

Accolades heaped on numerous rescue workers

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Only accolades were used to describe the efforts of hundreds of professionals and volunteers who independently spurred into action minutes after the bus and truck tragically collided Wednesday.

Words like invaluable, great, co-operative effort, fantastic and respectful were among those used repeatedly by those involved, who wanted to acknowledge the efforts of others.

"I'd really like to see our local paper commend people with the amount of cooperation among everyone, the whole community," Marlene Quackenbush, assistant director of patient services for Georgetown Hospital said.

There were small tokens of thoughtfulness, like a tray of donuts sent to the hospital by staff at the Royal Bank.

Individual efforts, like those of Georgetown village Const. Nick Leoni, who helped out even though he was off duty that day. Volunteers from the hospital donned their blue jackets and provided refreshments, rides home and kind words.

As Quackenbush and emergency supervisor Myra Britton took a minute to reflect on the incident after most of the patients had gone home, they were obviously touched by the experience, which had lots of rays of sunshine, in spite the horrendous tragedy.

Offers of assistance came from everywhere, from citizens in the community and Peel Memorial Hospital, which offered to send a team of doctors and nurses, Quackenbush said.

Georgetown Hospital prepares for emergencies of this magnitude by holding mock disasters once or twice a year. Britton said a 1990 mock accident was

frighteningly parallel to this one.

"It was a similar scenario to this. It was a school bus with a dump truck. That sends a shiver down my spine," she said.

At the accident scene, everything also went very smoothly, in spite the large number of organizations involved.

"It was extremely well coordinated. There truly wasn't an incident commander, each group seemed to have their own," Deputy Fire Chief Bill Hyde said.

Doug McLeod of the Halton Hills Ambulance Service arrived, assessed the situation and called for help. A total of 10 to 12 ambulances came from Guelph, Cambridge, Mississauga and Peel-York. Metro Toronto sent two full-size ambulance coaches and victims were surprised at how quickly help arrived.

There was only one exit from the bus, and passengers had to wait inside while firefighters and ambulance personnel

brought the more severely injured out on stretchers. It was done so well, that injuries were likely kept to a minimum, said Det. Sgt. Ron Welsh of the Halton Regional Police said.

Six Halton officers helped with crowd control and redirecting the traffic, and numerous Milton OPP officers had the major task of investigating the accident. Welsh said about seven people from the Ministry of Transportation came out of nowhere and also helped reroute traffic.

Hwy. 7 was closed and it didn't take long for perhaps 80 members of the media to gather and many began live broadcasts. Welsh said there were few problems of crowd control, something which could have impeded the ambulances as they moved to and from the scene.

"It went very well. It was quite apparent that the emergency services worked well together," Welsh said.

On the Tee

Traditions

Traditions are an important part of golf. The rules of the game are set by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland not because they were elected to do so but because they have filled that role along with the USGA for generations. If you were a true traditionalist approaching the first tee at St. Andrews or Augusta or Royal Montreal, what would you have with you?

You would probably be playing with irons that feature a blade design (none of this perimeter weighting stuff). They would have leather grips and would go from the 2-iron up to the sand wedge. Your woods would be real wood, persimmon, with steel (not graphite) shafts. The driver would not be oversized or jumbo or anything like that. It would be accompanied by the 3- and 4-woods. A 5-wood might be considered in place of the four but a 7-wood would be out of the question. Your putter might be a Ping or Bullseye design but that would only be until you could find a blade just like the one Ben used at Augusta.

Your clubs would all fit into a compact bag that you carry on your shoulder. You might take a caddy occasionally but power carts are not your style and you would never head out with one of those radio-controlled electronic carts. Your shoes would be leather and would be white, black, or brown. They would definitely have metal spikes. No rubber soles or the new soft spikes here.

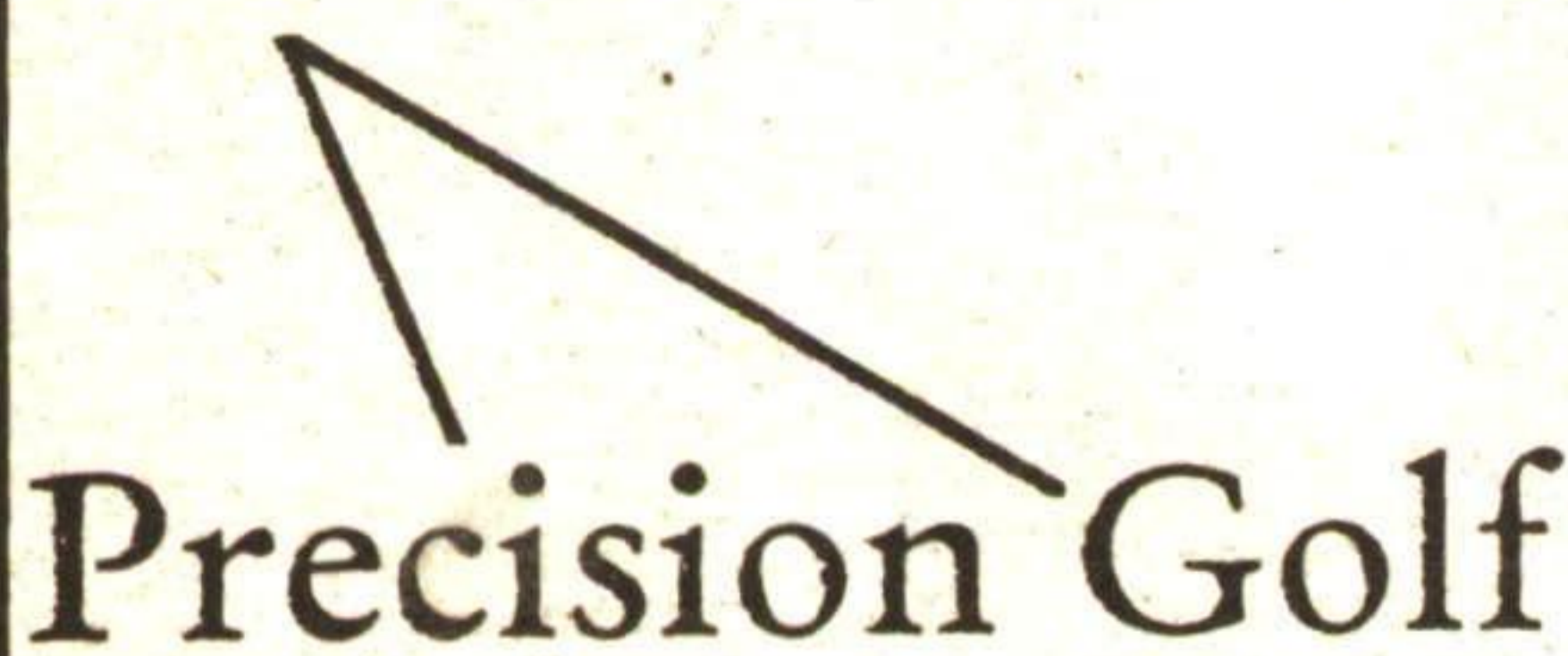
The ball you set on the tee would be white, of course, and it would have something less than 400 dimples evenly distributed across its surface.

You would hit it straight and long. Every time.

Winston Churchill said:

"Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose."

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