

## 'Lads never saw train'

Continued from pg. 1

He said the evidence gathered so far didn't indicate that Dick was trying to beat the train and that the crossing lights and signals were working.

That information was gleaned from a re-enactment of the accident staged by the safety board and Halton Regional Police Friday morning.

Roosenboom said there were between 10 and 20 workers at the crossing at the time of the accident involved with the cable installation.

"There was quite a bit of activity at that crossing," said the safety board's lead investigator Tom Griffith. He said the workers were wearing bright orange safety vests.

"It's a mental overload for people coming toward that crossing," said Griffith.

"It would appear the lads were aware of all the machinery and trucks," said Roosenboom. "It was thought the boys never knew what hit them."

He said the workers tried to warn the boys of the oncoming train by violently waving.

"It may have served to draw attention to the people waving, than to the train. Their attention was focused on the men... instead of the train."

Roosenboom said the safety board's role is to do an independent investigation that is made public and it does sometimes make recommendations. The board's report from last November's fatal train-gravel truck accident at the crossing has not yet been released. He said barrier arms could cost in excess of \$100,000.

Gail Crossman, director of communications for Transport Canada, said the cost of installing barrier arms depends on the crossing.

"The responsibility for a safe crossing is either with the road authority (the town) or rail company."

She said either can put in a request to Transport Canada to assist with up to 80 per cent of the cost of the arms. She was not aware if a request had been filed.

## Acton teens remembered as 'good kids'

The community of Acton is still reeling after funerals for three of the town's young residents were held Monday.

The three friends—Rory Dick, 18, Travis Toth and Mark Everson, both 17—were killed Thursday morning when a train slammed into their car, slicing it in two, at a level crossing on the Fourth Line. The boys were heading to E.C. Drury High School in Milton, where all three were students.

Hundreds attended the funerals, and since the accident, friends and schoolmates have gathered at the crossing where the boys were killed. They've come, many of them crying and hugging each other, to lay flowers and other items at a makeshift shrine—consisting of bouquets, beer bottles, cards, and even a white teddy bear—and to sign a banner in memory of the three friends.

"They were awesome people. This wasn't fair," said an emotional Erin Walter of Acton, who has known Dick and Toth for years, and was at the rail crossing Friday morning.

"They should have put barriers up after it happened the first time," said Dawn Vanderstarren, another friend of Dick's and Toth's, referring to last November's train-truck crash in which gravel truck driver Brett Wade was killed.

"(Rory) was the kind of person who would uplift other people and make them laugh," said a relative of Dick's Monday.

He said after Dick lost his dad in a

car accident four years ago, and his grandmother last year, Dick grew up quick.

He had plans to pursue mountain biking at the professional level and over the last two years competed in the Canada Cup.

Dick, who had been an E.C. Drury student for three years, also enjoyed downhill skiing and was a member of the school's ski team, and Milton Heights Ski Club. He also played AAA hockey.

The Rory Dick Memorial Mountain Bike Camp Fund has been established by Matt Burger, the owner of Spokes N Slopes in Milton. Dick worked at the store and was sponsored by the store in mountain bike competitions.

Burger said money raised will go to cover the cost of an annual mountain bike camp at Kelso for underprivileged kids and those associated with Big Brothers. Anyone interested in making a donation should mail it to Spokes N Slopes, 89 Ontario St. N., Milton, Ont., L9T 2T2.

For information call 876-7676.



RORY DICK



MARK EVERSON



TRAVIS TOTH

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville recalled Toth, who worked for him during the summer at Georgetown Golf Club, as "an awesome kid."

This was Toth's first year at E.C. Drury High School.

In a profile of Toth presented to Drury students by principal Ruth Peden, she described him as hard-working and conscientious with a genuine interest in the well-being of others. An avid skate-boarder, he enjoyed snowboarding and carpentry.

Kathy Everson said her son Mark "was a good kid."

"He liked to goof around and hang out with his friends. He was very positive and happy."

