

Safety council awards Acton man



Haltom's Safety Council honored Kevin Harrison, of George St., for his efforts to save victims of a traffic accident. Safety Council chairman Bill Little, right, presents the lifesaving award to Mr. Harrison. Mr. Harrison was one of many people honored by the council during its annual awards night.
Photo by DAVE DEJONG

An Acton man, who was honored by the Haltom Safety Council Friday for saving another man's life, was happy enough without the award. However, he appreciates receiving it.

Just knowing the injured people will be healthy again is all the satisfaction 23-year-old Kevin Harrison needs.

"But getting the award, I don't know what to think of it yet, to be truthful," Mr. Harrison said in an interview. "I didn't expect this at all."

"Mind you, I don't mind. I get enough satisfaction seeing the person well and on his feet again."

Mr. Harrison received a framed certificate and a lapel pin from the safety council because, in the words of the citations, his "knowledgeable assistance prevented the injuries from worsening, and in fact may have been a major factor in the survival of one of the injured youths."

Other award winners and members of the audience at Club Roma in Milton heard a brief outline of the event which led to Mr. Harrison's award.

On a Wednesday night nearly five and a half months ago Mr. Harrison was driving north

on the Fourth Line at approximately 11 p.m. He came across what at first appeared to be the aftermath of a single car accident. The scene, where Sideroad 20 meets the Fourth Line, was deserted.

There was a car which was slammed into the thick mound of soil which covers the escarpment rock.

Mr. Harrison investigated. He found two men on the side of the road. One man, Edward Vandyke, was on his back, drowning in blood. Mr. Harrison cased him over, cleared his mouth and did what he could to make the man's condition stable.

From a nearby house, Mr. Harrison telephoned for police. He then returned, with another man from the house, to the accident scene.

While police and an ambulance were on the way, Mr. Harrison and the other man checked the accident vehicle. In it they discovered Alfred Roffie who was trapped in the driver's seat. The windshield was wrapped round him.

The pair broke into the vehicle, and peeled the windshield away from the driver. He was dead.

Haltom Regional Police arrived, and Mr. Harrison used some of the police first aid

equipment to stop the bleeding and infection in Mr. Vandyke.

The third victim, Jeffrey Schenk was wrapped in blankets because he was unconscious from shock.

According to Mr. Harrison, police did what they could to help, however, they let him perform the first aid work.

Mr. Harrison first learned his first aid skill in the Scouts. "It was basic first aid. Since then I've just carried it on and advanced."

"I felt it was something everyone should have. Even if it's a simple nose bleed, you want to know the best thing for it."

The six foot, three inch, soft spoken man works as a shipper and receiver at Blow Press. A bonus for the company is his interest in health, which he has promoted, so that he is an industrial first aider.

In British Columbia, where Mr. Harrison lived for about seven years, he worked as an industrial first aid attendant at a large fish processing company. There he tended a variety of mishaps.

In the army Mr. Harrison got used to his fellow soldiers knowing the basics of first aid. He was in Cyprus for six months.

Mr. Harrison would like to see as many peo-

ple as possible learn first aid.

Even if people just read the pamphlets on first aid one finds in cars, that's something. "Even if you read that, you're far enough ahead, you'll be prepared. If you come across an accident, you'll have some idea of what to do."

Mr. Harrison is the son of Joan and Murray Harrison of George St.

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Vacform Plastics has closed and moved to Brampton. Turn to story on page 3.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday are just a few days away and today's paper contains three Easter Features. See pages 2, 6 and 9.

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Heller's may have to leave Acton

Deal for Disston off

Frank Heller and Co. Ltd. won't be moving into the closed Disston plant.

Heller's general manager Fred Dawkins announced Monday the deal has completely fallen through.

In a prepared statement he points to lack of government assistance, high interest rates and the no-growth economy as reasons the deal fell through.

Dawkins has warned that sometime in the future the firm may have to move away from Acton.

Rumors have been rife around Acton for many weeks that a deal between Heller's and Disston's parent firm, Sandvik, was imminent. Negotiations got rolling in December and by January a tentative agreement had been reached. However, in ensuing weeks it unravelled.

Heller's has three plants, two in Acton and one in Georgetown.

Disston announced it was closing last August and shutdown November 25, throwing 125 people out of work.

Following is the prepared statement from Dawkins outlining what happened to the deal.

Won't Reach Agreement
"It is now apparent that our company will not reach an agreement with Sandvik for the purchase of the Disston building here in Acton. In announcing this I would like to stress that the people at Sandvik have been very open and cooperative throughout these negotiations. I have the utmost respect for the company and the individuals we have dealt with. However, the realities of the situation are that economic conditions have changed rather dramatically since last fall.

Mortgaging Problems
"Since September, when we first began to consider this purchase, the interest burden of carrying our operating debt has increased by some 50 per cent and at this point can only be expected to go higher. At the same time, we are operating in an economy for which total output in real terms is expected to go down in 1980 for the first time since 1954. Our own business has only come close to maintaining production volumes by working at reduced

mark ups and by increasing the level of our exports. At the same time it has been emphatically demonstrated to us that potential mortgage investors consider Acton a poor location for industrial property. Consequently, they are prepared to offer only low-ratio or high interest rate mortgages.

"In spite of all this, the transaction in question could have been carried out in a very beneficial way if we lived in the country I thought we did. As an Actonian, and Canadian, I feel that I have spent the past three months swimming in a whirl, waiting for help from different levels of government but receiving, instead, what we have all come to expect. Back in January, when we had reached a tentative agreement with Sandvik, various government officials were quick to state that the Disston problem had been resolved, implying that they had been of great assistance in achieving this. This simply is not true.

