

# Crash kills Orton man five others hospitalized

An Erin Township man was killed and five others injured in a two vehicle collision around 10 p.m. Saturday on the Second Line north of

Ospring at Wellington County Road 22. James Swackhamer, 58, of Orton was killed instantly when the car in which he was

riding was struck by a west-bound vehicle that missed a stop sign on 22 Sideroad.

Swackhamer's wife, Doris, was taken to hospital in Oranville, then airlifted to Toronto's Sunnybrook Medical Centre where she had surgery for leg injuries on Sunday. She also has a broken pelvis, a family member says.

Swackhamer's daughter, Tammy Konieczny, 28, of Nepean, was treated at hospital and released that night. Her husband, Jeff, 29, is in Peel Memorial Hospital and has had surgery for arm and shoulder injuries.

Both Mrs. Swackhamer and Konieczny are in stable condition.

The driver of the west-bound vehicle, James Walsh, 24, of Guelph received major injuries in the crash as did his passenger, Michelle Edward, 25, also of Guelph.

Charges are pending against Walsh, says Wellington County OPP.

Funeral arrangements for Swackhamer have not yet been completed at Butcher Funeral Home in Hillsburgh.



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**THE NEW TANNER**

*Hometown news  
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## Literacy Guild offers reading writing, math instruction

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

If you can read this you probably don't need the help of the North Halton Literacy Guild, but one in four adults in Halton is illiterate and for them, help is just a phone call away.

The Guild, operating in Halton Hills for over 10 years, offers adults help with reading, writing, spelling and basic computer skills. The instruction is one-on-one to start and small classes of two or three students are also offered. In Acton, the Guild also holds classes twice a week at

the STRIDE program - formerly Halton Works - for people with emotional difficulties. Last year, the Guild helped approximately 65 students and the Guild's student tutor co-ordinator, Evelyn Paulssen, said tutors find it very rewarding when they are able to help someone learn to read or write because it does so much for their self esteem.

"The hardest thing for a student is to admit that they need help and then ask for it. Last year we had a fellow who wanted help with math and he had a terrible math anxiety and we were able to match him with a retired math teacher and to see the progress that was made was wonderful," Paulssen said, adding the average age of a student last year was 38.

"We get a lot of men between 30 and 40 who have reached a sort of block in their employment availability and realize that they need to concentrate on their basic English skills to improve their job prospects." New students are assessed to determine their skill levels and a student-based individual training program are set up. Students can receive up to six hours of instruction a week and are offered a year of classes, although individual programs could be shorter or longer, as needed. In Acton, the classes are held at the Acton Library and on Mill Street at Halton Hills Community Support and Information.

The Guild currently has between 40 and 45 tutors - six to 10 in Acton - and most have a similar characteristic. "Most, if not all of our tutors feel it is so important to be able to read and write and that is their motivation. They are usually readers themselves and feel it is such a lack if somebody is not able to do this," Paulssen said, adding less than a third of their tutors are teachers.

"They come from all walks of life - we have bankers, housewives, professional people and retired people,

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