



SIX FRIENDS died instantly Saturday in the wreckage of their car, newly-purchased by driver John McHugh, 17, of Acton. They were coming north when a second car veered into their lane.

Seven victims

Funeral services were held yesterday and today for seven young people who died Saturday night in a wrenching two-car collision south of town. Six close friends were in one car; another teenager drove the second vehicle.

The friends are:
John McHugh, 17, of 144 Mill E., Acton, driving the car he had just bought.

John Oudesluys, 19, Moffat, who was returning home from Seneca College when he developed car trouble.

Lynn Marshall, 22, of R.R. 4, Acton, who graduated from Acton High in 1972.

Scott McTavish, 18, of R.R. 1, Limehouse, who had attended

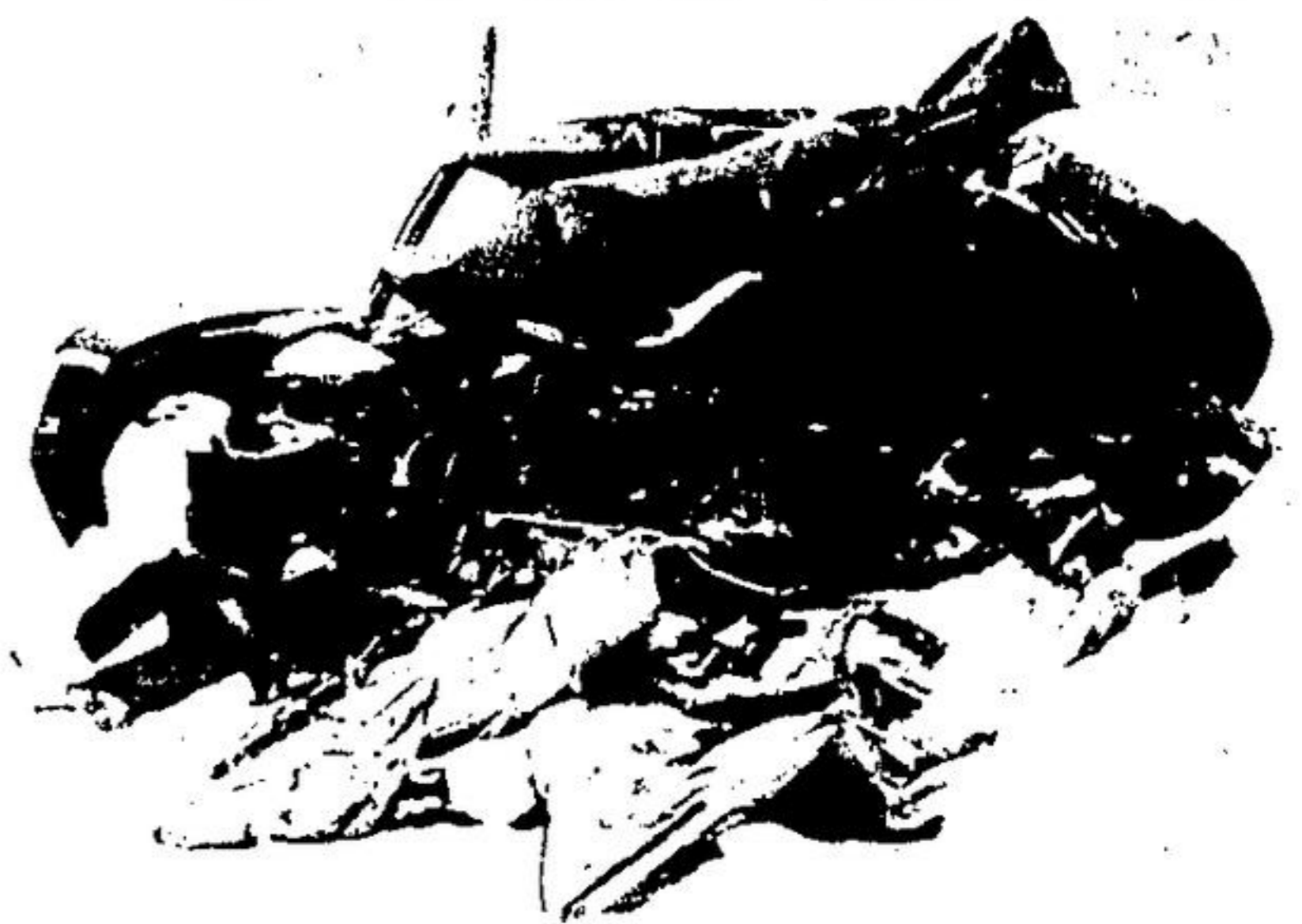
General Wolfe school but had many friends here.

