



Four vehicles were involved in a collision on Mill Street East at approximately 2:30 a.m. Sunday. The accident involving two cars and two trucks occurred in front of the Acton Medical Group. Bulk of the damage was sustained to the left front and side of the trailing vehicle, a light brown van. Police are still investigating.

'Not your average criminal'

# RCMP conduct search

by George Evashuk  
RCMP are looking for a man who used the Georgetown-Milton area as a base for an elaborate \$500,000 fraud of federal government funds.

"He's not your average, ordinary, everyday criminal," said Corporal Ches. Somers of the RCMP's commercial crime division. "He thinks ahead more and is a very cautious individual."

Cpl. Somers said a Canada-wide warrant has been issued for the unknown man's arrest and a lot of calls have been received, some from as far as the New York state highway patrol.

According to Cpl. Somers the fraud worked like this:

Last August the man visited a graveyard in Meaford and found a family plot which contained the names of the father, the mother and their son, Peter Raymond Brown who died in 1954 at age 16. There was enough information on the headstones for the man to apply for a birth certificate from Ontario.

However, in perpetrat-

ing the fraud the man also used 25 other identities, which Cpl. Somers believes he may have just picked out of a phone book.

Then with his false identities the man rented 25 postal boxes in and around Georgetown and opened 15 different bank accounts with deposits of \$10 or \$20 between Milton and Toronto. By the fall, the fraud was underway.

The department of National Revenue offers a 10 cent per gallon rebate on the gasoline excise tax for agriculture-oriented business.

The applications from the man started going into Ottawa and early in December \$270,000 in rebate cheques had been mailed to his bogus companies and about \$50,000 in cash was in the phony bank accounts.

Cpl. Somers said he doesn't think the man is from the Georgetown area but selected it because it is predominately rural and there is easy access to mail boxes.

As the cheques started coming in and were deposited in the bank accounts a Canada Trust

branch manager in Milton became suspicious of how quickly the sums mounted up—from \$10 to \$10,000, the equivalent of 100,000 miles of driving. The manager related his suspicions to Halton police detectives in Georgetown.

Halton police set up 24 hour a day surveillance of the postal box.

Sgt. Keith Robertson of the Halton police told this newspaper that the surveillance with RCMP lasted about seven to ten days when the scope of the fraud became clear.

Cpl. Somers said that about the time the surveillance went into effect, the man stopped the fraud. Asked if the man stopped because he had some inside information, Cpl. Somers said that's the implication but he doesn't really know why.

On the day the surveillance was cancelled, the man closed all the postal boxes and all the bank accounts that still had just the initial deposit in

them. By mail, he directed the bank managers to donate the sums remaining in the accounts to a local charity or the Salvation Army.

The man also sent a letter to National Revenue explaining that he had enjoyed the fraud but lost his nerve when it

came to taking off with the money. The letter contained 29 uncashed cheques and withdrawal slips for every branch where cheques had been cashed and deposited.

It appears that if the RCMP are to get their man in this case, they'll have to look for someone with imagination, nerve, and cold feet.

## Rev. McKenzie . . .

(Continued from Page 1) to 2,000 people in Acton through the other organizations he served over the years.

He has been a popular minister participating in all facets of life from the political to the sporting rinks. It has been said he was as much at home in the hack of the curling rink or on the tee at the golf club as he was in the pulpit. Some may say a minister should be all doom and gloom attending only church meetings

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## Back to Acton Days organizers plan meet

Plans are in the offing for the annual "Back to Acton Days" celebrations July 1 weekend.

A meeting is slated for next Wednesday, April 4, at the Y to discuss plans and formulate ideas.

According to one of the organizers, Terry Grubbe, of the Community Services Centre, many ideas have already come forward.

It is hoped, she said, there will be a few booths on leather by local tanners, emphasizing that Acton is a leather town.

Other suggestions were log sawing contests, craft booths, flea market, raffles, bingo, games of chance, a street dance, a calathumpian parade and food booths.

Organizers hope the downtown area can become a mall on Saturday with the stores remaining open. Sunday, attention will switch to Prospect Park, where there could be a fireworks display.

Anyone who has further ideas or would like to

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  - Acton Legion Branch 197
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  - Acton Firefighters Assoc.
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- ★ JULIAN REED - MPP
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- Boys' SHIRTS Long Sleeve - Check & Stripes - Sizes 8-16 (Regular \$4.99) BIRTHDAY PRICE... \$2.99
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- Girls' SLEEPWEAR 100% Cotton (Regular \$2.99) BIRTHDAY PRICE... \$1.99
- Kids' JACKETS Various Colours - Sizes 2-3X, 4-6X, 7-14 (Regular to \$10.99) BIRTHDAY PRICE... \$5.99
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- Ladies' WORK SMOCK S, M, L (Regular \$3.50) BIRTHDAY PRICE... \$1.99
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- Kids' 'GOLDEN HORSE' JEANS Sizes 8-16 (Regular \$4.99) BIRTHDAY PRICE... \$1.99
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