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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1985

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## Blizzard topples Aluminart

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Herald Staff

With a sudden bang, 8,000 square feet of roofing collapsed at

Aluminart Products, injuring seven employees and causing over a million dollars in damage.

Wednesday morning,

as 12 of the 15 day shift employees began work at 7:03 a.m., the entire roof of the wooden and concrete-block machine shop gave way in seconds.

While employees ran for exits, a couple were blown out of the 16 year old building by the vacuum created by the collapse.

Richard Looyenga, 24, an Acton resident, was the only employee unable to fully escape the disaster which left him pinned beneath a section of the fallen roof.

Unconscious, it was over an hour before the 18 Halton Hills firefighters called to the scene were able to locate him in the debris.

Volunteer firefighter Bruno Martini found the injured man after spotting his leg while clearing some snow with a shovel.

Power saws were used to free Mr. Looyenga who was rushed to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital with injuries to his pelvis and ankles. The other injured employees were treated and released from the



Richard Looyenga, 24, is carried out of the accident scene by Halton Hills firefighters and ambulance attendants. The Acton resident was rushed to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital with injuries to his pelvis and ankles. (Herald photo)

### Man caught in debris under collapsed roof

Richard Looyenga is listed in satisfactory condition at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital after being pinned for over an hour in the Aluminart disaster.

With two broken ankles and three separate breaks to his pelvis the 24 year old Acton resident had only been in the plant ten minutes when the roof gave away.

"It's hard to say (what happened), I saw it (the roof) coming down and the next thing I knew I woke up in hospital," said the packing inspector who has been with the company for 14 weeks.

He said he was working towards the front of the (approximately) 500 by 150 foot building when the roof began to collapse at the rear. With no forewarning Mr. Looyenga said it was all over in four or five seconds.

When the accident occurred he said there were a couple of guys crouched by him and everyone ran in different directions.

"I thought I could make it to the door, got about ten or fifteen feet, and that was that."

"I don't remember any of it," he commented on his rescue and the firefighter reports that he was conscious immediately following.

He said it wasn't till 9:30 or 10 a.m. he awoke and realized he was in hospital.

hospital. Located on Sideroad 17 at the 10th Line in Georgetown, investigators from the Ministry of Labor and Halton regional police are looking into the cause of the accident.

It was originally thought the amount of snow build-up on the roof had caused the collapse, and while that assumption has not been ruled out, general manager Jack Dorsay said investigators are "still looking".

Insurance and consulting engineers are also looking into the situation. While Halton regional police estimated the damage of \$4.5 million, Mr. Dorsay said the total

loss is about a million dollars because of salvageable equipment. Mr. Dorsay described what workers related to him in the incident as a loud bang beginning with the collapse which started a tidal wave effect on

the roof. The aluminum extrusion plant, which produces aluminum parts for a variety of products including doors, windows and truck bodies, has set up a night guard patrol

around the scene. "Scavengers have been appearing around the property since the accident. People don't come down with trailers behind their cars out of curiosity," Mr. Dorsay said.

### A TOP ATHLETE



Thirteen-year-old Bob Donker accepts the trophy as this year's Herald Athlete-of-the-Year. Donker set three provincial records in the Ontario Minor Track and Field circuit. His indoor time in the 1500 and 800-meter events as well as the time for the outdoor 1500-meter event were all provincial marks. As well, he was the outdoor 800-meter provincial champ. Donker also was undefeated this year in the elementary school cross-country scene, winning all nine of his races, including the North Halton and Halton championships. Award co-sponsor Chris Milne of North Halton Sports and Herald Sports Editor Dan Ralph present Donker with his trophy.

(Herald photo)

## Police charges withdrawn

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Herald Staff

Another chapter in the often heated dispute between youth in Acton and the Halton regional police drew to a close in Milton Provincial Court last Wednesday.

In a prosecution, led by Toronto lawyer Al Bickerton, charges of assault were withdrawn against four Halton regional police officers.

Constables Steven Amis, Brian Farrell, Ray Hendry and Sergeant Michael Eacrett, who also had a charge of driving a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public, received certificates of acquittal with the assurance that charges not be relayed.

The charges were the result of what some youths in Acton believed to be excessive force used by police when laying charges.

After several Acton youths believed they were being harassed by police with loitering charges, the law firm of Bickerton and King began to represent them.

In the following meetings preceding the September, 1984 charges against police, lawyer Wayne King said, "there is a very small portion of the force going well beyond the scope of their duty."

After court proceedings Wednesday Al Bickerton said the charges were withdrawn after he received verbal instructions from his Acton clients not to proceed.

Stating the decision had come a week prior to the court date, Mr. Bickerton said the witnesses who were willing to testify at the time the charges were laid were now not available.

Ken Anderson was the only one of four complainants, able to verify with The Herald he had asked Toronto lawyer Al Bickerton to withdraw charges against Constable Steven Amis. Mr. Anderson was not present in court during proceedings against Const. Amis, Thursday morning.

