

News reporter finds donor

Three-year-old Boston girl gives gift of life

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BOSTON — Boston's 3-year-old Melissa Carrigg was buried this morning (Wednesday) but the gift she gave Mississauga's Lindsay Eberhardt will live on. "She would always be there help-

ing others and give things away," said Melissa's aunt, June Cardillo.

Melissa's liver, spleen and kidneys were donated to Children's Hospital here. Lindsay Eberhardt, who suffers from biliary atresia, received the liver in a successful 12½-hour operation at Children's on Sunday.

"The hospital asked me if I was interested in [donating Melissa's organs] and I said 'yes', because I figured we could help someone else," said Melissa's father, Stephen.

Stephen and his ex-wife, Anne, gave doctors permission to remove "everything but her eyes" after Melissa was killed in a car accident. Anne is in fair condition in the Intensive Care Unit at Waltham Hospital.

"The eyes meant something special to me," said Stephen. "They were brown and one had a little stripe through it. They were very beautiful."

Photographs of Melissa show startling similarity in appearance with Lindsay.

For instance, Jim, Christine, her mother, Carolene, and step-father Paul Paquette indulged in an excited celebration with *The Mississauga News* reporter Cameron Renton over the news of

Lindsay's successful transplant.

"Then, across from us I saw a couple that was really upset and in mourning," said Christine.

"And I felt sick. I really experienced what the donor's parents (not identified at this point) were going through. We are so happy Lindsay's got a second shot at life,

but at the same time, it is impossible to be happy knowing that while you are happy, someone else is in mourning."

"We just can't say thank you enough," said Jim and Christine Eberhardt. "They gave in their time of grief to save our baby."