



Guelph Mercury **wednesday**

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2008 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

Top marks for teen parent

Krystal Lillicrop to be recognized for ability to live through adversity

Lisa Varano
lvarano@guelphmercury.com

GUELPH — The turning point in Krystal Lillicrop's life was having a baby at age 16.

Her son, Dominic, changed her for the better.

She became determined to provide the kind of home she didn't have growing up.

She decided to finish high school and get a job — two things her own mother did not do after giving birth to her at 17.

"You're bringing a little person into the world, so you want to make everything proper and healthy and happy, or at least, you try," Lillicrop said.

Today, Lillicrop is 21 years old and planning to attend college soon. Her happy five-year-old is a "mama's boy" and loves superheroes.

"He just brings me happiness," she said.

For her personal transformation, Lillicrop will be honoured tomorrow night at the 13th annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala. She will receive a Turning Point Award, given to a young person who has lived through adversity and become a successful adult.

Proceeds from the gala benefit the Teenage Parents Program (TAPPS), which Lillicrop has participated in since her pregnancy, and other YMCA-YWCA of



RYAN PFEIFFER, GUELPH MERCURY

Krystal Lillicrop and her five-year-old son, Dominic Collins, share a laugh. Lillicrop, who is heading to St. Clair College in Windsor in the new school year, will be recognized tomorrow night during the 13th annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala at the River Run Centre.

Guelph programs for women and their families.

Lillicrop deserves the award because she is a role model for teenage parents, said Lisa Grosic-

ki, who nominated her for the award and supervises youth outreach for the parenting program.

"Krystal is the picture of resilience. She's been through a lot

in her young age," Grosicki said.

Lillicrop, who is soft-spoken and humble, looks at her life experiences in a matter-of-fact way.

► SEE GALA ON PAGE A2

Pesticide battle far from finished

Magda Konieczna
mkonieczna@guelphmercury.com

GUELPH — There's a heaping tablespoon of irony in the province's recent clarification on its pesticide legislation.

When Premier Dalton McGuinty made his Earth Day announcement that the province would ban pesticides, he said cities could still enact their own, harsher bylaws.

That's when Guelph enacted its own harsh bylaw.

Then McGuinty took it back, saying the provincial bans will override municipal ones.

"I think what happened — in fairness — is that I gave an answer which was wrong, and I think the (environment) minister was unduly deferential," McGuinty said. "I've spoken to him about that and I say, 'If I make a mistake in public, you should correct me right away so that we correct the record.'"

“ I know they're heading in the direction of less and less, but less and less is not none.

Councillor Maggie Laidlaw

Guelph has been talking about banning pesticides for about a decade. So the irony comes from the hard-to-believe timing of Guelph's bylaw — coming as it did in the single week during which cities were misinformed on their power to ban pesticides.

The provincial legislation hasn't been written yet, but it looks like the city's might be stricter: The province is planning to pull certain chemicals off store shelves entirely — something the city can't do.

But the province says it will ban more than 300 pesticides, while the city banned them all.

"I know they're heading in the direction of less and less, but less and less is not none," Councillor Maggie Laidlaw said. "There's going to be a heck of a lot of lobbying before it's enacted," and that could water down the legislation, she said.

Many of those involved in drafting the local bylaw reserved judgment yesterday on the province's plans.

"It really depends on what's included," said Susan Watson, who brought her three-week-old daughter the first time she spoke to council about banning pesticides. Her daughter has just turned five.

► SEE PESTICIDE ON PAGE A2

Worker continues difficult recovery

Rob O'Flanagan
roflanagan@guelphmercury.com

GUELPH — Almost one year after being hit by a Guelph Transit bus and nearly losing his life, Drexler Construction worker Chris Reed continues to suffer the consequences.

Doctors are still extracting bits of gravel from his scalp and his leg is still broken. Reed's pain is far from over, and his anger toward the bus driver who hit him — whose punishment consisted of a fine — has

not subsided.

Last May 24, Reed, then 26, was part of the Drexler Construction crew rejuvenating Gordon Street north of Wellington Street. At around 8:30 a.m., bus driver Denise Munn, 55, struck him while he was standing inside the construction zone.

He was thrown about six metres into a gravel road bed and suffered numerous fractures, cuts and serious internal injuries.

He was rushed to a Hamilton hospital.

His recuperation has been a long, painful process.

"The leg itself is still not healed at all," Reed said in a telephone interview from his Orangeville-area home. His wife is pregnant with the couple's first child and is due in July. "I'm still in a lot of pain — a lot of sharp, stabbing pains into my muscles.

"I can't put much weight through my leg yet without it swelling up and aching. The leg is still broken."

► SEE RECOVERY ON PAGE A2



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Chris Reed, seen in this June 2007 photo, was severely injured after being struck by a Guelph Transit bus last May.



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FULL FORECAST, PAGE A2



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