

Becker's clerk punched and robbed Sunday

A terrified Becker's clerk had been on the job less than seven hours at the Acton store when he was punched in the face and forced to lie on the floor during an early morning robbery on Sunday - a robbery captured by the store's surveillance camera. The tape has been turned over by police.

Store operator Masood Atchekzai of Toronto, said he viewed the tape and recognized

the two men as people he's seen around Acton although he doesn't know their names.


Atchekzai, who identified the clerk as only as Kalilele, said the man quit right after police finished interviewing him. The 26-year-old Toronto resident, who agreed to work in Acton because it was quiet, told police he'd been mopping the floor when he heard the door buzzer. As he came out of the back room a

man punched him in the face and head, threw him into a pile of cardboard boxes in the corner and told him to shut up and close his eyes.

The clerk was able to get a quick look at both the man who hit him and the one who went behind the counter and scooped up a small amount of cash, approximately \$400 worth of lottery tickets and between \$300 and \$400 worth of cigarettes.

The first suspect is a white male; 30 to 40 years old with a slim build and dark hair dressed in a black leather jacket and black T-shirt. The second suspect is a white male, with long hair and a mustache, wearing a black jacket and jeans. The suspects left the store in an unknown direction. The canine unit was called in but found no trace of the men. The investigation continues.

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What's Inside



Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson was among those inspecting the Acton Air Cadets. See Page 6.



When a 25-year band teacher retires, he is honoured. See photo on Page 4.



Eden Mills Presbyterian Church rededicated their organ on Sunday. See Page 11.



A 15-team ball tournament on the weekend produced these winners. See Page 13.

Ambulance delay here a concern

Triple V is sold, moves to Milton

Mark Heisz, President of ACS Manufacturing Inc., has announced the acquisition of Triple V Plastics Ltd. of Acton. Triple V is a custom vacuum former and extruder of plastic components for various applications.

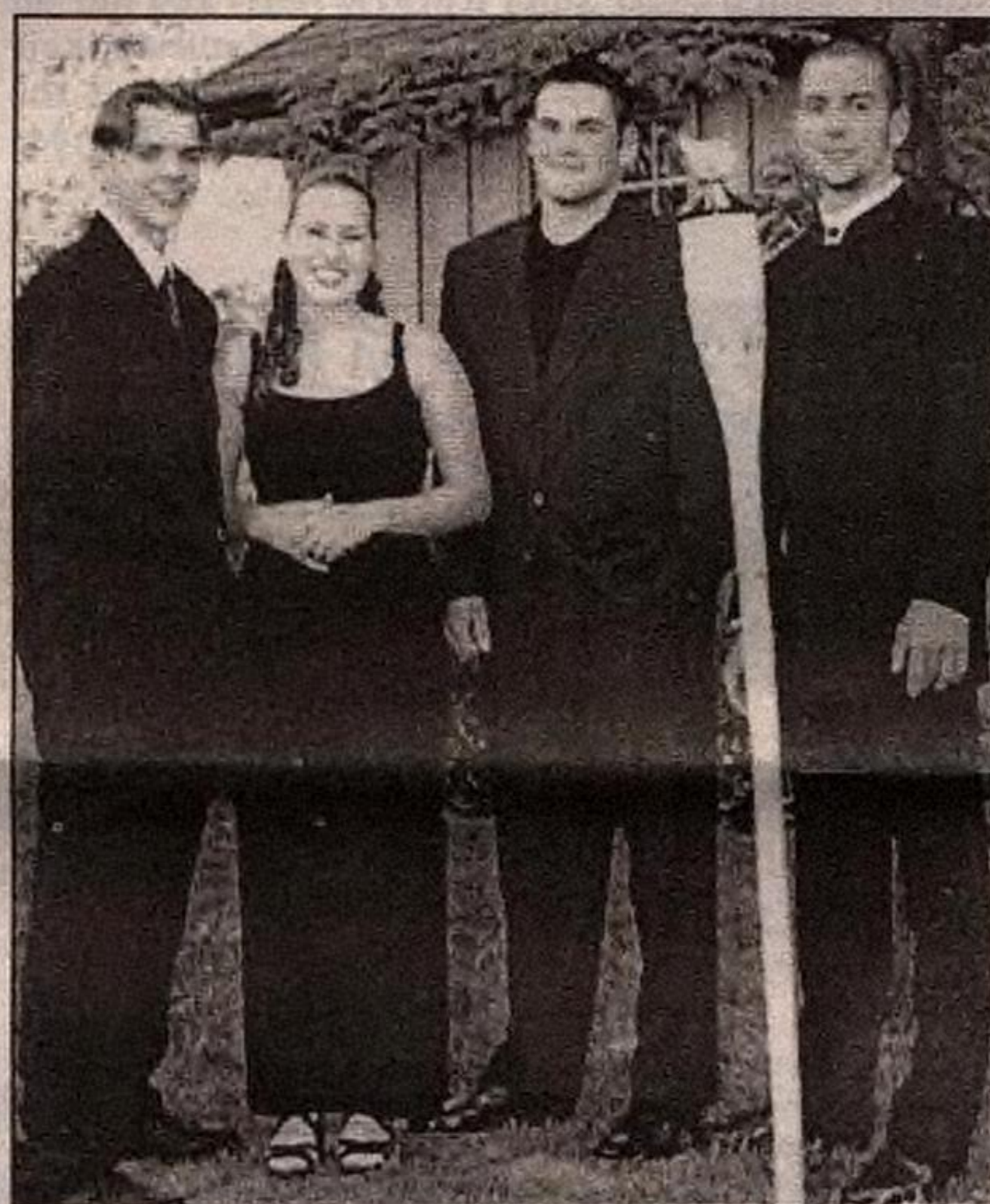
The Triple V acquisition has led to the formation of ACS Plastics Group Limited which will include Plastics Eighty and Triple V Plastics.

