Bealdy Riving

Injured Halton Hills firefighter praises benefits of physiotherapy

ruce Morrison, the Halton Hills firefighter who suffered a broken leg and a crushed foot when the roof of Halton Hills IGA fell on him while fighting the million dollar fire in January, is back to work and credits his physiotherapy sessions with accelerating his recovery.

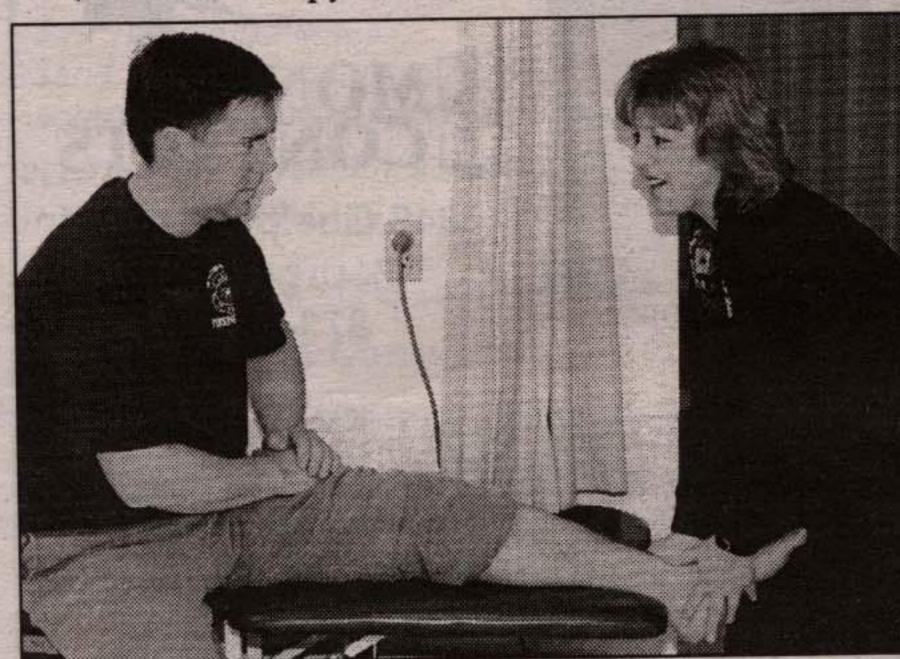
"I think if I hadn't had this (regular physiotherapy sessions) I'd still be on the couch," said Morrison, who went back to work and firefighting on April 6.

Morrison was happy to discuss his experience with physiotherapy at Baynes Physiotherapy in Georgetown in conjunction with National Physiotherapy Week which runs through Saturday. Injuries like Morrison's are typical of the type that physiotherapists treat and they also work with clients who have sports or repetitive strain injuries, nagging headaches, neck and back pain, been injured in car accidents, have arthritic conditions or have suffered a stroke.

"At any age, treatment by a licensed physiotherapist can make a difference to a person's quality of life," said Dianne Parker-Taillon, director of Education, Practice and Research for the Canadian Physiotherapy Association. "Seeking treatment from a registered physiotherapist can be the key step a person takes to alleviate pain and reduce disability."

Morrison began daily physiotherapy sessions at Bayne's Physiotherapy three weeks after he was injured, while his leg was still in a removable air cast.

Physiotherapist Karen Zytaruk, said in the beginning Morrison had an hour-and-a-half treatment each day. She and the other physiotherapist who worked with Morrison used a variety of treatments including heat, ice, acupuncture, manual therapy to mobilize his ankle, balance and



Physiotherapist Karen Zytaruk works on Halton Hills firefighter Bruce Morrison's leg that was injured while fighting a fire at Halton Hills IGA.

Dr. Henry Lau, M.D., B.Sc.

General Physician

New Patients Welcome

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CORRECTION NOTICE

An error occurred in the Fri., Apr. 16/99 ad for





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The Brampton Guardian apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this error.

gait training and fitness and conditioning.

Morrison said it "was amazing how quickly your muscles will atrophy."

During his conditioning sessions he spent time on the treadmill, stepper and bike and said he noticed a gradual improvement. He's now back to bicycling with his kids.

"You still feel it, the pain still reminds you but it's not a debilitating thing," he said. "Every week you could see how you had progressed from the week before."

Zytaruk said Morrison will finish his physiotherapy treatments and be discharged with a home stretch and strengthening program. She stressed that education is a key component of a physiotherapist's treatment.

In conjunction with Physiotherapy Week staff from physiotherapy clinics in town and the hospital will be at Georgetown Marketplace from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday to promote awareness of physiotherapy.

-Photo and story by Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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