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# THE DANGEROUS YEARS

## Adolescence and alcohol a tragic mix

### Teen's body found in creek after evening of drinking

BY JACQUIE DE ALMEIDA, NICOLE MacINTYRE and PAUL MORSE

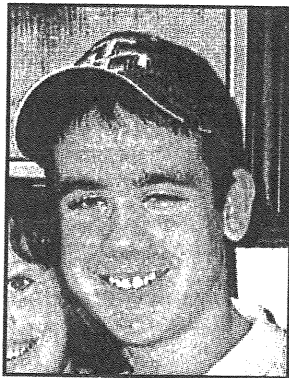
STONEY CREEK ♦ Mike O'Brien was within steps of home early Saturday when he drowned in a creek after an evening of drinking with friends.

Searchers discovered his body partly submerged in a tiny no-name creek beside his

Cornell Avenue home yesterday nearly 24 hours after his frantic mother reported him missing.

It was unlike him to stay out all night. By all accounts, the 16-year-old was a quiet boy, tight with a large circle of friends and a good student at Cardinal Newman High School.

MICHAEL: A7



Mike O'Brien, 16, a student at Cardinal Newman High School, drowned in a creek near home.

### The biggest risk: impaired judgment

BY DANIEL NOLAN

Mike O'Brien's mother bought him a cellphone so he could always call if he needed her.

It was part of their pact. If he was ever drinking and needed a ride, he could call, said Mike's cousin Cheryl Skirving. If he had to take a taxi, his mom would pay. And if his plans ever changed, she wanted to know.

When Mike didn't call or pick up his phone after a party last night, his mom knew something was wrong. Early yesterday, his 16-year-old's body was found in the creek beside his home.

Parents sometimes call adolescence the impossible age. They are also the dangerous years.

TEEN DRINKING: A7