

## Emergency crews responded well

The lessons learned in a mock disaster two years ago paid off in Tuesday's train derailment.

In May 1997, local emergency services took part in a staged train derailment at the GO station in Georgetown. Tuesday morning they responded to the real thing.

"Everything went very well," said Halton Hills Ambulance Service president Gord Kearsley. "The patients were transported as soon as we could get them out and everything was right on line."

The first ambulance was dispatched from the Acton station at 9:07 a.m. and the Georgetown ambulance was called a minute later. Four ambulances from Peel Region responded, as well as a bus from the Toronto Ambulance Service. Two helicopters and ambulances from Orangeville and Guelph were on standby.

By 10:30 a.m., all the ambulances had transported the injured to Georgetown Hospital. At the hospital, doctors and nursing staff were put on alert after the preliminary report of a train derailment with one person killed and six injured people. As further reports came in, hospital staff determined it would not have to go to its emergency response.

"It didn't call for our full disaster plan, but we were ready for it," said Dr. Don Trant, Georgetown Hospital campus administrator.

In addition to treating the injured, the hospital set up a phone line for relatives to provide information on the condition of patients. Social workers, a pastoral care team and additional volunteers were also ready to help family members.

Halton Regional Police Staff Sgt. Roy Smith said the response to the crash "went like clockwork."

There were 22 officers on the scene, including the canine unit which was brought in to ensure nobody was trapped.

Thirty firefighters from Halton Hills Fire Department responded according to fire chief Bill Cunningham who said, "things went really well."



Workers clean up and repair the tracks at the Fourth Line crossing Wednesday where a 22-year-old truck driver was killed in a collision with a VIA passenger train Tuesday morning. Photo by Ted Brown

## Cause of crash not determined

Investigators continue to look into Tuesday's truck-train crash that killed 22-year-old truck driver Brett Wade of Little Current, Ontario.

Wade's dump truck and a VIA passenger train collided just west of Limehouse shortly after 9 a.m. Nine train passengers and two crew members were taken to hospital with minor neck, back and knee injuries.

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada removed the train's event recorder at 9 a.m. yesterday (Thursday). Kim Nelles, regional senior investigator, said the board had completed its on-site investigation by 1 p.m. and the event recorder was being taken to Ottawa to be stored until it could be taken to the manufacturer in Montreal. There, information including the train's speed, braking and when the train's horn sounded, will be downloaded.

Jim Harris, a spokesman for the Transportation Safety Board of

Canada, said the point of impact was on the right side of the truck and the left front of the train.

Nelles said a number of pieces were retrieved from the locomotive once it was upright which will help determine whether the train hit the truck or whether the truck hit the train. Both the truck and the engine will be studied to determine if there were any mechanical failures.

"This is just the beginning," said Nelles. "Our on-site investigation is usually the quickest part. Usually what we find later leads to more questions."

It could take up to a year before the final results of the investigation are released.

The first car was rerailed on Wednesday morning and the track had been cleared and rebuilt by Wednesday night. Rail traffic resumed Thursday morning at 9 a.m. when the Toronto to Chicago train passed through.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Linda Dale-Johnson is pleased to announce the marriage of her daughter **KIMBERLY DALE-JOHNSON** to **PETER DUFRESNE** on October 16, 1999 in Emerald Lake, British Columbia.

*Congratulations Kim & Pete*

## GEORGETOWN FRUIT MARKET

"HOME OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES"

140 GUELPH ST.  
877-8882



Joe, Owner & Proprietor

Locally Grown  
**FRESH BROCCOLI**



99¢

bunch

Product of USA - No. 1  
**EXTRA LARGE TOMATOES**



99¢

lb.

Ont. No. 1  
**GREEN CABBAGE**



69¢

ea.

