



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Former Stouffville resident Warren Skinner, now a Newmarket lawyer who lives in Uxbridge, holds a photograph of his son, Christopher, who was killed in Toronto in October. The family increases the reward being offered in the search for the killer to \$100,000 this week.

A father's pain

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Life has been an emotional roller-coaster for the family of Newmarket lawyer Warren Skinner since his son, Christopher, was murdered in October.

Christopher, 27, died after being run over by a black sport utility vehicle near Adelaide and Victoria streets in downtown Toronto Oct. 18 just after 3 a.m.

"Every hour is different, every day is different and you just don't know what each day is going to bring," said Mr. Skinner, who spent part of his youth in Stouffville and still has family and friends in the community.

"Some days are OK and some days are not so good. I think we're doing reasonably well in the circumstances."

Christopher was living in Toronto when he died and his family now lives in Uxbridge, after moving from Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Following Christopher's death, the Toronto police homicide squad announced a \$50,000

► If you have any information, call Toronto police Det. Stacey Gallant at 416-808-7410.

reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone responsible.

The family included its own \$25,000 reward, which was raised from friends, family, several York Region lawyers and anonymous well-wishers, Mr. Skinner said.

The family increased the reward to \$100,000 this week.

The day Christopher died, he had been celebrating his sister's birthday in the entertainment district.

After the party, he walked alone east on Adelaide toward his home and police believe he was trying to hail a taxi just east of Yonge Street when his hand may have come into contact with an SUV.

The SUV stopped just west of Victoria

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Warren Skinner,
on the death of his son, Christopher

Street and several people got out, police said. A brief altercation broke out and Christopher was pushed to the ground and kicked.

He remained motionless in front of the SUV.

The group got back into the SUV and drove over Christopher's body, police said.

The SUV was last seen eastbound on Adelaide approaching Church Street.

Christopher was hospitalized and later died from his injuries.

No one has been arrested.

Meanwhile, Mr. Skinner holds out hope

passengers in the SUV will come forward.

"The person who was driving, I think the main reason he has not come forward is because he is going to be in a lot of trouble," he said. "Being in the same car with someone who drives like that doesn't necessarily make anyone guilty of a criminal offence."

Mr. Skinner said his son was a friendly man and a talented artist who had a good sense of humour.

"He didn't have any enemies."

About 1,100 people turned out for Christopher's funeral in Uxbridge and hundreds attended a candlelight vigil in Christopher's memory near the site where he was killed.

"We'll never have complete closure because it's impossible to have complete closure when you lose a child," Mr. Skinner said.

"A conviction won't bring Christopher back, but it will bring us some relief and some solace."