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ICY RESCUE:
 Firefighter Walter Gaetan uses ice awls to claw his way out of the frigid water of the Mill Pond recently as part of the Milton Fire Department's annual ice rescue training.

GRAHAM PAINE /
 CANADIAN CHAMPION

Drunk driving charges laid in fatal crash

21-year-old charged in Regional Rd. 25 crash that killed 48-year-old Orangeville man Feb. 2

By Stephanie Thiessen
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A Milton man involved in a fatal collision earlier this month has been charged with drunk driving causing death and released on bail.

Police arrested 21-year-old Alvaro Diaz Sunday and laid numerous charges in connection with the horrific accident, which occurred February 2 on Regional Road 25, south of No. 5 Sideroad.

A bail hearing was held yester-

day morning at the Ontario Court of Justice in Milton.

Diaz has been charged with impaired driving causing death, dangerous driving causing death, having over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood, driving with alcohol above zero with a G2 licence and using unauthorized licence plates.

A stocky young man with short brown hair and glasses, Diaz wore running shoes, loose-fit blue jeans and a blue and burgundy shirt. He seldom looked at his

parents, who sat near the front of the courtroom when not at the witness stand.

His parents were designated as sureties, and stand to lose \$30,000 if their son breaches any of his bail conditions.

The conditions include that Alvaro live with his parents and be at home between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. He's prohibited from driving and can't sit in the front passenger seat of any vehicle.

He must also abstain from possessing, purchasing or consuming any alcohol or attending bars or restaurants that sell alcohol. And he needs to check in at the Milton police station weekly.

The night of the collision, Diaz was driving his Toyota 4-Runner north on Regional Road 25 when it struck head-on a Toyota Corolla traveling in the opposite direction just before 3 a.m.

Both drivers were taken to Milton District Hospital where 48-year-old Michael McDonald of Orangeville was pronounced dead a short time later.

Diaz was released after being treated for minor injuries.

He'll make his next court appearance March 20 in Milton.

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