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NEWSLINES

Mystery surrounds groom's death

The cause of death of a Mohawk Raceway employee remains a mystery.

Paul Pond, 27, a groom at the Guelph Line track, was found dead by a co-worker Friday morning in a backstretch equipment room where he slept.

While an autopsy has revealed he likely died from a "sudden heart irregularity," the death is still under investigation, said Acting Inspector Mike Eacrett.

Initial reports indicated the man may have been kicked in the stomach by a horse Thursday morning, but no evidence of a related injury turned up in the autopsy, police said.

Foul play is not suspected in the death, said Acting Inspector Eacrett.

Police are now waiting for test results from the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto.

'Roving gangs' go on spree of vandalism

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Vandals caused at least \$15,000 damage to property in Milton Friday night, the eve of Halloween traditionally known as "Devil's Night."

"Roving gangs of youths" were responsible for the majority of the vandalism which included an overturned pick-up truck, said Halton police Acting Inspector Mike Eacrett.

About \$2,500 damage was caused to the 1983 GMC truck parked near the tennis courts at Childs Drive and Satok Crescent when it was turned on its side by "dozens of youths" between 7 and 8:20 p.m., police said.

A 17-year-old Milton youth was charged at the scene with breach of probation and public mischief in connection with the incident.

At press time yesterday, total damage was expected to reach well over \$15,000 since estimates had yet to be determined in all reports.

Police were kept busy controlling a group of about 100 youths who paraded through town. The soaping and egg-throwing tactics of the past were replaced by more serious incidents, mostly to vehicles.

A 1988 Jaguar was a target of vandals who between 7 and 9:30 p.m. caused \$2,600 damage to the car parked at a Williams Avenue residence.

The window of a wheelchair bus parked in a north-east lot at Halton Centennial Manor was smashed by a shot from a pellet gun, police said. Several thousand dollars in damage was caused to vehicles parked at Supreme Auto Collision on Nipissing Road at about 7 p.m.

The windows of several vehicles were reported smashed on Broadway Avenue, Ridge Drive, Commercial Street, Hayward Crescent, Coxe Boulevard and No. 25 Sideroad. Police said culprits were also throwing rocks at cars from the railway tracks at Main and Ontario streets.

One officer said he seized pepper spray, small hand-made firecracker-type explosives, and pellets full of paint from youths.

Last year's Devil's Night, which recorded minimal damage, was quiet compared to this year's busiest night for police, said Acting Inspector Eacrett.

But despite the rise of vandalism, damage has been worse in previous years, said the acting inspector who patrolled the area among about 35 officers on duty Friday night. Normally, about 12 officers work the shift.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Ready to rally

A fund-raising car rally for local Scouts and Venturers going to the Scout Jamboree next year in Calgary earned more than \$2,000 for the cause Sunday afternoon. Two 5th Milton Venturers, Laura Wood (left) and Jen Garbutt have some fun while looking at their route map. The girls travelled the rally route in a Toyota Corolla GTS rally car. The event was won by Scott Feaver driving for Handball Cafe.

Local man killed in car crash

A fiery car crash on Appleby Line just south of Milton Friday night claimed the life of a local man.

John Ferris, 38, of Ontario Street died of massive injuries when his car left Appleby Line, south of Derry Road.

Halton police said the car became airborne when it hit a culvert. The southbound vehicle then hit a tree and landed back on the road, bursting into flames.

The victim, who was thrown from the vehicle, was pronounced dead at Milton District Hospital. A dog in the car also died.

Mr. Ferris is survived by his wife Nancy, mother Helen, and three children, Gwen, 19, Shane, 18, and Susan, 15.

He worked in the printing department of Hands Fireworks on Nipissing Road after being hired by the company in 1983. He started out in the shipping and receiving department.

The atmosphere around the office has been quiet since Mr. Ferris' death, said Dave Gilmore, a long-time co-worker.

"I think everybody is still in shock," he said.

Mr. Gilmore described Mr. Ferris as an easy-going, down-to-earth man who was always willing to help out. He liked hunting, camping, and playing flag football.

His funeral was held Monday. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Enter recipes for our holiday cookbook

Submit your favourite Christmas recipes to The Canadian Champion and they may be published in our holiday cookbook.

The best entries will win prizes, and many will be featured in the publication.

Send recipes by Wednesday, Nov. 18 to Champion Christmas Cookbook, Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or drop them off at The Champion office, 191 Main St. You can even fax them to 878-4943.

Be sure your name, address, and phone number is clearly written on each entry.

INSIDE



The Singing Priest, Mark Curtis, will perform during Holy Rosary's second annual Share The Spirit concert.

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