

Young man struck by car and killed

A 24-year-old Milton man has succumbed to his injuries after being struck by a car Friday night while he was walking at the side of the road.

Police said the man — whose name hasn't been released — was walking on Fourth Line, south of Britannia Road, at about 5:40 p.m. when he was hit, likely from behind.

The driver of the car that struck him, a 36-year-old Mississauga man, called 911 immediately.

Responding emergency personnel found the man in a ditch with severe head trauma. Due to strong winds and other weather conditions, the air

ambulance couldn't be used so police assisted emergency medical services in an emergency run to the trauma unit at Hamilton General Hospital.

Shortly before 2 a.m. Saturday, the young man died with his family at his side, police said.

The driver of the car wasn't injured. Fourth Line was closed for about three hours Friday between Lower Base Line and Britannia for the on-scene investigation.

Det. Const. Paul Davies of Halton Regional Police said it seems the victim was in his vehicle with his girlfriend when they got into an argument

and he got out and started walking at the side of the road — there is no shoulder in that area.

Minutes later, he was struck. "It was a dark, dark night and there were high winds," Davies said, adding it's a "desolate" stretch of road.

He said it appears the victim's girlfriend drove off looking for the man after he got out, but he had already been hit when she found him.

No charges are pending. Police are continuing to investigate. Any witnesses are asked to call the Regional Traffic Bureau at (905) 825-4777, ext. 5202.

Local ref suffers fatal heart attack during game Sat.

Cochrane remembered as 'great guy'

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

With the pain of her family's loss still all-too-fresh Sunday afternoon, Debbie Cochrane tearfully recalled the circumstances of her husband Brad's return to refereeing hockey.

"He'd officiated junior in the '80s, and got back into it a few years ago when our oldest son Ryan decided to start refereeing. He wanted them to do it together."

That type of family focus was typical of the 48-year-old Miltonian, who passed away Saturday afternoon — shortly after suffering a massive heart attack while he and 16-year-old Ryan were officiating a pee-wee house-league game at John Tonelli Sports Centre. He was able to skate off the ice but, sadly, he collapsed in the hallway and died shortly thereafter.

"His whole life was wrapped up in his kids and sports," explained younger brother Steven. "There wasn't a single person out there who knew him whose life he didn't touch. He always put others ahead of himself."

Added Debbie, "He was the nicest person I'd ever met. I learned so much from him. He was my best friend."

A father of three — with 14-year-old Jake and 11-year-old Alyson involved in hockey as well — Cochrane is certainly remembered fondly outside family circles as well.

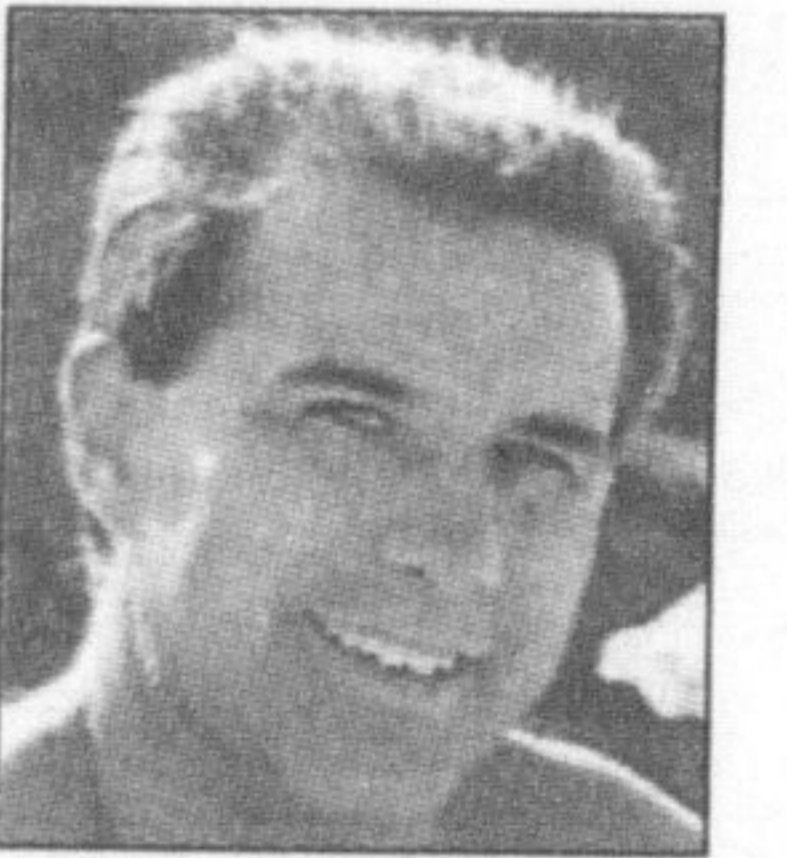
Always quick to help out within the local hockey ranks, he coached a few teams over the years and played a number of supporting roles along the way.

