

Bank robberies suspect up for attempted murder

A robbery suspect who led five police forces, involving 15 cruisers, a police helicopter and a light plane on a 120-km chase through Guelph and Caledon last Thursday (Oct. 31) has been charged with attempted murder.

Hermann Beier, 50, of the Alliston area is charged with the attempted murder of Guelph OPP Constable Daniel Erskine who was shot at during the chase.

Const. Erskine was not hit but Mr. Beier was shot four times in the lower body and is under police guard in Peel Memorial Hospital after undergoing surgery said Constable Evelyn McLean of the Caledon OPP.

She said no other charges have been laid yet as the five police services including Halton Regional Police, Peel Regional Police, Caledon OPP, Guelph OPP and the

RCMP continue their investigation of the events that occurred last Thursday. They suspect Mr. Beier stole a Lincoln and used it to rob banks in Georgetown, Rockwood and Guelph earlier that day.

The Royal Bank at 232 Guelph St in the Guelphview Plaza was robbed Thursday morning shortly after opening, by a man wearing a disguise. The suspect, brandishing a gun, demanded cash and produced a plastic bag which was filled with cash said an eyewitness. As the robber left the store he pulled a pin on a smoke bomb to cover his escape.

Police believe after the Georgetown robbery, he travelled to Rockwood and Guelph and it was in Guelph that the Lincoln was spotted and the chase began. It continued into Caledon where police had to dodge bullets the suspect

shot at them from the crest of hills along the road, said Const. McLean.

The chase ended at King St. and McLaughlin Rd in Caledon when an OPP cruiser rammed the Lincoln into a ditch. Another exchange of gunfire ensued where the suspect, Mr. Beier was shot say police.

A "substantial" amount of money was recovered from the Lincoln say police along with a knife. "Numerous" handguns were seized from Mr. Beiers' person and the car said Const. McLean who added he did have gun permits for the weapons.

More charges are expected to be laid against Mr. Beier who is a champion budgie breeder, a candidate for Alliston town council and the owner of three businesses - Hermann's Gym and Martial Arts School, Harlequin Place Breeders and Hermann's Pool and Darts Hall.

Varian on the move

Varian Canada Inc. is moving its Georgetown-based sales office at 332 Guelph Street to the City of Mississauga, the Herald has learned.

Despite the move, which will happen Nov. 22, none of the 22 employees currently working out of the office will lose their jobs, said Service Manager Dennis Lever during an interview Monday.

The Guelph Street sales office is not to be confused with the company's Head office and Microwave Division located on River Drive in Georgetown.

The sales office sells and services Varian made products originating from plants in Australia and Italy, said Mr. Lever.

The Microwave Division manufactures microwave products for communication systems and specialized power products, he explained.

Mr. Lever said the company decided to move the sales office because the current location couldn't be adapted to allow for the

improvement of the demonstration facilities.

Varian invites customers, mostly from Toronto, to the sales office in order to demonstrate the products its sells, said Mr. Lever.

The company spent a year looking for an adequate location in Georgetown, but none could be found, he said.

The new location will be located at Highway 401 and Mississauga Road.

The company could have located its new sales office closer to Pearson International Airport, which would have made good economic sense, but it decided against the idea so the employees wouldn't have to commute any great distance between their home and work, said Mr. Lever.

As it is, said Mr. Lever, it only takes approximately 15 minutes to drive to the new location from Georgetown.

The sales office has been located in Georgetown approximately 11 years, said Mr. Lever.

Car drivers facing shutdown

By Ben Dummett
the Herald

Drivers in Halton Hills and across the province may soon be prevented from renewing their driver's licen-

ce or purchasing a used car.

Dave Clark, the Georgetown-based Ontario Motor Vehicle issuer, said Friday his association will close down its 288 operations across the province if Ontario's Ministry of

Transportation, (MOT), doesn't confirm the issuers' businesses are not in jeopardy.

The issuers do 63 per cent of all driver licensing transactions.

According to Association president Marilyn Wilson, the province recently informed her membership, the (MOT) is considering forming a crown corporation to deal with all vehicle-related licensing.

Mr. Clark said, he along with several other issuers, are afraid their positions will be eliminated if the crown corporation is formed.

Ms. Wilson concurred, saying the "issuers could be at a threshold of losing their jobs."

Ms. Wilson met with provincial officials Monday to determine the province's plan for the issuers with respect to the formation of a crown corporation.

The meeting's outcome was unavailable at press time.

However before the meeting, Ms. Wilson said if she doesn't get the right answer - assurance the issuers will be included in the formation of a crown corporation - there is a good chance the issuers will "shut down the system."

"And why shouldn't we?" added Ms. Wilson adamantly.

Both Ms. Wilson and Mr. Clark point out the issuers are "97 per cent cost effective." That means the issuers get \$1.42 from the \$90 they receive for issuing a licence. The remaining amount of money goes to the province.

They also point out the issuers are responsible for covering all of their operating costs.

"The government has a great deal with us," said Mr. Clark.

Contacted Monday, North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan said he wasn't familiar with the crown corporation idea except for hearing some rumors. The MPP did say he would look into the situation.



Versatile Christmas wreath

Georgetown resident Lorraine Coleman shows that a wreath can be used for a lot more than hanging on a door, during the 25th Annual Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar Saturday at the church on Maple Avenue in Georgetown. (Herald Photo)

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