

Tim McLean, 22, was brutally murdered on a Greyhound Bus in Manitoba. Vince Li is charged with the crime. Our deepest sympathies go out to Tim's family - especially his mother, for no parent should have to endure what they have gone through by replaying their son's murder in the media. Here, we send our thoughts and prayers to Tim's family.

If I could say anything I'd like her to know how sorry I am that her son suffered a brutal senseless attack. My heart and prayers go out to the entire family.

Shari H., Spruce Grove, AB.

Mornings I check my email, and read the news online. I don't watch television, and do not even own one. The article I read was brief and had few details. Nonetheless, I burst into tears, and sobbed so long, I lost my lunch. All I could think of was the loss.

I have two grown sons, Tim and Tom. They are far apart in age, but the older brother is so good to his younger sib. I'd had two in between, but they died in infancy.

Although I understand the pain of losing a child, I know from experiencing my two grown boys, that when you know your son, it's a harder loss. I also know, from experience in my family, that when someone is taken by another human being, it's a harder loss than if they die of disease or by accident.

My heart aches for you and although news reports say little (of your family), your personal strength, and the love of your family is conveyed. Although there were personality clashes and confusion from a few of the young people who knew Tim, he also had staunch, loving friends. They make themselves known. They protected your family from those who would insult you and Tim's memory. You must know how deep and pervasive the love is, and how many share your loss, globally, as well as locally.

My best to you, Tim's brother and sisters, your immediate family, Tim's father and his household, and to those friends Tim left to comfort and love you all. You will be in my prayers for a long, long time to come.

Most sincerely,

Margaret Smethurst Pleasant Hill, CA USA

I live in Welland, Ontario, near Niagara Falls and I want to tell you that I have been thinking of you and Tim and all of his friends and family ever since the news of

his loss came out.

I am the mother of a beautiful 18-year-old girl and what you are going through must be the most difficult experience any mother can have. I do believe that those we love and are now gone are simply standing a long way away and although we can't see or hear them, they are watching and helping us. Based on what people have written about your son, you certainly must be an extraordinary Mom because he was so loved and I believe our kids first learn about love from their Moms. A lot of dads are great, too, but they don't have the same physical advantages we do when we are bonding with our babies, even before they're born. Although we would all rather he was still here and that a much smaller number of people knew him, I hope that someday you will find some small comfort in the fact that millions of people all over the world think of Tim and will always remember him.

Vera Sileikis, Welland, ON

As a mother, I could not even imagine... my heart aches for everyone that has been impacted by this tragedy, but especially for Tim's mom. I hope she can find some comfort in knowing that so many people loved her son.

Tara Kadatz, Edmonton, AB

The MOM magazine team cannot put into words how affected we are by this murder. We truly believe that moms are a power unto ourselves and that it doesn't matter if you are black, white, purple or grey, or live in Manitoba or Timbuktu. We all give birth the same way, regardless of a physical birth or spiritual birth, moms are all one and we need to stick together. To Tim's mom, we take a piece of your pain.

In our prayers, Tamara, Daina and Jody.

Note: We didn't have room to publish all of the emails we received but they are available online at MOMmagazine.ca

Injury paralyzes Stony Plain mom

Stony Plain mom Shauna Paisley Cooper suffered a C6-C7 spinal cord injury when she went over the handle bars of her mountain bike at the Rabbit Hill mountain bike park in July.

Shauna, a mom of two-year-old twin daughters Kyla and Mya, is paralyzed from the chest down and has a long road of rehab ahead of her to gain control over her arms, thumbs and index fingers.

She was an accomplished athlete, having competed in numerous half marathons and triathlons, the latest being the Great White North Triathlon in Stony Plain only a week before the accident.

"If Shauna wasn't working out or taking fitness classes at the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre, she was enjoying the outdoors. She loved camping, mountain biking, downhill skiing and hiking. She spent as much time as she could doing these things that she loved with her family."

Shauna's friends Tracy Dunn and Tracey Kibblewhite remain positive.

"She has competitive spirit and hard work ethic, we know she will attack this rehab with every ounce of strength she possesses.

"This rehabilitation will teach her new techniques that will enable her to care for herself and perform daily living activities. She is thrilled to hear from the medical staff at the Glenrose that she should be able to drive within a couple of years.

"She has such will, determination, and strength, that her family and friends are quite hopeful for her to be able to return home by Christmas."

Two fundraisers have been planned to help raise money for the Cooper family. (see event calendar on p. 32). If you are unable to attend either event, but would still like to help out, a trust account has been set up, and donations can be made at any TD Canada Trust. The account number is 6422456, and the transit number is 8975.

If you don't have the account number, you have to quote the following: "Greg Cooper or Wendy Williams in trust for Shauna Paisley Cooper."

You can keep up-to-date with Shauna's recovery by logging onto www.carepages.com Click on 'Register Here' and continue with registration using the Patient name: Shauna Cooper. The site will e-mail you when an update is posted. "Greg reads Shauna her messages each morning. She really enjoys the messages people leave."