

# Jail crisis intervention team brings calming effect



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

A member of Maplehurst's ICIT practices crowd control techniques during a monthly training session.

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
The Champion

Just the arrival of the Institutional Crisis Intervention Team (ICIT) usually calms any disturbances caused by inmates at the Maplehurst correctional complex.

"We often find it has a calming effect over an inmate's behaviour," said Ross Virgo, spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Corrections.

Mr. Virgo said the inmates know ICIT members are specially trained to use the appropriate level of force and have access to special equipment that "inmates often give up before an altercation comes about," he said.

There are about 280 correctional officers in 19 facilities across Ontario who belong to ICIT. The team itself was established 20 years ago as a way to stop potentially dangerous situations from getting out of control.

ICIT is used in situations where other methods — such as negotiation — have failed, said Maplehurst superintendent Mike Mously.

Mr. Mously said ICIT can be used in hostage situations to stop inmate disturbances, cell extractions and the organized movement of inmates if there is resistance.

Each member is equipped with a uniform that consists of coveralls, a helmet and a gas mask as well as weapons such as a baton, pepper spray and a shield. The shields are used to pin inmates to the ground and walls as well as to protect team members from items thrown at them, he said.

There are four teams of six at Maplehurst. All members are correctional officers who have passed a screening, which includes a fitness level test, as well as a written test and an interview. After approval from their superintendent, members take a two-week basic training program at a military base, Mr. Virgo said.

While there, they learn things such as report writing, formation, restraints, use of force and chemical weapons, which is employed as a last resort, Mr. Virgo stressed.

The teams train monthly at their individual facilities, and once a year all members from across the province gather for a refresher course and share experiences.

At Maplehurst, ICIT has been used with success, Mr. Mously explained. In October 1996, the team defused a disturbance by

inmates — who were unhappy the government stop paying their \$5 per week canteen allowance. The team was also used in the spring to move an inmate with psychiatric problems to court and back.

Following a set of procedures, the superintendent would request the use of ICIT. The regional director would make the final decision. Once ICIT is at the facility, the team is briefed on the situation before deciding what to do.

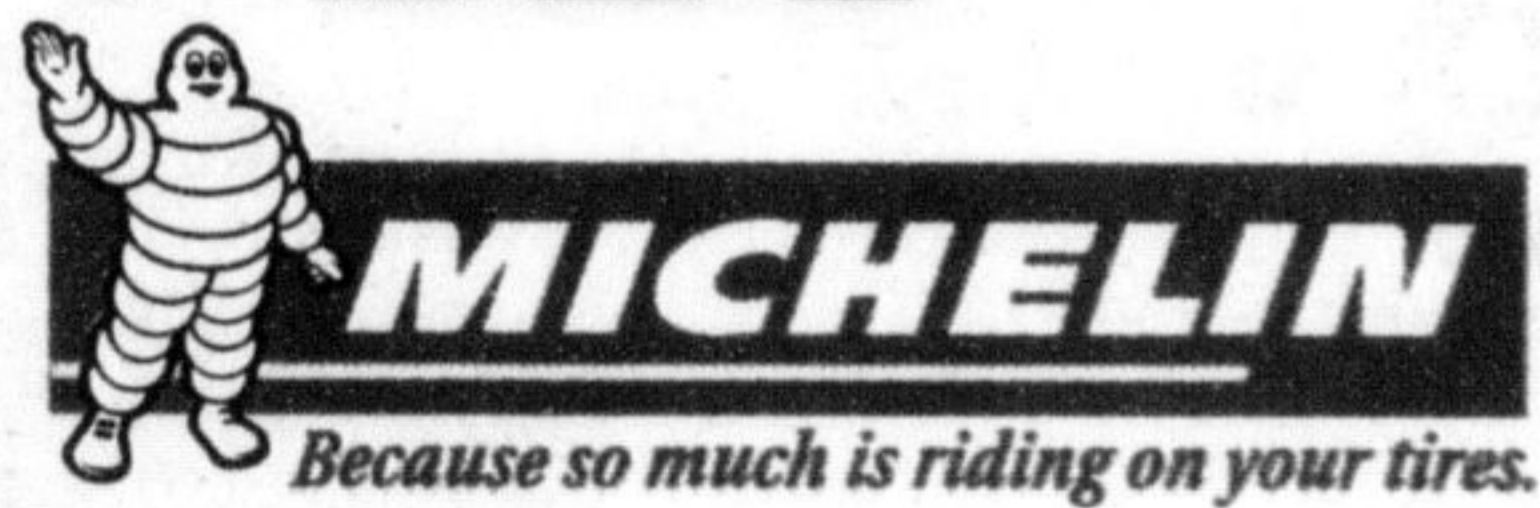
**We  
believe...  
in  
helping.  
Anyone.  
Anywhere.**



**PLEASE  
GIVE  
1-888-321-3433**

**WINTER TIRE**

**BLOWOUT!**



**ARCTIC ALPIN®**

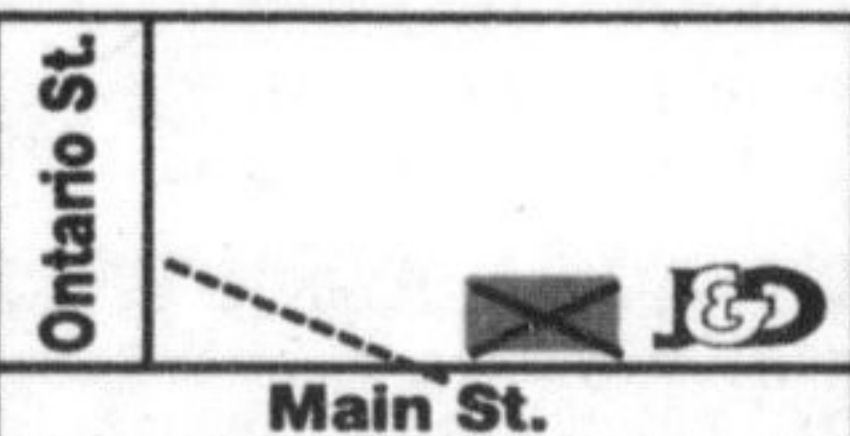
- Ultra-premium winter tire
- Ultimate ice traction
- 30-day satisfaction warranty
- Meets the R.A.C.\* snow traction performance requirements

