

Burlington driver pleads guilty mishap killed former resident

A Burlington man will be sentenced next month after pleading guilty to a charge of careless driving in connection with a car-bicycle accident last July 6 in which a former Acton and rural Georgetown

resident was killed.

Lorraine Robertson (nee Lavigne) was one of three young women killed while riding their bicycles early one morning on Plains Rd. in Burlington. Two other women were also hurt.

Walter Valente, 20, pleaded guilty to the charge in county court, Milton, last week and has been remanded out of custody until August 19 while a presentencing report is prepared.

Mrs. Robertson 24, lived with her family at the Cedar Springs Motel on Highway 7 for several years before moving to Church St. in Acton following her marriage. She lived in the area for about eight years and was a graduate of Stewarttown and Acton High Schools. When the mother of three was killed she and her family were living in Hamilton.

Crown Attorney James Treleaven said an eyewitness saw Valente pass to the right of another car just before he hit the cyclists. Passing to the right is illegal on Plains Rd., a four-lane street. Valente's car was going about 60 miles an hour when he passed the other vehicle and hit the women. The speed limit is 37.5 miles an hour in the area where the accident occurred.

The maximum penalty for careless driving is six months in jail, plus suspension of one's driver's licence for two years and a \$500 fine.



Terry Fox

Mourn Terry Fox

Nassagaweya Presbyterian will hold memorial service

Acton and area residents, like the rest of the nation, are saddened by the death of one-legged Marathon of Hope runner Terry Fox on Sunday.

At press time Tuesday only one special service was being planned in this area.

Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church will hold a memorial service at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday) for not just Terry but all who have died of cancer.

There had been no word of any service in Acton on Thursday. Local cancer officials reported they aren't able to organize any special tribute in time for the day Terry will be buried in British Columbia because so many members are on vacation.

Lorne Doberthien, who put up a sign in tribute to Terry at his business, L and L Ford, Main St. North, also reported he isn't aware of any services in Acton.

Doberthien, who also lost a leg to bone cancer, worked when Terry came through Acton early one morning in July. Downtown was jammed for his brief visit here.

"Terry Fox was a dedicated young man who showed us all what grit, determination and a personal goal could accomplish. On the way to that goal he just happened to swing a whole country behind

him. He used his handicap as an aid rather than a hindrance and in so doing became a hero never to be forgotten. He paid a very high price and lived a life far too short. It is my hope that each of us in his own way can work at helping to fulfill the goal set by Terry."

Rev. John Robertson said his sermon topic for Knox Presbyterian and Trinity United churches will deal with suffering and be a tribute to Terry Fox.

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is hoping some group in the community will tackle the job of staging a Terry Fox Run this September 13 in Acton. Terry Fox Runs are being held in communities right across Canada to raise more funds for the Marathon of Hope.

Last year during his run and later after Terry had to quit because he was stricken with cancer again, Acton raised about \$10,000 for the Marathon of Hope.

While the local cancer group won't be organizing a Terry Fox Run members are willing to assist anyone in town willing to tackle the job. Information can be obtained by calling Susan Kuechler at 853-3324. The Terry Fox Run will be a 10 km course with donors sponsoring runners.

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Opening ceremonies of Back to Acton Days brought out the politicians in full force. Chp Petrillo, foreground, chairman of the Leathertown committee tells what his organization is up to. Left to right Paul Nielsen, Mayor Peter Pomeroy (who doesn't know where to put the remains of the ribbon he just cut), councillor Ross Knechtel, MPP Julian Reed, MP Otto Jelinek, Petrillo, councillor Terry Grubbe and master of ceremonies Louis Charlebois.

Photo by GORD MURRAY.

1981 Back to Acton Days has best weather, biggest crowd

Better weather could not have been possible for the annual Back to Acton Days celebration on the weekend.

Bright sunny skies and high temperatures dominated the entire weekend, attracting close to 500 people downtown through-out Saturday, and to Prospect Park Sunday.

