

Benefit dance for Acton stroke victim

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

A massive stroke on Jan. 4 has left Acton resident Ron Schroeder, 45, partially paralyzed, unable to speak and possibly unable to work again.

For his wife and children aged 10, 12, and 15, the illness is devastating both emotionally and financially. Schroeder has never been ill so the attack after shovelling snow caught everyone by surprise.

"Their father has always been there for them," Mrs. Schroeder says. "He drives them places. He helps them with their hockey. It has hit them very hard. I haven't had the heart to tell them they'll have to give up their activi-

ties too."

A tool and die maker with Dual Machine Products in Mississauga for 15 years, Schroeder has no benefits, says his wife Amawatie.

"It's a small, non-union shop so he had no medical insurance. We'll probably even lose our dental coverage in three months."

Schroeder can apply for Employment Insurance benefits but Mrs. Schroeder has been told it will be at least a year before anyone will look at his eligibility for Disability Pension through the Canada Pension Plan. What level of pension he might receive then will depend on how well he recovers.

Schroeder was taken to hospital in Georgetown first, then transferred to Mississauga General. At the time, his wife says, there was

real fear he would not recover. Then he developed a blood clot in his left foot that presented still further complications.

He is out of Intensive Care and has recovered enough that hospital staff are helping him try to sit up in a wheel chair, Mrs. Schroeder says. But he still can't speak, his eyesight is blurry and one side of his face has been affected slightly. He is also paralyzed on the right side.

Once he reaches a certain stage of recovery he will be transferred to a rehabilitation centre in Toronto. But when that will happen and how long he will be there, like his potential for recovery, remains open to question.

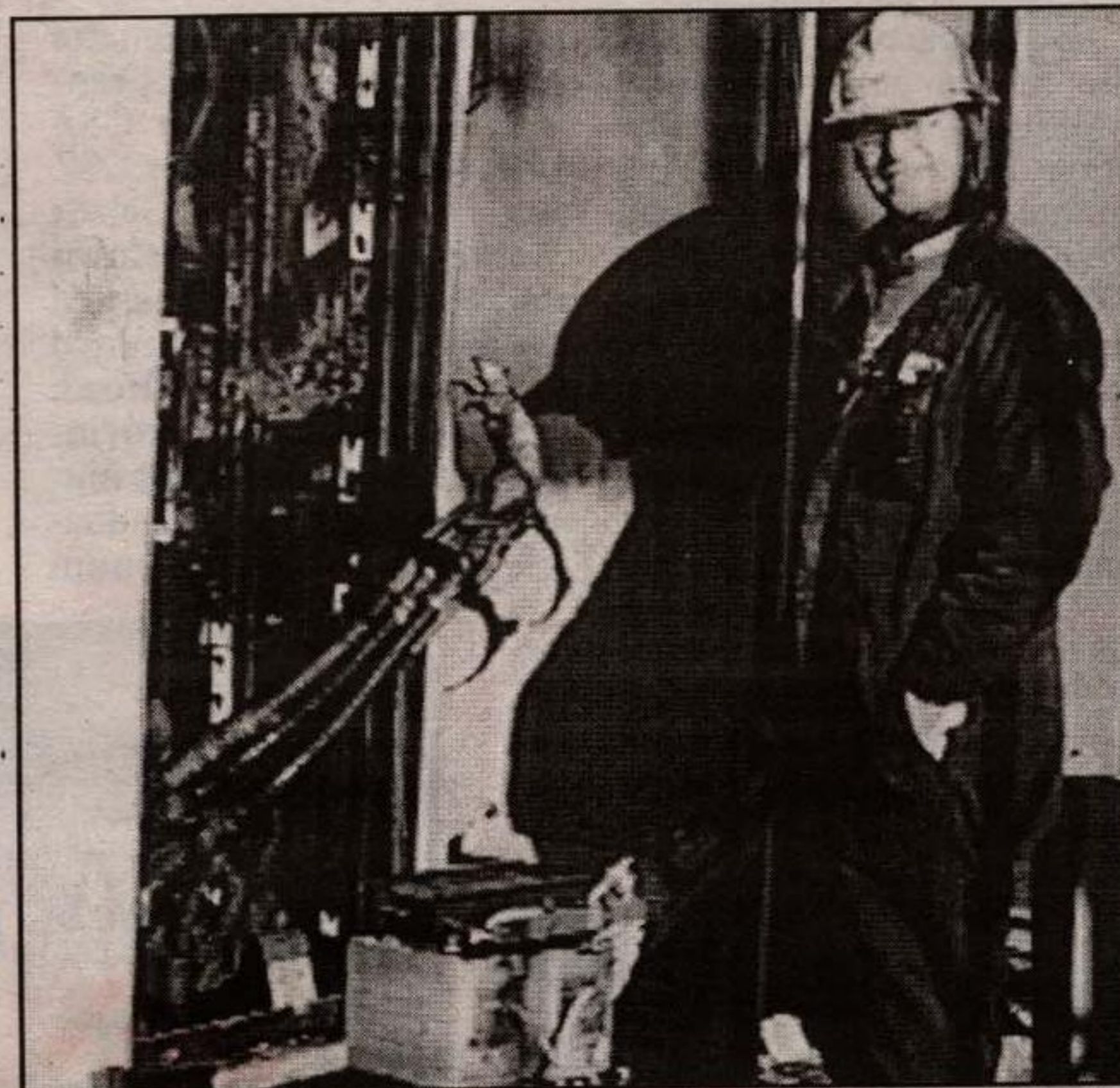
Mrs. Schroeder works at Tim Horton's in Acton and sees no prospects for a different job since she has no

