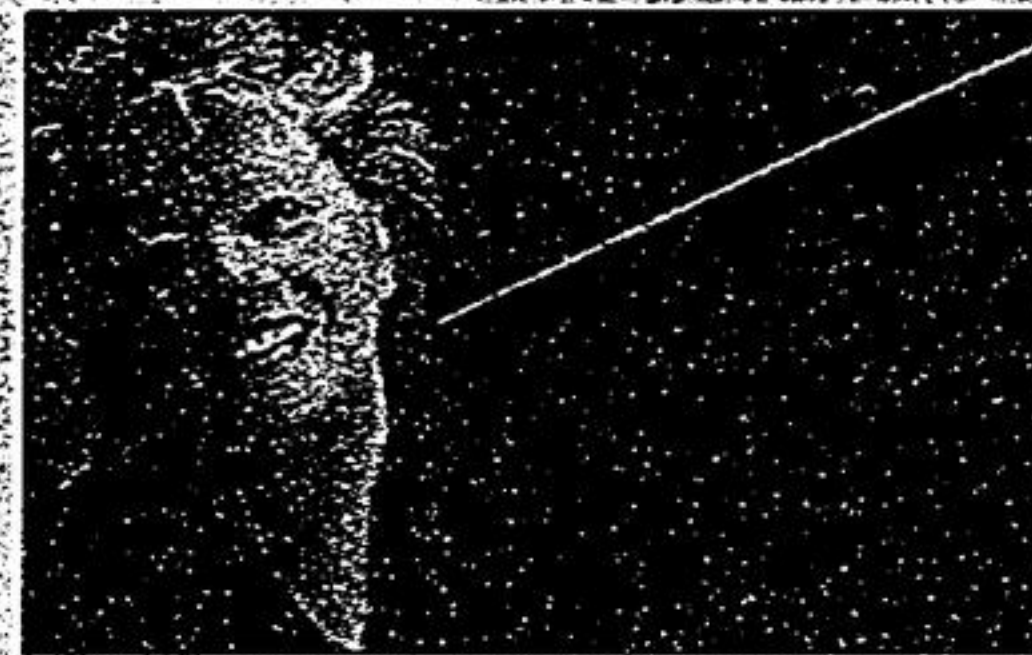


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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COMMUNITY MOURNS POPULAR TEENAGER'S DEATH



MORGAN FITZGERALD

Jonathan J.C. Cunningham, 18 (from left), Krista Grezos, 16, Philip Martiniello, 16, and Vanessa Kerswill, 16, are wearing T-shirts they made to commemorate friend Morgan Fitzgerald, who died in a car crash Friday. Money raised will go the charity of the Fitzgerald family's choice.

STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

'Morgan had a heart as big as Texas'

BY JOE FANTAUZZI AND JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Talented. Guts. A leader.

All were words used to describe 16-year-old Morgan Fitzgerald by family and friends during his funeral service Tuesday night in Stouffville.

The young man was "always the leader and his friends didn't seem to mind", his father, Bruce, told a packed EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church.

Morgan's coffin, covered with

flowers and his motocross helmet, sat in front of hundreds of young people. — lives he had touched.

An avid dirt bike rider and alpine enthusiast, Morgan, who moved to the Meaford-Collingwood area to live with his aunt last fall, was one of five killed following a collision on Hwy. 26 Friday.

The boys were just west of Thornbury when their Chevrolet Equinox SUV entered the west-

bound lane, colliding with a van driven by a 60-year-old man, who is now recovering in hospital.

The youths were reportedly headed out for an afternoon of hitting the slopes after a hockey game was cancelled due to bad weather.

In its wake, the crash left Drew Perry, Andrew McKean, Michael Fleming, all 16, and Michael O'Hara, 17, and Morgan dead.

Morgan had spent time growing up in Unionville and near

Markham Village before moving to Stouffville with his family, meeting friends he would keep throughout his short life.

"From the day he was born, he brought us happiness and joy," Mr. Fitzgerald said, adding Morgan loved being around people of all ages including adult friends of family. "Morgan mingled with adults just as easy as kids."

He will be remembered in his father's heart as caring.

"He never displayed vanity, he wasn't selfish," his dad said, with mom Leta and brother Taylor looking on. "Morgan had a heart as big as Texas. Morgan was not only my son and Taylor's brother, he was my friend."

Morgan's cousin, Krista Jorgensen, said time has "stood still for everyone" in the family since Friday afternoon.

Morgan's aunt, Barbara

See TEENAGER'S, page 7.

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