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Funeral held this morning

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Patrick Brennan wrote. "You'll hear Ruth described as generous, thoughtful, kind-hearted and one tough lady. And it's all true."

According to a report by the Florida Highway Patrol, Hart-Stephens died when her car collided with an SUV. A 75-year-old woman in the passenger seat of the car sustained serious injuries.

Hart-Stephens and her late husband, Homer, founded what became Toronto Auto Auctions more than 40 years ago.

They began by holding auctions at an ice rink in Cookstown and moved to Mississauga before re-locating to the current 192-acre site, Canada's largest such facility.

Toronto Auto Auctions was purchased by Manheim Auctions in 1983.

Hart-Stephens was elected president of the National Auto Auction Association (NAAA) in 1994, and was the first woman and first Canadian to lead the association. She was inducted into the NAAA Hall of Fame in 2002.

"The passion that Ruth had for our industry was limitless," Brennan wrote. "(She) has truly helped create what the auto auction industry is in Canada today."

Condolences appeared on the website of the Used Car Dealers Association of Ontario (UCDA).

"Ruth and her late husband Homer were instrumental in the early development and growth of the UCDA and Ruth will be remembered as a very good friend and strong supporter," it says.

A funeral will be held this morning in Toronto.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Scam targets local seniors

Halton Regional Police are warning seniors about individuals who are placing phone calls and posing as a family member in an attempt to scam money.

Recently, there have been a number of occurrences in Halton where a senior receives a call by someone posing as a family member.

After a few minutes of friendly dialogue the caller asks for money to be sent to them as they are in trouble. The caller then pleads with the senior not to tell the rest of the family about this.

At this time of year the public needs to be diligent and remember that there are individuals in society that will take advantage of their giving nature.

Be cautious when speaking on the phone if you are uncertain of the caller. Never arrange to give money over the phone by way of credit card or by sending money or in any other way. Confirm with other family members if a relative has called and is requesting assistance.