Kevin Broostad, 17, of 44 Nelson Court, Acton, who was working at Building Products and planning to go to Sheridan College.

Tim Brusznowski, 18, 41 Conroy Cres., Guelph who attended Acton high when he lived at Eden Mills.

Police identified the driver of the stolen vehicle as 18-year-old Eric Couture of 19 Church St. W., Acton. Positive identification was based on dental studies at the Centre for Forensic Sciences in Toronto.

It is believed that John Oudesluys, returning home in his truck from Seneca College, developed car trouble along Highway (Continued on Page 2)



STOLEN CAR driven by Eric Couture, 18, of Acton was being pursued by a Halton Regional police cruiser at high speed when it crashed into the McHugh car and burst into flames.

Corp. Arbour seeking help

Tuesday morning Corp. Bob Arbour made an appeal for witnesses, or anyone with any information on Saturday's accident, to contact him at the O.P.P. office at Milton.

He and his team are still working on the investigation and they are trying to verify the movements of all the people involved prior to the collision.

On the investigating team with Corp. Arbour are Cons. Bob Willmott, Cons. Terry Devine, Cons. Bruce McArthur and Cons. Ron Barrett. All of them have served with the Acton O.P.P. detachment at one time or another, before the Halton Regional Police took over last fall.

Dawkins won't stand again

Gary Dawkins, Elmore Dr., Acton, will not stand for the Progressive-Conservative nomination for Halton-Burlington this month.

Mr. Dawkins lost the last provincial election to Liberal Julian Reed of Norval. Both were candidates for the first time.

The nomination meeting will be at the Ernest Drury school in Milton on March 17, planning to stand for nomination are George Gray of Georgetown and George Kee of Hornby.

Mr. Dawkins said he considered various aspects of running again before deciding against it. He doesn't think there will be an election this spring - perhaps not for a year or two. He feels being a candidate would entail too much time before the election itself. "I can't do that and do the job as principal (of the M.Z. Bennett School Acton), at the same time," he said. He also feels he has an obligation to his young family. He saw little of his children during the last election campaign.

Petition from Cameron St.

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday it will consider requests from Cameron Street residents for having curbs installed when it looks over the road during the spring works tour. The town has received a petition from 13 residents complaining about street conditions.

Engineer Robert Austin said the street is slated to receive a coat of asphalt and the region will do the work. He said as long as there aren't any storm sewers on the street runoff problems will continue.

He noted it is an urban street and should have storm sewers and gutters. Councillor Joe Hurst explained the runoff comes

from Mill Street and said it is a problem for residents. He noted there isn't as much of a problem with basements flooding on the street as in the past.

He said he didn't think there was enough runoff to go over the curbs but recommended storm sewers be installed.

The committee decided the upcoming works tour would be a good time to examine the street's drainage problems.

Drug charges laid Friday

Four young Acton people were charged with possession of drugs last Friday.

The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1976

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Concerns treasurer

Heavy sewer, water program for Acton

Sewer and water work planned for Acton this year and to be paid for later will put Acton under some financial pressures, according to Regional Treasurer Don Farmer.

Mr. Farmer warned members of Halton's Public Works Committee of his concern for the Acton situation at a budget meeting Monday afternoon.

The region's capital budget calls for \$195,520 in sanitary sewer works and a further \$144,700 in improvements to the water system. All of the work is considered essential in 1976 and nothing on the list presented at the most recent meeting was deleted.

