Friends, family remember Paula Gallant and launch awareness campaign



Halifax County Local President Alexis Allen attended the "Come Meet Paula" event at Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Elementary School on December 5.

Teachers, friends, family and community members came together to celebrate the life of Paula Gallant at Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea (BLT) Elementary school on December 5, 2007. It would have been her 38th birthday. Gallant, who taught Grade 3 at BLT, was killed on December 27, 2005. Her murder remains unsolved to this day.

"We'll not accept the status quo for Paula, or all the other victims of violent crimes," said Gallant's sister, Lana Kenny. "We need closure to obtain a sense of peace in our hearts."

Kenny and Gallant's close friend Lynn MacEachern hosted a simultaneous event on December 5. The other took place at the Savoy Theatre in Glace Bay, the family's hometown. Gallant's sister Lynn Blackburn Gallant attended the Glace Bay event.

While the investigation into Gallant's death continues, her family is



Above is Paula's Place, an art classroom located at BLT school, dedicated to Paula Gallant.

committed to keeping the case in the public eye. They launched an awareness campaign which included the launch of the "Come Meet Paula" website (www.paulagallant.com). The website is dedicated to the memory of Paula Gallant. At

both events, those attending were the first to be able to purchase Paula's magnetic "P's" to help support the ongoing efforts to solve her murder. The Purple P car magnets bear Gallant's name and the words peace, perseverance and prosecution in the colour purple, which stands as a voice for violence against women.

The "P's" are available for \$5, and can be purchased through the Paula Gallant website. Anyone can take part in Paula's Awareness Campaign by displaying a magnetic "P"

on his or her vehicle.

An art classroom at the school is dedicated to Paula Gallant. Paula's Place was officially unveiled on December 6, 2006 by friends, family and colleagues of Gallant. It was unveiled on that day to coincide with the National Day of Commemoration and Action on Violence Against Women, the anniversary of the Dec. 6, 1989 massacre when a gunman killed 14 women in Montreal. The classroom is a beautifully decorated room where BLT students work on art. It also contains artwork by Gallant herself.

Anyone with information about the Gallant case is encouraged to contact the Halifax Police Department at 490-5331 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or through secure web tips at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca.



Students from the BLT choir perform at the "Come Meet Paula" event.