



The five-tonne truck that slammed into the toll plaza received extensive damage and there is not much left of the toll booth where Commissionaire Stuart Mills was working when the accident happened. (Harrington Photo)



Medical First Responders from Great Village and District Fire Brigade, multiple ambulances, a hazardous materials crew and a team of RCMP officers were assisting with an accident at the Cobequid Toll Plaza on April 20th. A five-tonne truck slammed into the plaza and one of the toll booths, damaging two other vehicles and trapping Commissionaire Stuart Mills. (Harrington Photo)



The unidentified driver of a five-tonne truck from Sheville, Georgia and toll booth operator Commissionaire Stuart Mills were lucky to be alive following this crash on the Cobequid Pass. (Harrington Photo)



Workers check out damage to a toll booth at the Cobequid Toll Plaza after a five-tonne truck took out a half dozen concrete traffic barriers and smashed into the building and booth. (Harrington Photo)

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Journal

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## Mills escapes Toll Booth collision

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The NB couple and their dog were observed making phone calls outside the toll plaza. They had been on the way to Annapolis Valley and were very lucky to have escaped injury, as well.

The toll highway was closed for more than an hour in the east-bound lane and eventually one lane was reopened as clean-up at the scene continued. The east-

bound lane was closed again, later in the afternoon, allowing for structural examination of the toll plaza.

Medical responders from Great Village and District Fire Brigade were on the scene of the accident within minutes and other brigade members assisted with traffic control and clean-up.

This is not the first time a vehicle has hit a toll booth

at the plaza. Rumble strips are in place to warn drivers of the toll booth ahead and concrete barriers are located to protect employees.

Stuart Mills told CTV news in an interview from hospital, as he looked at newspaper photos from the accident, that he "really should be dead". He suffers from many cuts and bruises, a fractured hand and ribs, but otherwise he was counting his blessings that

things were not any worse.

Mr. Mills said he does not remember warning the two ladies in the car to get out of the way, but very modestly added that if he did, it was just part of his job.

The East bound lane remained closed on April 21st as crews worked on structural repairs to the plaza. Traffic was routed along Hwy#4, through the Wentworth Valley.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

## Wentworth Maple Pancake Supper

By Hope Bridgewater

Going to the Wentworth Maple Pancake supper and seeing the maple products on a table where Jean Bentley sold them reminded me of the sweet smelling air of a maple sugar woods where the boiling sap created a special emotion and the sugar shed represented good times. As a youngster, I remember going to the sugar woods owned by my Uncle George Tuttle.

In the spring, he tapped his maple trees for sap, hung buckets under the taps to catch the sap and then brought the sap to a central place where a shed without sides was situated. We would set on the planks placed alongside a long evaporator pan, heated by a wood fire underneath, and we would watch the sap boil into syrup.

At one point, Uncle George would throw some maple syrup on the snow so it would harden into toffee and then give us the delicious maple toffee to lick and eat. Now technology has changed. Sap is collected from maple trees by tubing systems with sap going directly to the evaporator shed, using vacuum pumps, pre-heaters and reverse osmosis filters.

At her maple syrup table, Jean Bentley told me it took 40 litres of sap boiled down to make 1 litre of maple syrup. Avard and Jean Bentley do

30,000 taps in their sugar woods. At the Wentworth supper, the Bentleys' maple syrup was used for the pancakes.

Going in to the Wentworth Recreation Centre for the supper, we saw in the entrance Barbara Palmer with her two children, Stuart and Jessica and her nephew, Dustin Bougie, selling tickets on a basket in order to raise funds for this August 7, 8, and 9th 50th Anniversary Reunion of students and teachers who attended the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School from its beginning in 1959 to 2009. Later, after Barbara had to leave, Laurel Adams took over selling tickets.

Inside the main hall, musicians in an orchestra of violins, piano and bass guitar played old-time music, Down-East style. Violinist David Bagnell from Truro led the orchestra called the Cobequid Mountain Fiddlers, which was organized by David and ranging in age from 96 years to 11 years. Comprising the orchestra are fiddlers David Bagnell, Nancy Jennings, Auska Boehm, Janet Callaghan, Shealynn Callaghan, John Hanlon, Breagh Quigley, Tom Hanifen, Lloyd Smith, Don Sexton, Emma Murray, Curtis MacKinnon, Paul Hopkins, Lloyd Tattire and accompanied by Betty Curry (piano), Marilyn Tattire (banjo) and

Wayne Elliott (bass guitar).

David is interested in retaining the old-time tunes and those composed by local musicians for the younger generations. David tapes the tunes while listening to fiddler Lloyd Tattire of Tatamagouche, aged 96, then puts these tunes on his computer and transcribes them to sheet music. David mentions another excellent fiddler, John Afton McLellan, aged 101, who also knows many old-time tunes.

David welcomes fiddlers who can read music to join his group. The Cobequid Mountain Fiddlers, formed a year ago now have a repertoire of 40 tunes to play and these tunes made a spirited and splendid background as we ate the wonderful supper of pancakes with Bentley's maple syrup and a choice of assorted pies for dessert.

Cooperation, communication and civility were the 3 c's marking this supper event organized by members of the Wentworth community: Ethel Gilroy, Georgie Patriquin, Betty Curry, Claire Patriquin, Willett Stevenson, Charles Patriquin, Robert Smith, Doug Curry, Austin Patriquin, Bill Baker, Winston Patriquin, Ron McNutt, Aubrey Giffin, Murdock Murray, Jean Mooring, Pearl Crowley, Eileen Stevenson, Breanna Curry, Twila McMaster, Pearl

McNutt, Jeannette Murray, Ella Patriquin, Peggy Patriquin, Thelma Redmond, Janice Smith, Martha Wilson, Marian Gower, Mary Anne Jay, Eleanor Sprague, Melanie Sprague, Kelly Steeves, Valerie Rushton and Kathy Redmond, Councilor for District 6.

Some volunteers came from Amherst (Betty Duizer), Moncton (Jean Smith, Ken Smith) and Truro (Jans Henderson, Gwen Little). At this time, cancer research was not forgotten as Jean Wood sold tickets on a "cancer quilt" made by the Wentworth United Church Women. Having attended the supper, my only volunteer time was helping with the clean-up at the end of the evening.

A large number of volunteers were needed for pre-planning the supper, cooking the food and serving the meal as a big crowd came to the successful supper, including MLA for Cumberland South, Murray Scott.

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