"It wouldn't have really mattered anyway...we didn't have a chance. When you have 12 officers testifying

against your three or four (witnesses) it doesn't give you much credibility," he said. John Nessett, who had charged Const. Ray Hendry, would not confirm that he asked Mr. Bickerton to withdraw the charges, and refused further comment.

Paul Iredale said he didn't ask that the charges against Const. Brian Farrell be withdrawn and was unaware they had been until he

talked with friends in Acton, Thursday afternoon. "I was fully prepared for court and if I'd known what time to be there I'd have gone," he said citing a communication breakdown with Mr. Bickerton.

Jim Allonby was under the assumption that the charges were "on hold at the moment" when contacted by The Herald. Mr. Allonby said he

received a letter from the crown about a month ago stating the charges were being withdrawn. Although he wasn't present in court for proceedings against Sergeant Michael Eacrett he said he was still consulting with Mr. Bickerton. He refused to say when his last contact with Mr. Bickerton was and said he would be contacting him "shortly".

**WINS \$10,000**

A Georgetown resident won \$10,000 in Match 3 Doubles Feb. 8. Gerald English of Langstone Crescent claimed one of the 83 \$10,000 instant prizes offered in the game, operated by the Ontario Lottery Corporation.

Match 3 Doubles offers more than four million instant prizes ranging from free tickets to \$10,000. Players scratch the play area on their tickets.

**Top citizen dinner**

Tickets are still selling for the "Citizen of the Year" dinner and dance being held by the Georgetown Lions Club Feb. 23.

Award recipient Steamer Ensmerson will be toasted by Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid and Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy.

Tickets for the prime rib dinner are \$15 each and are available from Lions Club members or from Al Wall at 877-1666 (daytime) or 877-9674 (evening).

**9 month jail term**

Acton resident Paul Logan received nine months in jail after pleading guilty to charges of obstructing police, causing a disturbance, failing to comply with a recognizance, breach of probation and trafficking cannabis resin.

The trafficking cannabis resin charge, which brought a three month jail term, was the result of "project cap", a joint forces investigation into drug dealings in north Halton.

Mr. Logan, 25, was charged with trafficking cannabis resin after he sold a five gram vial of hash oil to an undercover officer on Main Street in Acton, Nov. 30, 1984.

**McDermid suggests CBC ad salesman hustle more dollars**

By ROD DEACON  
Ottawa Bureau

When it comes to dumping on the CBC for its program cutbacks, there are no party lines in the House of Commons.

Members of all three parties have gone on record opposing the cancellation of radio and television programs, station closures and staff layoffs by the crown corporation.

The CBC was ordered by the government to cut 5 million dollars from its budget and over 1,000 jobs from across the country.

Victims of the axe have been TV's The Friendly Giant, and radio's Our Native Land. So, day by day, MP's have spoken out against

the manner in which the CBC has gone about its budget trimming exercise.

Most recently, on the pretext of debating proposed changes to the CBC Act, MPs have been telling their private constituents about the CBC.

But it was left to Tory MP John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown) to suggest that if the CBC finds itself in a tight financial squeeze, then perhaps its army of ad salesman could put their shoulder to the wheel and hustle up a few more commercial dollars.

That's not exactly how Mr. McDermid phrased it, though.

To quote the official

record of Commons debate, Feb. 13, Mr. McDermid said: "I am told that CBC salesmen ask on their behalf they wait for better instead of aggressively seeking commercial life, the excellent and widely watched program."

Mr. McDermid once worked for a CBC affiliate as well as in the private broadcasting sector.

Over the Christmas holidays, the Tory MP watched the CBC broadcast of The Tin Flute. After over three nights, Mr. McDermid says, "The only time I saw any commercials was on the Friday night."

"On Wednesday and Thursday nights, there was promo after promo," he told the Commons.

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**Corrections**

As a result of a misprint in a press release submitted to The Herald from the Halton Regional Police it was wrongly published last week that Kimberly Thompson was charged with trafficking LSD.

The charge should have read possession of LSD.

In the Feb. 13 edition there were also two other errors. A picture on Page 2 said a cheque for \$13,999 had been presented to the North Halton District Centre from Centennial Public School. The amount should have read \$300.

A Page 4 article by columnist Pat Woode said that 2 per cent of sex abuse cases are never reported. An editing error occurred; the figure should have been 20 per cent.

The Herald regrets the errors.

**Drug awareness toll**

Last Saturday was a busy day for members of the Lionsess Club. They spent the day filling grab bags in preparation for the Drug Awareness Week

**Summer job help**

Although the Canada Employment Centre for Students hasn't opened yet, students are invited to pop over to the Employment Centre at Guelph Street and Mountainview Road in Georgetown for tips on how to prepare their job search.

Students are welcome to peruse the job boards and fill out an application with the Centre.

The Employment Centre for Students is expected to open in April. Meanwhile, the supervisor for it, Jo-Anne Lockhart is working at the Brampton office.