"Brad was a hard worker and always had a positive attitude," said Tom Gallinger, who's in charge of house-league officials for Milton Minor Hockey. "He was just a great guy."

Echoing those sentiments was local referee-in-chief Mark Droge: "Brad's loyalty and dedication to his family was present to everyone on the ice. He was a humble and easygoing guy — just an all-around well-liked person."

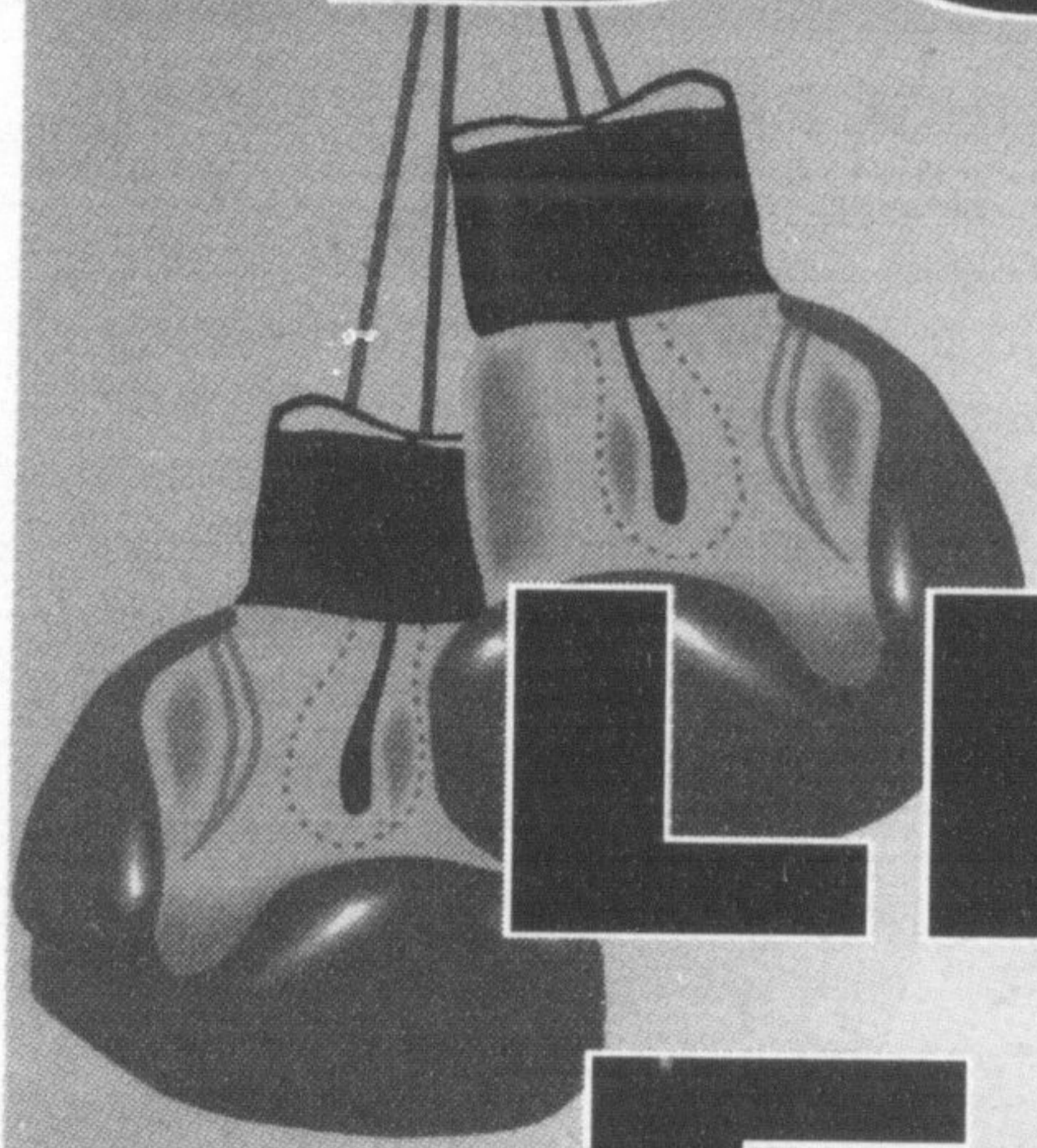
Visitation will be held at J. Scott Early Funeral Home tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. and tomorrow at 1 p.m., with the funeral to follow at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Kidney Foundation.

