

HIT AND RUN: Acton's Mike Mitchell, 18, recovers at home after being struck by a car.

Police search for hit and run driver

By FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

Acton's Mike Mitchell has something to say to the driver who left him bruised and dazed at the side of the road following a hit and run accident Sunday afternoon in Acton.

"You're an idiot for not stopping after you hit me. It's

morally wrong," Mitchell, 18, of Storey Drive said on Tuesday as he recovered at home from back injuries suffered into the accident.

Mitchell and girlfriend Tracy Campbell were walking on the south side of Church Street east of Victoria Street when Mitchell stepped onto the side of the road to cross. Police said the

car was westbound on Church Street when it veered to avoid a car parked on the street.

"I didn't see him until he came over the crest of the hill in the wrong lane and boom, he hit me. I flew a good four or five feet through the air and landed," Mitchell said.

"He slowed down, looked back and took off. When I

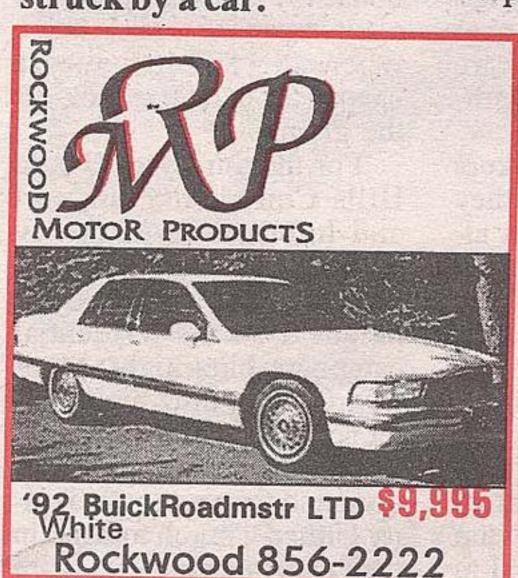
saw his brake lights come on expected that he was getting out to help but he just kept going," Mitchell said.

His sister who was called to the scene took Mitchell to hospital. He was treated for bruises and a back injury and told to rest for a week.

On top of the pain, Mitchell, who was on his way to work at Galvcast when he

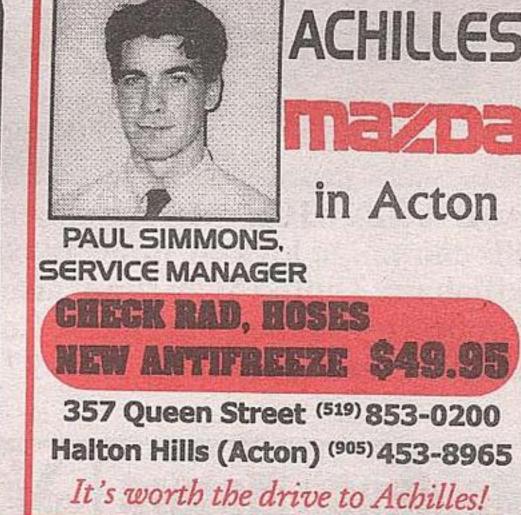
was hit, is worried about losing a week's wages, although he said his employer "has been great" about him missing work.

Police are asking for help in identifying the driver of the car, believed to be a late 1980s, blue, four-door Ford Topaz or Tempo. The driver is a white male, 35-40, with short dark hair and a goatee.

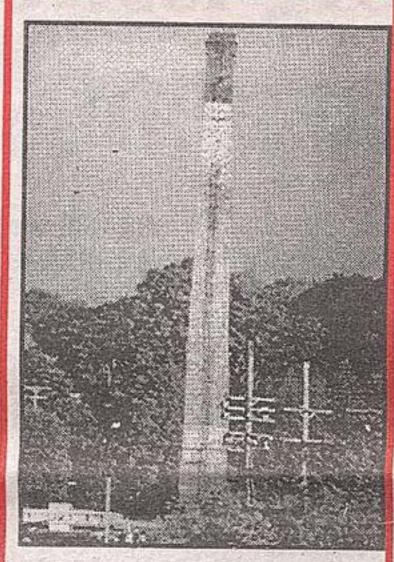




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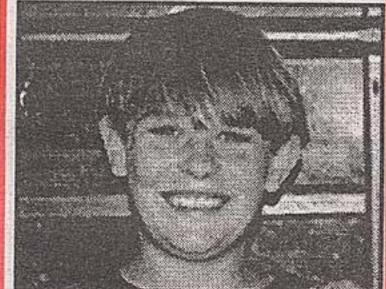
What's Inside