She said her son liked snowboarding, hunting and fishing and had taken guitar lessons.

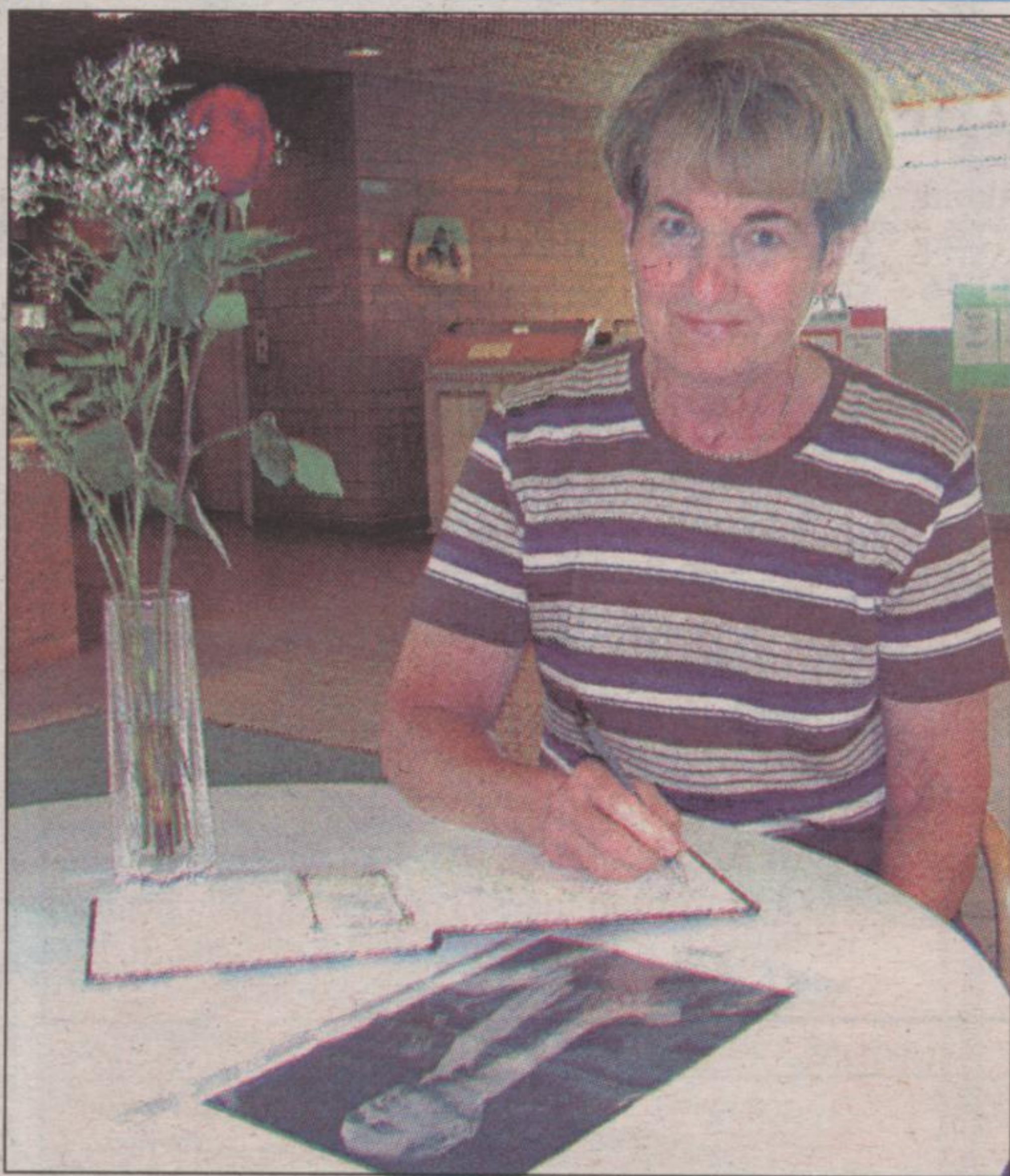
He had worked at Harvey's in Milton and during the past summer had worked with his dad at Best Door in Woodbridge.

