

# Car-train collision claims life of local man

## ADAM FORCE REMEMBERED AS 'BIG KID'

By Jon Willing  
STAFF WRITER

BEACHVILLE — Adam Force would've been the king of dads.

His infectious smile and gentle heart was so endearing to children, it was hard for them not to just consider the 22-year-old as a big kid, but also one of their friends.

Force was "a magnet to little kids," friend Neil Langlois of Huntingford explained yesterday.

"Adam had the hugest smile on his face. He had a grin that stretched from ear to ear every minute of the day."

Force was killed early yesterday morning when the pickup truck he was driving collided with a train just north of Beachville.

His truck was travelling southbound on Zorra Township's 43rd Line just after midnight when it struck the side of a CP freight train travelling east along the tracks.

It was the county's first fatal motor vehicle collision of 2005.

Oxford County OPP Const. Laurie Hawkins said there hasn't been any indication why the truck drove into the train at the railway crossing.

"Fog could've been a factor," Hawkins said.

The marked train crossing,



FORCE S. R. #1 Feb 4, 2005

which is just north of Oxford Road 2, isn't protected by warning arms or lights. There's a sign warning drivers to stop before the train tracks before crossing.

Hawkins said Force was the only occupant of the truck.

Train crews were at the accident scene fixing the tracks that stretch across the rough, dirt road.

Hawkins said the train, which was travelling to Montreal from London, wasn't hauling hazardous materials. The box car where the truck hit sustained damage, she said.

Police are reminding people to use caution when driving in foggy conditions. Drivers should reduce their speeds and increase their following distances, police said.

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Langlois, 37, said Force loved to race all-terrain vehicles, even building a track on his family's property on Zorra Township's 45th Line, northwest of Woodstock. He recently started to take an interest in snowmobiles, learning about the machines from his uncles, Langlois said.

When not involved in racing four-wheelers, Force was a loyal employee of both a dairy farm and a dairy farm equipment servicer.

Children always warmed up to Force. Langlois remembered back to last Monday when Force was at his house helping with chores. Langlois' 7-year-old daughter, Mary, wouldn't go to bed until Force tucked her in.

It was his sweet-tempered nature that kids just seemed to love.

"He was so happy, it was ridiculous," Langlois said. "He was very optimistic that things were always going to be good."

Force is survived by his parents Mark and Elizabeth Force and his 15-year-old brother Thomas.

## Tove Finlay will be missed by many

Many people are fortunate in their lives for having shared a kinship with a truly dear friend. It is a double blessing if that friend is witty, sharply intelligent, articulate, loving and generous.

Such a person was Tove Finlay.

She passed away suddenly and too soon because we, her friends, long to see her again to discuss the state of the world and environment with her, to talk about political happenings, to laugh with her, to share worries, to listen to her witty, sharp insights and wisdom.

Her students will remember her with fondness, her friends with longing to see her again. She loved and was fiercely proud of her family. She was a devoted and loyal visitor to her father, who is nearing 100. Her neighbours were her friends who loved her dearly. Many a culinary treat came from her kitchen to be shared with family or friends.

We who are left are thankful for having shared her friendship. We treasure her memory and pay tribute to her life, a life of giving, doing and loving.

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