Mock bus-train crash tests response time of local emergency services and hospital

Continued from pg. 1

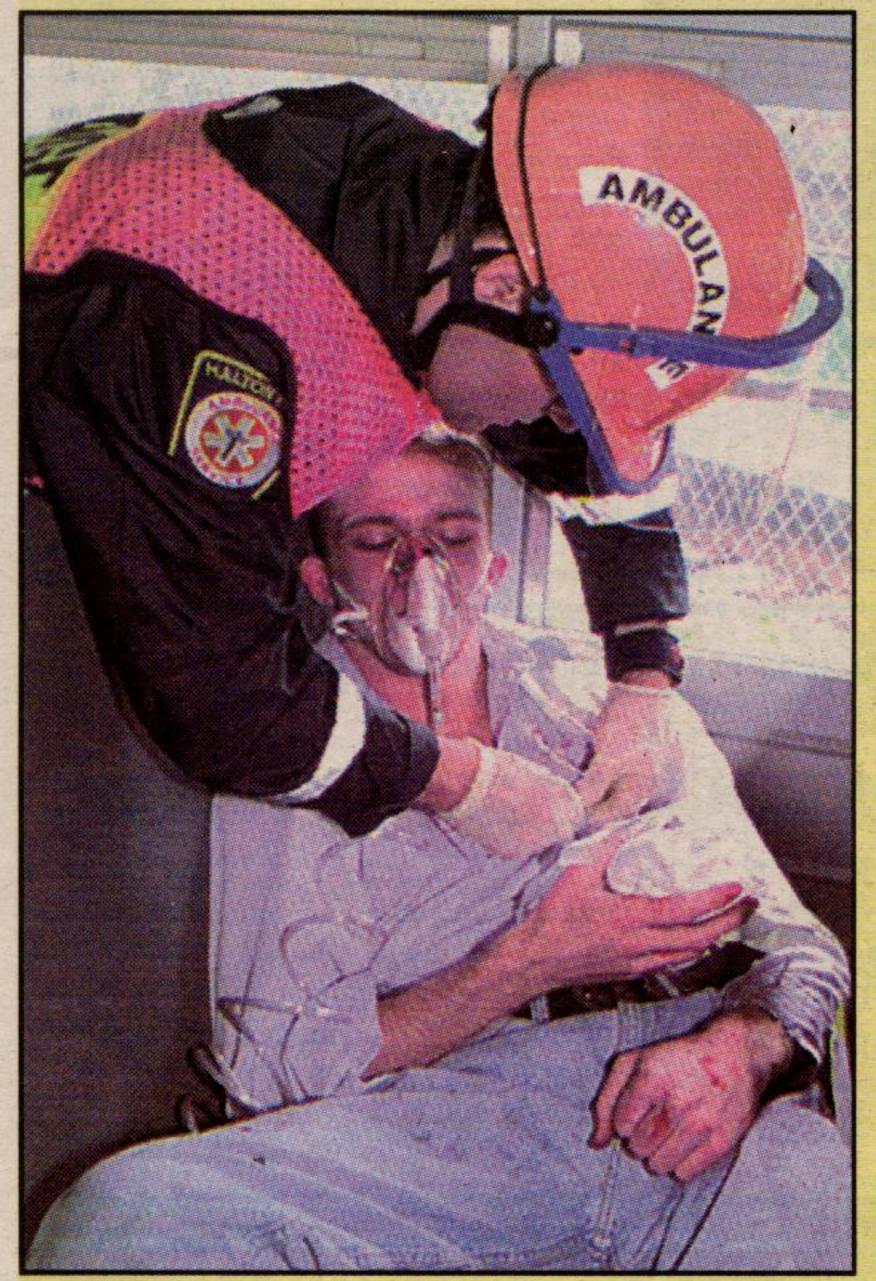
District Memorial Hospital, GO Transit and Laidlaw Transport, reacted to the accident as if it had been real.

As they arrived at the Georgetown GO station scene ambulance and fire department crews assessed, treated and tagged the "victims," students from Acton High School who looked like they had come from central casting with their frightfully real looking injuries and scripted reactions.

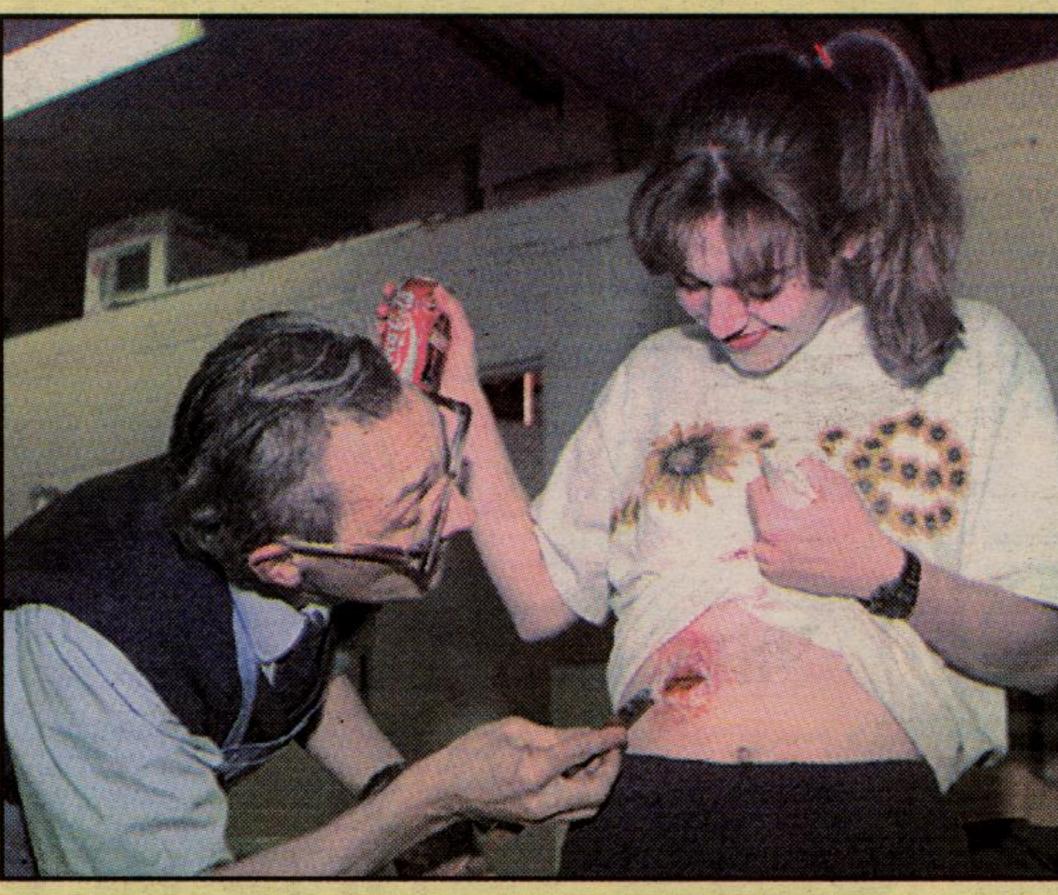
CN Rail engineer John Michaluk, the train conductor "killed" in the crash, would like to see more mock disasters staged.

"There's a lot of room for improvement as far as I'm concerned. We could have used the emergency window exits and the wheelchair access to get people out of the train faster," Michaluk said.

At Georgetown and District Hospital approximately 25 nurses, doctors and other staff dealt with the most



A Halton Hills Ambulance Service paramedic treats Tim Franklin aboard the bus during Saturday's mock train-school bus crash.



Saturday's mock disaster began with a train hitting a school bus at the Georgetown GO station at 11 a.m. Hours before makeup artists went to work at the Halton Hills Ambulance Service preparing some gruesome injuries, including various cuts, bruises and broken bones. Here Bob Henderson put the finishing touches on Jenn Schultz's stomach wound.

serious "injuries" in a test of triage and treatment plans and the emergency fan-out phone system was tested as

Physician in charge, Dr. Don Trant, was pleased with the staff's quick response to the high number of critically-injured people.

