

Father and son electrocuted in farming tragedy

Another son burned as irrigation pipe hits hydro wires

BY JENNIFER KWAN,
STAFF REPORTER

A father and son were electrocuted in a farming accident yesterday in the tobacco belt community of Teeterville.

A second son suffered severe burns to his hands and feet.

The accident killed Anthony Jacques, 51, and his son Archie, 21, and left the tiny community in Norfolk County shaken.

It happened as the men were laying irrigation pipe on their tobacco farm on Regional Rd. 19 around 4 p.m., said Constable Mark Foster of the Ontario Provincial Police Haldimand-Norfolk detachment.

As they worked their way closer to the side of their home, where there were hydro lines, they spotted a mouse inside the 13-centimeter pipe, Foster said.

"They were shaking the pipe to get the mouse to run out," he said. "Only it didn't want to run out."

Foster said the three lifted the 9-metre-long metal pipe into the air to make the mouse slide out, and the pipe came into contact with the hydro lines.

"The father is the manager, the

owner (and) they're right in the middle of harvesting," Foster said.

"How do you deal with that? It has to be very difficult."

All three were rushed to Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe, where Anthony and Archie were pronounced dead.

Ryan Jacques, 17, was transported to the burn unit at Hamilton General Hospital with burns to his hands and feet.

George Elliott, a retired farmer who lives next to the Jacques farm, called it a "tragedy" when he learned about the accident last night.

"They've been in the neighbourhood for a long time," he said. "They're a good family."

Elliott said the family has been living there since the 1950s and farms at least 40 hectares of tobacco.

He said there are three boys in the family and all of them help out on the farm.

Gary Gallant, who lives on Windham Rd. 3, northeast of the Jacques, said Archie attended Delhi secondary school and played on the basketball team.

"My wife referees basketball for the high school and she knows the family," Gallant said.

They also went to church together at Our Lady of La Salette, located between Scotland and Delhi.

With files from Alison Taylor

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