# The Acton Free Press

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### Two dead, three injured in collision on Good Friday

day crash near Ospringe.

Blaine Cleland, 22, 261 Main St., N., Rockwood, Wright, 21, Gilford, Ont-ario, 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

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 transfered to Hamilton General Hospital and Beeler

Police officer:

When spectators retreated after a fatal mini-blke

and car accident near The Breezes, they walked all over tire marks police later wanted as trial evi-

Halton Regional Police Constable Robert Us-

trzycki told provincial court at Milton, Thursday,

about 200 people from nearby campgrounds took

five minutes to disperse. With them they took part

Constable Ustrzycki, the first officer at the scene,

testified efforts were made to keep spectators away

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 Hal-

the Criminal Code, and lesser related offences.

June. Mr. Young pleaded not guilty to the charge.

ton Regional Police with dangerous driving, under

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 Esquesing First Line, south of Highway 7.

The youngsters were pronounced dead at the scene

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

Mr. Mairs sald he saw "good dug-in skid marks"

on the road. The marks were "mainly in the centre"

of the evidence-traces of car slide marks.

from the automobile's path,

by Dr. David Van Der Bent.

scene after the mishap.

of the First Line, straddling the road.

Two people are dead critical condition and and three others in hosp- Murray is conscious in intensive care. ital following a Good Fri- fair condition according

to a hospital spokes- Guelph detachment of person. Beeler is in ser- the Ontario Provincial

#### Wright, 21, Gilford, Ontario, were killed when 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

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 to St. Mary's Hospital, Liberal executive also Kitchener. Wierenga re- expect Mr. Trudeau will mains unconscious and in make an appearance in

after mini-bike deaths

the riding later this month or early in May. Commission makes

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

money

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

It's narrow."

the municipality,"

Mr. Young is in custody until trial resumes in ience: "I think we may have a good action against

and the Cleland car north. The vehicles met almost head on, police say when one vehicle crossed the centre line. It was raining at the time, police say. The investigation is continuing. No official version of what happened has been logged in police records, and will not until the injured are questioned.

No charges have been laid as of yet, and an inquest is pending.

Cleland is a former resident of Acton and attended schools here. He is survived by his parents, Dave and Hanna, Bancroft, one sister Lorraine, (Mrs. Renaud) Rockwood, one brother Barry, Bancroft, and four nephews.

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

After telephoning the doctor, Mr. Mairs said he

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.

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

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

Mr. Glass whispered to another lawyer in the aud-

It's common, Mr. Mairs testified, for people to

A number of police photographs by Constable Wil-

liam McGrath were introduced as evidence. Taken

about an hour after the accident they show the pos-

ition of vehicles, however, the slide marks do not ap-

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.'

drive down the middle of the First Line where they

accident was warm and sunny, he said.

front of his house, but that was all.

tried to keep other people from the accident scene.

Instruction, including teachers' salaries, accounts for the lion's share of the budget at \$9.7 million, or 70 per Crowd erased tire marks

Plant operation and maintenance re-

Halton separate school board

trustees approved a \$13.7 million

budget, a 10.1 per cent increase over

The increase means Halton separate

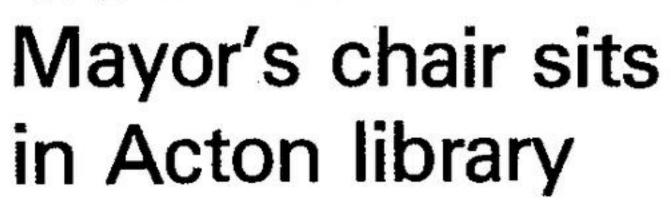
an extra \$24 in taxes this year with a

10.4 per cent increase in the mill rate.

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 \$829,810 and business administration school board taxpayers will be paying 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.



board would like to help Acton retain some of its identity by retaining the former town Mayor's chair and a plaque from Acton, England.

Betsy Cornwell told members the chair and plaque had been in the Acton library gathering dust since the inception

evening, head librarian

McKenzie-Smith Middle School packed the schools gymnasium for two evening

performances of the operetta Rana's Pond. The operetta, which dealt with the

topic of poliution in ponds, was staged by a different cast each evening. In the front

row I. to r. Is the second night cast of Chris Rosenquist as Rana, Sally Paterson,

of regional government. At the board's monthly She pointed out the items meeting last Wednesday were not in the way, but

German Shepherd found on Main St.

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 at-

tached 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 welltrained, gentle animal."