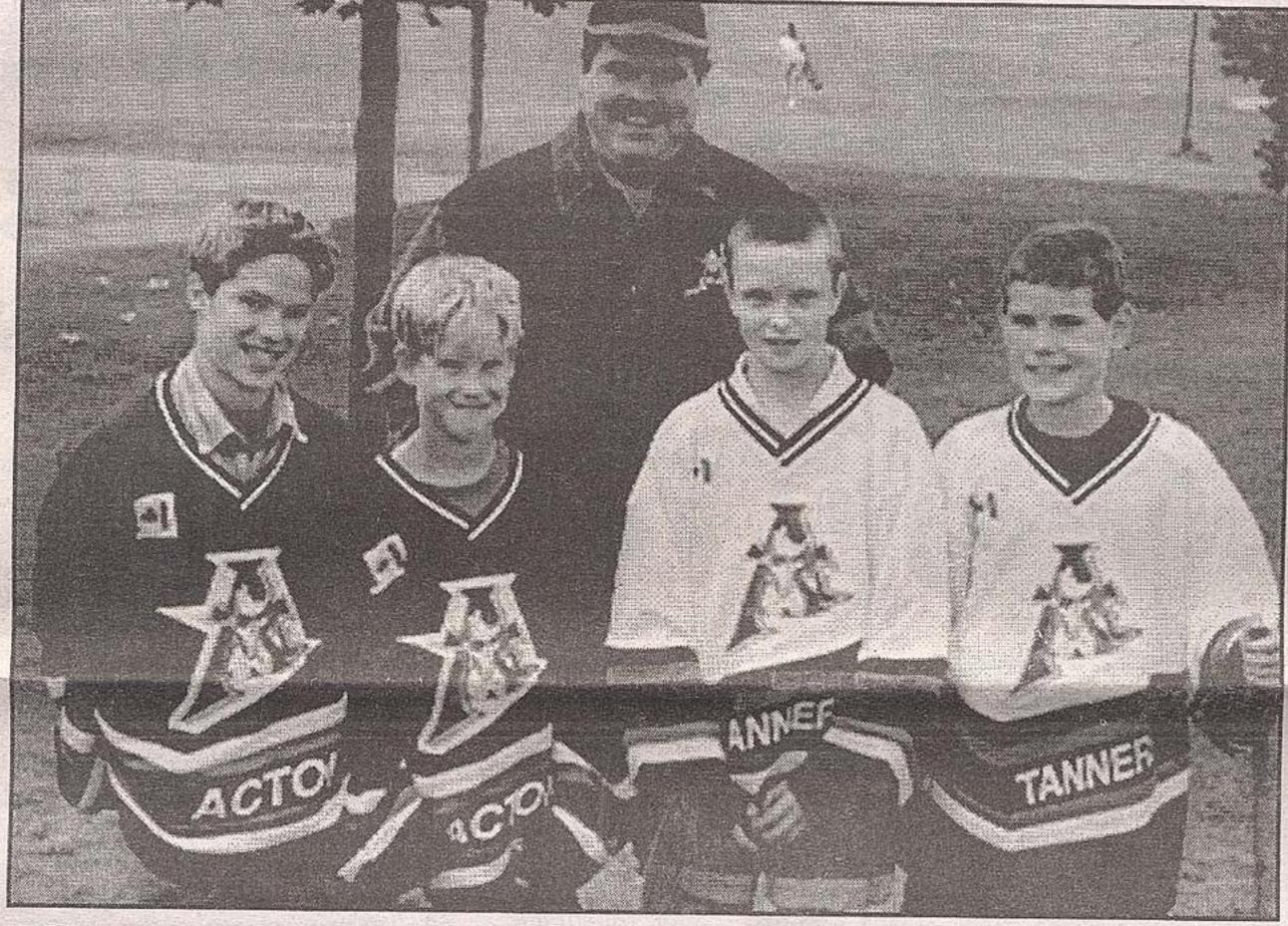
Another piece of Acton's history came tumbling down on Wednesday - the chimney at the old Beardmore plant. See more photos on Page 7.



