

Gallant

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to come forward to help solve the murder mystery.

"We will persevere in the hopes that one day the person or people responsible for her death will be prosecuted. We need closure to obtain some level of peace in our hearts, for Paula, for Anna and for all who loved her."

The website contains not only pictures of Ms. Gallant, but stories and poems written by those who knew her. It showcases her art and provides links to both Crime Stoppers and the province's reward program that offers a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for her death.

Magnetized purple Ps for vehicles have also been made and are on sale through the website. RCMP Supt. Gordon Barnett, who urged anyone with even the smallest piece of information to speak up, told those at the school that some police vehicles will display the Ps.

Proceeds from their sale will be used to support projects to sustain awareness around the case.

"If there are any funds left after an arrest is made, these moneys will be used to set up hopefully a scholarship



Paula Gallant was murdered almost two years ago.

in Paula's name," Ms. Kenny said.

It was just outside the school — in the parking lot — where the body of the 36-year-old was found stuffed inside the trunk of her green 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier on Dec. 27, 2005.

Family had reported her missing when she failed to return home from an afternoon shopping trip.

In an interview, Ms. Kenny said it was appropriate to host the website launch at the school, with so many of her sister's colleagues and students.

"Even though this is where she was found, it's also the place she loved. There's so many happy memories here so, as difficult as it is to be here, it's the place where it's meant to be."

(kshiers@herald.ca)

Gallant's family vows to keep case active

CRIME

By Rachel Mendleson – The Daily News

About 200 people milled about brightly coloured balloons, birthday cards and cakes in the Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Elementary school gym yesterday evening. They chatted jovially, exchanging embraces and marveling at how each other's children had grown.

It would have been Paula Gallant's 38th birthday.

With the second anniversary of the former teacher's still-unsolved murder approaching, the community came together to honour her life, and raise awareness about her tragic death.

"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."

The tight-knit community was rocked when the married mother of one was found in the trunk of her car, parked beside the school where she taught Grade 3, just after midnight on Dec. 28, 2005.

Much of the investigation has centered around her final hours, when she would have presumably been seen in her green 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier. Family members reported her missing on Dec. 27 at 10:14 p.m., when she failed to return home from a shopping trip, possibly to Bayers Lake.

Last night's event marks the launch of PaulaGallant.com, a website dedicated to keeping her memory, and the fight to bring her killers to justice, alive.

"It's important for everyone to understand that any amount of information, no matter how small, how insignificant it may seem, please bring it to our attention," said RCMP Supt. Gordon Barnett.

Purple car magnets in the shape of a P are being sold to ensure Gallant's legacy remains on the public radar.

The crowd applauded as Barnett announced that marked patrol cars in the Tantallon detachment would each be adorned with a purple P.

MLA Bill Estabrooks recounted how the murder inspired him to ask NDP Leader Darrell Dexter if he could change portfolios, and become justice critic.

"I said to him, 'Two words, Darrell: Paula Gallant,'" he said. "We will eventually reach a successful conclusion, and Paula will be remembered."

There is a cash reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction of those responsible under the Justice Department's rewards program.

Kenny remained strong throughout the presentation, even as photos of her late sister flashed on the overhead screen. But when asked to explain steadfast hope in solving the case, her grief floated closer to the surface.

"You wake up some mornings and it's barely enough to breathe," she said. "But it's really the support of family and friends that keeps us going."

rachel.mendleson@hfxnews.ca

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Homicide investigators are trying to piece together Paula Gallant's final hours.

Police are seeking help from people who might have seen her green, two-door, 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier, licence number BMP 504 on Dec. 27, 2005.

Anyone with information should call Halifax Regional Police and Halifax RCMP Integrated Major Crime Unit at 490-5333.

Anonymous tips can be made to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or online at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca.

A memorial birthday party

Slain teacher's friends, family start campaign to help catch her killer

By **KELLY SHIERS**
Staff Reporter

IT WAS A 38th birthday celebration perhaps like no other.