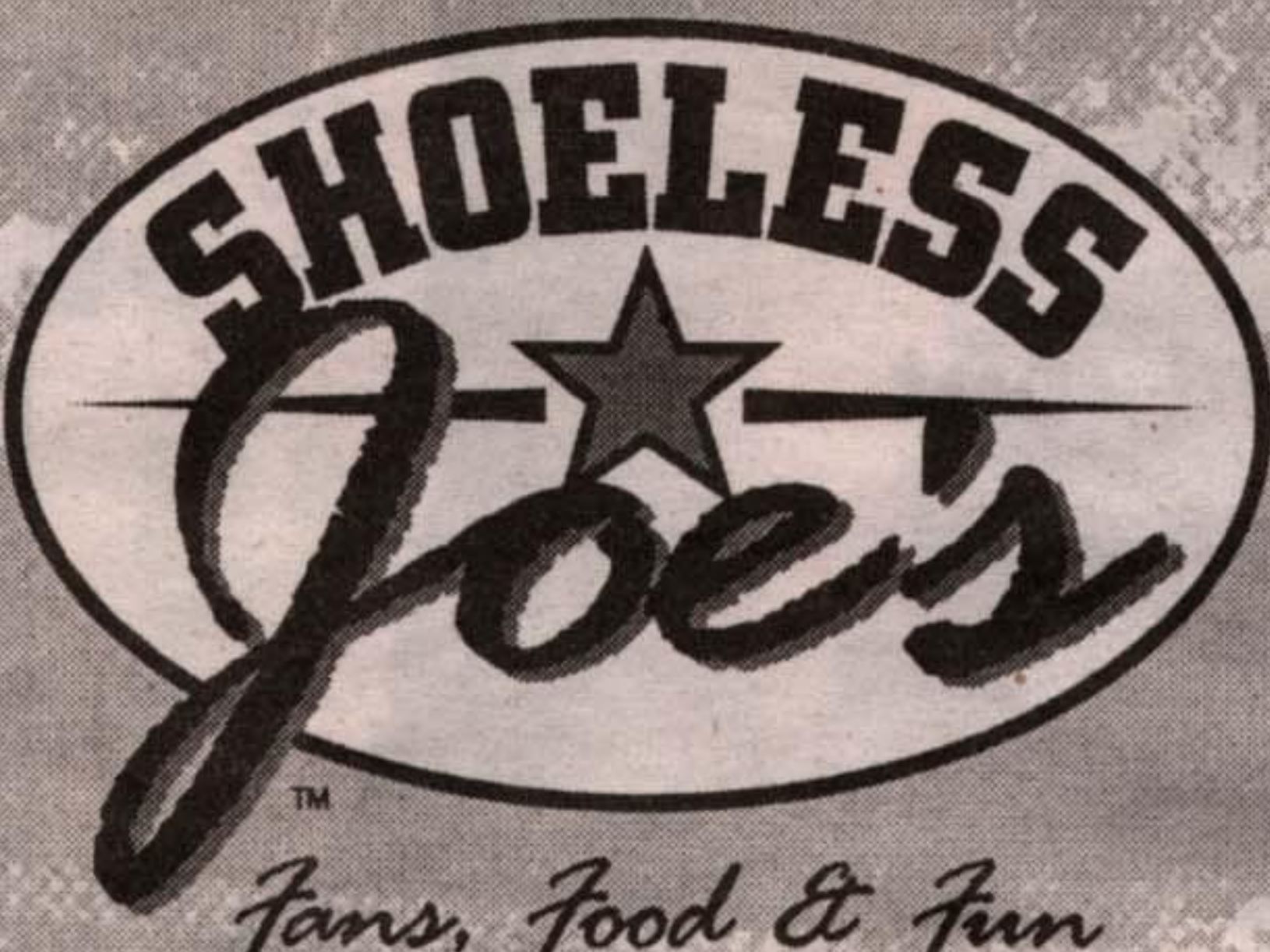
Locally Grown  
**APPLES**

\$2.99

4L Basket

We reserve the right to limit quantities.  
Sale Prices In Effect from  
Sat. Nov. 13/99 to Fri. Nov. 19/99

## Soon Open in Georgetown



Georgetown's Own Sports Theme  
Restaurant and Gathering Place!

Shoeless Joe's 17<sup>th</sup> location.  
367 Guelph St, Georgetown  
Tel: (905) 873-3157