Consolidation of the operation will occur this summer into a new industrial site at 8120 Lawson Road in Milton.

The move to Milton will allow ACS Plastics Group to greatly enhance its productive capacity and capability with the company capacity more than doubling over the next three months. When all new equipment is in production, ACS Plastics will have the largest custom vacuum forming operation in Ontario for rigid plastic components.

Plastics Eighty Ltd. and ACS Plastics Group Limited are wholly owned subsidiaries of ACS Manufacturing Inc. Plastics Eighty specializes in the manufacture of custom vacuum formed plastic components.

ACS Manufacturing Inc. is funded by Working Ventures Canadian Fund Inc., one of Canada's largest labour sponsored venture capital funds.



FLAMING FORMAL: Grade 11 and 12 students from Acton High school held their formal - with a south seas theme - in the Brookville hall on Saturday night. Chris Scully (left) Amber McDonald and organizers Ben Brooks and Andre Savard were ready for a festive crowd. - Frances Niblock photo

Smoking exemption for local bars?

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

In a move bound to make smoke-free proponents do a slow burn, Halton Hills CEO Steve Andrews plans to meet privately this week with bar owners to talk about the option of exempting them from Town's proposed new anti-smoking legislation.

A small group of almost hostile bar owners said fewer butts will mean fewer bucks and, along with Legion 197, urged the Town not to impose any smoking restrictions on them at a public meeting last Wednesday. The latest version of the bylaw would impose graduated smoking restrictions to make the entire

See **SMOKING**, Page 2

Nagging question after man dies

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Would George Roth be alive today if an ambulance had got to him faster after he suffered a heart attack on Sunday night at the Acton Community Centre? That's the nagging question Acton's Lorne Doberthien asked officials on Tuesday, sparking an investigation.

Roth, 69, and his wife June of Oshawa, were visiting friends in Acton and were at Trinity United Church's ham supper when Roth collapsed while helping stack chairs. While it's unclear if anything anyone did would have saved Roth's life, Doberthien said faster ambulance service might mean someone else doesn't have to die.

A supervisor with the Ministry of Health's Mississauga Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Harry Lundenbach, said the tape of the emergency call would indicate how long it took a crew to get there.

"The complaint has been documented and it will go to investigations for follow-up and that could take several weeks," Lundenbach said.

Doberthien believes it took the ambulance 20 minutes to get to the scene after the initial call to 911.

"The man passed out around 8 p.m. I was told by the police the ambulance service called them at 8:13 and asked them to respond," Doberthien said. "At 8:17 the cops arrived and the ambulance didn't arrive until after the police. If it's going to take 20 minutes to get an ambulance, you're dead and I think that if it's life and death and the ambulance can't get there in five minutes then the police and fire department

should be called." That's what happens with a "tiered response" in the rest of Halton Region which has full-time, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week ambulance and fighting services. Acton has volunteer firefighters who must be called from home or work to the station and then out to a medical assistance call. The Acton ambulance station is manned nightly and on weekends. There's no word where the ambulance stationed in Acton was on Sunday night.

Doberthien said he got some disturbing off-the-record advice and information while talking with various officials about the incident.

"One person I talked to about my concerns with slow ambulance response had a solution. He told me to move and he was serious. The other told me that if more people were aware of the lack of service we get up here, the whole of Acton would be in an uproar," Doberthien said.

Trinity Church minister Bob Matton, who applied CPR on the victim, said while everything was a blur, "it seemed to take a long time" for the ambulance to arrive.

"I thought that it took at least 15 minutes and I was just praying that I could do something to help until the professionals arrived," Rev. Matton said, adding the length of time it took "concerns" him.

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