

Hurricane hockey coach killed on way to arena

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

A local hockey coach was killed in a car crash Tuesday while on his way to Alcott Arena in Georgetown. Frank Hardy, 37, of 811 Anderson Rd. in Milton was driving east on 10 Sideroad at 6 p.m. Tuesday. He was going to conduct a tryouts for the minor bantam team he was to begin coaching next year. A 1990 Toyota Tercel traveling south on the Eighth Line struck Hardy's 1991 Chevrolet Astro van.

Hardy's van rolled over several times, and came to rest in the ditch. Hardy was trapped in the van for a short time before he was freed by the Halton Hills Area 2 Fire Department rescue unit. He was taken to Georgetown Hospital, but he died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident, according to police. Both the Toyota and the van were destroyed in the accident, but the driver of the Toyota, a 38 year old Pickering resident, was not injured. Halton Regional Police are



FRANK HARDY

Whenever the kids needed anything, Frank was always there," said Terry Brandt, vice president of the Hurricanes. Frank was involved

investigating the accident and have not yet determined if any charges will be laid.

"He (Hardy) was very community-oriented and very sports-oriented.

with the Hurricanes from day one, back in 1989 when the AAA organization was first getting started. He had been on the board of directors for the last two years.

The team Hardy coached, the Halton Waste Disposal minor atom Hurricanes, played the fifth game in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships against Peterborough Wednesday night, dropping a 3-2 decision that eliminated them from the playoffs.

Brandt said he and four others, including the assistant coach, decid-

ed to go ahead with Wednesday's game, even without their coach. "It was a tough decision. We decided to do it in his memory, get it over and done with before the funeral so the kids have a chance to grieve," he said.

Hardy worked at Leaver Mushrooms, where he was vice president of operations in charge of Ontario and the Atlantic region.

He leaves behind his wife Brenda and two sons, Derek and Dylan. Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon.

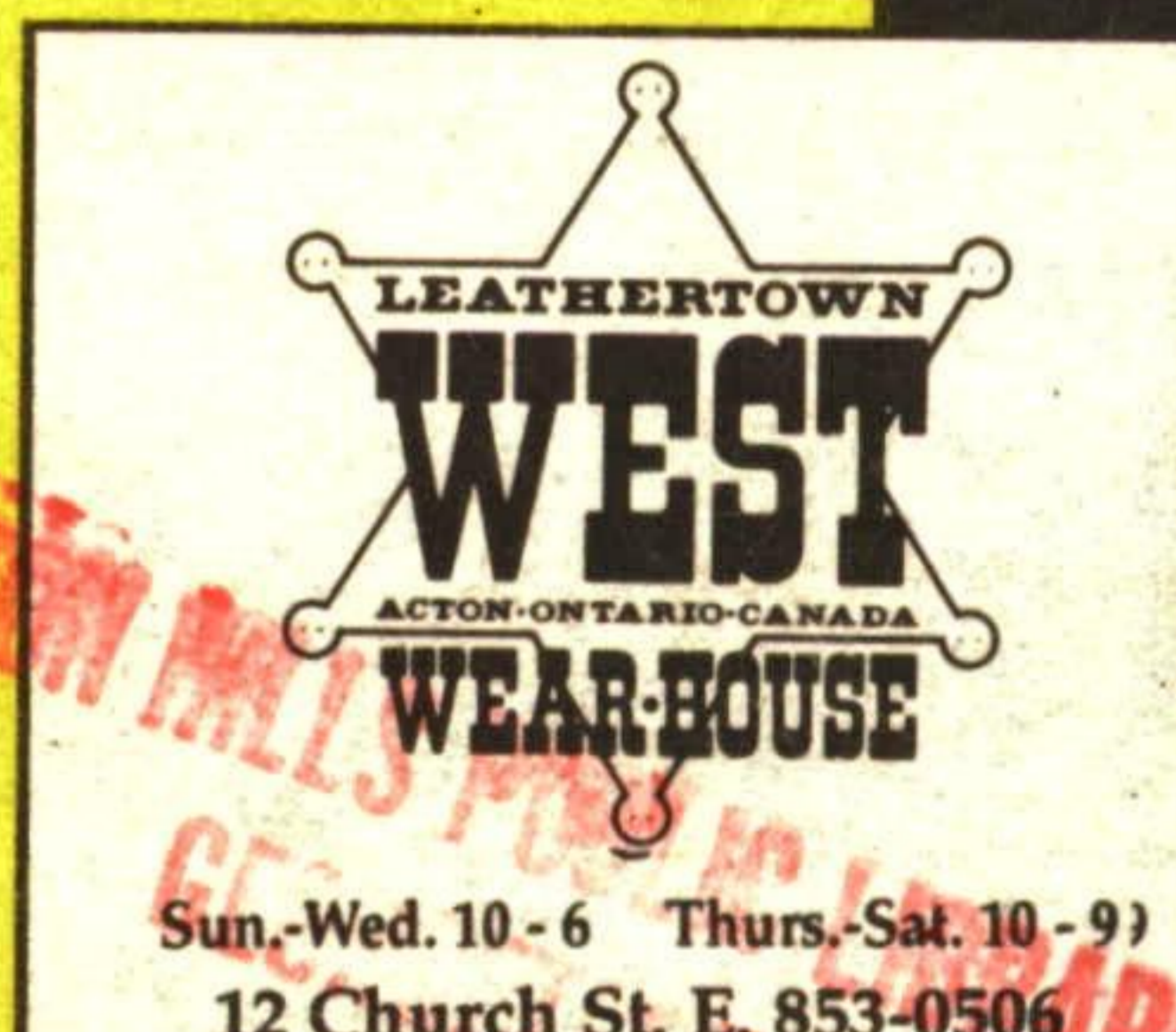
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News

