

NEWS

▼ ACCIDENT FATALITIES

Those left behind don't forget the loss of loved ones

The passage of time doesn't erase the pain of a loss. It hasn't for me, anyway.

I gather that it hasn't for Eva Gainer, either, as I listened to her tell her story at the filming of a Shaw TV episode of The Lunch Counter in late January 2013.

Eva Gainer, RCMP Cst. Bob Charron and I were on a panel being interviewed by Shaw TV producer Tamie Williams about road safety.

It was July 23, 2000, when Gainer's life was horrifically altered by a drunk driver.

There were three fatal-



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

ities: Eva's husband and son were killed; the drunk driver also perished.

Eva, herself, was critically and permanently injured.

I first met Gainer at the National Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims event I had organized in November 2012.

She attended and spoke both as a representative of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and as a road traffic victim herself.

I will take this opportunity to thank others who helped make that event a success, particularly Kelowna Mayor Walter Gray who had issued a proclamation, RCMP Const. Kris Clark who brought a patrol car and took a turn at the microphone, Paul Nesbitt of Designated Dads who spoke passionately about the important service they provide, Calum MacMillan of Young Drivers who spoke, Magda Kapp and Maribeth Friesen who set up a brain injury awareness display on behalf of Braintrust Canada, West Kelowna Fire

Chief Wayne Schnitzler who was in attendance, and most importantly Kelowna Fire Chief Jeffrey Carlisle who, as well as speaking, performed the important function of directing his crew to raise the ladder on the fire truck and use the flood light to illuminate the evening event.

Vera Tuningley was also in attendance at that event.

Her late husband, Stew, is the generous soul who had been picking up garbage along Shannon Lake Road in July 2011, in broad daylight, in the ditch, wearing a reflective vest, when a young fellow lost control of his pickup truck and killed him.

Tonya Alton also attended. Tonya lost her

21-year-old daughter, Shayla, in a crash along McKinley Landing Road in Kelowna in December, 2011.

Pass these women on the street, and you wouldn't have a clue.

Of course you wouldn't. Road traffic victims don't walk around with signs around their necks.

In fact, most have learned not to talk about it at all.

We don't want to hear it. It is painful for us to hear the words coming out of their mouths.

And those who have lost loved ones are the tip of a very large iceberg.

Statistically, the five fatalities occurring in those three crashes represent the tip of an iceberg

that includes about 1,200 people who suffered injuries (240 people injured per fatality), many of whom have ended up with permanent symptoms, like Gainer.

As much as we might not want to hear it, I think it's important that we do.

It is only by recognizing the painful scope of the problem that we will be motivated to insist on and work towards a change in driving attitudes.

That's all it takes, really. Crashes are not inevitable. It is exactly these types of stories I am publishing on my OneCrashisTooMany.com awareness website.

I invite those of you motivated to join me in my One Crash is Too

Many campaign to attend the second annual One Crash is Too Many gala event that I am putting on again in partnership with Braintrust Canada, the beneficiary of funds raised at the event to assist them in their important work.

Tickets for the April 20 event can be ordered through the Braintrust Canada website.

Email me directly if you have any difficulty.

This column is intended to provide general information about injury claims. It is not a substitute for retaining a lawyer to provide legal advice specifically pertaining to your case. Paul Hergott is a lawyer at Hergott Law in West Kelowna.

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▼ MILITARY

OKM grad fulfilling dream to be a pilot

HUGH CAIRNS
CONTRIBUTOR

In just a few months after graduating from Okanagan Mission Secondary School in Kelowna, 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Campbell is pursuing her pilot's career as the youngest serving female second lieutenant in the Canadian Forces.

Destined for a life in the aviation industry, Campbell's career has taken off in a big way.

Only days after graduating from high school in Kelowna, the now 18-year-old traveled to Victoria on a full scholarship to earn her private pilot license through her participation and years of hard work with the Kelowna Air Cadets.

Campbell was selected to attend a seven-week course for air cadets to acquire their Transport Canada regulated private pilot license and their Air Cadet Power Pilot Wings.

In the early days of last summer, Campbell was flying solo far above the shores of Vancouver Is-

land while earning her wings.

The Canadian Forces called for Campbell during her private pilot license training, resulting in her mentors generously accelerating her course to completion in just five weeks.

In August, she attended the Canadian Forces Aircrew Selection Centre in Toronto.

It is very difficult to be accepted to the facility and even harder to pass the screening. The designated candidates must be near-perfect human specimens and pass stringent background checks.

The candidates must successfully pass cognitive, spatial and motor skills testing, hand/eye co-ordination, and general suitability for being an aircrew member in the Canadian Forces.

Those candidates who succeed are then sent for further evaluation in computer controlled flight simulator testing.

The historic success rate for pilot candidates at the CFASC is about 45 per cent.

After qualifying in mid-August, Campbell returned home to Kelowna to await word from the Canadian Forces air crew selection board.

The news that Campbell received was much better than anticipated, she was accepted into the highly sought after Bachelor of Aviation Technology degree program at Seneca College in Ontario delivered in conjunction with state-of-the-art Canadian Forces pilot training.

Participants in the partnership program gain on-the-job experience flying maritime, fighter, transport and tactical helicopter aircraft.

Simultaneously, they earn a degree which includes business management, airport operations and planning, and air carrier administration knowledge.

In October, Campbell traveled to the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre in New Westminster to accept her career offer and was sworn in.

Days later, Campbell was

off for a 15-week grueling winter course in basic military officer training at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que.

Campbell's training emphasized basic military skills, weapons handling, first aid, leadership fundamentals as well as ethical values.

Since physical fitness is an integral component of military service, a large part of the course was spent in physical fitness training, some of it in -30 C weather.

Of the 39 recruits in Campbell's platoon, 24 successfully graduated.

Campbell was honoured by 200 of her peers to bear the Canadian flag at the prestigious CFLRS graduation ceremony.

The day after her graduation, she was transferred to CFB Esquimalt in Victoria for a temporary posting with the Search and Rescue arm of the Canadian Forces, where she will celebrate her 19th birthday.



11th Annual Kelowna Relay for Life June 1st - 2nd in Kelowna City Park

Register your team or as an individual;

- visit www.relaybc.ca or
 - pick up your registration form at the Canadian Cancer Society Kelowna office 250-763-6381
 - join us as a survivor and register for free!
- Help celebrate and kick off Relay For Life with the survivor victory lap.

relayforlife.ca



Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer