



Tracey Cole holds her kids, Kaytlan and Edward Rutledge, close after their school bus was rear-ended by a tanker truck May 19. *Rizerio Vertolli / MWVG*

'Everybody came running'

Since the 20-passenger school bus and tanker truck involved in the collision are commercially registered, the police's Commercial Vehicle Unit was dispatched to conduct thorough inspections of the vehicles. According to Cole, the in-service school bus was stopped to pick up her children when it was rear-ended. Police say the driver of the tanker sounded his air horn alerting the pedestrians of the impending collision. "My kids were walking over to get on the bus. The truck did not stop

and hit the bus," she alleged. Then, chaos ensued. There were "a lot of really upset kids, scared kids," said Cole. "Everybody came running," added Edward. Parents of children who were waiting to get on the bus, as well as some construction workers near the scene, all rushed to provide assistance. Charges in the collision have yet to be laid, said police. Witnesses are asked to call police at (905) 825-4747, ext. 5065 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Fire chief first on scene of bus crash

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton's fire chief put aside administrative duties and went back to basic first aid assessments last Thursday. Brian Ellsworth, Milton Fire Department's (MFD) chief, was the first on scene of the crash that sent seven children and a school bus driver to hospital. "I was fortunate — not sure that's the right word — to be the first on the scene. That's the way I drive in to work," he said. "Dispatch had received the call and that's how I figured out that what I saw, was that call. "It's not often the fire chief is the first one there." Instantly, his past first aid training and on-the-job skills kicked in. "The majority of my job of late has been administrative. So in this case, you rely on your training, in the execution of decisions," he said. "You're making them so quickly and trying to figure out what resources you need."

Police say that at about 8 a.m., a westbound tanker truck struck the rear of an in-service, 20-passenger school bus at Steeles Avenue and Sixth Line near the Milton/Halton Hills border. There were nine school children ranging in age from five to 10 years on board the bus. The school bus serviced Pineview Public School and Stewarttown Middle School in Halton Hills. The truck driver, a 58-year-old Orangeville man, was not injured. Ellsworth said he immediately began triaging the students. He said the fact they were very upset and crying actually made that easier because everyone was breathing and no injuries were so severe that people couldn't adequately get the air they needed to cry. "For the most part, it was emotionally draining for them," he said. "It certainly tests your skills to recall that first aid training, like doing your ABCs (airway, breathing, circulation)," he said. "It wasn't long before emergency responders arrived." Still, he admitted that at the time,



An in-service, 20-passenger school bus was rear-ended by a tanker truck May 19. *Rizerio Vertolli / MWVG*

it did seem like it took a long time, waiting for the resources. And as fire chief, that's not a side of the fence he usually finds himself on. Nearby residents immediately jumped in to help, he said. He gave directions to many who did exactly what he told them, and they were able to assess each student quickly. Once EMS and police arrived at the scene it was great to see how well everyone worked together. "I'm very proud of the emergency responders," he said. "The relationships were fantastic. We had multiple jurisdictions on the scene."

lawn BROS

you grow • we mow

LAWN BROS SERVICES

- Weekly Grass Cutting
- Tree and Shrub Pruning
- Fertilizer Applications
- Garden Edging
- Garden Planting
- Garden Mulching
- Sod Installation
- Leaf Service
- Brush Haul Away

We Make Yards Happy,
And Their Owners Too!

**Diamond Winner For
Best Lawn Service Company
Three Consecutive Years**

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL
(905) 467-1507
www.lawnbros.ca
lawnbros905@gmail.com

Starlings A Problem This Spring?

Returning Starlings will use openings at eaves as well as Bathroom and Stove vents for nesting areas causing diseases and parasites!

Protect your home and Family!
Call us now!
905.876.1941

We will replace and protect old broken vent and secure your home from birds.

Follow us on @infoHRPC

HALTON REGION
Pest Control
SPECIALISING IN RESIDENTIAL PEST MANAGEMENT

Halton Region Pest Control has been protecting Families of Milton for over 25 years

NEW LEAF
PSYCHOLOGY CENTRE

Psychological Assessment & Therapy for
Children, Teens, Adults, Couples & Families

**Our compassionate associates have expertise in
evidence-based treatments for a wide range of difficulties.**

DEPRESSION	SELF-ESTEEM	PARENTING	CAREER COUNSELLING
ANXIETY/STRESS	EATING DISORDERS	AUTISM SPECTRUM	MVA/REHAB
RELATIONSHIPS	SELF-HARM	SCHOOL REFUSAL	CHRONIC PAIN
GRIEF	ANGER	ADHD	TRAUMA/ABUSE

400 Main Street East, Suite 210, Milton, Ontario, L9T 4X5
www.newleafpsychology.ca • 905-878-5050