

# Alcohol and speed factors in crash?

By Frances Niblock

Nine-month-old baby Noah will never know his father. Jeffrey Sandles, 22, was pronounced dead at the scene of a horrific single car crash in Acton early Saturday morning – Halton police said alcohol and speed are being considered as factors in the accident.

Five occupants of the Hyundai Sonata were also injured when the driver failed to negotiate the curve at Young Street and Eastern Avenue and slammed into a tree on the front lawn of a house.

An unidentified 18-year-old female passenger from Erin was airlifted to a Toronto hospital and, at press time, was listed in critical, but stable condition. Friends of the deceased said the woman is paralyzed below the neck.

Two 20 year-old female

passengers, both from Georgetown, were taken to a local hospital and then transferred to Hamilton General with non-life threatening injuries. Police said one has a broken pelvis and another has a dislocated pelvis.

The driver, a 21-year-old Mississauga man, and a male passenger, also from Mississauga, fled the scene. The driver was arrested by police, reportedly shoeless and bloody, on Mill Street almost five hours after the 2:50 a.m. crash. The second man, Andrew Bruist, was located in Mississauga, and charged with offences unrelated to the accident, including breach of probation, breach of recognizance and breach of an undertaking. Both suffered minor injuries.

The driver is charged with failing to stop at the scene of an accident causing death,

four counts of failing to stop at the scene of an accident causing bodily harm, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death, four counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm, three counts of failing to comply with a probation order and possession of a controlled substance. Charged is Todd McGowan. Both McGowan and Bruist remain in custody pending a bail hearing today (Thursday).

On Monday afternoon, the young mother of Sandles' baby, who did not want to be identified, her parents and several relatives and friends laid roses at the base of the tree that stopped the car, along with a sign that said "RIP (Rest in Peace) Daddy" and "We love you" and "We will all miss you" and "We will never 4-get you."

Sandles' brother-in-law, who identified himself as George, said Sandles had been drinking so he allowed his friend, who he allegedly knew also had been drinking, drive his car, reportedly on their way to see a "million dollar house" in this area.

Visitation for Sandles, who lived in Campbellville, is slated for today (Thursday) and tomorrow and the funeral is scheduled for Saturday in Milton, with interment to follow in Etobicoke.

The police investigation continues.



**FATAL FOLLOW-UP:** The police investigation continues into a single car accident that claimed the life of a 22-year-old Mississauga man and injured five others – one seriously – early Saturday morning in Acton. The driver, who fled the scene with another male passenger, faces 14 charges. Funeral services for Jeffrey Sandles will be held on Saturday in Milton. – Frances Niblock photo



**REST IN PEACE:** The former girlfriend of the 22-year-old Mississauga man killed in a single car crash in Acton early Saturday morning placed flowers and a sign at the accident scene on Monday afternoon. The sign reads "RIP Daddy" – the dead man had a nine-month old son. The police investigation into the accident that also injured five people continues. – Frances Niblock photo

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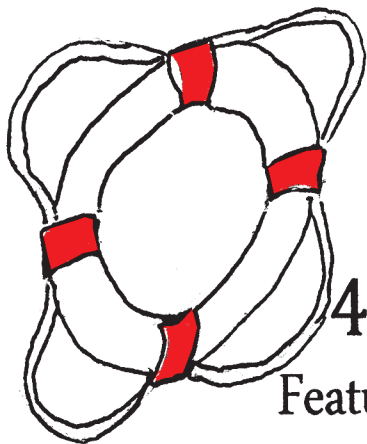
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