

Crash victim bounces back

David Britton's life took a dramatic turn for the worse two years ago when he nearly lost a leg in a Markham motorcycle-car crash.

Mr. Britton, 22 at the time of the May, 1988 accident, was rushed to hospital where doctors worked to save his badly mangled left leg.

Three operations, 10 casts and two walking splints later, the Whitchurch-Stouffville resident continues along the long road to recovery.

"My left leg was saved by the doctors" says Mr. Britton, who suffered a total of seven fractures to his kneecap, shin and ankle.

"I had three major operations where they took bone out of my hip and put two plates in my leg," he added.

Mr. Britton and passenger Danny Green of Musselman

Lake were both thrown 75 feet when David's motorbike was struck by a car at the intersection of Woodbine and 16th Avenue in Markham.

Mr. Green, 23, was less seriously injured and made a full recovery, though Mr. Britton stresses that he and his friend are lucky to be alive considering the seriousness of the collision.

The crash was followed by seemingly endless months of rehabilitation - a time when Mr. Britton sometimes wondered if he'd ever get his life back on track.

"The thing that really frustrated me was my doctors told me I needed an operation, but there was a 10-month waiting period," he says. "Other than that, everything worked out okay."

His condition has progressed to the stage where he's actively pursuing a career in acting.

Now 24, he recently began learning the ropes as an extra in an episode of the popular CTV series E.N.G.

"I want to put Stouffville on the map," says Mr. Britton, who hopes to follow in the footsteps of screen favorites Eddie Murphy, Judd Nelson and Canada's own Michael J. Fox.

"My first part in E.N.G. was a bar scene where I walked around and drank fake beer.

"But acting is hard work. You shoot a whole day - maybe 12 hours or more - just to get five minutes for television."

Though his previous experience is limited to appearances in school plays, Mr. Britton has already been in touch with several theatrical agents and is excited about his prospects in the acting field.

He's also thinking about tak-

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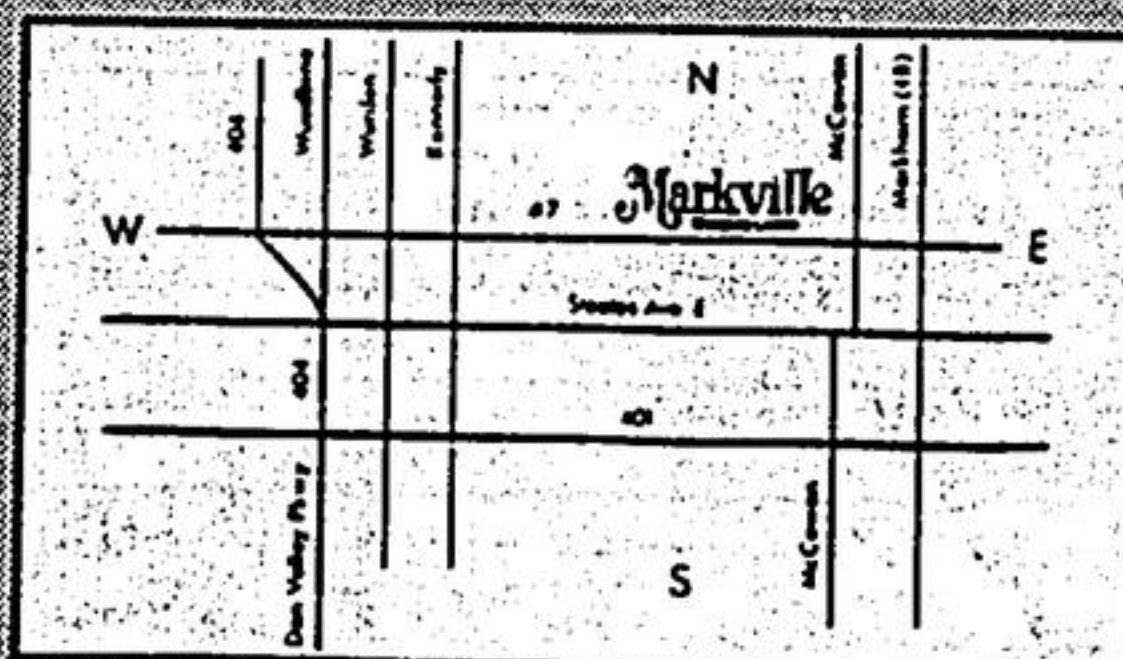
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