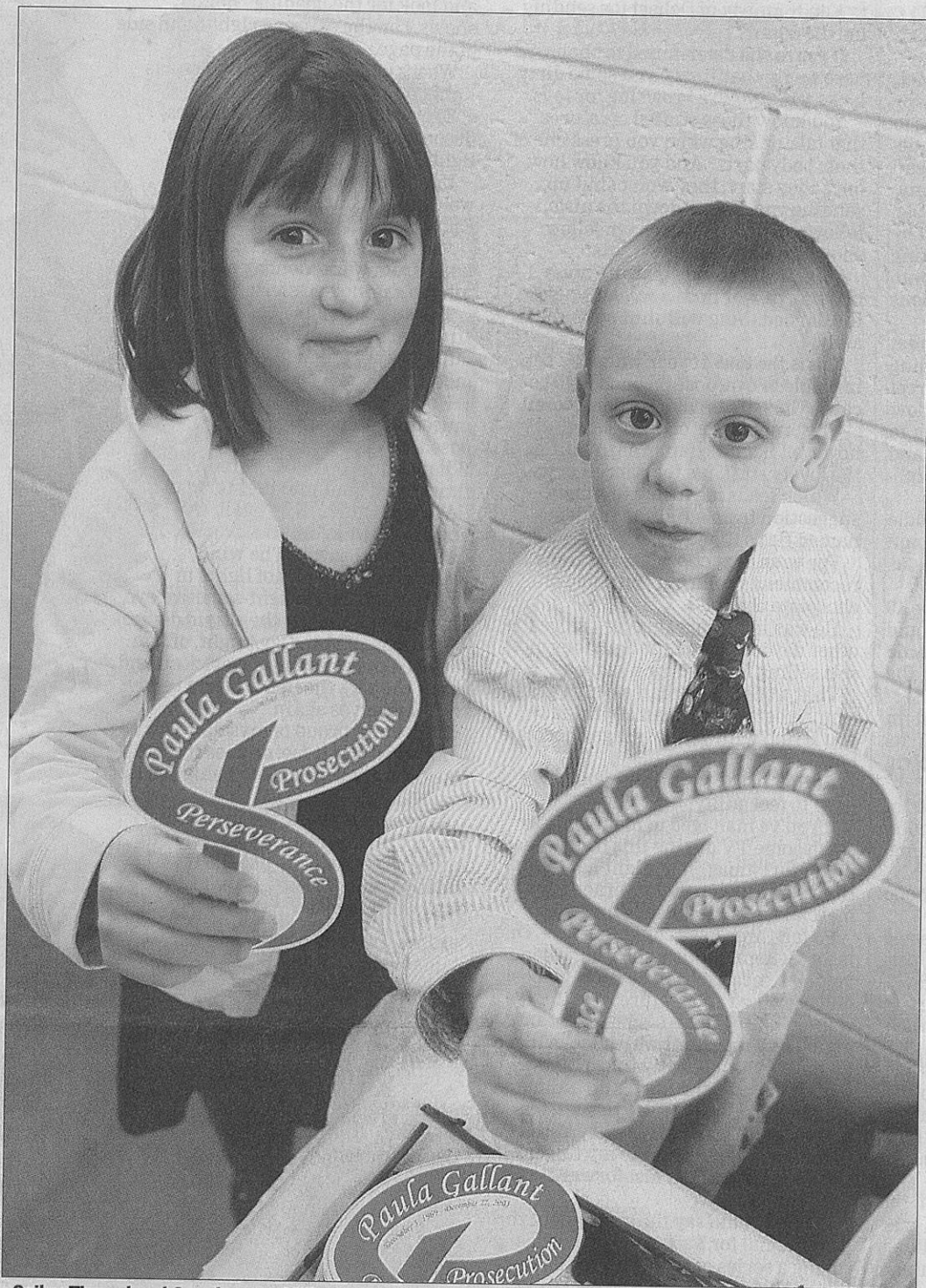
There were bouquets of balloons and flowers, cakes and cards. There were friends and family and children singing. And, at times on Wednesday evening, there was also laughter.

But there was no guest of honour. And no peace for those who gathered.

"Seven hundred and eighty days have passed since Paula's murder," Lana Kenny told the crowd of more than 200 who came to the launch of a public awareness campaign at Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea School where her sister, Paula Gallant, taught Grade 3.

"Seven hundred and eighty days since Anna, her daughter, has been without her loving mother; 708 days since Paula's niece, Emily, and nephews, Tim, Connor and Dylan, have been without their beautiful aunt; 708 days without justice; 708 days that the person or people responsible for this heinous crime have walked freely among us."

But Ms. Kenny said www.paulagallant.com, a new website, that gives an in-depth look at her life will help keep people talking about her sister's death, remind them of her "wonderful spirit" and perhaps encourage someone



Cailey Tizzard and Camden MacMillan, students at Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea School, hold Paula Gallant magnets during the launch, Wednesday night at the school, of a public awareness campaign to help bring the teacher's killer to justice.

(PETER PARSONS / Staff)