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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1990

# 'Anarchy' ruled Acton streets

#### By ELIZABETH GALVIN the Herald

Two Acton Councillors and many other area residents are wondering how things got so out of control on Tuesday night when 150 to 200 young people caused what was described as "a riot" at Mill Street and Main.

The young people who began to assemble at 8:50 pm., hurled pumpkins and eggs at passing pedestrians and vehicles. The group did not clear out until about midnight.

"They literally took over the town," said Councillor Rick Bonnette, who was returning from a meeting in Georgetown when he passed through the area at about 10:30 p.m.

One Acton man has been charged with property damage under \$1,000 and another man is charged with assault, after yelling obscenities at a police officer and throwing coffee on him. Five liquor infraction notices were also issued at the scene, which resulted in 15 police officers from Milton, Oakville and Halton Hills being called to the scene.

When Councillor Bonnett, travelling with Councillor Norm Elliot, arrived at the intersection, two police cruisers, he said, were on the scene. "In all fairness, their cruisers were pelted with eggs. Once they left, it was anarchy."

"Police literally abandoned downtown to the troublemakers." said Councillor Elliot, speculating that the officers had to call for backup and regroup.

The road was covered with pumpkin and egg mush, making driving conditions hazardous, noted Counc. Elliot.

"Cars couldn't stop properly at the intersection," he said. "The town workmen did a super job of cleaning it up," he added.

Councillor Bonnette is concerned about the cost of the clean-up to the taxpayers. Town employees had to come out early in the morning and work until 4:30 a.m., to remove all the debris. By 7:30 a.m. it was "spotless" said Mr. Bonnette.

Both politicians got out of the car and tried to reason with the crowd, when they saw what was going on. Their language was pretty ripe, said Counc. Elliot, who was showered with eggs, insults and pumpkins.

"I got drilled in the back of the head with a pumpkin," exclaimed Counc. Bonnette.

"Personally, I'm kind of disgusted," remarked Counc. Elliot, concerned about what residents from neighboring towns who witnessed the scene would think about Acton. "If a pumpkin bounced off your car, what would you think?" he asked.

"It started out as a bit of a lark," speculated the Councillor, "and turned fairly ugly."

Coun. Bonnette promised that police will be made to explain why the situation got so out of control. Area residents are "fed up" concluded Mr. Elliot, referring to a similar, but not as serious an incident that happened last year.



## Armed standoff in Acton

An officer from the Halton Tactical Rescue Unit volving Hamilton, Guelph and Halton Hills police helps police at the scene where a 15-hour standoff in- forces ended tragically Thursday morning.

Police drama ends tragically

### Development company taken to court

#### By BEN DUMMETT

the Herald

The development firm Halton Hills Development Corporation was expected to plead quilty Thursday at a Milton Court hearing in connection with the construction of a Stewarttown subdivision, said the town's lawyer Allan Kogon.

The final outcome of the hearing wasn't available at press time.

The town's building inspector John Holmes laid the charges earlier this summer after finding that 22 houses on Thompson Drive, Applebee Court and Harrison Place in Stewarttown had numerous building deficiencies.

"In my years of experience, this is an abnormal situation; construction practices carried out in this subdivision are not normally found in the industry," said Mr. Holmes at the time of laying

the charges. The charges were laid under the province's building code, water resources act and planning

Some of the more serious deficiencies common to most of the houses included improperly built fireplaces. A situation that if not corrected could have caused fires in the houses.

Under the direction of the town, the Region and the province's new Home Warranty Program the deficiencies in all of the houses have been corrected or are being corrected, said Mr. Holmes.

A similar number of charges had also been laid against each of the company's two principal owners Byron Dailey and Mike Latreille. But as part of the deal worked out between Mr. Kogon and the lawyers for these two men, the town has dropped the charges laid against Mr. Latreille, said Mr. Kogon. The town also dropped all of the charges except four laid against Mr. Dailey, he said.

Mr. Latreille won't be charged because he was only a laborer on the site, he had no managerial authority, explained Mr. Kogon. Mr. Latreille only became a principle of the company after his father, Bob Latreille died half way through the construction of the subdivision. But the son wasn't given any supervisory authority, said Mr. Kogon.

Mr. Latreille won't be charged Cont'd on Page 3 By ELIZABETH GALVIN the Herald

A 15 hour police drama, involving Hamilton, Guelph and Halton Hills forces, ended in tragedy early Thursday morning when a 29 year old Acton man was found in his house "with what appeared to be a self-inflicted wound," according to a police spokesman.

Halton Hills Police Staff Inspector Richard Kivell, in a press conference held Thursday morning, confirmed that William Andrew Frank was found at 4:30 a.m. with a gunshot wound to the head from a .303 calibre rifle in his residence at 1st Line and 22nd Sideroad.

The man, who was wanted by Guelph OPP for failing to appear in court Oct. 26 to face charges of uttering death threats -was spotted Wednesday loading a rifle while driving his car, said the Inspector.

Police tracked him down to his Acton home and surrounded the area at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

A member of his family had told Guelph OPP earlier that if they tried to go in to capture him. "they would be involved in a shootout and they would be hurt," said the Halton Hills police report.

The area surrounding the house was cordoned off and four families were restricted from entering their homes.

A Halton Tactical Rescue Unit surrounded the area.

A trained telephone negotiator began communicating with the man at 3:47 p.m., who by this time had barricaded himself in his farmhouse, with his 4-year old son and parents.

The parents and young boy were later released unharmed.

At 7 p.m., a noise similar to a door slamming was heard by tactical officers, who by this point had managed to get much closer to the house under cover of darkness, according to Inspector Kivell.

It was then that communication stopped.

Police attempted a "thunder flash", a loud exploding noise, to try and initiate activity in the darkened house. At 12:40 a.m., tear gas was thrown into the interior of the house and this met with no response.

At about 1:15 a.m., further attempts were made to evoke a response from the man, including verbal requests to come out.

Police continue to assume the man was alive and were reluctant to send officers into the house because Mr. Frank was considered armed and dangerous, said Inspector Kivell. The police avoid potentially dangerous contact in such situations that might endanger the police at large and send their people inbto such a situation only as a last resort.

At 4:30 a.m., a robot equipped with a remote control camera was sent into the house by Hamilton Regional Police, but complications arose and the unit malfunctioned.

Sometime after 4:30 a.m., officers entered the residence and found the deceased lying on the couch with the bullet wound to the head.

Coroner Ian MacIntosh was called to the scene. The investigation is continuing.

## Theatre contest

Globe Productions fall musical extravaganza, Guys and Dolls, will be taking to the stage at Georgetown's John Elliott Theatre shortly and the Halton Hills Herald is offering readers a chance to win sets of two tickets to three performances. Simply find the box with the dice hidden in the Heraid. For full details on the contest, see Page 5.

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