

Friends hope to raise \$15,000 for teen's family

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EMILY BRUNTON: Stouffville native died almost three months after December car accident.

enough people. We can't bring back Emily but we can alleviate one stressor," Ms Tucker said of why they decided to go ahead with the fundraiser.

Kitchenware, spa treatments, power tools, baskets, a handyman for a day, a professional organizer and car care kits are among the items that will be up for auction or be a draw/door prize.

There will also be a cash bar. Organizers want to raise \$15,000. "We're just trying to help some people out who are in need," Ms Tucker said.

Tickets are \$20 each and available at Card's TV and Appliances, 6392 Main St. Donations can also be made at PACE Credit Union on Main Street, to account number 32859.

injuries.

"What every parent dreads, that phone call," said her mother, Jeneene Brunton.

"Your worst nightmare," echoed Emily Brunton's stepfather David Richardson.

Ms Brunton suffered catastrophic brain trauma and was in a coma for about 10 days.

She also broke both her legs, her pelvis, one foot and one shoulder.

When Ms Brunton woke up, "she wasn't there," her mother said.

From the time her daughter was admitted to hospital to the day she died, Ms Brunton remained at Sunnybrook and slept on the floor of her daughter's room.

'What every parent dreads, that phone call.'

Jeneene Brunton also spoke to her daughter and wrote to her daily about what was happening.

"They say when you're in something like this, you don't remember any of this," Jeneene Brunton said. "(I wrote it all down) so that when she came out, she could remember what happened and not do this to me again."

For a while, Jeneene Brunton thought her daughter knew she was there, but during the three-month hospital stay, she came to realize the little girl she gave birth to and raised was no longer with them.

"She would have never changed. She would have spent the rest of her life in the hospital," Jeneene Brunton said, noting that although her daughter's reflexes were working and she was healing, she was non-responsive.

One day, the doctors gave the family a choice no one ever wants to be faced with.

"It was quite the few days to make that choice. But it was the right thing to do," Jeneene Brunton said wiping away tears. "We would have never been able to bring her home."

Emily died March 9.

Instead of a funeral, the family held a Celebration of Life event at the Lebovic

Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park in Stouffville March 26. More than 300 people attended.

"It was a sad time. But I wanted to celebrate ... how many people she touched," Jeneene Brunton said. "She would have loved it."

The community is once again rallying around the family.

"They have been virtually financially ruined by this," said Ainsley Tucker, long-time friend and one of the Emily Brunton Fund fundraiser organizers.

The event takes place May 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the St. Mark's Catholic Church auditorium, 345 Glad Park Ave.

'We're still a small community. We know enough people. We can't bring back Emily but we can alleviate one stressor.'

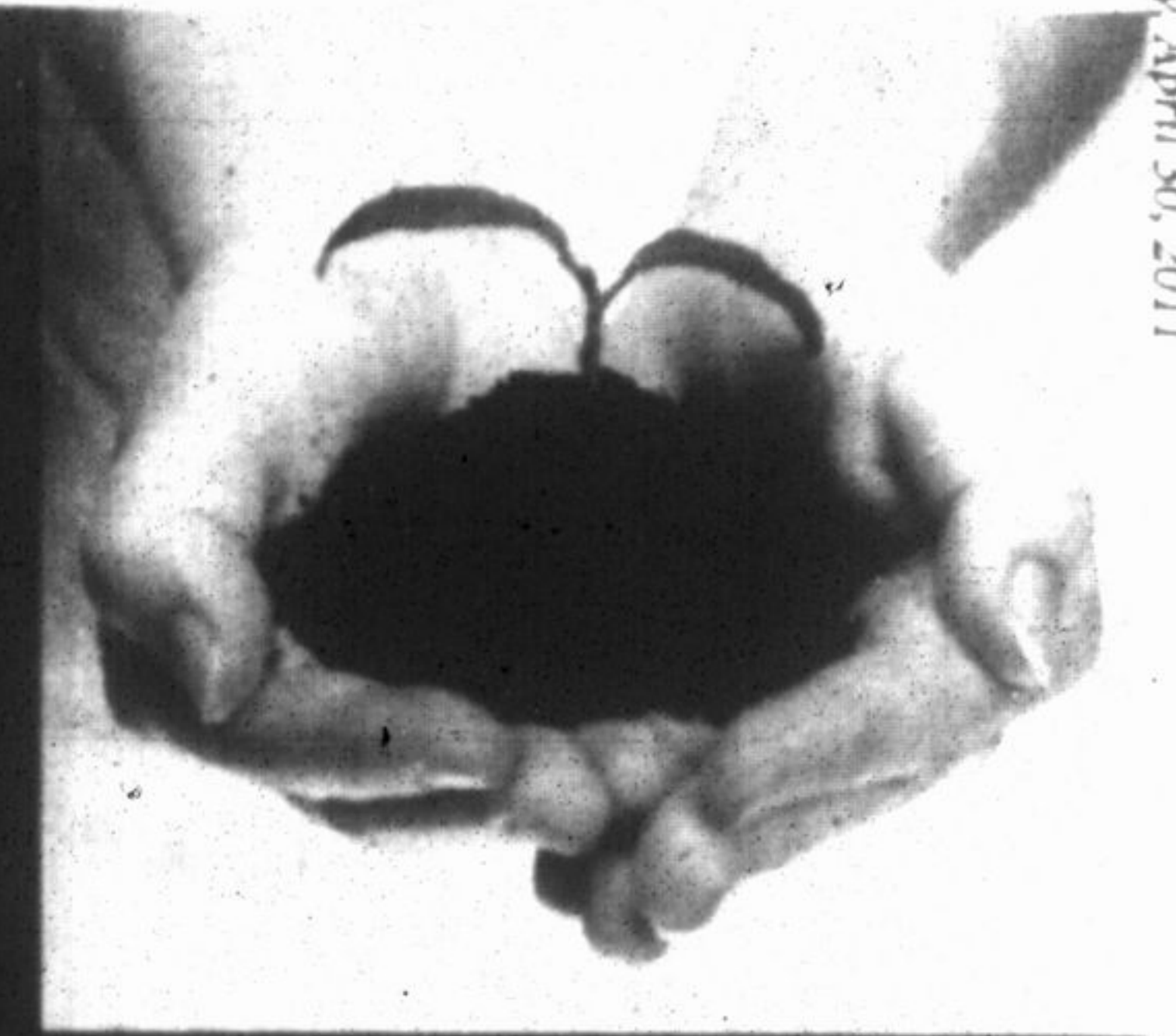
The fundraiser was in the works prior to Emily's death and was going to help pay for some of the medical equipment she was going to require.

"We're still a small community. We know

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