

# Ex-resident Matthews wins research award

Physician Ralph Matthews, who was raised and educated in Acton, has been presented with the 1984 Medical Literary Award by the Canadian College of Family Practice.

Matthews attended M.Z. Bennett Public School in the late 1950s and Acton High School in the early 1960s. He spent a few years in the work force before returning to school and earning his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Guelph in 1974.

Then it was off to the East Coast, where he continued his education and established a practice on Campobello Island, New Brunswick. He currently handles general practice and Anaesthesia in St. Stephen, N.B., and Calais, Maine.

The St. Croix Courier, which serves Calais-St. Stephen, recently reported that Matthews won the prestigious Medical Literary Award for his research paper entitled Continuous Infusion Epidural Analgesia.

Epidural analgesia is commonly used to

relieve labor and other pains and allows the patient to remain conscious during a medical procedure. Matthews' research has uncovered a method that would enable physicians to renew the epidural, once inserted and activated, every five to eight hours, instead of every hour as currently required.

Thus, small hospitals that do not have physicians or resident interns on duty for long periods of time could still offer the procedure. Matthews said the discovery he shares with St. John doctor Ian Keith has been successfully tested on 200 patients without complications.

Matthews received his award at the 19th Conjoint Assembly of the Maritime Chapters of the CCFP in Charlottetown.

After obtaining his B.Sc. in Guelph in 1974, he earned his M.D. from Dalhousie University in Halifax in 1979 and interned at Sunnybrook Medical Centre in Toronto.

He and his wife, Joan, have four children and live in Calais.



Dennis Timbrell, Ontario Minister of Food and Agriculture and candidate for the provincial Progressive Conservative party, officially opened the Community Computer Learning Centre at Brookville School Thursday. Ken Baynton, 13, a Grade 8 student at the school, ex-

plained a program he was organizing on one of the 15 new computers. The Centre is the first of its kind in North Halton and will be available to members of the community.

Can you help?

## Meals on Wheels needs more drivers

One of the many services offered by the Acton Social Services and Information Centre is Meals on Wheels for Acton residents.

This brings hot nutritious meals to the doors of the elderly, or persons incapable of preparing their own meals, either temporarily or permanently.

Meals are prepared at the Halton Centennial Manor, so specialized meals are also available. Meals are picked up in Milton by volunteers who bring them to Acton, where they pick up another volunteer who delivers the meals from the car to the home.

There is a small charge for each meal to help cover the cost of the food and the special containers used.

Without the faithful and dedicated drivers and runners who help, many would be without this much-needed service and visit.

There is currently a shortage of drivers and runners, so that those who are assisting are doing more than should be necessary. It is essential to have more drivers and runners to keep this service running as it should.

If you're able to assist with or know of someone who may benefit from this program, please call Acton Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3310.

### Need help with children?

At the present time there is a baby boom in our area.

Children can be a source of great joy and pride. Sometimes, unfortunately, problems also come along with that bundle of joy. Many people try to deal with these problems alone, but this is very hard on the whole family.

Today, there are many groups and organizations to assist and support, whether it be a physical or mental problem for parent or child.

As the child grows, different situations may arise. Since the child's birth, daycare may have been a difficulty; now there may be need of a nursery school. If the child was living at home and was mentally, physically or emotionally handicapped, now the situation may need the child to have more help from outside the family or possibly at this time it would be better for all concerned for he or she to be homes elsewhere.

These decisions, large or small, can be made easier if you have a friendly, understanding person who can suggest a direction to take or an agency or group to contact. At Acton Social Services and Information Centre, we do not have all the answers, but are willing to assist where we can. This is a free and confidential service. The friendly place to go when a problem arises—853-3310.

## Indusmin catwalk was corroded

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collapsed was dangerous, despite a section next to the tower breaking through two days before.

Weitse Topp, a maintenance mechanic at the quarry, near Acton, told the inquest he had started out on the catwalk at night and felt it start to go down. Going back to the tower he dropped his flashlight, then put a 4 x 4 across the door so no one could walk out. The next day he found someone had put the piece of wood down on the catwalk to walk on. He said then he and two other employees found a large piece of plywood and put it down on the catwalk.

Asked by Bellegem how often safety inspections are made, Topp said about once a month. To another question Topp said probably his foreman has the authority to replace catwalks.

Barry Earl, solicitor for Indusmin, asked if the 4 x 4 was nailed or simply leaned across the door. Topp explained there is no wood to nail it to, so he placed it across the door. He said he told patrolman Jim Colov. Colov said no other parts of catwalk have fallen down in the years he had been there. He also said he walked the 250 feet length of it three times a day.

Fred Newell, the third man on the 30 foot high catwalk when the accident happened, said there was no warning or noise before

the section of catwalk failed. He explained he grabbed Colbert's wrist and tried to pull him up, but couldn't. By the time he got down from the tower to find help the two men were lying on the ground. He too, said he never thought the catwalk was dangerous.

Barry Dempsey, a member of the safety committee, said he had been on the inspection team in September. He said there were standing orders to clean the stone from the catwalk, but he claimed no reports nor complaints about the catwalks had been received, except about the first section when Topp told him about it.

Leonard Draper, a member of the safety committee said no one was concerned about the weight of stone on the catwalk, only about the stone making footing unsafe.

He explained the catwalk had handrails at the 18 inch and 36 inch level, so he felt safety belts were not required, "but they are there," he added. Taylor said no one had ever mentioned rust or corrosion.

A. H. Morrison explained a daily log for shift foremen and maintenance foremen was used to record any unusual occurrences, and copies went to superintendents and to him. He said they are discussed at weekly production-management meetings. He said copies of safety inspections and Ministry of Labor inspections are also

discussed at the meeting, but there had never been complaints about catwalks.

The solicitor for Indusmin pointed out a lot of people knew about the first section of catwalk being broken, which he noted should have been fixed, "but incredibly nobody ever connected that problem with the catwalk further down." He pointed out inspections by both the safety committee and the Ministry of Labor had been going on, but it never occurred to anyone there could be a corrosion problem.

Early suggested the jury consider Raleigh's recommendations that the underside of catwalks be inspected once a year, and if the steel is below a certain thickness that area should be replaced. He urged them to recall the engineer's advice on blowing out the dust and painting.

He said the reporting system was in place in the Plant but was not being used properly.

Assistant Crown Attorney Bellegem stated there seemed to be a number of people who could share the responsibility and said the jury should not be looking back and pointing the finger of blame at anyone.

Coroner Macintosh instructed the jury to remember the various recommendations made when considering their verdict.

A total of 22 witnesses testified at the inquest which concluded at 1.15 a.m.

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