Organizer Terry Grubbe said the Calithumpian Parade, designed to draw people downtown was a huge success. The three separate parades, covering every area of town, met near the railroad tracks and converged on the business district.

Big Bird stole the show. He was later revealed to be Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

Taking part in the opening ceremonies were master of ceremonies Louis Charlebois, Mayor Pomeroy, Regional councillor Dave Whiting, area councillors Ross Knechtel and Terry Grubbe, Halton MP Otto Jelinek and MPP Julian Reed.

Anyone participating in the parade was eligible for the contests following.

Best decorated bike as Sheryl Bradburn, with Jamie Lynn Verbik second and Leanne Prueter third. For the second year in a row Mr. and Mrs. Sprulle took first prize in the best old fashion costume. Pauline Barlow was second and Tiu Jago third. Pat Wood was wearing the craziest costume with Sharon, Laurie and Sheila Cook taking second. Third was Jamie Goy and Jennie and Cathy McSwane. David and Jeff Harrison took top spot in the best decorated trike or buggy. Cheryl Daponte was next. In the best family, winners were: first, Kellougs, second Cooks, and third Daponte.

Downtown booths all reported great turnouts of customers. Most groups in town were represented

in one way or another on the main street. Theta Psi Sorority held a mini carnival, there were pony rides, food booths, raffles, films, (the Red Cross), sidewalk sales, etc. There was something for everyone.

A dog and cat contest attracted many contestants. For the third year in a row Peggy Anker's dog Blue took many of the prizes, including biggest dog, shortest tail, etc.

A poor turnout at the Optimists Monte Carlo Night did not discourage them from having the event next year. Many enjoyed a Citizen of the Year dinner at the Curling Club all Saturday night.

Sunday started bright and early with a fishing derby sponsored by the Acton Firefighters. Over 50 contestants vied for the prizes. Biggest fish was caught by T. Warley of Guelph, a bass. Biggest pike was caught by Dave Morris, second biggest caught by Allan Ash and third biggest pike caught by Gary White. David Vacek caught the biggest bass.

The Y's Men's first annual Biathlon was a bit of a disappointment to organizers with only eight entries. However, says Ed Leatherland, they are definitely going ahead with it next year, and hope to see many more contestants.

Winners were: in the male 25-40 years olds, Ron Johns and Scott Lee; in the male 12-16, Scott Allison and Rob Warrington; and in the father and son, Stewart and Steven Robertson.

It was Rotary 2 against the Free Press in the final round at the Firefighters Waterball contest. Rotary 2 were champs in a well fought match. Members of the winner team were Lorne and Sally Smith, Louis Charlebois and Ray Nellis. A small trophy, and

locally, but that may start later this week.

Only Vic Bristow has remained on the job. Bristow has always remained on the job during past postal strikes, and has said in the past his first commitment is to the people of Acton. Although he pays union dues, Bristow is not a card-carrying union member.

McMillan said workers were reluctant to strike yesterday, the day before a paid holiday as their contract states they must work the day before the holiday in order to be paid for it. Thursday is pay day she said, when striking workers will become more organized.

Acton is part of Georgetown CUPW Local, 608. Grace Perry represents Acton, while Norm Ward is Local president.

Leathertown t-shirts go to the winners. There were nine waterball entries.

The fireworks display attracted close to 800 in the park, with another 200 at the Legion, Grubbe estimates.

Grubbe said the entire weekend was a "terrific success". By Tuesday she had heard no negative comments, and had lots of encouragement for the next year.

Next year, Grubbe said, she hopes there will be more participation in the planning end. She would like to see organizations join the Back to Acton Days Committee. Right now, she said, the committee consists of herself only. With several key people for the weekend moving away, Grubbe hopes the event does not go by the wayside. However, she said, even if that does happen, she promises as long as she lives in Acton, there will be a Calithumpian Parade.

Waterfalls Park plan recreation complex

A proposal for a major recreation complex in Limehouse has been received coolly by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Waterfalls Park owner Joe Prucyk and his lawyer Stanley Udell recently took the proposal to hearings in Burlington where the Halton portion of the Escarpment Official Plan was being reviewed.