Sees relief
According to Mr. Farmer, there is a move underway to push towards equalized assessment for sewer works and an equalization of the water works. If that is accepted by council the Acton situation could be relieved, he said.

"Otherwise Acton will wind into a deficit position," according to Mr. Farmer, the

crunch won't come for a couple of years.

First OMB approval has to be given and then the work will be underway late this year or early in 1977. Debentures will be issued next year and payments begin the following year. It is when the Acton area faces paying, the debenture off its ratepayers will face large tax increases.

Detail work
Work planned includes new sewers on Mill St. from Elgin

to Wilbur St. on Main St. from School Lane to Wallace St. and on Mill St. from Main St. to Willow St.

Waterworks projects are being carried out on Mill, Church and Victoria Sts. Each case brings improvements to the Acton water system. The big job is installing 2,020 feet of 12 inch water-main on Main St. from River St. to Wallace St. at a cost of \$111,000.

Accidents

Halton Regional Police investigated two minor accidents in the town of Acton late last week.

Damage was estimated at \$250 to the car driven by Klaus Schroeder of 146 Elizabeth Drive. The driver of the other car in the two car collision failed to remain at the scene.

While parking at the Mill Street parking lot the car of N. Van Fleet, 35 Nelson Court sustained \$150 damage. The second car owned by Rainbow Landscaping received no damage.

Driveway below level

A Church Street resident has informed the town that when the road was reconstructed last year its elevation was raised and complained his driveway is now below the level of the street and sidewalk.

C. R. Heard complained that during recent thawing and freezing periods a considerable amount of ice was created making it dangerous for him to back out of his driveway. He requested the town take some action to correct the problem.

Engineer Robert Austin told Halton Hills works committee Monday he has inspected the problem and found a very small puddle of water.

"I couldn't find the problem the first time I went to look. That is how small the puddle is," he declared.

At the suggestion of councillor Joe Hurst the committee decided to look at the problem when the members go on their spring roads tour of the town.

Bantams win, take series lead

The Firefighter Bants took a one game lead in the best of five OMHA quarter-finals against Saltfleet by virtue of their 4-3 victory in Saltfleet Tuesday.

Dave McGilloway scored three goals including the winner 3:23 minutes into the third period. Scott Malcolm got the single.

The Firefighters took a two goal lead midway through the second period. Saltfleet came back with three straight goals in less than two minutes.

In the last minute goalie Steve Mitchell stopped Saltfleet shots to preserve the one goal lead.

Besides the 50 fans who went by bus to the game, several made the trip by car.

The fourth game starts here tonight at 8:10 p.m.

Arenas lose

\$82,806

INCREASE RATES

The three arenas in Halton Hills operated at a loss of \$82,806 in 1975, not including capital or debenture costs, according to a report from Recreation Director Glen Gray, presented to Halton Hills administration committee, Monday night.

The committee voted to increase all arena rates for the 1976-77 to cut losses. Council will now make the final decision.

The year end loss at Acton arena was \$39,515, at Georgetown Memorial Arena \$26,035, and at Gordon Alcott Arena \$17,256.

The proposed rates are higher than the rate originally scheduled to go into effect in the fall of '76. If

PRESENT
PRIME - Minor Sports Groups
Acton \$14.00
Memorial \$18.00
Gordon Alcott \$23.00

PRIME - All other Local Groups
Acton \$22.50
Memorial \$25.00
Gordon Alcott \$30.00

PRIME - Out of Town Groups
Acton \$27.50

council goes along with the committee's recommendation, the rates would be:

RECOMMENDED
Acton \$20.00
Memorial \$25.00
Gordon Alcott \$25.00

Acton \$28.00
Memorial \$28.00
Gordon Alcott \$32.00

Acton \$35.00

(Continued on Page 3)

Fiery crash claims seven

The advisability of high-speed chases by police cars of other vehicles is to be the subject of a provincial investigation following Saturday night's head-on collision on Highway 25 near Acton between a stolen car pursued by police and a northbound car containing six persons under age 22.

