Tractor-trailer crash closes 401 for 9 hours

A truck driver has been charged with impaired driving in connection with a tractor-trailer crash that closed the eastbound Hwy. 401 for nine hours Friday.

The truck was travelling eastbound on Hwy. 401, east of Regional Road 25, just before 6:30 p.m. when it veered to the right and struck a steel guardrail on top of a railway overpass, said the Port Credit OPP.

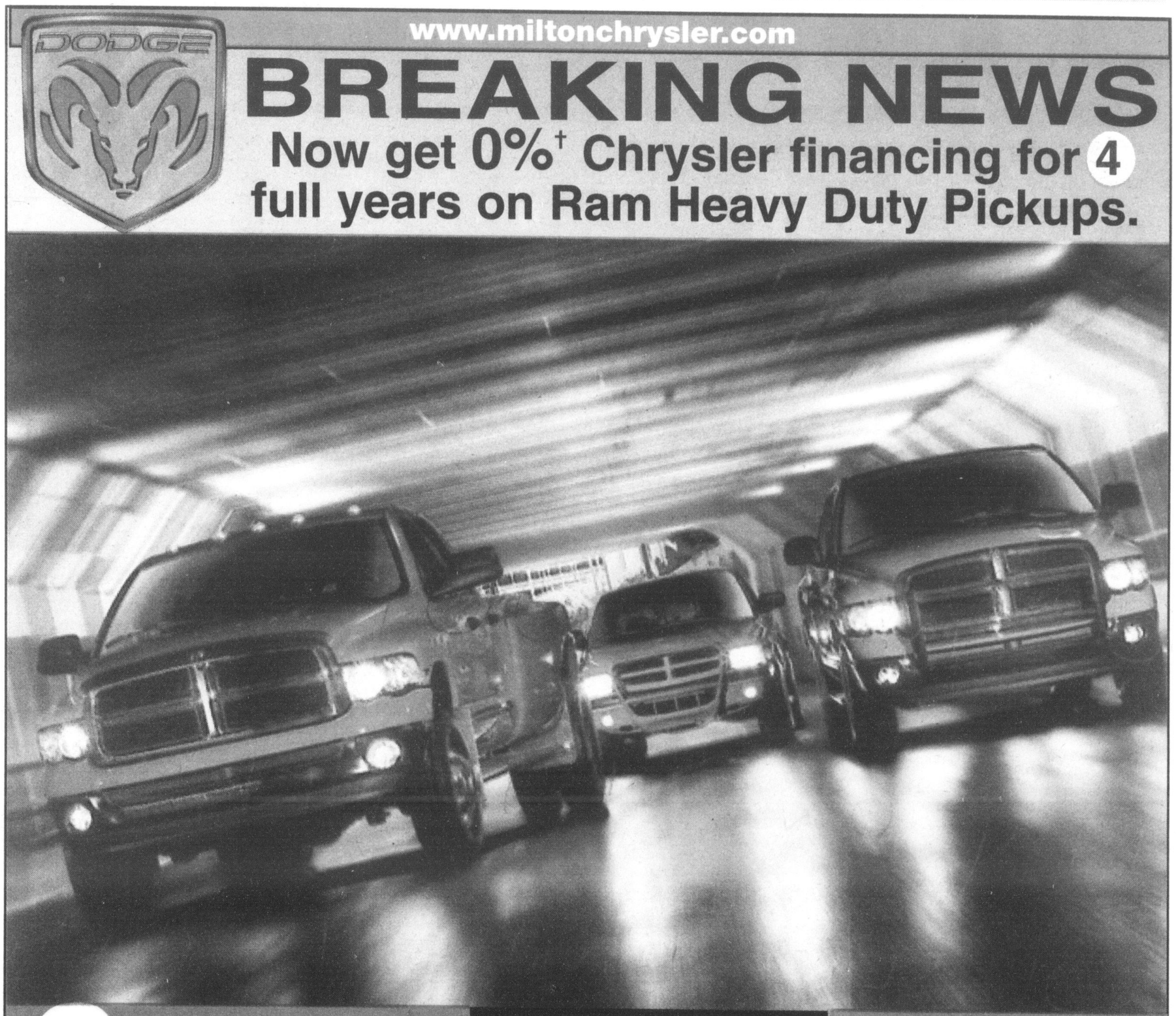
The right fuel tank was ripped open, causing a major leak of diesel fuel on the highway.

The truck then caught fire and was engulfed in flames. It finally came to rest across three lanes of the highway, police said.

The tractor and trailer were destroyed and had to be removed from the road in pieces. The eastbound lanes was closed while the scene was cleaned up and was reopened Saturday at 3:30 a.m.

The Milton Fire Department responded along with the OPP.

Charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood is a 41-year-old Nova Scotia man.



* Lifetime Free Oil Changes excludes diesel engines. See us for details. † 0% financing available on most 2003 models up to 60 months and up to 48 months on Ram 2500 & 3500 models. May not be combined with FDA, OAC. See us for details.

E. coli cause can't be found

We'll probably never know for sure how it all began.

That seems to be the final word now that the Peel Region Health Department has concluded its investigation into the recent E. coli outbreak that sickened some graduating E.C. Drury students.

The Peel Health Department investigated food sources and food handling at Mississauga's Trillium Banquet Hall — where the ill E.C. Drury students dined — while samples were tested from food, water, the kitchen environment and food handlers by the Central Public Health Laboratory, the health department said.

Despite a thorough investigation, exactly how the food became contaminated couldn't be identified, the department reported Thursday.

"Although we haven't pinpointed how the bacteria came to contaminate the food served at the banquet hall, the fact that people who ate at different events at the same banquet hall became ill with the same strain of E. coli confirms that food served at the hall was the source of infection," said Dr. David McKeown, Peel Region's medical officer of health, in a press release.

The investigation focused on five events held at Trillium Banquet Hall between June 25 to 29 where people became ill — including the E.C. Drury graduation on June 25.

In total, 117 people reported having symptoms associated with food borne illness, including bloody diarrhea. Eighty-five of those reporting illness attended the E.C. Drury graduation at the banquet hall. Forty-six people — 41 from E.C. Drury — have tested positive for E. coli 0157:H7, the health department reported.

Dr. McKeown said measures have been implemented at the banquet hall to reduce the risk of a recurrence.

After having to prepare food off-site for a number of weeks, Trillium has now been given the go-ahead to resume food preparation on site. But Peel health inspectors will have an increased presence at the facility for upcoming events.

Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health, said it's fortunate there haven't been any cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome — which can cause severe damage to the kidneys and other organs — arising from the E. coli infections.

Patricia DeBaie and her daughter, 19-year-old Lewanne, were both waiting for an answer as to what made Lewanne sick with E. coli. After hearing the conclusion of the investigation, Patricia was extremely upset.

"If they can send a man to the moon, they could have found the source," she said. "It's crap. That's how I feel, and so does my daughter."

Meanwhile, the class action lawsuit against Trillium Banquet Hall will begin as soon as the claim is issued — which is expected to happen this week. Jennifer O'Neill, who became sick after the E.C. Drury graduation, is the plaintiff.

A public meeting with two lawyers from Sutts Strosberg, the 21-lawyer firm that's handling the lawsuit, will be held tonight at 6 at the Milton Leisure Centre, 1700 Main St., for students who contracted E. coli, and their parents.