The United Way of Halton Hills want to raise \$240,000 for this year's campaign. First, the group needs a campaign chair. See Page 2.



Why is Kyle Creasey smiling, after vandals destroyed a huge pumpkin he had been raising to compete in the fall fair? Find out on Page 3.



GOLF TO GOALS: Members of the Acton Tanner rep hockey league show off their sweaters and logo as they prepared to tee off at Acton Meadows on Saturday's for the league's second annual golf tournament. Coach David Woolford wears the new team jacket while players Daine Kuiken-Rogers, Wade Kuiken-Rogers, Kyle Fellows and Daniel Woolford model the new home and away jerseys. - Frances Niblock photo

YMCA tour planned

Town staff and local councillors will tour the former YMCA property at 41 Mill St. before Monday's council meeting to try to resolve parking and amenity issues concerning a proposal to rezone the building.

Owner Diane Biggs wants a rezoning to allow seven apartments and possibly a future commercial use, but Town staff suggest that one of the parking spaces planned for the rear of the building should be used for amenity space - possibly including some park benches or a child's play area. Town

policy says there must be at least one parking space for each apartment and if one parking space was used for amenity space then only six units could be built.

Bigg's planning consultant Mel Code said that seven units are critical to the financial viability of the proposal and asked councillors to be sympathetic to the economic dilemma Biggs faces.

"It (council) probably needs to do something unusual here to make this happen," Code said.

"I encouraged staff to consider a situation where this

council would, on a request from a tenant in this building, allow one of your parking spaces (in a municipal lot) that is generally set aside for commercial purposes, to be rented on a long-term, month-to-month basis."

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said that he was "very, very happy" to see something starting to happen to the building but questioned if it would be safe to "wedge" the amenity area into one of the proposed parking spaces.

"I'm just being a devil's advocate at this point but See PARKING, Page 2

Elliott attempts to clear up arena confusion

Stung by public criticism and angry over what he called mis-information about the future of the old Prospect park arena and the allocation of ice time at the new arena, Acton councillor Norm Elliot attempted to set the record straight, as he sees it, at Monday's general committee meeting.

Elliott denied a claim by Acton Agricultural Society spokesman Daniel Varanelli, reported in a Sept. 17 story in The New Tanner, that the Town had ignored a Society request that the Town promise, in writing, that it would act in good faith in finding the Society alternate accommodations for the fair if the old arena was demolished.

Elliott also stressed that while the Town is preparing tender documents to demolish the arena, the final decision has not been made as Varanelli contended in The New Tanner article. Elliott said he also wanted to clear up the impression in the community that there's a move to save the ice surface in the old arena.

"Now when we're accosted on the street, and I use the term accosted because that's accurate, we're basically being told that as Acton councillors we've sold out on the community because we're not pushing for another arena, or reactivation of the old arena," Elliott said.

Elliott also railed at inaccurate public comments he and other councillors are hearing on the street that Acton ice users are unable to get the ice time that they want because outsiders, including the new Halton Hills Girls Hockey league, are bumping them.

"It's time to knock this ridiculous rumour mill on its backside," Elliott said as he urged people with questions about ice time allocations to call their councillor or Town staff.

Town Administrator. Steve Andrews reconfirmed the Town's commitment to work with the Agricultural Society to maintain a fall fair in Acton, but said it's always been a plan to decommission the ice surface.

Andrews said that the entire roof structure of the Prospect Park arena "is deemed to have failed" and under winter snow loads there is a "real danger" that the roof will collapse.

"This poses, this presents a huge financial burden on us in terms of whether we are prepared now to spend lots of money on restoring the building, or whether it's now to realize that this building has had its use...,"Andrews said.

Heritage Acton, which with the Agricultural Society is attempting to save the old arena, presented a business plan for the building to the Acton councillors on Tuesday night.

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