

GTA

Oakville brothers die in plane crash

By **Robyn Doolittle** Staff Reporter

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A prominent Oakville businessman and his brother were killed on a fishing trip Sunday afternoon when their float plane crashed in a wooded area outside Anchorage, Alaska.

Greg Brophy, 44, and his brother Sean were staying at the Royal Wolf Lodge in Katmai National Park and Preserve, an area popular with trout and salmon fishermen.

They were coming back from a day of fishing when the plane crashed, said U.S. National Park Service spokesperson John Quinley. The pilot and fishing guide – the only others in the small aircraft – were also killed.

“The pilot called the lodge by radio, reporting that he’d be in with his clients around 4 p.m. About 45 minutes later, he had not returned. We sent up another airplane to search,” Quinley said.

The plane was spotted at 5:15 p.m. in a wooded area about 10 kilometres west of the lodge. By the time rescue workers hiked to the location, it was dark, he said.

“That’s when they confirmed there were no survivors,” he said.

Park rangers and an investigator from the National Transportation Safety Board were on site yesterday evening investigating the cause of the crash, Quinley said.

Katmai National Park is located about 400 kilometres southwest of Anchorage. The 1.6 million-hectare park is about 90 years old and is popular with fishermen and brown bear watchers.

In 1988, Greg Brophy founded Shred-it, now one of the world’s leading document destruction companies, part of the document management firm Securit.

Brophy was honoured as the Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year in 1994 by Ernst & Young, and in 1995 he was recognized as one of Canada’s Top 40 under 40 by Caldwell Partners.

He lived with his wife, Tracey, and three children, Christopher, Megan and Kirsten, in Oakville.

Both brothers’ children attended Appleby College, a private school in Oakville with about 750 students.

It’s the first time two parents from the school have been involved in one accident, said Barbara McCarter, the school’s assistant headmaster for marketing and communications.

She says the students were troubled by the news that two of their classmates’ fathers had been killed.

“I believe that we all found out at the start of the day that there had been a tragedy and obviously it was a sad day on campus,”

said McCarter.

"Everyone is feeling very sad and we're thinking of the families and their loss."

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