

Firefighters' quick action saves baby's life

by Helen Murray
It was a happy Easter for Rick and Linda Coe of Acton, thanks to the quick actions of the Acton Volunteer Fire Department.
Last week, the family was plunged into a terrifying nightmare when their three-month-old son Andrew started choking on his own vomit. But because of the firefighters and their extensive rescue training, Andrew was able to celebrate his first Easter.
Last Monday, April 5, Andrew's five-year-old sister Allison alerted her mother that Andrew was breathing funny. The children had been in bed, in a shared bedroom. When Linda went to check on him, she found his breathing shallow and his skin turning blue. She burped him, but there was still no response. When she checked his eyes, there were no pupils and she realized he was unconscious.
Within seconds, Andrew's father, local public school teacher Rick Coe, was applying mouth to mouth resuscitation to revive the infant. Linda called the doctor, but was told he was on another call. In a moment of desperation, she telephoned a friend, Judy Shannon, knowing her husband Dave was a member of the fire department. Dave wasn't home, however. He was at the weekly fire practice. Linda and Rick were out the door in seconds heading towards the Bower Ave. hall. Meanwhile, Judy called the hall and three firefighters went rushing out to the Coe home on Highway 25 just north of town.
The couple arrived at the fire hall at the same time as Brent Marshall, who was returning from another resuscitation call.

Marshall immediately started to work on the baby. He noticed Andrew's breathing passages were open and kept him in a semi-prone position. Oxygen was applied with the respirator. Several other firefighters also assisted in the rescue.
As soon as Andrew was stable, Marshall recalls, he and Bill McGilloway escorted the child to Guelph General Hospital in an ambulance.
The firefighter explained he had a difficult time with the ambulance drivers wanting to go to Georgetown hospital. Marshall said he told them again and again there was not a pediatrician in Georgetown and they had to get to Guelph. It was only after he insisted several times that the ambulance headed west.
A couple times on the trip to Guelph, Marshall says, Andrew's breathing became shallow and his heartbeat irregular. He told his parents later he was afraid they would lose him.
After a three-day stay in the hospital, Andrew was given a clean bill of health and was able to come home in time for the holidays.
Linda says she is very grateful to Marshall and the fire department. But, she says, she does not think enough people are aware of exactly what services the department offers.
Marshall notes of the 35 men on the volunteer brigade, the majority of them have Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, (CPR), basic rescue, and first aid training. Many hours were put into each course, with continuous refresher courses being taken.

The volunteers attend not only fires, but drownings, accidents, heart attacks, resuscitations. Because the nearest hospital is Guelph or Georgetown, their rescue knowledge is extremely vital, Marshall said.
The department also does a lot of public service work, providing crowd control and fire prevention at carnivals, fairs and parades.
"Not all rescues have a happy ending," Marshall stresses, "because some things are beyond our control. But you do what you have to do."
Linda points out five minutes can be the difference between life and death, and knowing the fire department can help is invaluable.
Marshall credits Andrew's father's quick actions with saving his life. Rick notes he has limited first aid training and had never needed to practice it. But his technique was sufficient to get his son breathing again. He estimates he gave mouth to mouth for about five minutes, while at home and all the way into town to the fire hall.
At first the couple just wanted to get Andrew out of the hospital and forget the entire incident. Then, Linda says, she realized their misfortune might help others by making more people aware of just what a capable fire department Acton has.
"People used to think if we had a resuscitator call and no resuscitator, we couldn't do anything," Marshall says, "but we can work with our hands if we have to."
"If even one person learns by our experience," Linda says, "it will all have been worth it."



Brent Marshall and Andrew Coe.

Adjourn hearing for Kellar

The preliminary hearing for Eric Howard Kellar, charged with first degree murder in the slaying of Colleen Oates last October, began yesterday (Tuesday) and will be continued June 8.
If Judge J. E. C. Robinson feels there is enough evidence against Kellar the case will go to trial in September or October, according to the Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven. The matter will come up at the fall assize in September he said.
Eleven witnesses testified yesterday at the hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence against an accused to warrant a trial. There is a ban on publication of evidence.
Kellar was charged October 26 with the brutal murder of 22-year-old Mrs. Oates in the early morning hours of October 21.
Kellar is represented by defense lawyer Thomas Ounapu, of Toronto.

