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Two dead, three injured in collision on Good Friday

Two people are dead and three others in hospital following a Good Friday crash near Orspringe. Blaine Cleland, 22, 261 Main St., N., Rockwood, and Susan Elizabeth Wright, 21, Gifford, Ontario, were killed when their vehicles collided on Highway 24, 2.4 kilometers north of Highway 25, about 5 p.m., Friday. Wright was a passenger in a pick-up truck, Cleland, the driver of a car.

The driver of the truck, Richard Wierenga, 22, Bradford, and passengers of the car, Gordon Murray, 25, R.R. 1, Acton and Chris Beeler, 18, R.R. 2, Rockwood, were rushed to Guelph General Hospital with head injuries. Wierenga and Murray were later transferred to Hamilton General Hospital and Beeler to St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener. Wierenga remains unconscious and in

critical condition and Murray is conscious in fair condition according to a hospital spokesperson. Beeler is in serious condition. All are in intensive care.

Chretien here on Thursday

Federal finance minister Jean Chretien is coming to Halton Hills Thursday morning in support of Dr. Frank Philbrook, Liberal candidate in the riding of Halton.

Mr. Chretien is speaking at Acton high school Thursday morning at 9 a.m. and then proceeds to Milton where he'll do the same at the high school there.

The Halton riding Liberal executive also expect Mr. Trudeau will make an appearance in

the riding later this month or early in May.

Commission makes money

The Acton Hydro Commission had a more profitable year in 1978 than in 1977, according to secretary treasurer Audrey Urquhart.

Mrs. Urquhart said the commission made a net profit of \$83,279 last year, compared with \$15,000 the year before.

Funeral service was at the Peebles Funeral Home, Atwood, on Monday. Interment was at Elma Centre Cemetery.

Police officer:

Crowd erased tire marks after mini-bike deaths

When spectators retreated after a fatal mini-bike and car accident near The Breezes, they walked all over tire marks police later wanted as trial evidence.

Halton Regional Police Constable Robert Ustrzycki told provincial court at Milton, Thursday, about 200 people from nearby campgrounds took five minutes to disperse. With them they took part of the evidence—traces of car slide marks.

Constable Ustrzycki, the first officer at the scene, testified efforts were made to keep spectators away from the automobile's path.

Provincial court Judge John Robinson heard evidence in the first day of the trial of Timothy Wayne Young, also known as Taylor Young, 18 at the time of the accident. Young is charged by Halton Regional Police with dangerous driving, under the Criminal Code, and lesser related offences.

Mr. Young is in custody until trial resumes in June. Mr. Young pleaded not guilty to the charge.

On Sunday September 3 James Fraser, 12, and Andrew Taylor, 8, both of Toronto, died when the mini-bike they were driving came in collision with a car on the Esqueping First Line, south of Highway 7. The youngsters were pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. David Van Der Bent.

The slide marks observed by police were also noticed by Robert Mairs, who lives on the First Line and who was one of the first people to arrive on the scene after the mishap.

Mr. Mairs said he saw "good dug-in skid marks" on the road. The marks were "mainly in the centre" of the First Line, straddling the road.

After telephoning the doctor, Mr. Mairs said he tried to keep other people from the accident scene.

Defence lawyer Alan Glass learned from Mr. Mairs that he has lived beside the road for about three years and that in his opinion there is not enough room for cars on the First Line. "It's not safe. They (cars) must move to the edges to pass. It's narrow."

The doctor, a neighbor of Mr. Mairs, described the road as a "narrow gravel country road," a poor road of dry loose gravel. The weather the day of the accident was warm and sunny, he said.

Complaints were made to the town concerning the road's condition when Mr. Mairs was building his home. He said as a result the road was widened in front of his house, but that was all.

Mr. Glass whispered to another lawyer in the audience: "I think we may have a good action against the municipality."

It's common, Mr. Mairs testified, for people to drive down the middle of the First Line where they can see.

A number of police photographs by Constable William McGrath were introduced as evidence. Taken about an hour after the accident they show the position of vehicles, however, the slide marks do not appear.

Police experimented in matching up evidence at the scene. Constable Ustrzycki said two dents on the left front of the Chrysler seemed to match up with the mini-bike. "The manufacturer's name on the bike's tire appeared imprinted on the car's fender."



McKenzie-Smith Middle School packed the school's gymnasium for two evening performances of the operetta Rana's Pond. The operetta, which dealt with the topic of pollution in ponds, was staged by a different cast each evening. In the front row l. to r. is the second night cast of Chris Rosenquist as Rana, Sally Paterson, Gillian Brain, and Tracey Dunbar as the frog trio, and in the back are Terry Cianfarant of the frog squad, Darren Gillis as the villain and frog squader Mike Ormsby. Chris Lobsinger played the starring role of Rana in the first cast. Story and more pictures inside.

