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onathan Chambers was passionate about sports, wanted to get into business and attended Markham District High School.

But the young man's life was cut short at 21 in March 2007.

He was shot dead in a Brampton cocaine deal.

Two men handed Mr. Chambers, acting as a go-between, a wad of fake cash to facilitate the transaction with a drug dealer, court records state.

Mr. Chambers' body was found in Oro-Medonte Township March 7, 2007. He had been shot.

Brampton's Lenworth Spence was convicted last year of first-degree murder in Mr. Chambers' death.

Several other men were convicted of charges ranging from manslaughter to accessory to the crime in exchange for testifying against Mr. Spence.

To this day, the loss of her son continues to haunt Mr. Chambers' mother, Nancy Logan-Chambers, who said the family didn't know Mr. Chambers was connected with drug activity.

"You're never the same," she said of the impact on the family. "Every day, I cannot believe my son is dead."

Recent gun violence, including the shootings of seven people in Toronto's Eaton Centre, 25 people at a block party in Scarborough and a man at a cafe in Toronto's Little Italy and the massacre at an Aurora, Colorado movie theatre, has horrified people across the continent.

The Scarborough incident left two young people dead: Shyanne Charles, 14, and Joshua Yasay, 23.

A Whitchurch-Stouffville man was charged with first-degree murder in the Little Italy killing.

In the aftermath of the shootings, public opinion has been loud.

Toronto hip-hop artist P. Reign released a track entitled Angels, memorializing Shyanne and Mr. Yasay.

Some people are demanding greater investment in social programs to address the needs of atrisk youths potentially susceptible to gang involvement. Others are calling for more police on streets.

Ms Logan-Chambers argued a



TRIGGERING

NEXT: YORK REGIONAL POLICE AND SENA

TOR DON MEREDITH OFFER PERSEECTIVES IN

major failure in dealing with gun

violence lies not with police, but

with the justice system, which she

believes often proverbially slaps

criminals on the wrist before releas-

ing them back into the community.

is needed to crack down on people

proactive," she urged. "Don't wait

until someone gets murdered to

ily, several members of which are

high-achieving members of Cana-

STOUFFVILLE MAN CHARGED

of Mr. Chambers' family mem-

bers, his brother, Shamawd, plays

professional football for the CFLS

the ranks of Toronto Police to serve

death did a good job, Ms Logan-

Chambers said, but she lamented

the arduous criminal trial process

of the men connected to the inci-

"It was hard on my family."

she said, noting she and her son's

father have both suffered health

and financial complications since

Another relative rose through

Police investigating her son's

Among the accomplishments

Her son came from a loving fam-

found with weapons, she said.

enforce the laws."

dian society, she noted.

Edmonton Eskimos.

as a deputy chief.

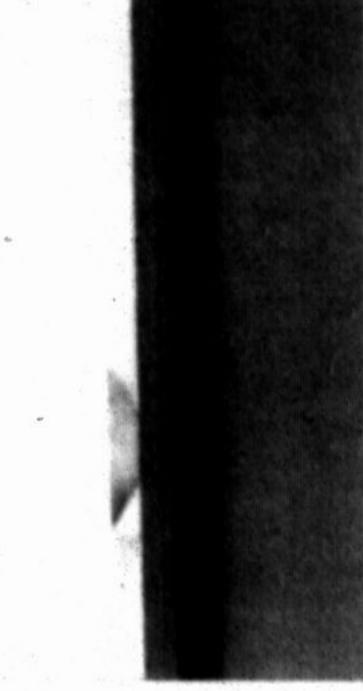
dent.

Stiffer enforcement of gun laws

"The government needs to be

THE CONCLUSION TO OUR TWO-PART SERBS

ON CLIN CRIME



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

their son's death.

Ms Logan-Chambers, affiliated with United Mothers Opposing Vio lence Everywhere, urged parents to take drastic steps to intervene if they discover a child is involved in criminal activity.

"They need to take control," she said, adding that includes cooperating with police. "Step up, be parents and be proactive in your kid's life."

Meanwhile, the midnight movie theatre slaughter in Aurora, Colorado, increasingly impacts everyone in our social media-driven global village, Social Services Network executive director Dr. Naila Butt said. So, too, did the racially motivated mass killing of 69 youth camp members last summer on Norway's Utoya Island.

Closer to home, the shootings in Scarborough and gang-style murder in Little Italy beg an end to rhetoric and a call to action, she said.

"If it happens in Toronto, can it happen in Markham?" Dr. Butt asked, before offering an emphatic, "Yes".

The medical doctor-turnedpublic health and social services advocate is also an active proponent of stemming family violence.

She leads a five-year, touring anti-violence symposium with community partners, including York Regional Police, the Children's Aid Society and peer agencies.

Her Markham-based network, focusing on the South Asian community, is inclusive and growing.

It's a management model based on her belief that integration, education and information empower individuals and neighbourhoods, leading to understanding, acceptance and peace. Social Services Network executive director Dr. Naila Butt says establishing trust between isolated communities, police and social services agencies can help curb gun violence.

ON THE WEB

▶ Hear the radio edit of P. Reign's tribute to Shyanne Charles and Joshua Yasay, entitled Angels, at bit.ly/N8CsPX

The culture of violence needs to be addressed from a holistic perspective, she said.

"We need to look at why it's happening, examine the causes such as poverty, unemployment and youths' mistrust of authority and police."

Establishing communication, mutual trust and respect in communities that remain isolated is the key, she contended.

"Veiled racism" exists in our society, she bluntly stated.

It's mostly silent, but people feel it and its pain.

Closed societies have an "us against them" attitude, Dr. Butt said, adding breaking down barriers and bridging gaps will slowly dissolve the rancor that spawns violence

'ANYTHING THAT DIVIDES'

She knows of what she speaks, candidly admitting she left a comfortable existence in her native Pakistan because of violence.

"They were fighting amongst each other and for what?" she said. "Anything that divides people, the colour of their skin, their faith, religion, is not good. Quality of life, that's what is important."

In many at-risk neighbourhoods, gangs wield more power than police, she said. Residents have distrust for police. Breaking the silence will stop the violence,

MASS SHOOTINGS

A timeline of some of the worst incidents of gun violence in Canada.

Dec. 6, 1989

In the worst mass shooting in Canadian history, 14 women are killed and 12 people are wounded in a murderous rampage by Marc Lepine at École Polytechnique in Montreal.

Dec. 26, 2005

Jane Creba, 15, is killed and six others are wounded in a gang-related shootout just north of the Eaton Centre in Toronto.

Sept. 13, 2006

A lone gunman enters Dawson College in downtown Montreal and begins a shooting rampage that kills one person and wounds 19 others.

June 2, 2012

One man is killed and six other people are wounded by gunfire, two critically, in a shooting at the Eaton Centre. One of the critically injured victims later dies.

July 16, 2012

Two people are killed and 23 wounded when gunfire erupts at a block party in Scarborough.

but trust takes time.

The move to safer communities begins with individual and political will, she said.

More youth programs, schools and agencies working collaboratively with parents is part of the solution, she said.

"People in our diverse communities need to recognize there are supports and help is available," Dr. Butt said. "We need an integrated approach, where there are different tasks, but one goal. We need places where people are valued."

Stakeholders must realize immigration for newcomers is not as quick as settlement, she said.

"Talk ends when a commitment for allocated funds is shown and people are assigned specific tasks." Dr. Butt said. "Talk ends when a budget is in place and action is taken.



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