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Lucky escape?

A Canadian National Railway crew examines the 1987 Dodge Charger that was struck by a 60-car freight train Wednesday afternoon.

According to police, the vehicle was eastbound on Five Sdrd., just west of Hwy. 25 at about 3:20 p.m., when it went out of control struck several guide posts — nearly landing in a ditch — and came to rest on the tracks.

Five minutes later, the south-bound freight train — travelling between Toronto and Buffalo — struck the unoccupied car. No one was hurt. The car was totalled and the train undamaged.

An officer at the scene commented that "before everyone could let everyone else know what was going on, the train was here."

And despite the lead engine of the train stopping nine train-car lengths past the point of impact, a member of CN repair crew commented the train's engineer "almost got it stopped."

Five Sdrd. was closed.

The driver of the Dodge, an 18-year-old Beeton man, has been charged with careless driving.



TRAIN SMASHES CAR

A CN freight smashed into a Dodge Charger Wednesday afternoon. No one was injured. Policemen had tried to flag the train but the engineer was unable to stop in time. No injuries. Story and photo by SCOTT KLINE

Three hour police stand-off

A 24-year-old Georgetown man has been charged with weapons offences following a stand-off of several hours with Halton Regional Police.

No hostages were involved.

At about 7:50 p.m. Wednesday, officers were called to a residence on Guelph St. near Durham St. after a man was seen "brandishing a handgun outside the residence."

When the 11 Division officers arrived the suspect had entered the residence and the area was cordoned off. A section of Guelph St. was also closed.

Members of the Halton Regional Police Tactical Rescue Unit were called to the scene and at 11 p.m. they made contact with the suspect.

According to a police spokesman, "poor weather conditions hampered the operation," but the suspect was arrested without incident. Police seized a pellet gun at the scene.

The suspect has been charged with a dangerous weapons charge and with pointing a firearm. He is set to appear for a bail hearing Thursday.

Halton Board \$5 million in the black, but still no break for taxpayers

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Halton Board of Education is reporting a predicted \$4.8 million surplus for 1990, but it doesn't mean taxpayers are in for a break in 1991.

Trustees learned recently that

the board is expecting to enjoy a \$4.8 million surplus thanks to the overbudgeting of \$3.2 million and an additional \$1.56 million in grants that were late in arriving from the province.

But don't start looking for a refund in the mail just yet.

Instead trustees voted to recommend putting \$3.5 million in a reserve fund to do "necessary" board projects in 1991.

Business Superintendent Jerry Jenkins also recommended the remaining \$1.4 million of the \$4.8 million surplus be used towards reducing the impact of the 1991 mill rate — but trustees did not vote on this. A vote was expected to be taken at Thursday's school board meeting. No results were available

before press time.

When Halton taxpayers receive their tax bill, the bill is broken into three parts — taxes for the municipality, the Region of Halton and the boards of education. The board's portion eats over 56 % of every tax dollar collected.

Last year the average Halton Hills residents' school tax bill rose \$143.

Board chairman, Trustee Bill Harrison said if the additional monies were given back to taxpayers, the board would only have to collect them again to do the necessary work.

"If we give it back to the taxpayer, I don't know of any items there that we won't have to go to the taxpayer for," said Harrison.

"It's appropriate to reserve various expenditures in 1990 in order to have the funds available without increasing the 1991 budget," said board business superintendent Jerry Jenkins.

Board staff is forecasting to come in \$3.2 million under the 1990 budget of \$254 million.

Coupled with that is a forecast that the board will come in \$1.56 million under budget.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Nominations wanted

The Georgetown Lions Club is looking for nominations for the 1990 Citizen of the Year. Nominations should include a resume and as much information as possible to help the selection committee. They should be postmarked no later than Jan. 31 and mailed to the Georgetown Lions Club at P.O. Box 73, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4T1.

CANADA AT WAR

- Halton Hills responds to the crisis
- What to tell your kids
- MP holds town hall meetings

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Valentine's

Sweetheart Dinner

Make it a night to remember

On Thursday February 14th come and treat your special someone to an evening of great fun and fine food.

Our chef has prepared a four course table D'Hôte menu just for this evening. Seating is available from 5-9 p.m. for your convenience.

For more information please call our restaurant manager. This year, spend Valentine's with us.



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