

Charge Guelph woman after fatal accident

A 20-year-old Guelph woman has been charged with dangerous driving following an accident which killed one Acton teenager and left another unconscious.

Rose Marie MacDonald, 100 Silvercreek Parkway, has also been charged with driving a motor vehicle with no license, and driving a motor vehicle with an open bottle of liquor.

Judy Pierce, 17, 1 Mill St. E., died April 30 two days later of injuries suffered in the crash. She had been admitted to Guelph General Hospital with chest injuries and later transferred to Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

Madonna Cooke, 18, of 42 Kingham Rd. was taken to Hamilton General Hospital where she remained unconscious for eight days. She has been listed as conscious and in fair condition since Friday, according to a hospital spokesperson.

Guelph City Police say MacDonald was driving a 1968 convertible on Stone Rd. April 28 when the vehicle left the road "and wrapped itself around a hydro pole."

MacDonald suffered lacerations, a broken nose and multiple abrasions and was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital. She appears in Guelph Provincial Court May 31.

Inside

Mike McCristall's appeal may be heard this fall. See page C5.

Read about a chemical spill north of Rockwood on page C5.

The Chamber will announce the Citizen of the Year soon. Turn to page 6.

Will there be a Decoration Day this year? Turn to page C6.



This car crashed into the front of the Sit 'N Bull early Sunday morning forcing the owners to make still more renovations. Photo by CHRIS SWETMAN

Car crashes into front of Sit 'n' Bull early Sunday

The owners of the Sit 'N Bull on Mill St. have been forced to do more renovations after a car drove through the front of the restaurant and bar early Sunday morning.

According to Halton Regional Police, Donna Farrell, 18, of Milton, was turning from Main St. onto Mill St. when the car she was driving lost control, crossed over the curb and smashed into the front of the bar.

Damage to the car is estimated at \$2,000. The driver sustained minimal injuries.

No one else was involved in the accident. Constable Paul of 11 Division said that the roads were wet at the time of the accident which occurred at 7.51 a.m.

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The Cambouris family celebrated the Greek Orthodox Easter on Sunday with traditional home made breads and decorated eggs. An egg-breaking custom where decorated hard-boiled eggs are knocked against each other brings luck for the year to the one whose egg

remains intact. In the costume of their native land, are Peter, Chris, Anastasia, and parents Poppy and John.

Photo by Robin Inscow

TV show recalls tragic chase

Police are caught in a catch-22 situation in high speed pursuits, the mother of an Acton youth killed in the tragic seven death police chase accident here over seven years ago, told a national television audience last Wednesday night.

The CBC public affairs program The Fifth Estate aired a segment on hot pursuits, a deadly dilemma for police, and the officer involved in that high speed chase down Highway 25 in March, 1976, Constable Tom Roduck, Halton Regional Police, was interviewed. Also reporter Hana Gartner talked to Glen and Bobby McTavish, parents of 18-year-old Scott, in their home. The couple moved away from Acton several years ago.

Ms. Gartner began her report referring to police chases as "deadly serious" and noted there are more than 5,000 hot pursuits annually in Canada. Usually the original offense is "trivial", but the police officer never knows if the person fleeing is an escaped murderer or a kid out for a joyride. She noted 25 per cent of chases wind up in accidents and "often" innocent bystanders are involved.

The segment on the Acton tragedy began with the reporter interviewing Roduck at the edge of the parking lot behind the small plaza at the corner of Main and Church streets. Ms. Gartner described the Acton chase as one of Canada's worst.

She recalled 18-year-old James Couture stole a car which had been left running in the parking lot and Roduck spotted the vehicle going through a stop sign.

"The car appeared to be going faster than normal and I was just following and attempting to get close enough to stop it. At one point I was probably doing in excess of 100 miles an hour, but I don't know for sure. It was fast, very fast, and over rather quickly," Roduck said, while pointing to the Main and Church intersection.

The camera crew went with Roduck and Ms. Gartner in a racing cruiser down Highway 25, retracing the route he followed that night, with siren wailing.

Ms. Gartner noted the stolen car Roduck was following travelled about a mile down the highway before it swerved and crashed head-on into another car proceeding in the opposite direction. The stolen car burst into flames and Roduck arrived seconds later and ran to the car.

The camera showed the reporter and police officer talking beside some deep ruts in the grass just north of Desmond's Gulf station on Highway 25 before focusing in on some photos of the accident victims from Acton and a Toronto Sun headline which blared "Stolen car kills seven in flaming crash."

The television audience learned from the reporter that the second car was carrying six youths who had been travelling at a normal speed coming back to Acton and they were all killed instantly, as well as the driver of the stolen car. All but one of the victims were in their teens and all from the Acton area. The tragedy took place just after 11 p.m. and the people in the second car were coming back to town to get gas for a friend whose car had run out of fuel.

(The other victims were John McHugh, Acton; John Oudelys, Mafat; Lynn Marshall, R.R. 4, Acton; Scott McTavish R.R. 1, Acton; Kevin Broostad, Acton; Tim Bruslanowski, Guelph, formerly Eden Mills.)

They were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Ms. Gartner declared. The

audience was also shown a clip of the wrecked car.

The camera switched to the living room of Mr. and Mrs. McTavish and did a close-up of a portrait of Scott on the wall. The CBC reporter noted the couple has since moved away from Acton "because of the trauma and bad memories."

Mr. McTavish recalled he "went into town to identify the body, which I did. I asked the police officer what had happened and he was rather reluctant to give me a lot of information. He said there had been a car accident involving a police chase."