\* Rubber Association of Canada

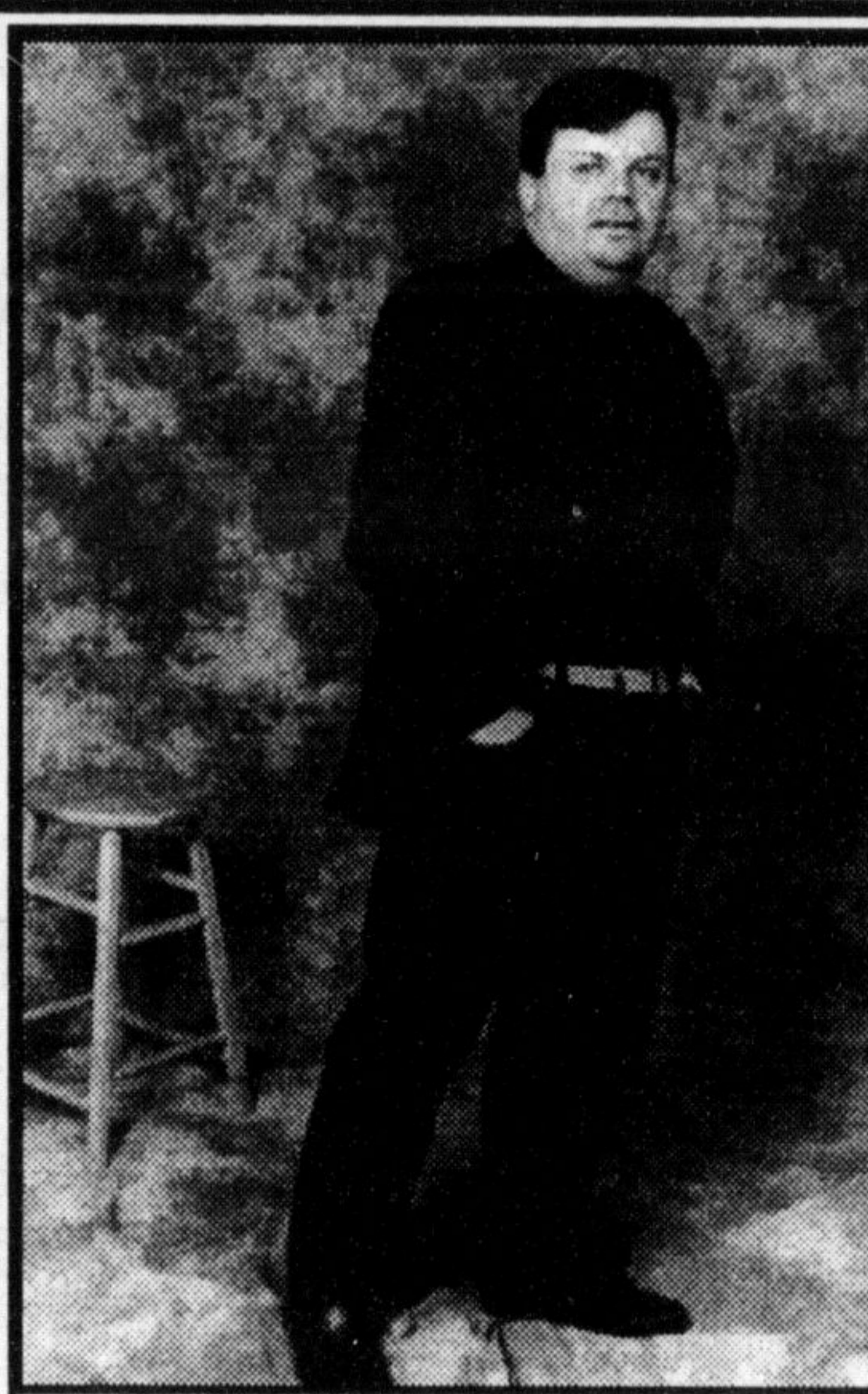
**BFGoodrich TAKE CONTROL**   **ALLIANCE TIRE PROFESSIONALS**   **UNIROYAL DRIVING DEPENDABILITY HOME.**

**TIRE SALES & SERVICE**

**J&D 876-4788**  
OPEN SUNDAYS 10-3



**555 MAIN ST. E. MILTON**



**To Introduce his  
NEW CD RELEASE  
"THE BRIDGE  
TO US ALL"**

**Fr. Mark Curtis is giving a Benefit  
Concert on Sun. Nov. 26 with the  
proceeds going to the Grace  
Anglican Church Restoration  
Fund.**

**YOU COULD  
WIN 1 OF 5**

**COPIES OF THE CD "A BRIDGE TO US ALL"  
JUST BY ANSWERING OUR TRIVIA QUESTION.**

Write your answer on the ballot below and fill in your name, address, phone number and age. Mail or drop off at the Canadian Champion office: 191 Main St. E.  
\*Deadline for entries is Tues., Nov. 21, 2000

**Question:  
What street in  
Milton is named  
after a previous  
pastor of Grace  
Anglican Church?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph. No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_