

School bus driver named STC Hero for life-saving rescue

Brampton resident Don Perry, a Parkview Transit/Student Transportation of Canada (STC) school bus driver, was named an STC Hero at the company's Honour Awards Program for his role in rescuing a woman after a car accident in 2004.

Perry, who drives for the company's Parkview Transit division in Caledon, had just finished his morning school run serving the Peel District School Board, when a car came upon his bus and side-swiped it. As the driver erratically pulled away, Perry followed. Before he could reach

the car, it crossed into the opposite lane, hitting an oncoming tractor-trailer head on. He rushed to the shattered vehicle, checked the woman for a pulse and immediately started CPR. After several attempts, she regained a pulse. Paramedics soon arrived and rushed the woman to the nearest hospital.

When Perry later went to the hospital to check on the woman, he was overwhelmed by gratitude from her family. Her husband informed him that she had a rare heart condition, which caused her to lose consciousness

while driving that morning. Thanks to Perry, she survived.

Today, the woman is doing very well and refers to Perry as her "hero." They still keep in touch, and her family has become an extension of the STC family.

Cited for his ability to remain "calm in a crisis," Perry was among a number of employees recognized for company, community and military service at the company's 2009 Honour Awards Program in Charleston, S.C., last month.

"STC applauds Don's quick action and dedication to helping others," said Chris Harwood, senior vice president of Canadian operations. "At STC, we are more than partners with the communities we serve, we are 'part of' the community. Don embodies that community spirit and represents the dedication of all the people who work for all the companies in the STC family. We are a family of employees with big hearts, strong minds and enduring devotion to our communities."

Trucks and trailers stolen in Bolton

Caledon OPP reports they were called out early last Monday (Nov. 16) to two businesses in the Bolton industrial park after there were reports of the thefts of two trucks and two trailers.

Investigations determined that two truck tractors were stolen from a business on Simpson Road between 12:20 and 2:45 a.m. The trucks are described as a red 2004 Freightliner and a white 2001 Freightliner. It was also determined that several trailers at the same business had been tampered with, but all were accounted for.

While investigating the initial incident, officers were called to a business on Holland Drive. Employees there contacted police after discovering that two trailers had been removed from their yard sometime during the night. The trailers contained a large quantity of electron-

ics and home appliances, with an estimated value of \$284,000.

Investigators believe the incidents are related; however no suspects have been identified at this time.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact Caledon OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or (905) 584-2241, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



Don Perry (right), a Parkview Transit/STC school bus driver, was presented with the STC Hero Award last month by Jon Knowles, president of Parkview Transit/STC and Chris Harwood, STC senior vice president, for his role in rescuing a woman after a car accident.

Submitted photo



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"Homeless People in Caledon?" By Jo-Anna Lenz



I'm afraid so. How can that be? It's not like we see these wanderers in our community. And yet, Caledon has a hidden homeless population that has managed to blend in by day and remain invisible by night. We don't see our neighbours sleeping on the street; we don't run into them sleeping on park benches; we aren't bothered by panhandling on cold nights. And yet, homelessness is like many other things that we can't see because we're not quite sure what to look for.

In Caledon, people who are homeless sometimes stay at the campground for the summer. The family tells the kids that it will be an adventure full of camping, swimming and hiking. What could be more fun? The problem is that the camping trip doesn't end until winter comes or school starts and the family scrambles to find alternative accommodations. Often they have to leave Caledon at that point because they simply can't afford anything in our community. There are also the single men who sleep in their cars, some who work daily but are still not able to earn enough to rent accommodations. And then there are the painful stories of many young people who are asked by their parents to leave their homes. Adults run out of patience with their teenager or never had enough in the first place notwithstanding some pretty good efforts by these kids to stay on the straight and narrow. These young people will often "couch surf", staying at a series of friends' homes until they wear out every welcome.

At CCS we do all we can to support our homeless clients. There was the man who came to town because he had secured a good job, but had to sleep in his van for two months until he could find a place to rent. Then there was another fellow who had a job with a moving com-

pany and was dropped off here after an argument with the truck driver. He was left with no money and had to find his way home to Missouri. And what about the gentleman struggling with mental health problems who wanted to stay in Caledon after his parents died, but had no place to live, so he went into the woods and made himself a ramshackle tent.

A combination of factors contributes to homelessness. Many people are working, but can't make ends meet. Sometimes it is a case of a family who has been evicted due to no fault of their own but are unable find other accommodations. Oftentimes, homelessness is a result of poor mental and/or physical health, an inability to work, the loss of a job and an inability to find another one; sometimes it's basic life skills and how to manage money; on occasion it is lack of education and sometimes homelessness is related to long-term unresolved pain and trauma from past abuse and other tragedies.

Homelessness can be the result of a lifetime of feelings of alienation. The stress experienced from trying to keep up in an ever-increasing pressure-filled world can cause some people to give up, throw in the towel and walk away.

So how can you help? Be aware, become informed and really come to terms with the fact that the homeless person you see in our community is someone's son or daughter, husband or wife. Support your family and friends when they are experiencing hardship. Understand when they are having difficulty finding a new job. Hard work doesn't always guarantee financial security. Try not to judge people too harshly. Life can be hard; most people do the very best they can.

At Caledon Community Services, we are trying to help those who become homeless or are having difficulty finding accommodations. If you can help with a place to rent or some other support, please give us a call.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it. You can reach Jo-Anna Lenz, Manager of Community Services at 905-584-2300 ext 201
Email: jlenz@ccs4u.org

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