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Firm fined \$175,000 in death of employee

United Lumber and Building Supplies has been fined \$175,000 in connection with the death of an employee who died in a workplace accident 15 months ago.

Stephen Dower, a 19-year-old employee of United Lumber, was killed while moving sono tubes with a forklift at the Georgetown Guelph St. store in June 2001. United Lumber was fined for violating the Occupational Health and Safety Act.



STEPHEN DOWER

United Lumber pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that equipment provided at the workplace was maintained in good condition. Justice of the Peace William Phipps imposed the fine at the Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington Monday.

A Ministry of Labour investigation revealed Dower was using a forklift to move two sono tubes—rigid cardboard cylinders used to make concrete forms or pillars—when one of the tubes rolled off the forks towards a slowly reversing tractor trailer.

Dower got off the forklift to retrieve the tube and when he turned around, saw the forklift rolling towards him. He was pinned and crushed between the forklift and the tractor trailer and died a short time later at the William Osler Health Centre in Georgetown.

An inspection of the forklift showed it was in poor mechanical condition. An emergency brake cable was broken, the emergency brake lever was missing an adjusting knob and the emergency brake was not working. United Lumber was unable to produce any documentation the forklift had been inspected.

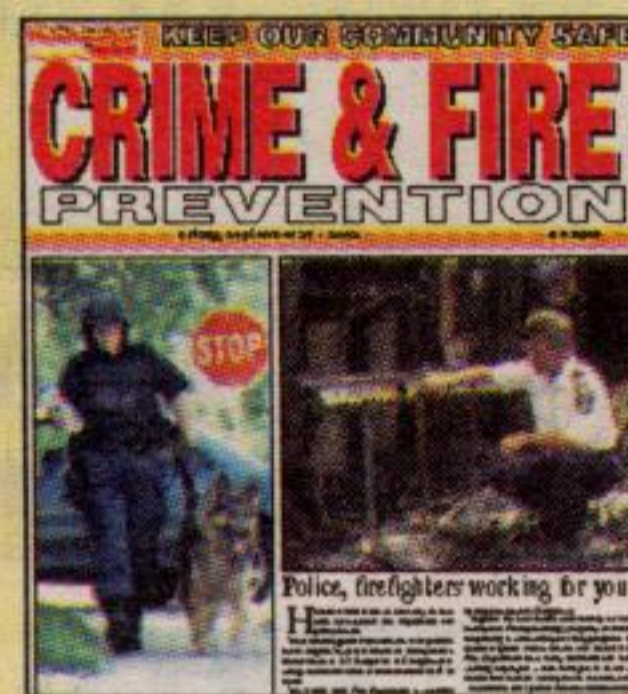
The investigation found that Dower had not been properly trained to operate the forklift.



Dogging it

Dana Bogan shared a light moment with Sadie, a Rottweiler, as dogs in Mike Martin's Obedience School were out for social training in the Canadian Tire parking lot Wednesday night. Below, Martin, with his Belgian malinois Jazz, puts Dana and Sadie through drills that allows the dogs to experience other dogs in a public atmosphere on the street. Martin has been training dogs for 30 years and specializes in their behaviour and problem dogs.

Photos by Ted Brown



**Crime/Fire
Prevention...**
8-page section



**Just For The
Health of It...**
8-page section

INSIDE

Editorial.....	6
A Ted Bit.....	7
Sports.....	13, 14
What's Cookin'.....	18
Entertainment.....	19
No Place Like Home.....	32 page section



New Homes...
8-page section



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