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Colleen Petty who played "Alice in Wonderland" with Terri-Lee Jowett who played the White Rabbit. More photos on page B1. Photo by DAN MCGILLOWAY

Life prison sentence for Mercuri, McCristall gets nearly two years

by Helen Murray
Michael McCristall protested his innocence yesterday (Tuesday) as Mr. Justice Colter Osborne sentenced him to two years less-a-day in jail for his part in the fiery death of Howard Gibbons in the Dominion Hotel on August 19, 1979.
Thursday McCristall was found guilty of manslaughter with a recommendation from the jury for leniency. Sentencing was held over to Tuesday.
Co-defendant Cosimo Mercuri was found guilty of second degree murder at the same time and was immediately sentenced to life imprisonment, with no eligibility for parole for 10 years. Mercuri had nothing to say when invited to make a statement by Mr. Justice Osborne.
The pair will stay at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre for 30 days. They have 30 days in which to appeal. At the end of this period, McCristall will be sent to the Ontario Correctional Institute (OIC) in Brampton. According to Crown Attorney Paul Stunt, Mercuri could be sent to either Kingston or Millhaven Penitentiaries.
In a plea to Mr. Justice Osborne on Tuesday, John D. Smith, counsel for McCristall, said his client "clearly has a problem, an addiction of mammoth proportion (to alcohol)." Smith pointed out the jury felt McCristall did not know the consequences of the act of arson.
His lawyer admitted a suspended sentence and probation were not realistic in view of the seriousness of the offense.
In his plea, Smith stressed rehabilitation. McCristall has children, he said, and is not a spiteful man. "Society will get better, if this man gets better."
Smith suggested his client be sent to OCI and receive help for his drinking problem.
The defense counsel admitted he never saw the benefit of penitentiaries and recommended a sentence of two years less-a-day "so he can turn his life around." Smith said it would not be contrary to public interest to give him a reformatory term.
Crown Attorney Stunt agreed with Smith, McCristall, he said, does not have a criminal record and the Crown never suggested McCristall intended to kill anyone.
Stunt said to Mr. Justice Osborne that McCristall's own personality made him a perfect utensil for Mercuri's "greed and lack of concern for safety of others."
The Crown said he felt Smith's recommendation was appropriate, "and one that would be beneficial. Before delivering his sentence Mr. Justice

Osborne asked McCristall if he had anything to say. The defendant exclaimed "No, except I am still not guilty."
Mr. Justice Osborne told McCristall he was satisfied the part he played August 19, 1979, was a minor one, and that he had no direct benefit from

the burning of the hotel.
"It seems to me you had a misguided loyalty to Mercuri," Mr. Justice Osborne observed.
Because of the jury's recommendation for leniency, Mr. Justice Osborne said, it was "not inapp- (Continued on page 2)

Reinstate shoe import quotas Jelinek, Tories to tell Liberals

Halton MP Otto Jelinek has pledged to push the federal government to reinstate shoe import quotas following meetings with Beardmore President Peter Dunham and other company officials, and a tour of the tannery, Tuesday morning.
The Tory critic on the Canada-United States Auto Pact said he came to Beardmore to learn first-hand about the problems caused by the Liberals' lifting of shoe import quotas late last year.
He said he has been listening to Dunham and other top people in the Canadian shoe and leather industries for two or three months now and they have been warning that if quotas aren't reinstated not only are many jobs in danger but firms, even Beardmore, might have to close down.
"We can't let that happen," Jelinek declared.
He said well orchestrated efforts, backed with facts, must be used to persuade Ottawa to bring back the quotas "immediately."
The industries had asked for the quotas for a three year period while the economy turned around and they modernized equipment. Instead of improving, the Canadian economy has worsened, and so efforts to modernize haven't been completed. Jelinek said he saw lots of evidence of modernization at Beardmore during his tour, however more new equipment and processes are needed.
From talking to workers Jelinek learned there is genuine concern at the tannery for the future of jobs.
Jelinek says he isn't a protectionist, however he feels there should be fair trading in the world and nations like Japan, which are protectionist, aren't trading fairly with Canada.
The Tory caucus will discuss the need for shoe import quotas further, Jelinek said, and he and his colleagues will be bringing the matter up more in the House. He said they now have a lot more information to pass on to the government. Tory questioning and speeches on the issue will be more "effective."
This was Jelinek's first visit to Beardmore.



