

# Maplehurst rocked by riot

By Linda Kirby  
Eleven of 18 escapees remain at large following a riot by more than 100 inmates Monday evening that has left a \$50,000 sea of destruction at Maplehurst Correctional Centre.

The rampage erupted shortly after 7 p.m. in the gymnasium where inmates were watching a film entitled "Escape to Athena."

Using steel chairs, weights and gym clubs, inmates proceeded to destroy everything in sight.

Armed with a pick from a supply room, approximately 30 men stormed their way through a gym security door leading to the rooftop.

Seven correctional officers stationed in the gym fled for safety, but 27-year-old recreation officer Howard Ferguson—who was working the movie projector in a room above the gym—was not as lucky.

Three inmates have been credited with saving the correctional officer from serious injury after he was attacked by a mob in the projection room.

According to Maplehurst officials, the trio escorted Mr. Ferguson to the rooftop—and safety—via the smashed security door.

Maplehurst officers surrounding the 90-acre complex, helped him down with the aid of a ladder.

Ninety minutes later, when it was all over, 18 inmates had escaped and little remained intact in the modern, expensively equipped gymnasium.

Seventy-one inmates surrendered quietly to police and guards. They were later transported to Metro Toronto West Detention Centre and Toronto Jail.

They left behind them a trail of debris. Conservative estimates put the loss at more than \$50,000.

Nothing was spared. Golf clubs lay twisted beside mangled chairs. Musical equipment that included pianos, guitars and a Ludwig drum set were flattened. The movie screen was torn. Paint was splattered on walls and every window was smashed.

A carpet of toilet and wash basin rubble was all that remained of the adjoining washroom. An office looked like the aftermath of a tornado.

The destruction left Maplehurst officials both shocked and angered.

"I'm just astonished they would even consider doing this," said the institution's superintendent, Allan Roberts.

He said he found it difficult to resolve how anything could justify such a vicious attack on the facility.

Within a few hours of the riot, seven escapees had been recaptured.

Michael Willard, 19, of St. Catharines was apprehended at Fifth Wheel Truck Stop, across the road from Maplehurst.

Dwight Waxall, 20, of Toronto; Richard Cromwell, 21, of Toronto; David Horsman, 17, of Hamilton and David Brush, 18, of Chatham were all picked up in Toronto.

They were found driving a stolen vehicle. Police earlier suspected they took the car from Clements Motors in Milton, but have since discovered they did not.



A SMASHING SPREE at Maplehurst Correctional Institute Monday night resulted in almost total demolition of the gymnasium area and all its equipment. Officials estimate the loss at \$50,000. A group of 107 residents went berserk and smashed chairs, sports

equipment, toilets and musical equipment before jail workers were able to clear the room. Meanwhile, 18 escaped via the roof. Officials said the inmates were watching the movie, "Escape from Athena" at the time.

Shortly after 2 a.m. police picked up Douglas John Urry, 20, of Barrie and Raymond Rochefort, 18, of Quebec.

Police said the pair stole a van belonging to Halton Regional Public Works Department from a Steeles Ave. building. They later ran out of gas and were apprehended by police at Highway 10 and Steeles Ave.

Over 40 regional police officers turned out for the manhunt and were aided by an OPP helicopter and two tracking dogs.

Police are continuing to work around the clock to round up the remaining men.

Maplehurst officials said the escapees are not considered dangerous.

They are described as being between 17 and 21 years of age, wearing blue jeans and a shirt.

Halton Regional Police

## Obituary

### Annie I. Fatt

Funeral service was held at Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton for Annie Isabel Fatt, of 32 Hadari Rd., Apt. 208, Guelph, who died October 9 at home.

Mrs. Fatt was born March 18, 1911 in Nassagaweya Twp., daughter of the late George Lamp and Thelma Lamp. She attended Nassagaweya Twp. schools before living in British Columbia and the Moffat area.

Mrs. Fatt was married October 12, 1932 to Joseph Henry Fatt, and was a housewife her entire life.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband, Guelph, and sons Russell, Rockwood; Kenneth, R.R. 1, Puslinch; Ronald, R.R. 4, Rockwood; and Clarence, Kitchener, her mother Thelma, and nine grandchildren.

Rev. Findley officiated at the October 11 funeral service. Pallbearers were Don Simpson, Arthur, George Hewer, Moffat, and Fred Hutchison. Guelph, all

report during their search for inmates they stopped a suspicious vehicle and arrested two men for stealing a car from Toronto.

The incident has left Gord Walker, Ontario Minister of Correctional Services, determined that Maplehurst inmates will pick up the tab for their spree of wanton destruction.

He visited the gymnasium early Tuesday morning and later announced at a press conference the ruined equipment would not be replaced at the taxpayers' expense.

Inmates will be forced to raise the necessary funds if they wish to replace the gym equipment, he said.

"There is no money in the budget for this and I don't intend to put money there," he said.

Some people have certainly spoiled it for a good number of the other inmates," he said.

"I think they can appreciate the feeling of being a victim of crime."

Mr. Walker said it was "very difficult" to stop rampages, but admitted security measures will be revised.

A ministry investigation has been launched and a report is expected within the next few days.

The minister said he expected several recommendations to be made and stated tougher penalties will be imposed upon those responsible for the incident.

Just one week ago, 15 inmates labelled by Maplehurst officials as "ringleaders" were moved to the maximum security Millbrook

Correctional Institute near Peterborough following a similar commotion.

The institution termed the first disturbance as

"minor" after 50 inmates began throwing furniture.

Two weeks ago, two inmates made their flight for freedom from inside the institution. Staff negligence was blamed for the incident.

Earlier the day of the riot, an inmate had one finger amputated during a fight with four other inmates in the gymnasium.

Officials said the victim of the assault was apparently participating in a game of "murder ball" with other inmates in the gym.

He was on the winning team and apparently inmates on an opposite team jammed his fingers in a wash-room door.

The incident was believed responsible for sparking the Monday night rampage.

But despite recent events, Mr. Walker denied there was a growing trend of inmate hostility.

Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 inmates pass through the system each year, he said, adding that Maplehurst has a "fair share of the criminal population."

Ministry officials are in no hurry to change the present rehabilitation program at Maplehurst.

"We are giving inmates a chance to change their style of living here," said John Main, regional director of the Ministry of Correctional Services.

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