

# Toronto man badly hurt in 50 foot-plummet from cliff

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

A Downsview man is lucky to be alive after plummeting 50 feet from the Niagara Escarpment at Sixth Line, just north of No. 5 Sideroad, Sunday. Almost a dozen firefighters worked for more than two hours to rescue the rock climber from a dense portion of forest following the fall,

shortly before 5:30 p.m.

Henrick Overbye, 29, was rappelling down a rock face with a group of friends when he encountered equipment problems, Halton Regional Police said.

He tried to fix his gear while supporting himself with a branch, police said, but the tree limb failed to hold his weight.

"Unfortunately the branch broke and he fell

approximately 50 feet to the bottom, landing on some rocks and rubble," said Halton police spokesman Sgt. Frank Phillips.

Members of the Milton Fire Department's high-level, low-level rescue team rappelled down to the victim, but couldn't remove him by the same route, said firefighter Mark Cross.

Rescuers had to cut through vines and brush to take the man to a waiting ambulance, he said.

"They had to cut their own path to get back out," Mr. Cross said. "It was a pretty strenuous rescue for them."

Suffering from severe head and internal injuries, the victim reached the ambulance shortly after 7:30 p.m., he said. The man, conscious and talking, was taken to Milton District Hospital and stabilized before being transferred to Sunnybrook Medical Centre in Toronto.

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Tyke in training

Co-op firefighter Chris Penson gets a little help on where to train the water from Eil Hicks, 4, at the fire department's annual fire prevention open house Saturday at the Derry Road Hall. The youngster took advantage of the open house to get his feet wet, so to speak, in the business of fire fighting. For more photos, see page 4.

## Robbery rate has doubled

*Milton a mecca for bank thieves*

By KAREN SMITH  
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Milton banks are becoming increasingly attractive to robbers looking to avoid sophisticated security systems at financial institutions in major cities, police say.

A hold up at the Bank of Montreal at Milton Mall Friday was the 15th robbery in Milton this year.

Now the number of robberies in 1996 is more than double compared to the first nine months last year — and a rise in bank heists is partially to blame, police say. Other robberies have occurred at gas stations and the beer store. Milton had seven robberies by the end of September, 1995 compared to 14 during the same time this year.

The problem appears to be region-wide, said Det. Sgt. Ron Welsh of Halton Regional Police. Other communities have also reported a rise in bank heists.

"There's definitely increases in other areas, too," he said. "I don't think it's anything unique to Halton."

However, banks in small communities such as Milton are being specifically targeted because many don't use video surveillance cameras or a central teller

who holds the money, he said. "There's less risk involved in committing the robberies," he noted.

Friday's hold-up by a woman may be connected to a recent heist at National Trust, which is also located at Milton Mall. It was robbed by a female culprit, Det. Sgt. Welsh said.

A woman who resembles the suspect at the Bank of Montreal robbery, the fourth bank robbery in town in three months, held up the National Trust August 7.

The Bank of Montreal thief entered the bank at 4:30 p.m. and handed the teller a note demanding cash. The note also indicated she was armed with gun, police said.

She took an undetermined amount of money and exited the mall through an east door.

The robber is described as in her mid to late-twenties with medium brown, wavy shoulder-length hair.

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## Easy does it for the long weekend

The OPP is urging Miltonians to have a safe Thanksgiving weekend on the road.

Seven crashes in OPP jurisdiction claimed the lives of eight people over the holiday weekend last year.

"Among the contributing factors were alcohol consumption and inattentiveness," said Sgt. Terry Brandt of the Milton detachment.

Police expect the fast-approaching winter weather will catch drivers unprepared for slippery early morning roads due to frost and wet leaves.

"The OPP advises motorists to adjust their driving to suit October conditions," Sgt. Brandt said.

Thanksgiving Day falls in the middle of the provincial seat belt campaign and special emphasis this year is on child restraints.

"Drivers are reminded that they are in the most influential position to improve their safety and that of their passengers," Sgt. Brandt said.

## NEWSLINES

### Make a witch

Mag Brown is presenting another Home Accent Workshop at the Milton Public Library this Thursday (Oct. 10) or Thursday Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

The fee for learning how to build a witch is \$25 and includes a wood and wire frame, chunky shoes and padding, a ghostly covering and hat and accents. Registrants should bring a paint sponge, fabric strips, seasonal decorations, a glue gun and scissors.

For more information call the library at 875-2665. Registration is limited and is taken at the front desk.

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Events