Little government help
"To carry out this transaction we would need some form of government assistance in order to reduce the effective interest cost of carrying the debt required to acquire the building and the high costs of moving. In the leather industry there have been two very large interest free loans given to new, unproven companies for five year terms. Neither of these companies produces their own leather. Instead they import most of their leather and merely spray finish it in Canada, thus competing with Canadian tanners but providing far less employment to produce the same final product. One of these companies is American owned and operated. They reportedly received an \$800,000 five year interest free loan from the Province of Quebec. The second company, located in Hawkesbury, Ontario, received a similar loan reportedly from Federal authorities and is being operated by four unproven individuals. These companies will compete directly with companies such as Beardmore and ourselves with the blessing of government authorities. The only incentive our company was offered of any magnitude, in terms of our transaction, was a government guarantee of part of our total mortgage, which would cost us 1 per cent above the interest rate we could negotiate with the mortgage lender; thanks so very much!

"From the point of view of Acton, let us examine the reasons why our company might have been con-

sidered in a more favourable light for government assistance;

1. We are privately owned by Canadian citizens, who just happen to be life-long citizens of Acton.

2. We are operating in Acton, which has been losing its industrial base rather too quickly.

3. If we acquired the building, we would increase our employment to approximately 250 people in the next three to five years.

4. We have extremely significant export potential for our product because we make specialized types of leather.

5. We have, in the past year, begun to manufacture another type of leather for which Canadian manufacturers have had to import 50 per cent of their requirements in the past year.

"In other words, our expansion would create jobs, increase exports, and help reduce imports, hardly attractive goals for a Canadian held company to pursue.

"Our company is not guiltless in this situation. Undoubtedly, if we really applied ourselves we might find a way to get some of these government funds which we all know are so easily available for business to acquire. Unfortunately, as a privately held company we have not been able to devote sufficient time in this area. Instead, we have spent most of our time dealing with the day to day problems of carrying out business, problems which have been rapidly increasing in recent months. Larger companies can more afford to have someone give their entire job effort to achieving such aid.

Not sour grapes
"If this whole statement sounds like sour grapes, it is not intended to be such. As owners of the business Ron and I are well advised to stay where we are and not risk what has taken a lot of effort to build. However, as an Actonian and a Canadian, I feel that people in this town should be more aware that all of the government platitudes we have heard promising to stimulate exports, reduce imports, stimulate employment and promote Canadian ownership are, as usual, merely political promises. Unfortunately the end result of these developments could be that at sometime in the future we may have to move away from Acton in order to consolidate our business and remain competitive with others who have received government help.



Home of the Easter bunny

Inez Crichton displays some of her many tasty Easter treats. The Limehouse candymaker enjoys her sweet hobby and is filling holiday orders for friends and neighbors. See story page 2.

Photo by JENNIFER ROWE



New symbol of service

Acton Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders have designed their first crest and these six girls each made a contribution to the new logo. They each received a mug as a prize for their design ideas. The artists are, left to right, Lee Gallant, Shelley Donatan, Diana Dunn, Monica Musselle, Shannon Johnson and Kandi Hannah.
Photo by GORD MURRAY

Spring election doubted

Executives of the major political parties in Halton-Burlington believe it will be an election free spring. Some preparations, though, are being made.

Recently there have been rumblings of discontent from one party or another at Queen's Park concerning the political status quo. Ontario is ruled by a minority Conservative government.

Power, however, is shared by the Tories with the Liberals and New Democratic Party members. Halton-Burlington has sent Liberal Julian Reed to the legislature in the last two provincial elections.

If an election is called Tories, Grits and NDPers would have to hold nomination meetings in the riding.

Mr. Reed has indicated he's willing to stand for re-election, according to Liberal riding association president Dolly Moulden. "We must have a nomination meeting to make it official."

Meanwhile in the Conservative camp there

is a high-power search for a candidate by the nomination committee, according to riding association president Brian Cargill.

And according to NDP riding president Sheila Lippal, a few potential candidates have been lined up.

"We'd probably be able to put together a fairly good campaign. I do know we picked up a lot of new members in the (February federal) election," said Mrs. Lippal.

"The main thing is to find a proper guy to represent the people," said the Acton Conservative. He said an opposition member can not do too much. "A member of the government can do something for us."

No such case as far as the Grits are concerned. "Julian is so solidly entrenched, doing such a good job, I can't imagine anyone challenging him (for the nomination)," Mrs. Moulden said.

The Liberals are in the black financially, said the association president.

"I think all parties would be hard pressed (for manpower)," said Mr. Cargill. "Our organization is pretty tightly knit... I really wouldn't want to myself," he said.

A spring election? "I really don't feel there'll be one. Mr. Davis has stated he's not going to call an election before the term is over (about a year from now) unless there's a non-confidence vote," said Mr. Cargill. The Conservative went on to say: "There are really no issues to trump up an election over."

Liberal Mrs. Moulden, of Limehouse, doubted there would be an election this spring. "I think he (Smith) is just sabre rattling. I think he's pointing out to the government there's a strong opposition."

No derailment when train hits tie

A prank could have resulted in a train derailment near Crewson's Corners recently.

A railway tie placed across the CN tracks near the hamlet "never presented a hazard, but I suppose it could have," Richard Boileau of CN Public Affairs said this week.

The incident took place on Sunday, March 23 when passenger train number 656 struck the railway tie across the track at 6.15 p.m. and had to stop.

In confirming the report, Boileau said the train did not derail and once the tie

was removed the train proceeded on its way.

Boileau said CN is "always fearful about this type of vandalism" because it could conceivably result in a disaster or danger.

Since there was no derailment, details of the incident are sketchy because no report was filed out, Boileau said.

Old ties had been left in the area for anyone who wanted them after CN replaced them last year.

Last week CN workmen went out to the area and destroyed all the remaining old ties.