

\$35,000 damage

Family homeless when fire destroys their mobile home

Damage from a fire that completely gutted an area couple's 40 house trailer on Lot 31, Concession 7, near Ballinacra Friday morning, has been estimated at \$35,000.

Both Nancy and Allan White and their two year old child left the trailer at 8:15 a.m. and were out when the blaze began. The completely furnished trailer was

empty of people except for a dog which died in the fire.

"It's a total loss, except for part of the back bedroom," said Deputy Fire Chief Bob Hyde of the Halton Hills Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Hyde stated the fire department has ruled out arson, but the cause of the two hour fire is still undetermined.

According to the Deputy Chief, the trailer sat on farm property. Dave Swindlehurst who lived in the nearby home, parked his truck about 30 feet away from the trailer 20 minutes before the call was reported. "He didn't smell or see anything at the time," commented Hyde.

But 20 minutes later, William

Humphreys of Georgetown was driving by the trailer and saw it burning.

Humphreys went into the Swindlehurst home to call the fire department.

About 18 firefighters were called to the site, but Deputy Fire Chief Hyde said the fire was "coming through the roof" by the time they got there.

Bid for cheaper gas thwarted at pumps

An Acton businessman's attempts to give his customers a break resulted in him being surrounded by police and accused of attempted theft. It also made him a celebrity overnight.

Monday, Les Pelitis, of Les's BP, Queen St. decided to take advantage of the gas war currently going on in Toronto and rented a tanker truck from Lloyd McIntyre of Thompson Fuels. The pair went to a BP self-serve station in Scarborough and started to fill up the huge tanker where gas cost 33 cents a litre.

The girl operating the pumps thought Pelitis would not pay for the gas and shut off the flow of gas, and called the police. Les said he tried to assure her he would pay in advance, but she stood firm.

A few minutes later, three or four cruisers arrived on the scene. When Les told his story, and showed them his money, the officers laughed and told the girl to turn on the pumps.

He got another 300 litres, totalling 741, before CFTO channel 9 television cameras arrived. They asked Les for his story, and then started to film the girl. Les explained she

became so flustered and nervous, she almost fainted. She started to cry, he said, and turned off the pumps again, this time refusing to restart them.

The police attempt to get her to turn them on were halted by Les. He says he told them the girl had been through enough, and he would return home, short of the 2,000 litres he wanted.

CFTO in the meantime, helped locate another gas station for Les and Lloyd to go to, but by the time they arrived, the price was jacked up to 40.9 cents a litre, so they continued on home to Acton.

Les's story was featured on CFTO's news both at 6:30 and at 11 p.m. and he has received calls from other Acton gas stations and customers commending him for his move. However, BP isn't too happy with him, but he would not elaborate.

In spite of the fuss, Les says he would do it again if there is going to be a 10 cent a litre difference.

Toronto gas wars are having an adverse effect on the local Acton dealers. Les pointed out many commuters who used to fill up on

their way to work in Acton are now filling up in Toronto, Mississauga or Brampton on their way home. For Les alone this has resulted in a drop of 600,000 litres from 1981. He says he's discussed it with other dealers, and they are feeling the same pinch.

Les says many motorists blame the local dealer for the high cost of gas, and feel it is

their fault when gas prices change up to four times in one day. However, they are only taking orders from the oil companies. He would like to see cheaper gas in town, but admits when he pays 41 cent a litre, he has to charge at least 43 cents to keep his head above water.

The cheaper BP station in Scarborough,

Les noted, is owned and operated by BP so they can buy their gas and sell it much cheaper than he can.

As CFTO put it, "It is not uncommon to see a gas tank truck on the lawn of a filling station. It is uncommon to see such a truck filling up." Les notes had he filled up his 8,000 litre tank, he would have been able

to sell the Scarborough gas for about 38 cents a litre. But, because things did not go as smoothly as he expected, he finds his prices remaining at 43.9 cents.

Les is afraid he hasn't heard the last of his great idea. He just knows it is his customers who are suffering.

Region wants 3 ridings

Federal electoral boundaries for Halton should be drawn to include only Halton, according to members of the Halton Region's administration and finance committee.

Regional chairman Jack Raftis will deliver that message in Hamilton next month when the Electoral Boundaries Commission holds hearings in this area on proposed changes to the federal ridings covering this area.

Under the current proposal the three federal ridings in Halton would be increased to four but each would include a portion of land in either Hamilton-Wentworth or Peel regions.

Halton Hills, now divided between Halton and Brampton-Georgetown would be included in a new riding with Caledon.

Milton, currently part of the Halton Riding which includes Acton and Oakville, would become part of a new riding called Halton-Wentworth, to include part of Flamborough Township.

"We should tell the commission that we prefer electoral boundaries that respect the current municipal boundaries and we have the population base to do that," said Councillor Walter Mulkewich (Burlington).

Federal ridings in Halton, according to the current legislation, are supposed to hold between 65,750 and 106,250 voters, Mr. Mulkewich said, and on that basis Halton itself could be divided into three ridings.

Man struck by train

Twenty year old Alex Patterson of Guelph St., Georgetown, sustained a broken arm and leg and cuts and bruises to his face and body after he was struck by a passing train on the CNR tracks, just east of the Sixth Line Sunday at 11:50 a.m.

According to police reports, Patterson was

walking up from the ravine alone towards the tracks when he was struck by the train. He was taken to Georgetown Hospital where he is in stable condition.

Police are unsure how Patterson was struck by the train.

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