

OPP investigators dismiss cover-up allegations

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
and ROB KELLY

Special to the Halton Hills Weekend

There is no substance to charges of a Halton Regional Police cover-up in connection with an alleged wife assault by a Halton officer in the early 1980s, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigators say.

"The allegations were not substantiated," said OPP detective superintendent Wayne Frechette. The probe was completed in 10 days after two OPP investigators found "no evidence" in support of the charges contained in an anonymous

letter, superintendent Frechette said.

Although the OPP has yet to deliver a formal report to Halton police authorities, late last week OPP detective inspector Larry Edgar, one of two officers assigned to the case, met with Halton Regional Police Chief James Harding to advise him that the charges appear groundless, superintendent Frechette said.

Chief Harding has in turn directed two Halton detectives to attempt to track down who penned the letter lodging the cover-up complaint. Detective sergeants Ted Waller and



CHIEF HARDING



PAM JOHNSTON

Mike Eacrett, will be looking into the matter, Halton Regional Police inspector John Van der Lelie said

Tuesday.

The letter was signed "a caring and loyal cop" and it is "a breach of regulations to send an anonymous letter of this nature" if indeed a police officer wrote it, inspector Van der Lelie said.

The letter was addressed to Burlington regional councillor Barry Quinn, a Halton police services board member, and to Halton Hills regional councillor Pam Johnston. Johnston, who has openly clashed with Chief Harding in recent months, distributed photocopies of the document to regional councillors just prior to the June 3

Halton council meeting.

The letter soon found its way into the press and, according to police sources, was widely distributed among officers too. Chief Harding quickly denounced it as "slanderous and scandalous."

The text alleges that senior Halton officers quashed an investigation into a wife assault by an officer since promoted to staff sergeant, and that files on the matter later disappeared. "We found no evidence to substantiate that," superintendent Frechette said.

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HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

First appearance

Ken and Patricia Thomson will be in Milton court for their first appearance on Monday, July 20. The couple have been charged with arson in connection with a January 25 house fire causing \$120,000 to their Young St. home. They were arrested June 2 after a lengthy investigation.

Threatening death

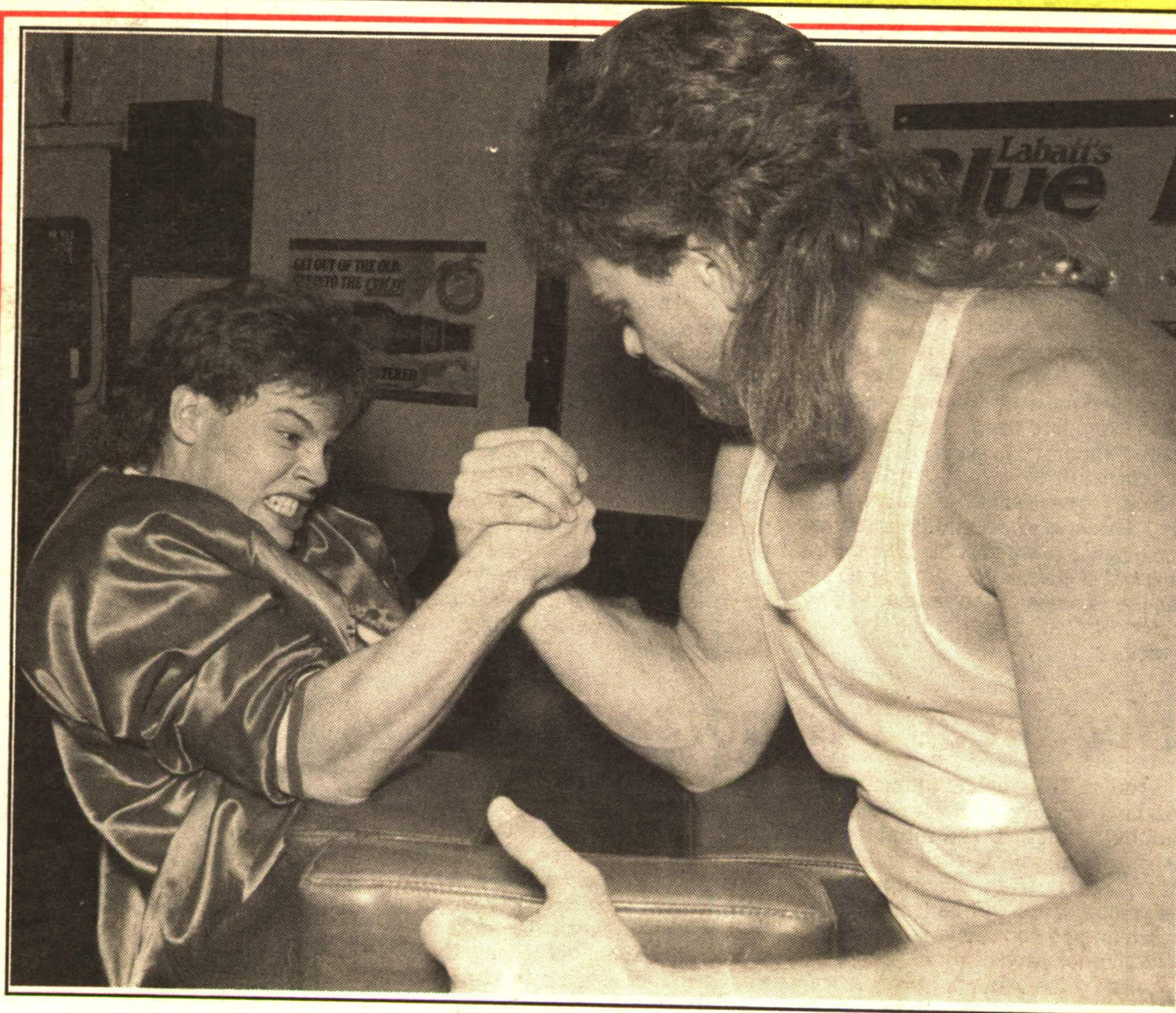
The 12 year old daughter of a Georgetown couple called police when her parents were arguing Tuesday night. When police arrived, they attempted to calm the residents, but the man allegedly threatened the police officer's life several times. When the officer forcibly arrested the man, a knife fell from the man's right hand, police said. The man was charged with threatening death, carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a weapon. He was held for a bail hearing in Milton court.