Digest

Bullet in skull

A man was treated at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital early Sunday morning because he had a rifle pellet lodged in his skull, police said. The man said he accidentally discharged a rifle when he was reloading it. The pellet went a quarter inch into his skull. The man was treated at the hospital and released. He was also told about gun safety, police said.



Town hall meeting

Garth Turner, Halton-Peel MP will be hosting Town Hall Meetings during the House of Commons Easter Break. A local meeting is planned for Monday at 7:30 p.m. on Halton Cable - Channel 4.

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Charged in infant's death

Babysitter released on \$25,000 bail

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to the Independent/Free Press

An Acton babysitter charged with manslaughter in the death of a six and a half month old baby boy in January and with assaulting another child in her care two months later was released on bail Tuesday afternoon.

Heather Holmgren, a 30-year-old Acton resident and mother of a one-year-old girl, was released on \$25,000 bail Tuesday afternoon from Milton Provincial Court on the condition that she have no contact with any child, including her own, unless otherwise allowed by the court or the Halton Children's Aid Society.

Holmgren was arrested Monday and was held in custody prior to her bail hearing. Her daughter is being looked after by her husband Glen, 31, and by her parents, who live in Georgetown.

The charges laid against Holmgren relate to two separate incidents beginning January 18, when a six and a half month old baby boy stopped breathing while under the woman's care. Holmgren called emergency services and the baby was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, and later transferred to McMaster-Chedoke Hospital in Hamilton where he died the following day, January 19.

On Tuesday, March 23, Holmgren was babysitting a six and a half month old baby girl. Police report the baby girl became ill and was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and later transferred to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Although not conclusive as to the cause of death, Sgt. Joe Martin of the Halton Regional Police reported that test results following the post mortem revealed that the baby boy had been assaulted. Medical staff also determined the baby girl had been assaulted as well.



Acton resident Heather Holmgren leaves Provincial Court in Milton, with husband Glen, after being released on \$25,000 bail. Holmgren has been charged with manslaughter in the January death of a six month-old she was babysitting. She has also been charged with assaulting another child last month. Photo by KEVIN WHITFIELD

Holmgren appeared before Justice of the Peace Louise Scilizzi Tuesday during her bail hearing. At the request of defense lawyer Peter West, the justice banned publication of any evidence presented at the bail hearing.

Under the conditions of her

release, Holmgren is to reside at her home in Acton and must remain in Acton. She will also be required to report to the Halton Regional Police Service once a week.

Heather Holmgren and her husband Glen had no comments to make following her release

Tuesday. Lawyer Peter West also had no comment.

Holmgren is set to return to Milton Provincial Court on Monday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m. to have a date set for her trial or preliminary hearing.



Jack TANNERS

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