

Boy, 2, feared lost in barn blaze

Neighbours help comb property — ‘We’re assuming the child is in the fire,’ deputy chief says



MATHEW MCCARTHY, RECORD STAFF

Volunteers search for a missing two-year-old boy as firefighters battle a barn fire near St. Jacobs on Friday evening.

Linda Givetash, Record staff

ST. JACOBS — A two-year-old boy was missing as fire crews battled a barn fire Friday evening on Lobsinger Line.

Fire crews were called to a farm at 1636 Lobsinger Line near Martin Creek Road shortly after 7 p.m., said Deputy Fire Chief Dale Martin, of the Woolwich Fire Department.

“Our first arriving officers found the barn totally involved,” he said of what is believed to be a dairy barn.

The exact contents of the barn have not yet been confirmed.

The deputy fire chief said that a young boy who lives on the property was reported missing during the blaze.

“We did a complete search of the whole property along with the police and neighbours. We searched the whole property and came up empty,” Martin said.

“We’re assuming the child is in the fire.”

The Office of the Fire Marshal was called to investigate the incident. Crews were still working to douse the blaze after 9 p.m.

About 30 firefighters from four Woolwich stations were on the scene, hauling water from a reservoir in the area. Smoke could be seen from several kilometres away.

► **Fire** continued on page A2

Perspectives

Neglected historic bridges at risk

Few local landmark bridges protected under Heritage Act

Terry Pender, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — Hundreds of bridges span southern Ontario’s largest river, linking the 21st century to the time of stage coaches and steam engines.

An estimated 38 historic bridges on the Grand River and its tributaries are already lost to demolition and many more are vulnerable to the same fate.

A massive survey of all the bridges in the Grand River watershed shows many qualify for protection as historic landmarks, but only a handful are currently designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

That is why Barb Veale, of the Grand River Conservation Authority, is happy to have a 435-page study completed and posted on the organization’s website.

It’s called Arch, Beam and Truss: The Grand River Watershed Heritage Bridge Inventory.

“We needed to take a look at the bridges because they were being threatened by development and replacement,” said Veale, the authority’s co-ordinator of policy, planning and partnerships.

The conservation authority had the University of Waterloo’s Heritage Resources Centre do the inventory, and Veale hopes the document will be the first step in protecting scores of bridges along the rivers.

► **Bridges** continued on page A8

WEEKEND EDITION

In the lead

Scottish veteran makes it look easy at the LPGA Classic
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Crash landing

Third girl dies from Asiana injuries; another victim is confirmed hit by fire truck
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Missing teen’s father pleads for help in search



CHRIS HERHALT, NEWS SERVICES

Ralph Hogg shows a photo of his son, Bryce, 15, to reporters on Friday. Bryce has been missing since Wednesday when the tube on which he was floating down the Grand River capsized.

Responders from multiple services scour land, water

Chris Herhalt

ELORA — The father of an Elora teen missing since Wednesday night said he wants landowners throughout the Grand River watershed to help find his son.

“Take a walk around your properties,” Ralph Hogg said, fighting back tears as his wife, Susan, and daughter, Brianne, held on to him.

“Talk to your family and friends, walk and

search all of your areas right to the riverbanks.”

Bryce Hogg, 15, went missing Wednesday after the tube he was using to float down the Grand River capsized somewhere southwest of Elora. “He went tubing with friends, as you all know... It was an accident,” Ralph Hogg said.

Two friends who were with Bryce that night made it to safety.

► **Missing** continued on page A2

Brain-damaged man gets seven-year sentence for robbery spree

Greg Mercer, Record staff

KITCHENER — A brain-damaged man who went on an armed robbery spree in Waterloo in 2010 learned Friday he’ll spend another three years and two months in prison for his crimes. Justice David Broad took

into account David Muir’s cognitive limitations and mental illness, and gave the 28-year-old a seven-year sentence, minus time he’s already served.

Muir accepted his punishment quietly and offered a simple apology to his mother, the court and his victims.

“I’d like to apologize to the community for what happened and to the four people who were scared,” he said. “I’d like to make a change and I’m sorry.”

His four victims were robbed and threatened with a pellet gun on Dec. 27, 2010, in the span of a few hours, a crime spree that

ended with him urging police to shoot him.

Wearing a handkerchief to hide his face, Muir approached his victims at bank machines and a Swiss Chalet restaurant and demanded money.

