

Homicide investigation into young man's death

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Matthew Virgin knew who beat him bloody and left him unconscious outside a house party in rural Erin Township late Saturday night. "He grew up with them," his grieving grandmother, May Slater said on Tuesday as an autopsy was conducted on the 19-year-old Virgin, a former Acton man, who was taken off

life support and died late Monday afternoon. The results of that postmortem had not been released by Guelph OPP who, at press time, would only say they were conducting a homicide investigation. A source said Virgin, an employee of Halton Flour Milling who lived in Guelph, was attacked by "troublemakers" who had been refused entry, or asked to leave a party, on the Ninth Line, north of 32 Side Road.

A 911 call brought police and paramedics to the scene and Virgin was rushed to Hamilton General Hospital, where his friends held a vigil until his death. Police continued to interview partygoers until noon on Monday, and at press time the Ninth Line remained closed. "Matthew was a beautiful kid, not a bum. Not a waste of space," Slater said, adding he was a "sweet kid - hardworking and intelli-

gent" who was "ambitious and much-loved." Police seized a car, apparently connected to the investigation, from a Cook Street address on Monday. Matthew's parents Trina and James Virgin live in Belwood, also have a son Jason, 22. Anyone with information please call Guelph OPP at 519-822-7250 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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THE NEW Tanner
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IT'S WORTH THE DRIVE
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What's Inside



Soccer champions were declared on Saturday as teams fought for the coveted title. See Page 17 for photo.



Big chickens? - Nope they're the teenage birds at the White Rock Ostrich Farm. See photo Page 3.



Sunday is not only the third and final day of the Acton Fall Fair it's the memory of the Terry Fox Run. See story by Jon Hurst on Page 13.



Two new Acton businesses opened their doors over the past weekend. See Pages 19 and 20.

88th Fall Fair this weekend

POLICE BEAT

Cash stolen

Someone stole \$50 from the already cash-strapped Clean and Sober Club on Mill Street East on Monday night.

Police said a staff member discovered the cash was gone about 8:15 p.m., but hadn't noticed anyone in the club, which would have closed last week without a generous landlord.

Farm fire

The back half of a 2-storey brick farmhouse on the Fifth Line, south of Steeles Avenue was engulfed in flames when Halton Hills and Milton fire fighters arrived on the scene about 6 p.m. on Monday.

There were no injuries, but several family dogs died in the blaze that caused \$100,000 damage. The cause is under investigation, but it looks like it was accidental.

The two-man Acton pumper and a safety officer from District One (Acton) also responded to the blaze.



FOUR AMIGOS: Trunk sale operators Jack Carpenter, Ted Tyler, George Hargrave and Jake Kuiken present a \$500 cheque to Acton Citizens' Bandmaster George Elliott (second from left) in appreciation of their many community activities. The band will appear in Saturday's big Fall Fair parade which starts at noon.

Crossing guards, bus drivers are praised

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
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Acton resident and Georgetown Catholic school principal Cynthia Tobin has a soft spot for crossing guards and bus drivers, and not just because her dad, "Pop" is a much-loved veteran guard in Acton.

"I have the highest respect for the guards and drivers who make it very safe for the children," Cynthia Tobin, principal at the new St. Catherine of Alexandria School said last

week.

"They play a very important role," Tobin said, pointing out it was Acton students who tagged her dad, Richard Tobin, with the nickname "Pop" for his grandfatherly, cheery, no nonsense style.

Pop works at the Town's pedestrian crossing on busy Queen Street and Acton Boulevard, one of six Acton locations with permanent full-time guards.

He said he "hooked" into a stand-by job which

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CROSSING KUDOS: Acton's longest serving crossing guard Richard "Pop" Tobin can't tell his daughter Cynthia Tobin much about student safety. - Frances Niblock photo

Three full days of fair fun

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
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Under a canvas tent in 1913, the first Acton Fair, billed as "Open to the World," opened. Parts of the this year's 88th edition of the fair - still the social event of the year - will also be under canvas, as the Acton Agricultural Society (AAS) continues to raise \$350,000 for a new building in Prospect Park.

AAS president Doug Fread said after 11-and-a-half months of planning the hard part of the fair is done and he hopes to relax and actually enjoy the Fair this weekend.

"We have a great group that helps make the fair a success and we're always looking for new people with new ideas to keep it interesting and fun," Fread said on Friday.

Fread's don't miss events this year include a native village and the Bush Bandits who will demonstrate with a portable saw mill.

Greg Barrington, the "Horse Whisperer" who wowed crowds last year as he tamed an unruly horse, is back by popular demand for a show at 1 p.m., on Sunday.

Traditional fair favourites - livestock competitions, tractor pulls, dizzying rides and Homecrafts - are also in the line-up, along with the opening award ceremonies tomorrow night (Friday), and the crowning of a new Miss Acton.

Continued on Page 12.

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