Steve LeBlanc can be reached at sleblanc@haltonsearch.com.



Brad Cochrane

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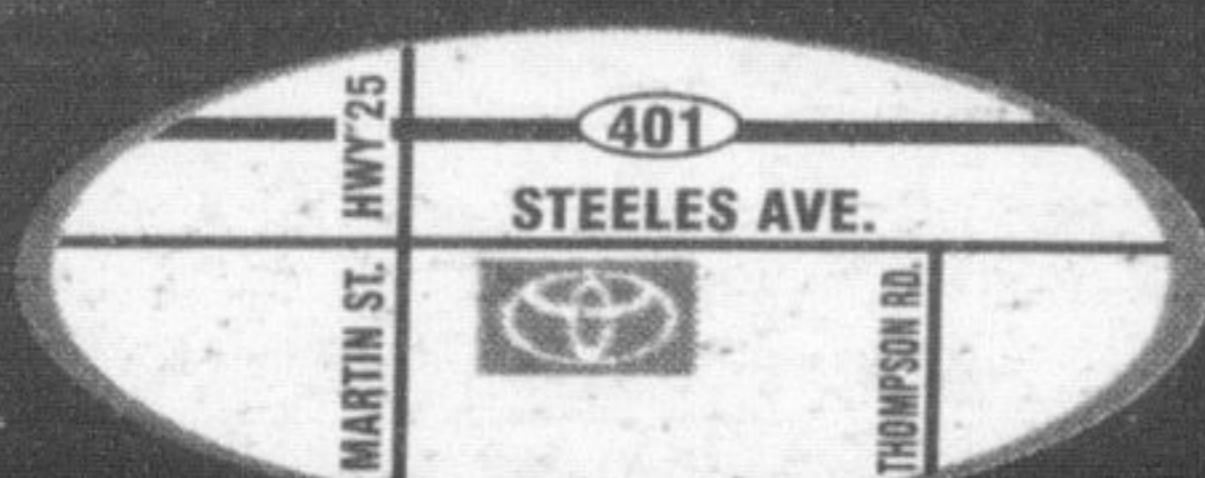
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Take Hwy 401 West to the James Snow Parkway exit (20 mins past Pearson International Airport) turn right (North) proceed to the end of the road (400 Metres). Turn left (West) and continue along Steeles Ave until you see Milton Toyota on your left just after the light at Hwy 25.
FROM HAMILTON
Take the Q.E.W. to the Bronte Road exit turn right (North) and continue for 15 kms to Steeles Ave. Turn left (West) and Milton Toyota is on your left.

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