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SPY



WEEKEND FOCUS

Son's death no accident, mom says

Patti Penny speaking, writing to stop more workplace tragedies

BY SANDRA BOLAN

sbolun@yrmg.com

Luke Penny's death was not an accident, it was an incident, according to his mother Patti.

Mr. Penny, a labourer, died May 19, 2010 when a concrete wall collapsed on top of him while he was on the job in the Whitby area.

He was 26.

"I don't use the word accident. To me, it wasn't an accident. As far as I'm concerned, it could have been prevented," the petite 53-year-old said during an interview with The Sun-Tribune.

Mrs. Penny is the featured speaker at this year's Steps For Life 5K Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy.

Every working day, three Canadians die in a workplace accident or from a life-altering injury/occupational disease, according to the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada.

"The employers need to make sure their employees need to know what they're doing, whether they've been on the job one year or 10 years," she said.

Mrs. Penny is no stranger to the safety precautions needed on job sites. Her husband works for the petroleum industry as an estimator for gas stations and on tanks.

The past two years for Mrs. Penny have been about creating a new normal for her-

"The first year or so I basically couldn't

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Calandra pays tribute to Spirit, Hoover

'Somewhat sorry' for Newmarket-Aurora MP

BY JIM MASON

Imason@yrmg.com

As promised, Oak Ridges-Markham MP Paul Calandra extolled the virtues of his hometown Jr. A hockey team on Parliament Hill this week.

He stood in the House of Commons Tuesday to congratulate the Stouffville Spirit on its first-ever Ontario Junior Hockey League championship.

But instead of taking a shot at Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, the MP for Oshawa-Whitby, during the speech, as promised, Mr. Calandra deflected it to Lois Brown who represents the riding of Newmarket-Aurora.

The Spirit defeated the Newmarket Hurricanes, Aurora Tigers, Georgetown Raiders and Whitby Fury to secure the Buckland Cup.

"The hockey arena in Stouffville was packed to the rafters for every single game of this year's hockey finals," Mr. Calandra said. "I am very proud of my home team, the Stouffville Spirit. I congratulate the team on an extraordinary hockey run and on a great final victory."

In jest, Mr. Calandra expressed sorrow for Ms Brown.

"I feel somewhat sorry for the member for Newmarket-Aurora, because she had to taste bitter

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Jasmine Hirji, 6, reads the symbols on a chart with ease as the Stouffville Lions visited Oscar Peterson Public School Tuesday. The service club offers free vision screening every year to kindergarten students in Whitchurch-Stouffville's schools.

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