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Friday, April 13, 2007

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Former Acton resident Master Corporal Brian McCallum was one of the soldiers injured in a devastating roadside bombing explosion in Afghanistan Easter Sunday. Six soldiers died in the bombing.

Wounded soldier son of Milton man

By Lisa Tallyn

SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

A former north Halton man is lucky to be alive after the armoured vehicle he was traveling in as part of a security convoy in Afghanistan Easter Sunday detonated a roadside-bomb killing six soldiers and wounding two others.

Master Corporal Brian McCallum, 31, who grew up in Acton, was one of the injured men.

McCallum was the commander of the lead LAV-III and was standing in the turret looking

for landmines at about 1:30 p.m. when the massive explosion occurred, said his father, Bob McCallum of Milton.

"He said they thought initially they had hit something. The whole vehicle just went up in the air," said Bob, who spoke to his son Monday. "When the blast went inside the vehicle he was blown out just like (as if it was) a cannon."

Brian was tossed into the air, landing back on top of the vehicle, injuring his back and neck, he said.

At the scene, after determining nothing

could be done for the six men who had died, Bob said Brian and another soldier rushed to the aid of a severely injured soldier- Cpl. Shaun Fevens — who ended up under the badly damaged vehicle. The other surviving soldier worked to ensure the area was secure.

Brian and the other soldier managed to pull Fevens out and then tended to his injuries, at times taking direction from the wounded man himself. He had taken an advanced course in first aid.

"His (Brian's) military training just kicked right in," said Bob.

see SOLDIERS on page A15

GTA pooling funds could go to roads

By Melanie Hennessey CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Should the \$6 million Halton expects to save on GTA pooling this year be given back to taxpayers or put into roads?

That was the question of the hour at the Region's administration and finance committee Wednesday afternoon, with committee members ultimately endorsing a motion that calls for the funds to be put aside for infrastructure projects.

The extra money is a result of the provincial government's recent decision to phase out GTA pooling - the system that Halton and other local regions contributed to to help • see REGION on page A14

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