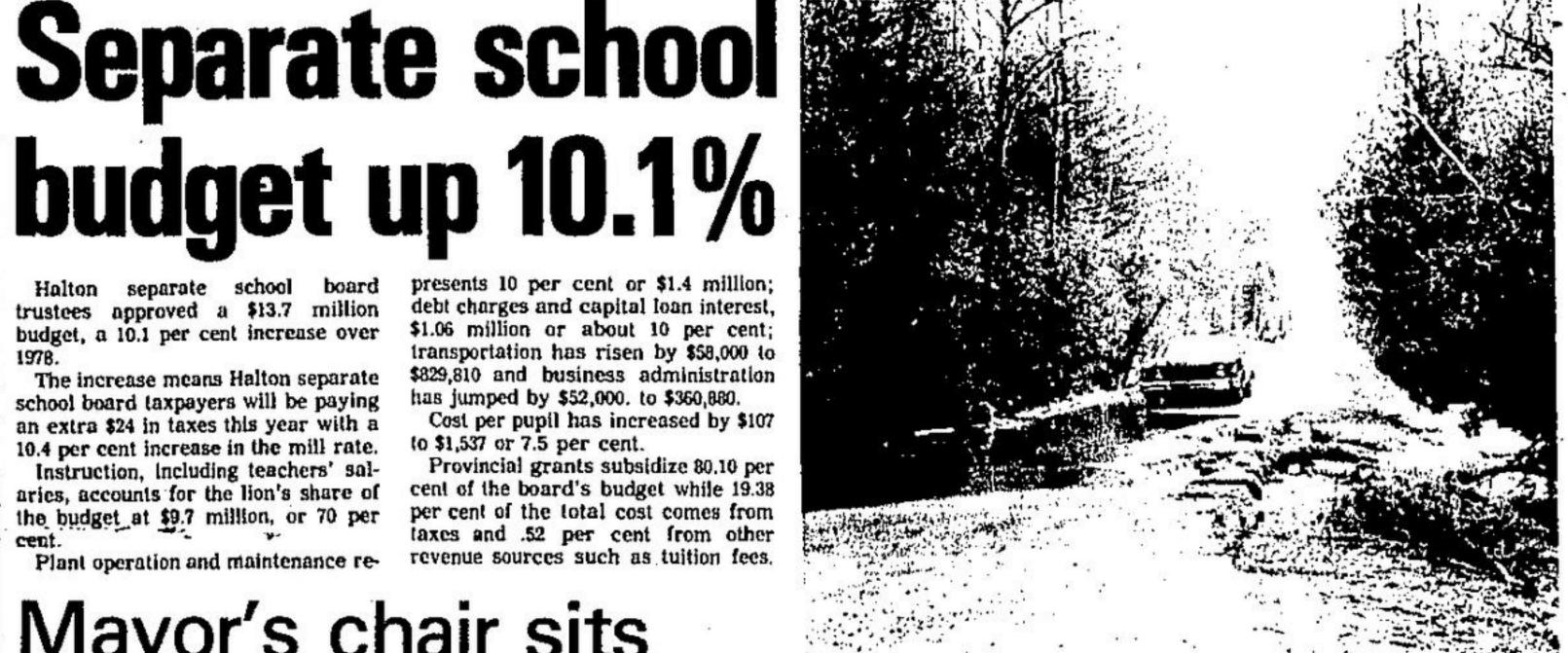
might be put to better use elsewhere.

Acton representative Norm Elliott stated the articles were of historical value and should be preserved. He also pointed out they were town property. "If the town is not interested in them, we

Chairman Dick Howitt suggested some councillors may not be aware the items exist.

Member Doug Magwood admitted he first felt the chair and plaque should be given to the Halton museum, but changed his mind. "The people in Acton are very identity conscious." He explained that he felt a part of the town because he works in it (as principal of M.Z. Bennett school), and also would like to see the items kept

should store them."



Gillian Brain, and Tracey Dunbar as the frog trio, and in the back are Terry

Clanfarant 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

Photo by ROBIN INSCOE

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

and more pictures inside.

District Health Council. A working group of the Health Council recommended extension of the United Way into Halton Hills, but Health Council Chairman Terry Balnes 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 recommendation and Knechtel spotted the another to set up a recommendation on the regional placement coend of the report which ordination service had urged expanded chronic not been accepted as yet. care in the home for the elderly and plans 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

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

Arson suspected

## Two bodies found in gutted Acton farm

by Eric Elatone

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 something with so much fire. A blaze in every room and the barn was a skeleton," Deputy District Chief

Alf Duby said, watching the flames. The heat was so intense the interior roof lining of an Austin-Marina car near the house, melted.

A woman identified by police as Doris Jones, about 37, was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. She was later transferred to Homewood Sanitarium at Guelph. Firefighters at the scene said a woman with burned legs made it to the highway from the burning house. The driveway bends for about 300 yards.

The farm owner David Jones was informed of the fire by police. He was at

work in Toronto. Several farm animals perished in the

one barn. The wind was blowing from east to west at 5.50 a.m. The sky was overcast. Acton firefighters used two pumper

trucks. A tanker truck from Georgetown was refilled several times to bring water to the scene. A unit from the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service was called in to help.

After dawn firefighters started knocking in the walls of the house shell and chimney. The bricks were so fragile that firefighters Philip (Scotty) Mc-Cristall and John Dunn just jumped to safety when a section of two-storey wall tumbled toward them.

Once the house was levelled and cooled, firefighters started to search the rubble. A front end loader and larger scoop were borrowed from the town to help clean up.

About five years ago fire gutted the farm house on the abutting lot to the Jones' property. A man committed suicide with a gun in connection with that blaze.



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 Marakall 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.