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Car forced in front of train, killing couple



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: A heartfelt memorial has been erected by a grandson of the Rockwood couple at the scene of the fatal crash.

Milton man charged with drunk driving, not for first time

By Stephanie Hounsell
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A conductor's yell. The blare of a horn. The screeching of metal, screams and then crying. These are some of the sounds Milton GO train rider Jay Welch heard as a veritable nightmare unfolded before him.

The twisted wreckage of a car spinning through the air. Two lifeless bodies just 12 feet away. And a dog still breathing, the only being to come out alive.

These are some of the sights that will likely haunt Welch forever.

What started as a normal Thursday for the Milton commuter ended in tragedy when he witnessed the aftermath of a Mercedes barreling into the back of a car, sending it into the direct path of a GO train.

A 66-year-old Rockwood man and his 65-year-old wife were killed.

"The whole scene was surreal," Welch said.

Various media sources have identified the victims as Andy and Henrietta Miller.

The next afternoon, Welch was shocked to find out a 28-year-old Milton man had been charged with drunk driving causing death in the incident, and that he was already before the courts for drunk driving charges laid last year.

Police said the incident — witnessed by scores of Miltonians aboard the commuter train — occurred just before 7:30 p.m. at a railway crossing on Trafalgar Road, north of Derry Road East.

A northbound car and the couple's southbound car were both stopped at the level crossing for an oncoming GO train; the warning lights were flashing,

but the barrier arms hadn't yet gone down, police said.

A third car, a silver/grey Mercedes travelling south on Trafalgar Road then failed to stop and struck the elderly couple's car from behind, forcing it onto the tracks.

The Mercedes skidded across the tracks and struck the stopped northbound car that was being driven by a 34-year-old Milton woman who wasn't injured.

Moments later, the car on the tracks was struck by a westbound GO train headed for the Milton station, police said.

The driver of the Mercedes was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

In light of the charges, Halton police Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher spoke about the dangers of drunk driving at a press conference held at the scene Friday morning.

He said there has been much in the media recently about guns and gangs, but that "An impaired person behind

• see GO on page A4

Inside Today's Champion

CHAMPION COUNTRY	A5
OPINION	A6
DATELINE	A7
CLASSIFIED	A11
WHEELS	B1

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