Photo by ROBIN INSCOPE

Separate school budget up 10.1%

Halton separate school board trustees approved a \$13.7 million budget, a 10.1 per cent increase over 1978.

The increase means Halton separate school board taxpayers will be paying an extra \$24 in taxes this year with a 10.4 per cent increase in the mill rate. Instruction, including teachers' salaries, accounts for the lion's share of the budget, at \$9.7 million, or 70 per cent.

Plant operation and maintenance re-

presents 10 per cent or \$1.4 million; debt charges and capital loan interest, \$1.06 million or about 10 per cent; transportation has risen by \$58,000 to \$329,810 and business administration has jumped by \$52,000, to \$360,880.

Cost per pupil has increased by \$107 to \$1,537 or 7.5 per cent.

Provincial grants subsidize 80.10 per cent of the board's budget while 19.38 per cent of the total cost comes from taxes and .52 per cent from other revenue sources such as tuition fees.

Mayor's chair sits in Acton library

Halton Hills library evening, head librarian Betsy Cornwell told members the chair and plaque had been in the Acton library gathering dust since the inception of regional government. She pointed out the items were not in the way, but

German Shepherd found on Main St.

John Coniglio is worried that the good looking small female German Shepherd dog he found wandering on Main St. last week will not be claimed before Halton Hills Animal Control Unit destroys it. Mr. Coniglio said he saw the animal wandering on the street and it was nearly hit by traffic. He coaxed it into his car and took it home, where the family became attached to it. Anxious to find the owner he contacted the Animal Control Unit which picked the dog up last Wednesday evening and is keeping it in their pound. It must be destroyed if the owner isn't found before Friday. "That would be a shame," Mr. Coniglio said, "it's such a well-trained, gentle animal."

Arson suspected

Two bodies found in gutted Acton farm

Criminal charges are pending from the results of post mortem examinations of two bodies found under the rubble of a fire-gutted farm house south of Acton Friday morning.

The examinations were performed yesterday at the Forensic Laboratory in Toronto. The remains of a boy, about 10 years of age, and an elderly woman were sent to Toronto by Halton Regional Police. Arson is suspected.

Unofficially police believe the bodies are of Brian Jones and Mary Jones, 82. Meanwhile two teams of Halton detectives and the Ontario Fire Marshall are investigating.

Police have no comment concerning the contents of a handwritten note which was recovered near a Jeep wagon at the fire. Firefighters on the

first truck to arrive said the jeep blocked the driveway. The note, which blew away, was attached to the Jeep. The vehicle was shoved aside. Police and firefighters searched for the note.

In addition to the brick two-storey farm house, a barn and garage were also levelled in the blaze which a neighbor reported at about 4.30 in the morning. A frame barn near the house was missed by flames.

When Acton firefighters arrived the house and barn were afire from basement to roof. The site is on Lot 22 on the west side of Highway 25 nearly three miles from Acton. A pink cloud reflection in the predawn sky marked the fire from near the Kingham Road light.

"I never saw everything with so much fire. A blaze in every room and the barn was a skeleton," Deputy District Chief



Copious rains last Friday and melting snow inundated some rural roads in the Acton rural area such as this First Line road in Erin township, just north of the Acton Meadows golf club. The surface caved in where a culvert conveys a tributary of the Blue Springs Creek under the road.

United Way here still being discussed

United Way fund-raising in Halton Hills is still being discussed, last month by the mayors of all Halton municipalities, and now by the Halton District Health Council.

A working group of the Health Council recommended extension of the United Way into Halton Hills, but Health Council Chairman Terry Baines made it clear that suggestion had not yet been accepted.

The point came up last week at Halton Hills general committee when

Acting Mayor Ross Knechtel spotted the recommendation on the end of the report which urged expanded chronic care in the home for a 75 to 100 bed nursing home in Georgetown by 1984.

Knechtel doubted the United Way would work here since so many people and employed out of town, and pointed out the success of United Way is due largely to payroll deductions.

Baines replied that

recommendation and another to set up a regional placement coordination service had not been accepted as yet. Baines recalled a study of boundaries for the United Way into Halton Hills done a few years ago, ran into stiff opposition. He said suggestions of an expansion of the United Way all over the region stems from the fact the northern area makes some use of the facilities in the south but does not contribute to them.



Fire gutted a rural Acton farm house and other buildings early Good Friday morning. Firefighters recovered the bodies of two people which were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory at Toronto, Halton Regional Police suspect arson. The Ontario Fire Marshall is also investigating the blaze. A neighbor alerted authorities to the 4.30 a.m. fire. A Georgetown tank truck and ambulance were at the scene.

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