



The heavy firepower was positioned on the roof of the monitoring station Saturday. This militia exercise was conducted to test readiness to defend small government installations. See This Week thru the Lens on page 5 for more details.

Friendly army 'invades' local federal installation

A small federal installation north of Acton was "invaded" Saturday morning.

Ottawa's Acton Monitoring Station, a facility of the federal Ministry of Communications, was the setting of an exercise involving about 25 members of the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

The exercise was designed to test the preparedness of the militia to defend a small government facility.

Captain John Rich explained the unit which came here was patrol size. It amounted to two sections of a platoon, commander John Nosotti, a Colonel, added.

The Col. pointed out that not only did the unit come with fighters, but

also support personnel who are very necessary to maintain the combat troops in the field.

One of the four vehicles which made the trip out here for the late morning, early afternoon maneuvers, was equipped with radios, so it served as the command post which was quickly established.

Next a weapons deck employing a menacing General Purpose Machine Gun was established on the roof of the monitoring station amongst the antennae, satellite dishes and wires.

With the heavy firepower in place, the troops next set out a perimeter guard for the small government installation.

With the property secured, patrols were sent out to search for the enemy.

These routines continued until the enemy, a small number of Toronto Scottish troops, began its infiltrations or attacks.

The Toronto Scottish Regiment carried battle honors in World War I as part of the 75th Battalion. After the war the federal government was going to disband the regiment, but was instead persuaded to form the peace-time militia unit, the Toronto Scottish.

The unit came to train here since Col. Nosotti is with the Ministry of Communications

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Little hope for an Acton ambulance

There would appear to be little or no chance of Acton getting its own ambulance service.

That's the conclusion of Councillor Dave Whiting after he and Mayor Russ Miller met Monday with provincial officials to discuss the issue.

He explained they were told by Fred Rusk and Diane Cullen, who are ambulance officials of the Ministry of Health, that Acton can apply for an ambulance service, but because of the low volume of calls they'd have to recommend to their superiors that the request be rejected.

Last year out of 1,407 calls handled by Georgetown ambulance service, only 167 were to Acton. Guelph ambulances were called to town another 19 times.

Acton wouldn't warrant its own ambulance unless the community had nearly 100 more calls a year and the town was 20 or 25 miles away from the nearest ambulance, Whiting explained. And even if that was the situation here, then Acton would only be allowed the minimum level of ambulance service.

Another factor against having our own ambulance, he said, was the average response time of just 12 minutes, which is quite acceptable.

One reason a good number of residents have followed Kerwin McPhail's lead and urged Acton have its own ambulance, has been the desire to see local people taken to Guelph hospitals instead of Georgetown Hospital.

Policies were explained thoroughly to the Halton Hills officials, Whiting explained. Firstly, if a person is unconscious then they must be taken to the nearest hospital, Georgetown, because that is the law.

However, if you're conscious, then you can request to go to Guelph and that will be done in every case.

A victim can also be directed to Guelph hospital by their own doctor or a specialist working with your regular doctor. The physician referring someone to a hospital need not be on the scene either, he can call his request in. But, if the doctor isn't your regular doctor his request won't be honored, Whiting cautioned.

Another concern people have expressed is the fear that if their case can't be handled at Georgetown Hospital they'll be transferred to Brampton or Toronto, further away from him.

However, Whiting noted, records show that only seven Acton and area residents taken to Georgetown Hospital were transferred to another hospital within 12 hours. In several of these seven cases it was a doctor who decided where the person should go next, nobody was transferred to Guelph. Only 4.2 per cent of all the cases resulted in people being transferred from Georgetown.

Actually there were 164 ambulance calls to Acton last year, but that includes cancellations, etc. Of those 164 calls 113 were classed life threatening, another 42 urgent but not life threatening, and nine not serious.

The Acton ambulance area is quite large, Whiting observed, 56 square miles.

The majority of people were taken to Georgetown, 71 altogether, however 64 more Actonians were transported to Guelph General or St. Joseph's hospitals in Guelph. Also one person was taken to Homewood in Guelph.

Three cases went directly to Toronto hospitals, three to Hamilton and one to Brampton.

Whiting said he could see and appreciate the provincial view in this matter. He added it would be a "waste of time" for Acton to apply for its own ambulance.

He said that with such complete records, anyone with concerns who can recall dates and approximate times can come to him and he'll check out the reasons specific action

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853-2219 new Free Press phone number

The Acton Free Press has a new phone number, 853-2219. Please call this number for circulation, news, and advertising.

The old Free Press number, 853-2010, still rings at Metroland Printing and Publishing's Acton production facility.

News and advertising can continue to be dropped off at the front counter of the production plant on Willow St. North and bills may also be paid there.



Billy Middleton salutes Acton and about 100 of his fellow citizens saluted him back at a 50th birthday party Saturday at Branch 197. Turn inside for more on this local favorite's party.



Chris Lobsinger (Danny and Lisa Keith (Cha Cha) dance up a storm during the rehearsal of "Grease" on Sunday. The two hour production will be open May 10, 11 and 12 at the high school. Curtain time is 8 p.m. and tickets are available at the high school. Story and more photos on page 3.

