

Remembering the Victims

The Rose Campaign takes its name from the original Rose button, created to commemorate the 14 young women who were murdered at l'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989 in Montreal by a man deliberately targeting women on a busy campus. Canadians reacted with shock, sorrow and outrage. A strong lobby formed to bring guns under control in Canada, work that continues to this day.



Michèle Richard, 21, was a second-year metallurgical engineering student. She was a strong student who, her mother said, was adored by everyone. Shortly before her death, Michèle had reconciled with her long-estranged father. She was giving a presentation to her class with classmate Maud Haviernick when both were killed.

Her father committed suicide almost exactly a year after her death.



Anne-Marie Lemay, 22, was a fourth-year mechanical engineering student. Anne-Marie was nearing graduation and was helping to organize the festivities. Outside of her studies, she sang in a rock band and was helping raise funds for a class trip overseas.

One of Lemay's close friends, Heidi Rathjen, survived the attack and became one of the most vocal advocates for gun control in the aftermath of the massacre.



Sonia Pelletier, 28, was the head of her class and the pride of St-Ulric, Que., her remote hometown in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Her family said her dream was to return home to start her own engineering firm. She died on her last day of classes before her final exams. She was buried in the town's tiny cemetery.



Maryse Laganière, 25, worked in the engineering school's finance department. She was married three months before her death. Her husband, Jeff Larivée, had come to pick her up at the school that night and was met by the chaos.

He can be seen in television footage scanning the faces of survivors who were pulled from the building on stretchers. Ten years later, Larivée said a night hadn't passed when he didn't pray for her.



Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, 31, was a first-year nursing student. Barbara and her husband had moved to Montreal from Poland in 1987. A trained economist, she decided to make a career change as her husband, a Polish-trained physician, worked toward his Canadian qualifications. Her husband said they had both believed Canada was the safest place in the world.



Annie Turcotte, 20, was in her first year of university. She was a gifted student and was awarded a scholarship for women in science after she finished college.

She was described as gentle and athletic young woman who was as comfortable taking apart cars as she was baking with her mother. She went into metallurgical engineering with dreams of improving the environment.



A chemical engineering student, **Anne-Marie Edward** loved sports like skiing and diving, and was always surrounded by friends. While she was at the college, she fell in love with extreme sports; played chess and was involved in school government.

In 2013, the college named its new science and technologies building in her honour. She was buried in her ski-team jacket.



Barbara Daigneault, 22, was graduating from her mechanical engineering program at the end of the year.

She was a teaching assistant for her father, Pierre Daigneault -- a mechanical engineering professor with the Université du Québec à Montréal. Her father died of a heart attack in 1996. His widow said his heart really stopped beating on Dec. 6, 1989.



Annie St-Arneault, 23, was a mechanical engineering student. She was killed as she sat in her last class before graduation, listening to a presentation.

She had a job interview with Alcan Aluminium scheduled for the following day. In 2010, her brother, Serge, published a collection of poems she wrote as a teenager that had been forgotten for years in a notebook on a shelf.



Maud Haviernick, 29, was a second-year engineering student. She had a degree in environmental design, but she dreamed of becoming an engineer and decided to return to university.

She lived with her boyfriend of seven years in the north end of Laval, Que. She was giving a presentation to her class when she was killed. Her sister, Sylvie, co-founded the December 6th Victims Foundation Against Violence.



Hélène Colgan, 23, was in her final year of mechanical engineering. She was a studious young woman and would read anything she could get her hands on.

Her parents heard about the shooting on television. They went to the school. They searched the faces of the students, realizing Hélène wasn't among them. Her best friend, Nathalie Croteau, was in the same class and was also killed in the shooting.



Nathalie Croteau, 23, was a mechanical engineering student, three months shy of earning her degree. She was planning to take a two-week vacation in Cancun, Mexico, with her best friend, Hélène Colgan at the end of the month. Both women were killed.

A community centre in Brossard was named in Croteau's memory.



Geneviève Bergeron, 21, was a second-year scholarship student in mechanical engineering. She considered studying music in university, but instead chose engineering. The engineering classes at Polytechnique were demanding, and Bergeron worked hard, but she never regretted her decision.

Bergeron had moved into an apartment with her best friend six months before she was killed.



Maryse Leclair, 23, was a fourth-year materials engineering student. One of the top students in the school, she was a year from graduation. Her father, Montreal police Lt. Pierre Leclair, was at the scene that night. As director of public relations he promised to go in and report back to the media, unaware that his daughter was among the victims. He found her lying next to the gunman.