

Shauna & David Andrews  
68 Nithview Drive  
New Hamburg, Ontario

June 1, 2020

Civic Works Committee  
300 Dufferin Ave.  
London, Ontario  
N6A 4L9

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you with a request for something that is very important and very close to my family's heart. My name is Shauna Andrews. I am the mother of Cody Andrews.

On September 8, 2016, my 23-year-old son was a passenger in my nephew's car travelling on Dundas St., in London. There was a horrific crash caused by an impaired driver. The impaired driver ran a red light at unfathomable speed on Highbury Avenue. He hit my nephew's car, and my son Cody, and the other back seat passenger, Jerry Petrie, were killed. My nephew Eric and his friend Carly were severely injured. I would prefer not to go into any detail, as it very traumatic and horrid to relive. The whole situation is just awful and there are no words.

Nothing could have prepared us for losing our son, especially in this most horrid way. I'm not sure how we have survived everyday since losing Cody. It has been a long and broken hearted 3.5 years without him. His loss is massive, a deep gut wrenching hole that never gets better. He is immensely missed; there are just no other words to describe it.

I became involved with Madd Canada early after Cody died. They have provided my family and I unending support and care. Each year, Madd Canada holds a conference in which they offer a vigil, to honour victims and survivors of impaired driving. It is such a beautiful and poignant ceremony. This is only one of the ways that they honour our loved ones that died so needlessly and preventably. Madd Canada allows me to honour my son with love and hope. I could not save my son's life, but by sharing what happened to Cody, I can help save someone's life. And that all in itself confirms to me that Cody lives on, and that he did not die in vain.

One way MADD Canada honours those killed by impaired drivers is through their Provincial Memorial Road Sign Program. In several provinces, including Ontario, MADD Canada installs Memorial Road Signs on provincial highways at the site of crashes involving impaired drivers.

My son was killed on a municipal road and the program is limited to provincial highways. However, MADD Canada has worked with various municipalities to install Memorial Road Signs. We are aware that a sign was approved last year (and is waiting to be installed) in Niagara after a young woman was tragically killed. The City of Hamilton is working on a sign for a young man who was killed a few years ago. Other municipalities have installed signs since MADD Canada began this program in 2007.

On behalf of myself, my husband Dave, our daughter Sara, and Rose Imhoff, mother of Jerry Petrie, I am asking if you would honour my son Cody and Jerry Petrie and please erect a roadside memorial sign at the crash site? (Dundas & Highbury) The roadside memorial will ensure that their memory lives on, and will serve as an important reminder to drivers, that if this can happen to Cody and Jerry, that it can happen to them as well. It is a stark reminder not to drive impaired. Visually, the sign is comprised of MADD Canada's red ribbon and "In Memory of .." It is very simple, and very powerful. I ask you with all my heart that you please consider and allow this request.

Rose Imhoff, Jerry's mother, is a resident of London. My nephew and sister in law live in London as well. Although we do not live in London, my family roots are deep there. I have several members of my family that have made London their home. My father and mother lived there when they were first married and I was born at St. Joseph's Hospital. My daughter attended Fanshawe College for 3 years, and called London her home away from home. (Cody was killed on her second day of college).

We did not know Jerry Petrie or his mother Rose. Cody did not know Jerry either, he had met him just days before the crash, as he was my nephew's friend. I did not want to ask for this memorial without including Jerry. I contacted my sister-in-law who is friends with Rose to ask if this was okay with her. My sister-in-law confirmed that Rose is very touched by our request and would very much like her son to be honoured with Cody if allowed.

Somehow I am trying as hard as I can, to find the strength to share my son's beautiful life, and the horrid consequence of driving impaired. No other family should suffer a loss this great. I need to make a difference. I need to change things. I need to help. And I need your help, please. I need you to allow this memorial sign and bring awareness and belief that we will make a difference in stopping impaired driving. Impaired driving in the community of London is on the rise. The Crown prosecutor in my son's court case confirmed that, as did the judge. We have the means to do something significant and thought provoking here. And that is a great start to deter others from driving impaired.

I have spoken with MADD Canada and they fully support this initiative and are prepared to work with you. Please see the letter of support they have written.

I would be glad to speak with you in more detail, either by phone or email.

I appreciate your time and your careful consideration. Thank you very much.

Kind Regards,

Shauna Andrews