

LOCAL

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Charges laid in deadly single-car crash

OAKVILLE ♦ Halton police have charged a 39-year-old Burlington man with impaired and dangerous driving causing death following a single-car crash on Speers Road on May 11 that took the life of passenger Michael Lamothe, 44, of Oakville.

Police said the car was moving westbound on Speers Road at 2 a.m. when it went out of control, crossed the eastbound lanes and struck a utility pole on the south side of the road, just east of Bronte Road.

Lamothe died at the scene.

The driver was initially charged with impaired driving.

As of yesterday, he has been charged with impaired driving causing death, refusing a breath sample, five counts of breach of probation, dangerous driving causing death, operating a vehicle without insurance and driving an unsafe vehicle.

— The Hamilton Spectator

Mom pushes for inquest into boy's murder

TORONTO ♦ The mother of a murdered eight-year-old boy pressed Premier Dalton McGuinty yesterday to allow a stand-alone inquest into the child's death.

Brantford's Julie Craven said his refusal so far amounts to a "betrayal" of her son and other children who face court-ordered, unsupervised visits with a parent.

Craven's son Jared was murdered by her ex-husband Andrew Osidacz during a court-ordered, unsupervised visit in March 2006. Hours after Osidacz had fatally stabbed the boy, he was shot dead by police as he held a knife to Craven's throat.

Despite an Ontario law named for Jared that requires a coroner's inquest whenever a child dies during a court-ordered parental visit, Jared himself isn't getting one because the law wasn't retroactive. Jared's death will be reviewed as part of the coroner's inquest into his father's death.

— The Canadian Press

Labour prof named dean of social sciences

Charlotte Yates wants to raise the profile of McMaster University's faculty of social sciences — both on and off campus — when she takes over as dean July 1.

"It's a dynamic faculty that sometimes is not fully recognized," she said.

The faculty takes in a range of departments such as psychology, geography, economics, kinesiology and religious studies.

Yates, 53, is a labour studies professor whose research concentrates on the automotive labour market, women in labour and the renewal of unions in general. She said she would like to make the faculty a gateway between the university and the broader community, with improved access for students from poorer communities. Yates will take over from Susan Elliott, whose term ends June 30.

— Wade Hemsworth, The Hamilton Spectator



JOHN RENNISON,
THE HAMILTON
SPECTATOR

Sandie Heirwegh won the business, industry and entrepreneurship category at the Women of Distinction awards.

Other winners**Health & Wellness**

Dr. Alexandra Papaioannou is a geriatrician and professor of medicine at McMaster University who successfully pursued funds to establish a program addressing the link between fractures and osteoporosis.

Volunteerism

Susan Fowler donates 2,000 hours of community service each year. A director and member of the Robert Land Community Association, she was instrumental in the conversion of the old Robert Land School into the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre and in securing a Community Policing Centre for it.

Mentoring and Education

As the executive director of the McMaster Children's Centre, **Debbie Crickmore** has given hands-on learning opportunities to hundreds of secondary school, college and university students. She has also chaired numerous child and youth associations. She is the author of Raising the Bar on Quality, a quality standards program adopted by the child care centres of 16 communities in Ontario.

Lifetime Achievement

Since arriving in Hamilton in 1970, **Judith Bishop** has served with numerous groups, including the Social Planning and Research Council and currently Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO). She works with the Umbrella Family and Child Centres, Community Advisory Committee for the Early Years (CACEY) and the Best Start Network. She chairs the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, on which she has been a trustee for 20 years.

Young Woman of Distinction

A Grade 12 student at Highland Secondary School, **Nomi Cuneo** has spearheaded an operation that gathered toiletries for women's shelters from fellow students, organized lecture series on the Holocaust, and arranged luncheons to recognize Anti-Racism Week. Among the causes she is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for is HAVEN, a school group that promotes non-violence

and provides support for third-world countries.