Halton MP Otto Jelinek admires the high quality of Beardmore leather during a tour of the plant Tuesday with company official Donald Rankin. though his former company, Canadian Skate Industries, bought leather for their skate boots from the local firm back in the 60s and early 70s.
Lobby efforts, including flooding Ottawa with letters and cards, will produce results he predicted, noting when enough pressure is brought on the government and there is a feasible plan, lobbying can be effective. Jelinek said he wished the industries had started lobbying sooner, but noted their work in the last couple of months has been effective.
He says top cabinet ministers like Ed Lumley and Herb Gray have admitted Canada can't afford to lose the shoe and leather industries but they aren't doing anything to save them as yet. However, he said they hope to see the government take some action within the next 30 days.
Over 6,000 jobs have been lost in the two industries so far, about 50 at Beardmore, so immediate positive action is needed now.

Work on new St. Joseph's is set to go

Excavation of the site for the new St. Joseph's School on Mill St. West will begin by this Monday, possibly earlier if the weather co-operates.
It was announced work is ready to begin Tuesday morning at a meeting in a construction shack on the site. At the meeting were Trustee Irene McCauley, board administrator John Birrell, principal Fred Springer, as well as the architect, Weber Con-

struction officials, engineers, people involved with the mechanical and electrical work, and staff from the trades and subcontractors involved in the project. In total 16 people attended.
A five month or 21 week work schedule covering 37 separate steps towards completing the new separate school was reviewed.
It was noted the project is a little behind schedule

because of the weather, but nobody saw any problems in completing the work by the end of August for September occupancy.

- Following are the 37 steps of the project as well as the month work will be done: 1.) job site set up - April; 2.) site preparation and layout - April; 3.) excavation and backfilling - April, early May; 4.) concrete footings - April, early May; 5.) concrete piers beams (fill - July; 6.) concrete floors - May; 7.) concrete walls - late June, early July; 8.) concrete curbs - late June, early July; 9.) block foundation - April, early May; 10.) reinforced steel - early April; 11.) hollow metal frames - April; 12.) masonry walls - April, May, June; 13.) mechanical rough in - April, May, June, July; 14.) electrical rough in - April, May, June, July; 15.) mechanical drainage and tanks - April, May, June; 16.) structural steel and open steel joist - June; 17.) electrical and mechanical fixtures - July, early August; 18.) metal deck - June; 19.) roofing - June, July; 20.) metal siding - June, July; 21.) aluminum doors and windows - June; 22.) windows - June; 23.) acoustic ceilings - July; 24.) doors and hardware - July, August; 25.) millwork - July, August; 26.) painting - July, August; 27.) resilient flooring - July; 28.) ceramic tile - June, July; 29.) washroom partitions and cubicles - July, August; 30.) chalkboards and tackboards - July, August; 31.) washroom accessories - July, August; 32.) folding partition - July, August; 33.) miscellaneous items - July, August; 34.) caulking - August; 35.) landscaping - July, August; 36.) paving - August; 37.) site clean-up - August.

Murder suspect again remanded

Bradley James Fendley, 21, of Georgetown, appeared briefly in Guelph Provincial Court Tuesday morning and was again remanded in custody for his next court appearance Tuesday, April 20, when a date for trial will be set.
It was Fendley's third court appearance and he is being held at Wellington Detention Centre.
Fendley is charged with first degree murder in connection with the recent death of Donald Joseph Berriau, 30, at a farmhouse he and his family had rented since late last summer at RR 2 Acton. The farmhouse is located on the Sixth Line of Erin Township, 1.2 miles north of the Halton Hills-Erin boundary.
When Guelph OPP arrived on the scene on March 24 around 1 a.m. they found Berriau dead in the living room from a shotgun blast.

inside

Acton Curling Club award winners, photos on pages B2 and B3.

The D and G group home won't be closed. Details on page 2.

Leathertown fashion show. This week Thru the Lens, page 3.

Groups backing the town hall will be meeting to see how they can prevent municipal demolition of the building. See page 4.

RR2

The Queen won't be here this month. The government booked her to fly Lakar.



The okay has been received for two 16-year-old Acton High School students to participate in the Acton Rotary Club's year-long exchange program. Alanna Bowen will spend a year in Utrian, Sweden, beginning August 4. Although Holland was her first choice she is just as happy to be going to her second choice. Stephen Sojka is on his way to Esbjerg, Denmark. Stephen is expected to arrive July 22, and will take a two week Danish course. Denmark was Stephen's first choice of three countries students pick to spend a year in.