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Lake gets 6 years for negligence in double fatality

By NORMAN NELSON

District Court Judge James Carnwath has imposed one of the most severe sentences ever handed out in Canada on an impaired driver who killed two young Milton women with his car last summer.

Oakville's John Lake received a six-year sentence in Milton Friday and was banned from driving in Canada for the rest of his life.

The family and friends of the victims, who had sat quietly throughout the trial which began last December, shouted "yes," and "thank God."

John Lake drove from his Oakville home to a golf tournament in Caledon last June 19. Before tee-off at about 8:30 a.m. his foursome sat in the parking lot drinking a few beers. They kept drinking while they played. They kept drinking throughout the afternoon awards ceremony and into the early evening, court was told.

At about 6:30 p.m., Mr. Lake got into his car, dropped off a buddy in Brampton, and proceeded to his Oakville home.

At the intersection of the James Snow Parkway and Main Street East in Milton he ran a stop sign at 80 km/h, smashing into two cars.

One, driven by 20-year-old Cheryl Master-son, was split in half by the impact. Two passengers in the back seat — Milton's Deborah Smith, 20, and Lorraine Gregory, 19, were thrown out of the car. They died. Cheryl and the other passenger in the front seat — Sarah Benjamin, 20 — required hospital treatment for their injuries.

Mr. Lake's vehicle veered into a third car, injuring the lone occupant, Peter Sherwood of Orangeville.

After a two-day trial in December, Mr. Lake, who had pleaded guilty to lesser charges of dangerous driving, was found guilty of criminal negligence causing death on Feb. 3.

Mr. Lake received six years each on two criminal negligence causing death charges and two years each on three criminal negligence causing bodily harm charges, to be served concurrently.

Don Smith, the late Deborah's father, was pleased with the sentence. "The public has got to realize the seriousness of this offence. They don't want to have to be put through what our families have just been put through. The public has got to get their eyes open."

Since the accident, he said family and friends

• see LIFE-LONG on page 3



A sweet brew

Photo by JON BLACKER

A huge cast iron pot and a log fire represent one of several old-fashioned methods of creating maple syrup that are demonstrated at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre's sugar bush. Resource interpreter Kimiko VonBoetticher attracted three up-front observers (from left) Victoria, Alexandra and Julia Bellisimo.

PCB incident haunts recycling firm's bid

By ROB KELLY

Town officials have adopted a wait and see attitude toward the possible expansion of operations at Aimco Solrec, a Milton waste solvent recycling firm which was apparently tricked into receiving a shipment of PCBs last year.

The controversial contaminants are still stored at the company's Morobel Drive plant. Monday night at general committee municipal councillors supported town planner Bob Zsadyani's recommendation that the town obtain more information about the potential expansion from the Ministry of the Environment before either opposing or supporting it.

Mr. Zsadyani cited four major concerns: He does not believe the Milton Fire Department has the equipment necessary to deal with hazardous chemical incidents; he wishes to be reassured that spills at the plant can be adequately contained; he is worried about the possibility of chemical spilling on roads as increased truck traffic frequents the expanded plant; he wants to make certain all applicable building codes are being strictly enforced.

Councillor Bill Johnson sided strongly with Aimco Solrec.

He said the previous PCB problem had occurred because "some idiot" mixed PCB-laden waste in a shipment to Aimco Solrec without

the Milton firm's knowledge. Aimco Solrec's principle fault, Mr. Johnson added, was that they "trusted everybody."

Since the incident "extensive" modifications at the Morobel Drive plant have been ordered by the Ministry of the Environment and those orders "have been met," Mr. Johnson said.

"There's no reason whatsoever why (the plant) should not be used" for expanded waste

processing, the councillor concluded.

Aimco Solrec plant manager Lorne Hesse said the company has spill control tanks capable of holding 40,000 gallons, while the firm only pumps individual loads of at most 5,000 gallons into its processing units. "So there's very little chance of overflowing the system."

• see AIMCO on page 2

Metroland contract talks are continuing

Negotiations are continuing in an effort to avoid a strike by, or lockout of, some editorial employees of *The Canadian Champion*.

Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing, owner of this newspaper, is hopeful it can reach an agreement on a second contract with the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild.

The union will be in a legal strike position or the company could lock the union out at midnight, Thursday, Mar. 15.

The company has offered increases of 5.5 per cent, 5.5 per cent and six per cent in each year

of a three-year contract. The guild is seeking increases ranging from 22 per cent to 35 per cent and an average increase for full-time employees of 29 per cent in a one-year contract.

The union represents reporters, photographers and sub-editors. It does not represent editorial management or staff in the advertising, production, distribution or administration departments.

The Champion will continue to publish and distribute its regular editions in the event of a newsroom labour disruption.

INSIDE: POLICE 5, DATELINE LS7, CLASSIFIED 20-23, REAL ESTATE RE1-RE20