The driver of the stolen car, identified by the Milton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police as 18-year-old Eric Couture of Acton, died instantly as did all six occupants of the second car who were mainly from the Acton and North Halton area.

The Solicitor-General of Ontario, John MacBeth, announced Monday that his ministry would undertake a "whole review of high-speed chases," and said they might be prohibited in future, except in certain extreme cases.

Over 100 M.P.H.
A report prepared by five Milton OPP officers under the direction of Corporal Bob Arbour said that the stolen car, a 1972 Ford LTD, was travelling in excess of 100 miles an hour when it veered into the northbound light-blue 1965 Chevrolet.

The report said Halton Regional Police Constable Thomas Roduck, of Acton Precinct, was driving at speeds of between 90 and 100 miles per hour in pursuit when the accident occurred at 11:04 p.m., one and one-half miles south of the Acton town limits.

Coroner Dr. Ivan Hunter of Milton, who reached the scene of the tragedy at 11:30 p.m. after being called by the OPP, said the seven young persons involved "were all obviously dead" and he instructed police not to call ambulances.

The son of John and Agatha Van Oosten of Acton, John was married to the former Charlene Higgins. He is survived also by his three brothers, Victor of Orangeville and Mark and Joseph of

Dr. Hunter said he would be in communication this week with the Ontario Chief Coroner's Office, Halton Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven, and OPP investigators regarding the possibility of having a coroner's inquest into the incident.

Coroner Dr. Hunter said such an inquest "would permit all the facts to be made known."

The Milton doctor, asked to describe the Highway 25 scene for this newspaper, said "It's certainly one of the most tragic things I've seen in my life."

Dr. Hunter has been practicing medicine for 10 years.

According to the OPP report, the coroner ordered police to take the badly burned body of Eric Couture to the Centre for Forensic Sciences in Toronto for positive identification and an autopsy.

Milton OPP were only able to identify Couture positively late Monday afternoon, after researchers at the centre

studied dental records. It will take at least a week for a report on the studies of blood samples to indicate whether or not Couture was impaired by alcohol or drugs at the time of the accident. Such tests are usually taken in fatal accidents.

Coroner Dr. Hunter also ordered the body of the driver of the second car, 17-year-old John McHugh of Acton, be taken to Milton District Hospital for an autopsy.

Dr. Hunter told this newspaper the autopsy was performed at the hospital Sunday morning, and blood samples were forwarded to the Forensic Sciences centre for diagnosis. The results may be available to police by this weekend, he said.

Meanwhile, angry residents throughout Halton Region have been debating since Sunday the advisability of 100-mile-per-hour police chases on area roads.

Reporters in Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Burlington and Oakville say citizens

Another tragedy

John Van Oosten killed on Hwy. 401

A young Acton tractor-trailer driver, John Van Oosten, 25, was killed Monday on Highway 401 between Napanee and Kingston when his unit collided with another tractor-trailer unit.

The son of John and Agatha Van Oosten of Acton, John was married to the former Charlene Higgins. He is survived also by his three brothers, Victor of Orangeville and Mark and Joseph of

Acton; and three sisters, Mrs. Bill Dinwoody (Martha) and Maggie both of Toronto and Joanne of Bramalea.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. from the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home in Acton with interment to follow in Fairview Cemetery.

His death gave another blow to the town, already reeling from a weekend of tragedy.



UP THE FLAGPOLE goes the Red Cross flag. It will fly during March, Red Cross campaign month. Hoisting it up are John Wickens, Georgetown president of the Georgetown and District Red Cross branch; Connie Nieuwhof who's in charge of public relations; councillor Les Doby; Margaret Pope who is first vice-president, and Ab Irwin of the Legion.



THIRTY-EIGHT were confirmed at St. Joseph's church last Thursday evening by His Excellency, Bishop Paul Reding D.D. Candidates and sponsors filled the aisle as the bishop confirmed the young people. Father Smye sits on the Bishop's right.