In her profile of Everson, Peden said friends and teachers described him as outgoing and personable and someone who helped others.

A bike ride, followed by a memorial service for the three boys, will be held Monday from 10 a.m. to noon in Milton. Anyone interested should be at Halton Hills Place on Steeles Ave. for the 10 a.m. start. The group will ride to Kelso where Father Mark Curtis will officiate at a memorial service.

—Stories by Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Drury students make plea to council, pg. 5



### Remembering PET

Ann French signs a book expressing her condolences to the family of Pierre Trudeau at the Halton Hills Civic Centre on Monday.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

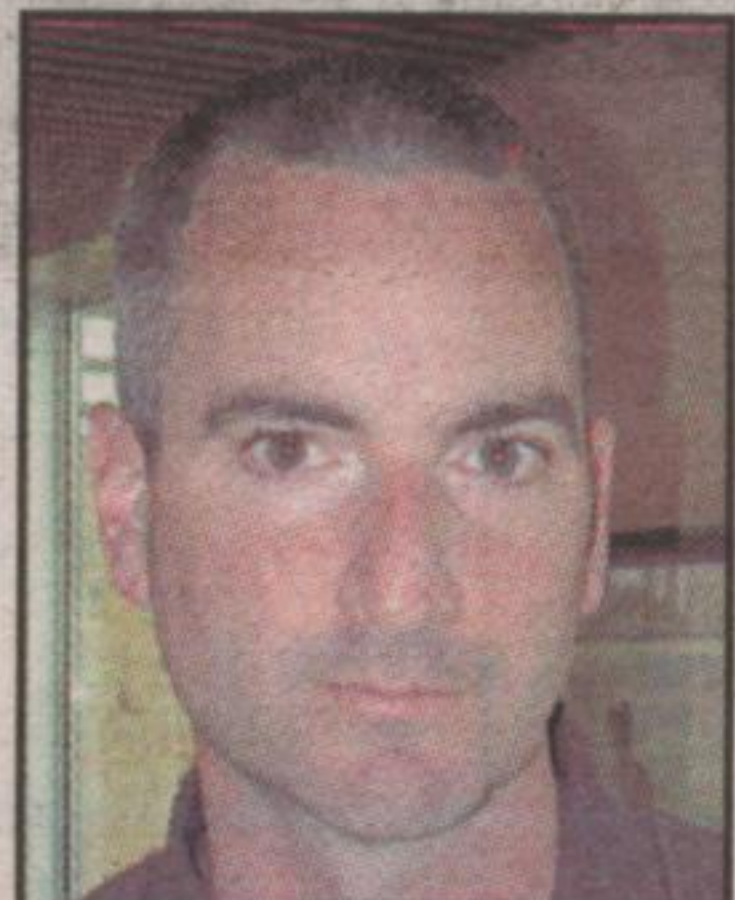
## What You Said

### 'How will you remember Pierre Trudeau?'



Pierre Galipeau, Georgetown, teacher

"As a great leader and someone dedicated to making Canada a better place to live."



Stephen Cochrane, Georgetown, sales

"With great fondness. There were few people who influenced me—or all of us—as much as he did."



Bev Whatmough, Georgetown, retired teacher

"To me the most important thing about Pierre Trudeau was that he had such a vision of Canada that was so clearly expressed. You might not agree with him but you knew where he stood."



Dal Swackhammer, Grimsby, manager

"I remember him more through my mother, who was involved in politics. Although her views were contrary—she was conservative—he was always an important and very charismatic leader."



Melanie King-Graham, Georgetown, real estate agent

"I'll remember him as very charismatic. I went to a rally in 1969 in North York and as he was making his way through the crowd he stopped and gave the carnation from his lapel to me. I still have it."

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