"At that point he handed me \$17 and some odd change and my son's wallet. That was a very great blow right there, in that we had a son go out at night and I brought his wallet back home. That was all that was left."

Ms. Gartner asked the couple how it had affected them personally and Mrs. McTavish reported her "husband has suffered a very massive heart attack and required bypass surgery. I had a heart attack shortly after that. I don't think this is the sole cause, but certainly a contributing

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Halton Regional Police Constable Tom Roduck is interviewed for the CBC public affairs program the Fifth Estate a few weeks ago. Roduck talked about the tragic police chase he was involved in here over seven years ago.

NEC seeks legal advice

Does camp need permits for picnics?

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) is seeking legal advice to determine if the International Peace Camp will require permits to hold regular weekend picnics this summer.

Planners Keith Anderson and Pat Boeckner and landscape technician Dave Wells discussed in an interview the International Peace Camp's plan to develop 260 acres of land it has leased for 25 years as a multi-ethnic cultural and recreation centre between Highway 25 and the Town Line south of Speyside.

Anderson revealed Father Alberto Cunha, chairman of International Peace Camp, asked if the group could have "a" picnic in June when he contacted the NEC last Wednesday, but didn't mention weekly picnics throughout the summer for crowds of 1,500 to 2,000 people. Father Cunha revealed to this newspaper plans to start having picnics every weekend that weather permits beginning in mid-June, in an interview on April 29.

Anderson also revealed Father Cunha asked if they could bring out-houses onto the property and permission was denied. There

was no mention of bands or dancers entertaining, and no discussion of use of loud speakers.

Picnics on a continuing basis for such large crowds would be "establishing a new use," Anderson noted when they indicated one picnic in June the planners didn't envision a crowd of up to 2,000 people.

The old recreation use of the property under the name Twin Lakes really isn't relevant today since that use ended about 20 years ago, the real use in the planners' view is vacant.

The matter of picnics was raised at Thursday's Commission meeting by Halton representative Dave Whiting. It was discussed briefly with the lawyer and must still be examined further.

There is nothing to prevent a landowner holding picnics on his property, but the planners feel there is a point where frequency and numbers means the use has changed, especially since International Peace Camp plans to charge admission.

More on International Peace Camp on page C5.

Stoop, scoop coming?

Would having a stoop and scoop bylaw help reduce the amount of dog droppings on public and private property around town?

From talking to Town staff, Acton councillors aren't convinced the bylaw used in many municipalities will really help, but at Friday's drop-in they indicated they will take the matter to council anyway.

Both Councillors Rick Bonnette and Dave Whiting said they have been receiving calls from residents about dog owners walking their animals in parks, on streets and boulevards and on people's lawns and allowing them to answer nature's call wherever and whenever. Bonnette and Whiting said many people have asked for a stoop and scoop bylaw, while Councillor Ross Knechtel said he has heard complaints, but the bylaw hasn't been suggested to him yet.

For a stoop and scoop bylaw to work citizens who see offending owners and dogs must not only report the bylaw violation but also identify the offender and testify in court. Bylaw enforcement officer Jack Lusty has investigated the effectiveness of the bylaw in three other municipalities, they said, and the news wasn't encouraging. The bylaw is unenforceable without citizens willing to testify in court and few, if any, will carry that matter that far, especially since

court action can take place months after the offense. The other three municipalities with stoop and scoop bylaws have found no signs of decrease in the amount of dog droppings on public and private property. There's no question people report offenders, but they don't go to court later.

While there are many inconsiderate dog owners in town, there are some who walk their animals and do stoop and scoop.

This isn't the first time Acton councillors have discussed a stoop and scoop bylaw. It was raised in the last council term at drop-in following complaints from some Greenore Cres. residents.

Town staff also looked at the cost of cleaning up dog droppings in parks, but found since crews are already out in the parks doing other work the clean-up cost is negligible.

Councillors also discussed if the bylaw would apply to other animals besides dogs. Whiting noted he has had complaints about horse droppings in Prospect Park. Because British Common Law says cats are allowed to run free, they can in this country too, Bonnette said. He noted Lusty told him cats wouldn't be covered by a stoop and scoop bylaw.

Firefighters seek funds

Fireworks on July 3

Staging the annual fireworks show in Acton isn't just a big time consuming job for the Acton volunteers firefighters, it is also an expensive project.

Last year's fine show at Prospect Park cost \$1,249.44, and just to repeat the same show this July 3 (Canada Day weekend) will cost \$1,301.54.

Chairman of this year's fireworks show is Lyle Prueter and he says the firefighters will again need lots of financial help from Acton small business people and service clubs.

If the cost of the fireworks seems a little staggering, the firefighters do get a lot for the money. The show lasts about 20 to 30 minutes and features over 80 "bombs."

Again the firefighters plan to order the Taurus aerial display, Serpentine Bombardo and Niagara Falls. The finale falls is worth \$115 alone.

The show features 50 mm bombahells, 76

mm shells, 102 mm shells, 127 mm shells, the Dance of Light Bombardo, Mad Hatter Bombardo, Witches Cauldron Bombardo, Satellite Bombardo and Great Thunder Barrage.

Hand Fireworks in Milton even sets out the complete firing sequence for all those thuds, thumps, bursts of color etc.

Former fire chief Mick Holmes still plays an important role in staging this big show, he's the only person in town licenced to buy fireworks.

Last year the firefighters contributed \$300 and the rest was donated by 33 Acton service clubs and small businesses. The costs go beyond just the fireworks, there's also insurance. In total, the firefighters need to raise \$1,400 to finance this year's show.

This week letters went out to 50 service clubs and firms in Acton asking for financial support of this project. Firefighters are

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