

Caring community is such a blessing

Once again I'm reminded of how blessed I am to be living and working in such a great community and how important a sense of community is.

Earlier on this year, an event unfolded outside of my daughter's school in Thornhill.

My husband had parked his car in front of the school and gone inside to greet her. While he was gone, another driver backed their vehicle into his car, causing thousands of dollars of damage, got out to see the extent of it, then drove away.

When my husband and daughter arrived at the car, they were shocked to see what had happened.

Fortunately, two Grade 7 students had witnessed the event, saw the driver and car, and shared observations with my husband.

Unfortunately, the descriptions matched many other cars and people. Not being able to find the driver, we incurred the deductible expense.

EVERY DAY ANOTHER TIP

Having heard about the incident, many parents and students began looking out for the make and colour of car described by the two students. Almost every day we received another tip that we pursued.

We were overwhelmed by the support of the school community.

After a few weeks, we asked the principal for permission to post a notice at the school



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door requesting additional information.

A Purolator delivery man read it, then, en route to another delivery, he noticed a car that matched the description and e-mailed us the licence plate. Coincidentally, a Grade 7 girl noticed the same car outside the school and called us with the same plate.

We called the police, they investigated and the owner admitted to the hit-and-run.

I am still in awe that our community banded together for weeks to help us work towards a just resolution.

ANONYMOUS LETTER

I had the same sense of awe when, after writing my column on my mother's final week of life at Hill House Hospice, I received an overwhelming response from readers.

The first and most touching was an anon-

ymous letter placed in my mailbox.

The envelope read "A gift for you" and attached to it was a small packet of delicious chocolates and a small silk bouquet of purple flowers — my favourite colour.

Inside was a hand-written note. The writer shared that she was "so sad" when she read my story and suggested I must be "very brave and strong". She wrote that "the world needs more people like you" and signed it "love, a girl who cares".

SO TOUCHED

I was so touched this "girl" had taken the time to write to me and to include chocolates as a way of helping "just a little". Thank you for your powerful words. They made my day.

One of the other cards was from a Richmond Hill resident who reminded me that my mother was a volunteer helper with her daughter's therapy for several years, after she had put out a request for help in The Liberal newspaper in 1995.

She said that my column had brought tears to her eyes as she remembered my mother as a giver.

Thanks, Janet, for reaching out, too. Your card means so much.

When Lindy Genno of Richmond Hill read my column, she immediately sent me an e-mail.

She shared a story about her mom, known to most as Muzzy, who passed away

in March of this year, after spending her last 15 days at Hill House Hospice.

She said she was putting together a fundraiser, with proceeds going towards the hospice, as Hill House relies on donations to continue to provide the incredible care and support for patients and their families.

GIVING BACK TO HILL HOUSE

She and I met to share our very similar stories and to talk more about ways in which we could give back to Hill House Hospice. She, along with her Avon "sisters" are making wonderful gift bundles available for only \$10 each. They make great office gifts, stocking stuffers or even a gift for yourself.

They will include a note thanking each person for his or her contribution to Hill House Hospice.

To learn more about this, contact Lindy Genno at avononlocation@gmail.com or by calling 905-508-9554.

It is such an honour to share my words with you, my readers and neighbours. But I am especially honoured, rewarded and encouraged when I see that we are working together as a community towards helping one another. Together we're better.

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