

## Police move...

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downtown area," Somerville said.

He also questioned how they could keep a designated parking space for police when parking is already tight and said "police dropped the ball on this by not communicating..."

Councillor Mike O'Leary said he's concerned what the move will mean to the Village Constable program – a foot patrol through the

downtown area.

"Although Acton is not that big, having a police presence right downtown, I think was comforting to the merchants, so much so that several of the banks have contributed, over the years to the rent of that existing station," O'Leary said, asking for assurance that the Village Constable program will continue.

Councillor Jon Hurst said he understands the concerns, but also has "confidence in the Police Service that they are capable of determining what they think is the best location and the best facility to serve the needs of the Acton community," adding police may consider their new location to be closer to the actual centre of the urban area.

No time frame for the move from downtown was discussed and The New Tanner was unable to contact Inspector Welsh for comment.



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**FINGER PRINT FUN:** Mitchel Jeffery, 6, of Acton was helped by Provincial Constable Bill Watts get his finger prints for an I.D. booklet as part of the Risk Watch activities at the Acton Fire Hall on Saturday - Angela Tyler photo

## Acton woman loses foot in bike accident

By Frances Niblock

Excessive speed and "inexperience on a bike that was too big for her" led to an accident in Grand Valley last Saturday that cost a 32-year-old Acton woman

her foot, according to the Ontario Provincial Police.

Constable Jodi Halliwell said Lauri Tothe-Parker was riding alone on the 1585cc, 2007 Harley-Davidson FXSR that her husband had given her the day before, one of five bikes out for a ride northbound on Water Street heading into Grand Valley.

Tothe-Parker was "hugging the yellow line" when she saw a pickup truck traveling close to the line, said Halliwell.

"She panicked and, just due to her inexperience, she kind of went into the truck and collided with the driver's side door," Halliwell said on Monday, adding Tothe-Parker's husband was riding in front of his wife and told police he was going "maybe 60" in an area posted at 50 km/hr.

Tothe-Parker was airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital with multiple injuries to both arms and a broken knee. On Sunday, her left foot was amputated.

"We thought it was a lot worse and that she would lose her leg," Halliwell said.

The Dufferin OPP constable said it was lucky that Tothe-Parker was wearing a good helmet because her head smashed the truck's windshield, resulting in 60 to 70 staples and stitches.

Halliwell said Tothe-Parker has her M1 motorcycle licence, and planned to take her motorcycle road test later this month.

Tothe-Parker's husband, David Parker, said Lauri is in serious condition, but good spirits.

"She's holding the whole family together – telling everyone that's crying that she's going to be okay, and joking about half-price pedicures," Parker said on Monday in a telephone interview from the hospital.

"We're grateful for all of our friends who have shown their support," said Parker, who is self-employed as a contractor. His wife does his books and is training to be a real estate agent.

Parker said his wife was not an experienced motorcycle rider – she'd ridden his dirt bikes while growing up – and that the accident was nobody's fault.

On Tuesday, the OPP said the accident was still under investigation.

Friends of the Parkers have set up an account at TD Canada Trust to help the couple. The transit number is 2065, and the account number is 6026945.



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