

# Pilot is thankful to be alive after plane crash



**Survives plane crash**

**TOM WALKER** lies in a bed in Guelph General Hospital with a broken leg, burns to his face and hands and numerous other injuries after his light aircraft crashed between Acton and Milton on November 8. Reading will be his only form of entertainment for a while.

Thankful to be alive following a plane crash, Thomas Walker, 42, says he doesn't know whether or not he will ever fly again.

Walker crawled through approximately a mile of swamp and brush, following the crash of his Howard DJA float plane in a heavily wooded area two miles southwest of St. Helena Rd. and Highway 25, near Speyside.

"I think I will fly again, but I will have to wait and see," the pilot stated in a telephone interview from his bed in Guelph General Hospital.

Although suffering first and second degree burns and a

broken foot, as well as multiple fractures, Mr. Walker managed to get to Highway 25 and flag down a passing motorist, Roy Ross of Kingsville, who took him to Acton police. He was later taken to Guelph General Hospital.

The same foggy weather that contributed to the crash ironically prevented Mr. Walker's wife from joining him in the same trip home.

Mrs. Walker had returned Monday evening of Chesley by bus, and Mr. Walker was to return when the weather cleared.

The couple had visited Mr.

Walker's brother in Cornwall during the weekend.

Heading alone for his farm in Chesley, Mr. Walker left Toronto Harbor Airport at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8. Traveling along the lakefront of Lake Ontario, and north on Highway 25, Mr. Walker managed to keep below fog, until he ran into a fog bank north of Milton.

In an attempt to negotiate a 180 degree turn and head back towards Hamilton, he lost control of the plane, he said.

"The nose went down, and the plane just started spiraling, as well as I can remember. I was thrown through the

window when it crashed."

Although drizzle and fog hampered police efforts to locate the plane, an OPP helicopter sighted the burned wreckage two days later southwest of St. Helena Rd.

A pilot for eight years, Mr. Walker describes himself as a weekend pilot, although he has logged over 2,000 hours of flying time, "including a good deal of weather flying," and is night-rated.

He spent several years previously using a plane for business purposes and has handled a variety of aircraft.

A 1946 aircraft, Mr. Walker bought the Howard DJA only

several weeks earlier. He said it was larger than his last plane.

"I still hadn't quite learned the feel of the plane, and it is difficult to convert from one plane to another," he said, adding he felt the plane's controls were, at the time of the crash, "very awkward and sluggish."

Previously Mr. Walker had flown several different Cessnas, a Piper Family Cruiser 150, and a six-seater Comanche.

"I had planned to take the plane down to Florida to get a better feel for it; this is my usual procedure whenever I

get a new plane," he explains.

Although Halton Regional Police have completed their report on the crash, the federal department of transportation is conducting an investigation.

"We hope to have details of the investigation, later this week," said Paul Andoney, an investigating officer for the department.

"We have been to the site once by 'copter, and there was only a pile of ashes left and half of one pontoon, but we will be speaking to the pilot later this week and visiting the site again to complete the investigation," said Mr. Andoney.



## Trio resign from fair's entertainment group

Three members of the Acton Fall Fair entertainment committee resigned during the fair board's monthly meeting last week.

"We feel we can't give our whole hearted support," a letter read aloud by fair board president Russ Murray stated.

Mr. Murray, who said he was expecting the resignations, accepted them.

Kareg Hillman, Cathy and Bill Lasby tendered their resignations to the board.

The letter read in part that some people joined because of a sense of obligation to the fair. "We looked for a (Friday night) show that would be entertaining and profitable," the letter stated.

The letter continued, that the committee wanted to charge a fee, but that the board would not allow a fee.

"The entertainment committee ran into blocks no matter which way it turned", president Murray said to the dozen people at the meeting in the arena.

Bill Lasby, the only one of the trio to attend the meeting, said they resigned only from the committee.

The letter noted the committee was successful in its efforts to secure an \$11,000 grant from the Ontario Arts Council.

With the money from the grant the debt for entertainment will be less than last year, Mr. Murray said.

Mr. Murray's comment that the Friday night show was one of the best the fair has had sparked real response from the audience.

Two men said the Murray version was not what they had heard.

## Car-van collision sends 13 to hospital

Three children and ten adults were taken to Guelph Hospital following a car-van collision on the Guelph Line Saturday evening.

According to Halton Regional Police the injuries were of slight and minor nature. One of the vehicles tried a left turn off the Guelph Line, and the other vehicle ran into it.

Patricia Haggett, of 321 Orville Rd., Acton, was at the wheel of a south-bound van. Police estimate damage to the vehicle amounts to \$1,500.

Domenico Sampogna of Toronto was driving a north-bound car. Police put the damage to it at about \$2,000.

All the 13 passengers were taken to hospital, according to police.

Passengers in the Sampogna car were Emille and David Sampogna, also of Toronto and five members of a Guelph family. Edgar, Jocelyn, Electa, Ellen and Michelle Kerr of 19 Burns Dr., Guelph were taken to hospital. Jocelyn Kerr received minor injuries, the worst of the crash.

The relative of an Acton man engineered his escape from police during a fracas in front of the IGA Store last week.

Police were attempting to clear up a small disturbance in front of the store, and one man—who was shouting and swearing—was arrested after police cautioned him. He also resisted arrest, police say.

A relative of the man, police have it as his brother, stepped in and his actions resulted in the escape of the prisoner.



**MARK BEATON**, member of the executive of the Coffee House, explains to Halton Hills finance committee through an overhead projector, the plans for the drop-in centre in the Y.