► **Prison** continued on page A7



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On the web



Lac-Mégantic investigation

The Transportation Safety Board, looking into the train disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Que., says the safety procedures at the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway will be part of the investigation. The safety board says the way an organization operates is always a factor in accidents. Go to Videos at therecord.com.

Quote of the day

"Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."
Henry James

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By Dave Green

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		6				4
		1	9			8
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5		3		4		6
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6			7	4		
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Previous solution

3	1	8	6	4	7	2	5	9
5	7	2	3	1	9	8	4	6
4	6	9	2	5	8	7	1	3
6	5	4	7	8	3	1	9	2
1	2	3	9	6	4	5	8	7
9	8	7	1	2	5	6	3	4
7	4	1	5	3	6	9	2	8
8	9	5	4	7	2	3	6	1
2	3	6	8	9	1	4	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

How to play

The object is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in empty squares so that each column, row and 3x3 box contains each number only once. The difficulty level of Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Rough terrain making search for teen difficult

► **Missing** continued from A1

"This is something I never would have imagined in a million years would happen to my family or anyone else I know," the father said.

Police and firefighters continued to search the rough terrain on the banks of the Grand River for Bryce on Friday afternoon. They used boats, climbing equipment, at least one dog and a helicopter.

Ralph Hogg urged everyone from Wellington County and beyond to remain vigilant and watch for clues that may lead to his son.

"Take a ride around the rural areas and in your community and search for him," he said. "He may be tired, and he may be hungry."

Thick tree cover and disappearing shorelines have made things difficult for Ontario Provincial Police divers and Centre Wellington and Cambridge firefighters searching for Hogg, OPP Const. Stacey Culbert said.

"There are areas where you literally have to rappel down in order to have visibility," Culbert said Friday morning.

She said emergency crews had moved beyond searching the two-kilometre stretch of the Grand River they focused on Thursday and that the search had, at one point, extended as far downstream as Kitchener.

About five kilometres downstream from Elora, Cambridge and Centre Wellington



CHRIS HERHALT, NEWS SERVICES

Cambridge and Centre Wellington firefighters use an airboat to search for missing Elora teenager Bryce Hogg near Inverhaugh, downstream of Elora, on Friday.

firefighters were using an "airboat," propelled by a large fan mounted on its rear, to search for Bryce.

The airboat, which belongs to the Cambridge Fire Department, can operate in the extremely shallow water found on stretches of the Grand River, like the one that winds through Inverhaugh, southwest of Elora.

Culbert urged people living along the

Grand not to enter the river if it looks "swelled" or dangerous, and instead to call authorities if they observe anything that may advance the search.

Ralph Hogg described Bryce as a boy who "rides anything he can get his hands on," who loves to tinker in the garage, building all sorts of speedy wheeled vehicles.

"He builds things you laugh at when you

see, but they all go like a bat out of hell."

He also said Bryce is a "Kijiji guy" who helped him find deals on things listed for sale online.

Culbert confirmed Bryce and his two friends entered the Grand River with their tubes somewhere along the Irvine River, between Salem and Elora, around 7 p.m. Wednesday.

They then floated toward the Elora Gorge Conservation Area before emergency crews were first called around 9:20 p.m.

The conservation area will remain open throughout the weekend, as it did throughout the search, but Grand River Conservation Authority spokesperson Dave Schultz said there will be no access to the gorge area, and fishing in and around the gorge will not be allowed for the time being.

Ralph Hogg implored people to spread the word and ask their neighbours to look out for Bryce.

"There's a lot of land out there and he's just a little boy," he said.

Cambridge firefighters were told to search the Grand River between Conestogo to south of the city, said Platoon Chief Wally MacNeil. Brantford firefighters also had a boat in the water.

Kitchener firefighters — a crew of about 20 — were also searching waters with up to three boats, and the riverbanks on foot between Cambridge and Elora.

News services with files from Record staff

Fire was contained to barn

► **Fire** continued from A1

The fire did not spread from the barn to adjacent buildings.

Martin said although many barn fires have occurred in the region over the years, he could not recall an instance when a child may have been a victim.

The name of the boy's family has not yet been released. The investigation is continuing.

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MATHEW MCCARTHY, RECORD STAFF

A two-year-old boy is feared lost in a fire that destroyed a barn on Lobsinger Line near St. Jacobs on Friday.

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