

Heroes get life-saving awards

A 10-year-old girl and a local welder were honoured as heroes March 26 by Halton Region Safety Council.

Christina Winterburn and Charlie Speck received life saving awards at the Safety Council's annual awards banquet where eight other life savers were also recognized.

It was Christina's fast reaction when she took over the wheel of her mother's car while travelling on Hwy. 401 last June which earned her the award. The pair were travelling together when the front tire blew. The vehicle swerved violently, causing Pat Winterburn to hit her head on the side window, rendering her unconscious.

When the girl could not awaken her mother she took off her seatbelt and slid to the driver's side of the car. She then guided the vehicle across three lanes of traffic to safety at the roadside.

At the banquet, Christina's "quick thinking and good sense" were credited for making it possible for her and her mother to attend the event.

Mr. Speck's heroics saved a United Co-operatives worker from having his foot amputated at the scene of a mishap last November. The local welder used torches to cut away machinery that was hampering the rescue effort.

The danger of the situation was elevated because of the risk of dust explosion. Mr. Speck had to use extreme precision to cut within two inches of the victim's trapped and hidden foot to allow rescue personnel to view exactly how the victim's foot was entangled.

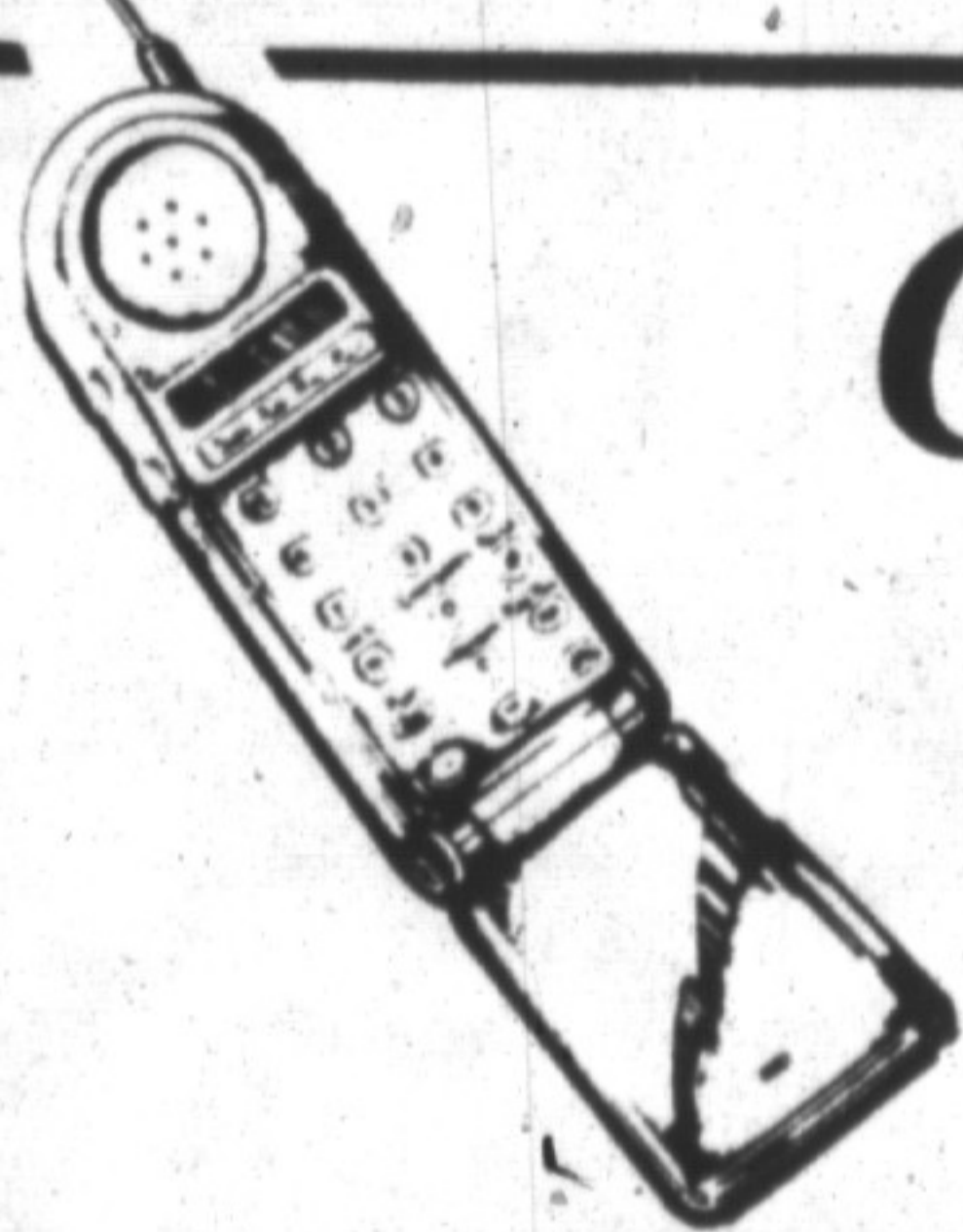
The entire process took four-and-a-half hours. Mr. Speck was recognized at the ceremony as the person responsible for the fact the victim is expected to make a full recovery.

The audience at Othello's Banquet Hall in Oakville heard that through his professional manner and skills.

Certificates were also presented and two Milton recipients were Douglas Leslie of the Halton Board of Education bus service and Jocelyn Eastwood, a member of the Halton Region Police Service safety unit for three years.



Photos by RIZIERIO VERTOLLI
Christina Winterburn receives her life saving award from Halton Regional Police Staff Inspector Ean Algar at the Halton Region Safety Council's recent awards banquet. Charlie Speck, (photo right) also of Milton, was recognized for freeing an industrial accident victim's foot from machinery.



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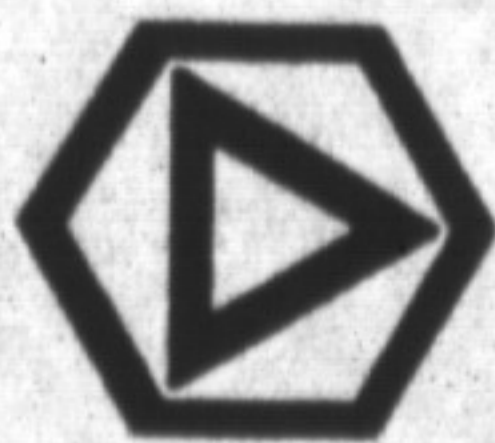
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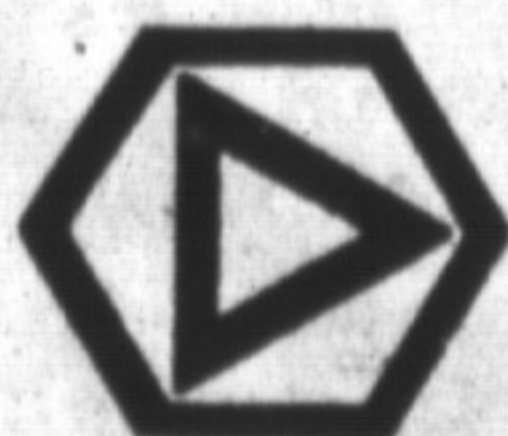
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