Only small financial award for Colleen Oates' family

The Oates family would be better off financially if Colleen hadn't died in a 1981 knife attack, but instead been left badly maimed for life, her widower Kevin says.

Oates is very disappointed in what he considers an unfair Criminal Injuries Compensation Board award of \$3,182.32 he received Friday.

Little daughter Amy, now 6, will receive \$2,000 which will be held in trust until she is 18. She witnessed her mother's violent death.

Kevin Oates came home from work early one October morning in 1981 to find his wife had been savagely stabbed to death. Eric Howard Kellar pleaded guilty to second degree murder in connection with Mrs. Oates' death and was sentenced to life in prison.

Neighbors had been visiting the Oates, including the brother of one of their neighbors, the evening before she was killed. Her husband left for work in Brampton, and when other guests departed, Kellar lingered behind. The people at the home had been drinking, Kellar heavily, before the incident. Kevin returned home to find his wife dead and had rushed back to Acton after phoning home and receiving no answer. Kellar was caught in Pickering a few days after the crime.

Oates says he went to the board seeking child care expenses.

He recalled going to Manpower and fin-

ding out it would cost him \$792.50 a month to hire a qualified live-in babysitter.

Currently he is paying his mother Lorraine \$100 a week to care for his two children. He and his children moved in with his parents after his wife's death. His mother had to give up her job, which paid more than \$100 a week, to take over the child care duties. She had been seeking compensation for lost wages, but received nothing when the board, while commending her, ruled it was her duty to care for the children because she is their grandmother.

Oates was told he would have been now supporting his wife, who wasn't working at the time of her death, so he wasn't entitled to child care expenses.

He and his lawyer had been hoping to get \$5,200 a year from the board for the next eight years until son Shane, 3, can take care of himself. Shane suffers from asthma and epilepsy.

Oates acknowledged his wife wasn't working, but then they weren't spending money on babysitters either.

He said he'd like to get a permanent home for he and his children, he doesn't want to have to live with his parents forever, but financial prospects make this goal dim. A home of their own was what he and Colleen were working towards when she was killed. There's no way, Oates said, he can afford both rent and child care costs for them to have their own place.

He explained the board said they were giving him the maximum, \$1,800 (part of the \$3,182.32 award) to cover funeral expenses. However, the cost of the funeral was about \$3,000. Oates said he wonders when the board last raised its maximum awards to reflect actual costs.

He appreciates the award for Amy, but doesn't feel his daughter or the rest of the family were properly compensated for pain and suffering.

Amy got her mother's blood on her pyjamas and when she couldn't awaken her dead mother she crawled into bed with her brother, where their father found them when he came home.

A psychiatrist saw Amy and the rest of the family twice briefly and determined that everyone has recovered well from the tragic incident. However, Oates wonders, how his daughter will be in the future. Amy is moody and sometimes misses her mother, Oates said.

He said they were all left with the feeling that while they believe their lives were ruined, the board felt since it was his wife who was killed nothing had happened to them. "The consequences to us were nothing, in the board's view."

Oates, pointed to Mississauga woman Barbara Turnbull who was badly hurt when she was shot in a robbery. She has received the maximum award possible, Oates said, because she lived. He says his wife and family would be better off for compensation by the board if Colleen hadn't died, but instead had been maimed for life, then they would receive funds to cover child care.

Oates wondered what the situation would have been for his wife if it had been he who was murdered and she was left with no money, no job and no skills and two children to care for?

inside today's Free Press

Talented local musician Andreas Thiel won \$550 in a recent competition. See photo on page 10.

Top spot in the Hamilton Kiwanis Music Festival went to the McKenzie-Smith choir. Turn to photo on page 12.

There's a profile on the career of regional chairman Peter Pomeroy on page B1.

Sports is on pages 12, 14 and 15.

Anne Dodds is heading up Friends in Deed. See page 9.

Another no to Yugoslavs

Town council had an official of the Canadian-Yugoslav Recreation Centre virtually promise Monday night there would be no amplifiers used at the centre's July 1 picnic, but opted to stick by its decision to veto a liquor permit for the occasion.

Already turned down the week previous in his application for a special occasion liquor licence for summer picnics at the centre south of Acton, CYCA "Brotherhood Unity" president Nick Cjajic asked for a chance to take one last kick at the cat Monday.

This time Cjajic appealed for a single permit for the centre's July 1 picnic, promising to have not one but three off-duty policemen on hand to monitor the noise problem and later report to council and concerned neighbors.

Pressed by Councillor Pam Sheldon, Cjajic also said he was willing to try and find professional musicians who could entertain the 1,500 to 2,000 people expected at the picnic without amplifiers.

Speaking on behalf of neighbors who say they've found the picnic noise intolerable on

(Continued on page 2)

Driver killed

A 19-year old Burlington man was killed instantly late Saturday night after being thrown from his rolling car on the Guelph Line south of 25 Sideroad.

Sidney Van Der Woude was driving south on the Guelph Line at about 100 kilometres an hour, according to a witness, when the car started weaving, crossed into the on-coming lane and entered the ditch on the far side.

Police say the car continued travelling at a high speed in the ditch before hitting a utility pole and rolling end over end. It came to rest on its right side after the driver was thrown out.

Police do not know whether the driver was wearing his pelvic-torso seatbelt at the time of the accident.