special training or skills. Her family and Ron's have been helping out but there was no other financial support available until a fellow hockey parent began organizing a benefit dance.

"I really appreciate it," Mrs. Schroeder says. "I broke down and cried when he told me." (The dance organizer insists on remaining anonymous.)

The dance is set for March 6 at the Royal Canadian Legion at 8 p.m. with DJ Steve Dunn (Music Machine) providing the music. Tickets are \$10 each and available at the Legion, the Acton Arena, the Station Hotel, Andy's Restaurant and the Red Dog.

Individual donations may also be made to a special account which has been opened for Mrs. Schroeder at the Halton Credit Union.



EXPENSIVE ELECTRIFYING ENCOUNTER: High voltage contractor employee Vern George holds one of the squirrels – posthumously named "Sparky" by repair crews – that caused a major fire at a Halton Hills Hydro sub-station on Saturday, knocking out power to Acton for up to two-and-a-half hours. – Frances Niblock photo

Fried squirrels black out hydro

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

where the wires enter the switch gear.

Halton Hills Hydro will retrofit its three Acton sub-stations with anti-rodent measures after two squirrels caused a major fire at the River and Willow Streets sub-station on Saturday.

Approximately 3,000 Acton customers were without power for up to two-and-a-half hours, beginning at 12:20 p.m., and damage to the sub-station is pegged at \$30,000.

"We're blocking off a small opening where the wires come up from underground into the switch gear at all three sub-stations, and we're taking a look to see what we can do to prevent these rodents from gaining access," Halton Hills Hydro general manager Dan Guatto said on Tuesday. Crews will install plywood skirting and more substantial covers

Guatto said there was also a second problem on Saturday with an undetected ice-damaged insulator at that same sub-station, which wasn't back in service until late Monday afternoon.

"When we tried to operate a switch, that insulator caused a fault on (Ontario Hydro's) 44-kilovolt feeder line from Fergus. We used our back-up feeder and that reduced the outage time," Guatto said.

The power outage forced police to take up point duty at major intersections and a number of indoor soccer games were cancelled at the McKenzie-Smith Bennett gym. Lunch was eaten in the dark and a flashlight was used to illuminate papers at the Acton Agricultural Society's annual general meeting at Knox, but Guatto said they had very few complaints.

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Town of Halton Hills Bylaws

Motorized snow vehicles may not be driven anywhere within the Town of Halton Hills except between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday or 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sundays.

Motorized snow vehicles may not be driven on any sidewalk boulevard, park or median strip within the Town of Halton Hills.

Motorized snow vehicles may not drive on any highway within the Town of Halton Hills except for ingress and egress to and from a site, public or private, duly authorized for the operation of motorized snow vehicles.

Note: Highway includes street, avenue, roadway, any place designed and intended for, or used by, the general public for the passage of vehicles.

I noted that the town has just made a request for approval of quadruple the fines for breaches of the bylaw in the January 21 issue of the Acton Tanner.

People who have complaints in regard to snowmobiles should attempt to obtain the permit number and any other descriptions that will help police, colour and make of vehicle, also the description of the person riding or driving, colour of clothing, helmet, etc.

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