Prucyk wants to build a 100 room lodge and other facilities at his 153 acre property on the Sixth Line.

Among the contemplated facilities are a golf course, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, jogging and nature trails, cross-country ski areas, indoor racquet sport courts, an indoor pool, fishing spots, a water slide into one of the existing lakes, saunas, a convention centre, health club, ice skating area, horseback riding trails, snack bar and restaurant.

Udell said in an interview his client feels his property has been given the wrong designation in the NEC plan.

Ruth Melady, a planner with the NEC, said in an interview, that Prucyk's land falls under both the Escarpment protection area and Escarpment natural area. She explained the NEC feels the land has sensitive features and must be preserved.

Udell says Prucyk wants to improve on the recreational use of the land. He doesn't just want the existing recreational use recognized but enhanced.

He explained there are already two bodies of water on the site which are used by picnickers and by developing a major recreation centre a barren eyesore will be eliminated.

The prime objective of the NEC, in Udell's view, is to make sure the Escarpment is preserved for recreational uses and he believes Prucyk's plan takes advantage of the Escarpment setting.

They have been working with town, region and NEC staff regarding this proposal which would create employment for Halton Hills residents and attract tourists from around Southern Ontario and the northern United States.

Udell said he was disappointed by the NEC reaction to the proposal, suggesting the commission wants to create something and then stick it in a "gilded cage."

He suggested the proposal was something that is "necessary" for proper Escarpment development and takes advantage of the natural beauty and outdoor features of the area.

The plan would result in the trailer park being removed and Prucyk believes it would give him more control over the park where six people have drowned in recent years.

Protection of the environment, not recreational facilities, is the prime concern of the NEC, Misa Melady explained.

Certainly some recreational uses are permitted, some in Prucyk's plan would be allowed, but items such as a lodge or tennis courts wouldn't be "appropriate." They aren't uses which rely on the natural features of the Escarpment.

No decision on the proposal or land designation was made at the hearing.

Breaks neck while diving

A 19-year-old Guelph resident is paralysed from the chest down after he broke his neck in two places in a freak accident at Rockwood Conservation Area on Sunday afternoon.

A park official said Tom McCullough had been diving into the water from the cliffs before his accident and had hit his head. Then he ran into the water at the swimming area, dove and either went over or under the three foot safety line hitting his head again and breaking his neck. He hit the hard surface in just 30 inches of water.

McCullough, who was conscious afterwards told park officials he couldn't remember hitting the safety line and he had hit his head earlier in the day. He is now in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

The three foot safety line is a new addition at the swimming area having been suggested by a coroner's inquest jury last year after a drowning at the park.

inside

An area resident was badly burned in a fire over the weekend. Details on page 2.

AHS has six Ontario Scholars. Story and photos on page 7.

Rev. John Robertson is staying. More on page 9.

Five local postal clerks join cross-country strike

All but one of Acton's six postal clerks walked off the job yesterday (Tuesday) as a nation-wide strike threatens to cripple the country.

CUPW, a 23,000 member union failed to reach an agreement with Treasury Board bargaining agents this week. The union has demanded a paid maternity leave. Wages, the use of casual labor and contracting out of union work are also issues in the strike. Union President Jean-Claude Parrot says they will up the ante now that the strike has begun.

Chris McMillan, Acton's deputy postmaster anticipates a long strike, but will not know until Thursday what position other postal unions will be taking. It is too early to tell if the local post office will be forced to shut down.

So far, Millan said, there has been no picketing



Ten standing ovals accompanied the shower of plaques and gifts to Acton's Citizen of the Year Ron McKnight, front row, centre, Saturday evening. He is flanked by his parents Joan and Jim. Back row, sisters Colleen, Beverly (Bad-dely), uncle Tom McKnight from Bedfordshire, England, and brother Steven.

Among the gifts were a Guy Lafleur hockey stick, personally autographed, sheepskin vest, binoculars and two blazers, one from the town of Halton Hills, another from the Montreal Canadians.

Photo by GORD MURRAY