Red Cross office to close

Georgetown and District Red Cross will be closed for summer holidays from July 23 at 4 p.m. until August 11, 9 a.m. In an emergency, please call the Distress Centre at 877-1211.

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David battles Goliath

There seemed to be a slight size difference as Dave Knox did battle with Allen Molinare during the recent arm Wrestling Challenge at the Busholme Inn in Erin. Several Halton Hills residents made the trek north to take part in the two day event. Sponsors included Bill Smith Auto, Cavan's Garden Centre, Muscle Pit Gym, Apple Auto Glass, Central Disposal, The Tranny Shop, Centre Stage Video, Erin Sports and Boyes Plumbing. Photo by BARB STEPHENS

Local man dragged 85 metres by car

A Georgetown resident in his 30s is in stable condition in the burn unit at Wellesley Hospital after an incident Tuesday.

The man is suffering from severe burns to his back, buttocks and feet, police said. These injuries occurred when the man, whose name is not being released, was dragged about 85 metres by a motor vehicle along a

portion of Eighth Line, north of 27 Sideroad at about 1 a.m.

The man went to a farmhouse, and the resident took him to Georgetown and District Hospital. He was then transferred to Wellesley Hospital.

Police have not been able to talk to the victim but expect to learn more when they speak with him.

Local man killed in single car accident

Georgetown resident Bruce Currie, 29, died in an accident early Friday morning while his brother, a passenger in the car, walked away unharmed.

Currie was driving east on the Five Sideroad with passenger Robert Currie, 33, when his 1990 Pontiac Sunbird went out of control on a curve just past Pineview School at 12:30 a.m. The car skidded into the north ditch and rolled over once. Bruce Currie was partly ejected from the car, and partly pinned down, according to Const. Rick Ferguson of the Halton Regional Police's traffic bureau.

"The car flipped over and tumbled and the way it landed on the impact, he was pinned under," Ferguson said. He doesn't know why Bruce was killed and Robert escaped injury, but suspects it was because of the way the car landed. The Halton Hills Fire Department was called to extricate Currie from the car.

Ferguson is continuing to investigate the accident. An autopsy was to be carried out at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Friday to determine the exact cause of death. The car was seized for a mechanical inspection, which will include an examination of whether seatbelts were being worn.

Bruce Currie, of Langstone Cres. in Georgetown, is survived by wife, Darlene, and children Brady and Michael. He is the son of Fred and Bev Currie. The funeral will be held Monday, 11 a.m. in the Jones and Son Funeral Home chapel.

WEEKENDS



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