"There are always a lot of little operational things to be Tooked at, but overall, had this been real, it would have gone well," Trant said.

At the end of the day Halton Hills Fire Prevention Officer Brian Ellsworth was happy with the level coordination between fire, police and ambulance staff, but felt that the fire department needs more experience dealing with injuries.

"There were some injuries that should have received more treatment, so we will do more training, but overall I was impressed with the way it went," Ellsworth said.

Thanks to a number of donations the fire department estimated its cost for the exercise was approximately \$500 and the hospital's cost was approximately \$2,000.

Exercise Victoria will be critiqued at a June 10 meeting of participating agencies at the fire department headquarters.

> Story by Frances Niblock Photos by Herb Garbutt

Trio arrested after tires in Acton slashed

been charged in connection with a tire-slashing spree that occurred in Acton Saturday night and early Sunday morning.

Halton Regional Police say several vehicles parked in Acton that evening had their tires

Three young Acton men have slashed or punctured, and a couple received more extensive damage. Four vehicles on Longfield Rd., three on Queen St., and one each on Holmesway Place, Church St. E., and Main St. S. were all damaged.

> Total damage was in the \$8,000 range.

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As a result of police investigation two Acton men, one aged 20 the other 18, have been charged with mischief and breach of probation. A third Acton male, aged 17, was charged with mischief.

All three were held for a bail hearing Monday.



Animal Clinic, was left tied to a fence in a Norval farmer's field. She was rescued by the Upper Credit Humane Society Photo by Ted Brown and is up for adoption.

Puppy left tied to tree

'Riviera' needs a home

fter being left tied to a fence at a Norval area farm, a three-month-old puppy has a new lease on life and L is awaiting adoption.

Holly Nutkins, a volunteer inspector with The Upper Credit Humane Society, said the society received a call at about 6:15 p.m. Monday from a Norval farmer who had found the puppy tied to a fence on his farm. Nutkins said the puppy was left without food or water, and she figures the female pup may have been tied to the fence, located about 200 to 300 ft. from the road not far from the Credit River, for anywhere between 24 to 48 hours.

She said it didn't look as if someone had left the dog tied there while they went fishing.

"She had wound herself (her leash) into the fence," said Nutkins.

She said if the dog had been left there for too long a wolf or coyote, which are prevalent in the area, likely would have gotten it.

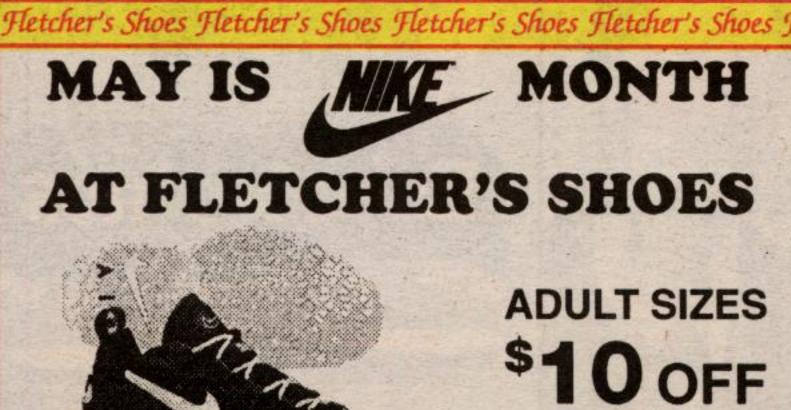
When Nutkins and another inspector, Kelly Clark, went to the farm to retrieve the puppy, named Riviera, because she was found so close to the river, it was happily playing with area children.

"She was well adjusted and very, very thirsty and hungry," said Nutkins. She added she doesn't know what type of a person could abandon a puppy.

The dog was taken to Georgetown Animal Clinic where she was examined and given a clean bill of health. She will stay with a foster family until someone adopts her. Nutkins said the pup would fit nicely into any family.

She believes the dog is a shepherd/collie cross, and won't grow to be huge. Anyone interested in adopting the dog should call the Upper Credit Humane Society at (519) 927-5152.

— By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer





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