Politics and Public Affairs

Businesswoman **Joanna Chapman** is called a "visionary" who has affected the arts, environment, politics and community development over the past 40 years. Through her tenacious leadership, more than 50 local historic buildings have been preserved and restored and the Dundas community has obtained affordable cooperative housing for seniors, special needs individuals and families. Her successful fight with former mayor Larry Di Ianni over campaign contributions was not cited in her winner's bio.

Circle of Friends

North Hamilton Community Health Centre has served tens of thousands of women living in neighbourhoods in the city's north end since opening in 1987. It has delivered everything from primary care and award-winning allied health programs to rehabilitation services and innovative health promotion initiatives.

Arts, Entertainment and Creative Energy

Karyn Callaghan merges art and early childhood education in a project unique to North America. The professor of early childhood education brings professional artists to city child care and family resource centres to express their thoughts through art. She recently became Ontario provincial director for the Canadian Association of Young Children.

Community Development and Social Activism

Lynda Lukasik is the founder of Environment Hamilton and has mobilized communities to environmental action through her involvement in the Bay Area Restoration Council, WATER (Watershed Action Towards Environmental Responsibility) and Friends of Red Hill. She is also distinguished in the area of women's rights, intercultural relations and social justice.

The Hamilton Spectator

'How blessed we are'

BY RACHEL DE LAZZER

Hamilton is brimming with amazing women and last night nine of them and an organization were honoured.

Thirty-six women were nominated in 10 categories for the YWCA's 2008 Women of Distinction awards at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Judges said choosing winners was tough.

"All the submissions were high calibre," said judge and retired educator Vincenza Travale.

"When I got through with all these, I thought how blessed we are as a community."

New this year was the business, industry and entrepreneurship category, added to broaden the

awards' scope and ensure coverage of all areas where "distinguished" women are making strides.

Sandie Heirwegh walked away with the prize in the new category.

Dubbed an "entrepreneur of entrepreneurs" in her nominee bio, Heirwegh has run The Entrepreneurial Edge Inc. for 10 years.

Through workshops and mentoring, the consulting company explains the ins and outs of writing a business plan and putting it into action to those with less money than the average entrepreneur.

More than 3,500 businesses have got a kick-start thanks to Heirwegh tapping into government funding to cover the costs of her services for those who want to use them but can't afford them.

Heirwegh says the provincially funded Self-Employment Benefit program has been the key.

And through funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, she has delivered her services in countries such as China, Bangladesh and South Africa.

Said Heirwegh: "People that come to me are people that have faced challenges and to be able to play a role in helping them get their lives back on track... who wouldn't love doing that?"

Christine Smurlick, a small business owner and panel judge, said: "She's always looking for different ways to bring people into business."

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Police investigating attack during ball hockey brawl

BY PAUL MORSE

A bench-clearing brawl in which a Hamilton man was kicked in the head at the end of a local ball hockey league game is now under police investigation.

The attack occurred Tuesday night at a privately owned ball hockey arena at Cameron Motorsports complex near Hamilton airport.

Police say a fight broke out just as

a playoff game in the new 22-team Hamilton league ended.

"As a result of a slap shot hitting a player, a bench-clearing brawl occurred," said acting media officer Sergeant Marty Schulenberg yesterday.

"In the course of that brawl, the victim was struck from behind with a hockey stick and subsequently kicked in the back of the head while he was on the ground."

Teammates and spectators broke up the fight and the man, 26, was taken to Hamilton General Hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening head injuries.

One of the other players called police.

Detectives have launched a criminal investigation and may charge two men from the other team.

Organized ball hockey is a grow-

ing sport in Hamilton, said Hamilton South Ball Hockey Club president Tom Roberts, 42, yesterday.

"This is an isolated incident, and it's not reflective of our sport or our facility," he said.

Roberts and several partners built a special ball hockey rink at the Upper James go-cart and paintball complex last October. Since then, his league has grown to 300 players.

Roberts said the ball hockey league uses the same no-contact rules and zero-tolerance of violence as minor hockey house leagues.

The two men involved in the brawl with the victim will be banned from the ball hockey league, he said.

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