## Meeting of B.I.A.

A public meeting is planned for Wednesday, November 16 (tonight) at the Y to discuss the final report of the Business Improvement Area, Henry Stachyra reported to the Business Association at their meeting Wednesday. Explanations will be given and the people effected will come up with the proposals, he said.

Merchants present also discussed their Christmas advertising flyer which will go out by mail in December. They will get together and discuss open hours for the Christmas shopping season. The stores will likely be open Mondays all during December.

## \$1,538 for saunas

Lions Pool Committee presented a cheque worth \$1,538 to the Halton Hills works committee at the committee meeting Monday evening, to pay for the saunas at the pool.

President Ray Evelan and other committee members Haigiz Assadourian and John Griefeneder presented the cheque to works chairman Russell Miller. Lions treasurer Vic Bristow was also on hand.

## Suggest police share town offices in Y

Halton Police Commission would like to move the Acton police detachment from the old town hall to a Mill St. location, and have suggested that they could share the Y building with the town.

Mayor Tom Hill said the merchants feel the Mill Street location might cut down on vandalism. He said the Y building plan, drawn up by Deputy Chief Olliver, would

give the police 820 square feet and the town 450.

At present the town office staff, fire chief and the recreation department have offices in the building, and take up over 1200 square feet.

Councillor Peter Marks raised the question of parking and pointed out the Masonic Lodge and the Y use the building as well.

Chairman Russ Miller said

he was concerned about the cost the town is paying to house three people in the offices at the front and felt the space should be shared.

Marks said he would like more details about the plan, and suggested an on-site meeting where the building could be looked at.

A meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Monday afternoon.



**DUE TO AN error**, window openings in the fire hall addition must be moved up two feet. Replacing a damaged beam, which was dropped, is delaying other work.

## No float in parade

Mayor Tom Hill told Halton Hills works committee he regrets the town won't be able to place a float in Acton's Santa Claus parade.

He said he has received several requests for a town float in the parade but there is no money and no member of staff would volunteer to make one up after hours.

## Police eye R.R. lights

Police patrols will be checking on CNR property, especially railway crossing lights after four of them were smashed by vandals last week.

Four of the red caution reflector lights were smashed at the First Line and Highway 7. Rocks were used to break the glass, police say.

## No fires in Acton this week, reports fire chief

There were no fires in Acton this week, reports fire chief Mick Holmes.

## The Mug gets \$200

A group of young people from Acton who are setting up a coffee house and drop-in centre in the basement of the 'Y' building came to Halton Hills council to ask for help and they got it.

Mark Beaton, spokesman for the group, said they felt there is a need since they could find little to do in Acton on the weekends. He explained there is a member of each high school grade on the executive so all age groups would be interested.

He said the board agreed to let them use the basement 54

by 23 foot room at no charge, in return for the renovations.

He said the coffee house, named The Mug, would provide an alternative to the hotels for senior students.

He explained the total cost of fixing the room which was "in sad shape", would be \$1510 including carpeting on the cement floor, or \$510 without the carpeting, and suggested they were hoping for \$200 or \$250 from the town.

The committee recommended a \$200 donation, but council has yet to approve. Mark said the group are

doing all the work themselves and some items are being donated. He said membership cards would be issued and would be withdrawn if anyone appeared with liquor or illegal drugs. He stressed there would be internal discipline from the members themselves. He said adults would be present but would be "low key". He said there would be an open door policy to police in the area.

Mark said the group are "gung-ho" and have already stripped the room and are ready to go to work.

Councillor Pat Patterson said there's a similar situation in Norval where dances are held weekly. He predicted they would be at council asking for help too, if help was given.

Councillor Peter Marks said such a project is worthwhile, and a good investment for the town at \$200. He praised the young people for their initiative and drive. "Compared to the thousands of dollars we spend on recreation, maybe it behooves us to support this kind of endeavor."

## Receive free advice beautifying cemetery

At the urging of Bert Hinton, Acton, Halton Hills is going to receive some free advice on beautification of Acton's Fairview Cemetery.

Monday Hinton told Halton Hills works committee he has been interested in the cemetery for several years and recently took Dr. Leslie Laking of Royal Botanical Gardens on a tour.

Hinton reported the RBG official admired the landscaping of the burial grounds and suggested the organization's outreach consultative program could assist in making the grounds even more attractive.

Dr. Laking suggested planting to enhance the wetland characteristic of a swampy area, planting to screen a residential view and tree planting to enhance the appearance of the cemetery.

He said Dr. Laking would be happy to meet with committee and added there would be no cost to the town for the advice.

It was decided Dr. Laking will be invited to the November 28 works meeting.

Organizer Terry Grubbe pointed out that some people are afraid they are committing themselves when they apply for the meals. According to her, this is not true.

## Youths try store break-in

Three suspicious youths were noticed in front of the IGA store at 4:30 a.m. Thursday.

Investigating officers discovered two of the three pins on the door hinges were removed. Police report that no entry into the building was made.

People can get the dinner anywhere from one to five days a week, and can cancel anytime they want, she said.

Cost is \$1.25 each.



**FRED WRIGHT WAS FIRST** to receive his meal from the Meals on Wheels program. Nancy Little hands him the soup which went along with the hot dinner. Mr. Wright said he was very glad to be getting the meals.



**TAXI DRIVER Fred Dunne** delivered the first Meals on Wheels Monday. He picks up the meals from the Halton Manor each day and delivers them to the Acton Community Services Centre. Reliable Taxi volunteered its help.

## Meals program gets start

The Meals on Wheels lunch program being run through the Acton Community Services Centre got off to a good start this week as nine people are slated to get dinners.