

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

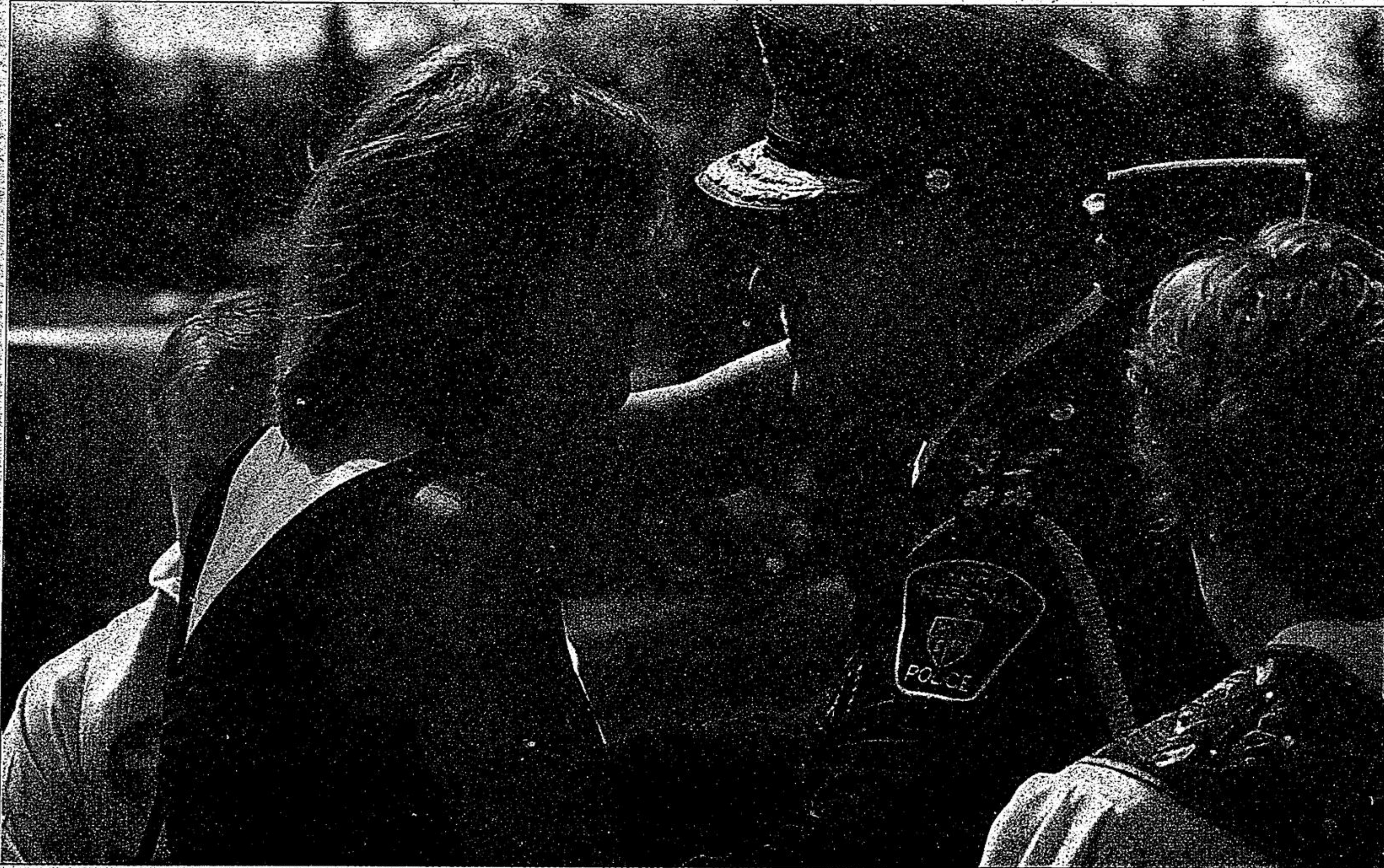
THURSDAY, AUG. 9, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



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## MOURNING 'KID AT HEART': MORE COVERAGE ON PAGES 3, 7



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge comforts Sonja Plunkett, wife of slain Det.-Const. Robert Plunkett, outside funeral services at Ray Twinney Recreation Complex yesterday.

# Officer remembered for passion

*Tragic killing is a family's worst nightmare, says wife of Toronto police officer*

BY CHRIS TRABER  
 Staff Writer

They came to mourn a colleague, bid farewell to a friend and pay respect to a brother.

Most shed tears for a stranger who became a hero.

But as many as 6,000 police officers from across the country jammed Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in Newmarket, a few

hundred civilians gathered outside the funeral for slain York Regional Police Det.-Const. Robert Plunkett.

Keswick resident Pat Williams and daughter, Kerri, 14, arrived two hours before Det.-Const. Plunkett's Canadian flag-draped casket was brought by a hearse at 11 a.m., escorted by nine motorcycle officers.

Ms Williams' children attended

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Elementary School in Keswick with the Plunkett's three children. Her husband, Michael, a Toronto police officer, was inside the complex as part of the honour guard.

"We're here out of respect for the family," she said. "Being a police wife myself, I can't imagine what Sonja (Plunkett) and the children are going through. It's a family's

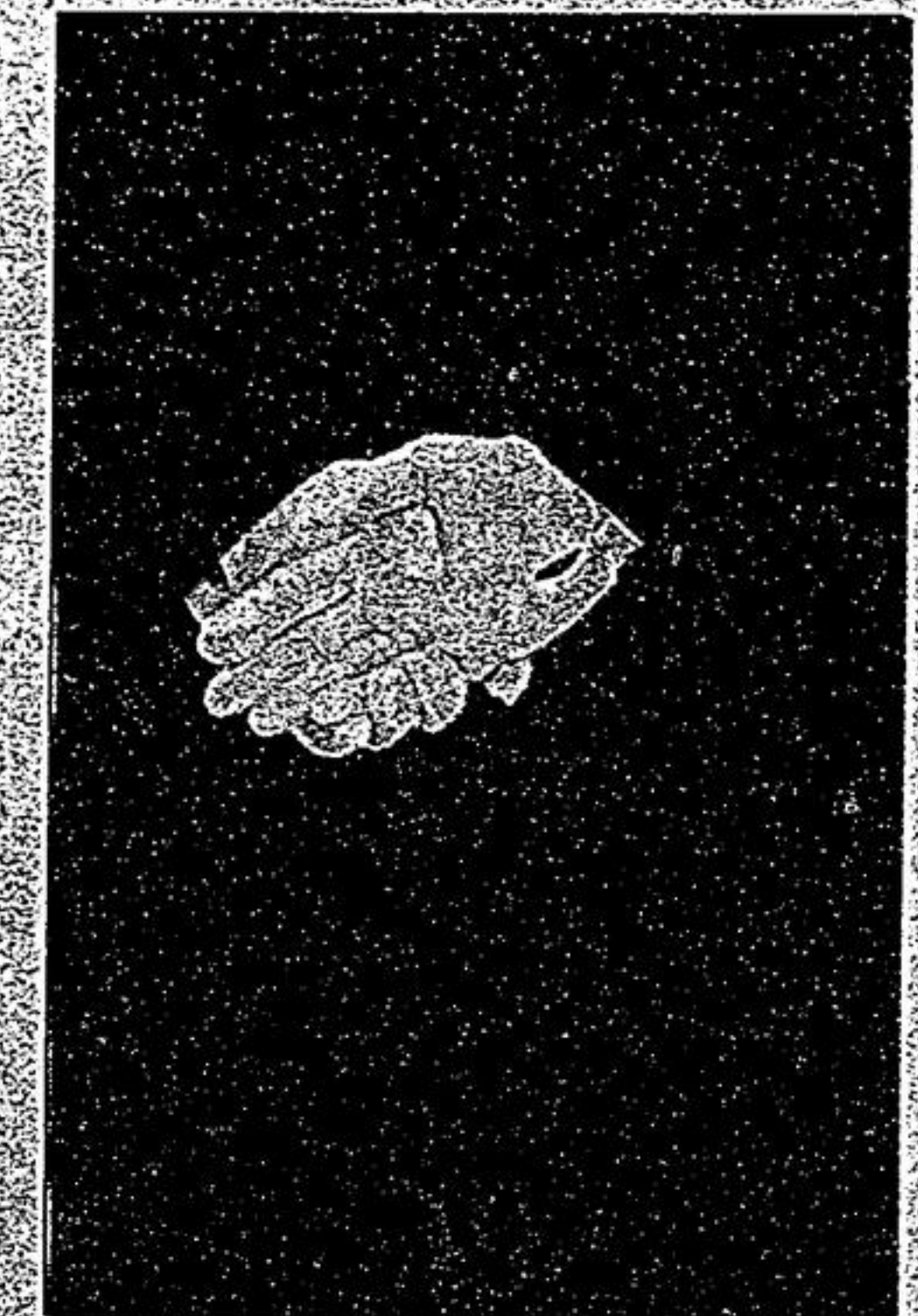
worst nightmare.

"When I first heard about what happened, I couldn't believe it. That couldn't happen to someone like him. He was such a beautiful person."

Kerri fondly recalled Det.-Const. Plunkett's career day visits.

"He came in and talked to us about police work," the youngster

See MOURNERS, page 3.



AT ATTENTION: White-gloved officers stand at ease during yesterday's funeral.

## Tributes, tears flow at funeral

BY JOE FANTAUZZI  
 Staff Writer

Friends and family of a man known as "Chum" said their final goodbyes in Newmarket yesterday.

The floor of a Newmarket hockey arena was transformed into a sea of blue as thousands of police officers from across the country gathered to pay their respects to fallen York Regional Police Det.-Const. Robert Plunkett.

The funeral was also attended by many dignitaries, including Lieut. Gov. James Bartleman, Premier Dalton McGuinty and a number of local politicians.

Inside the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex, officers exchanged hugs amid the rising pitch of a police choir.

As pictures of Det.-Const.

See FAMILY, page 3.

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