



Kathy Kangas of Thunder Bay looks back at the plane as she begins parachute jump high over Kitchener.

Record Photo by Ray Hebert

Parachutist lands on a dime

By MARGARET TEROL
Record Staff Writer

Kathy Kangas of Thunder Bay landed on a dime in Kitchener's Victoria Park Friday — from 4,000 feet up.

And she also landed in the hospital when a smoke flare attached to her right leg malfunctioned and burned her foot as she parachuted toward earth. She was released from St. Mary's Hospital after treatment for second-degree burns.

Kangas said later she "was in pain all the way down" as the flare burned her foot and ignited her jumping suit.

Kangas, a member of the Canadian national parachute team, has made 1,800 jumps in the past 10 years.

But, she said, Friday was the first time she, or anyone else, had ever tried to land on a dime. She reached out and touched the coin with her left foot as she hit the ground.

The lithe blonde, who specializes in competitive style (free-fall manoeuvres) and accuracy jumps, likes challenges. And since the city officials would not let her land in downtown Kitchener (she had originally planned to come down at King and Francis Streets), she felt the alternate target area at Victoria Park was too easy and decided to give herself a real challenge.

It was especially challenging since she was unable to see the tiny target, which was placed in the middle of an oversized \$1,000 cheque, until she was only about 10 feet from the ground.

The crowd cheered as Kangas, dressed in the national parachute team's red track suit and an "ugly white helmet for protection," plummeted to earth.

Prior to the jump, the Cessna airplane she rented made low passes over the area trailing smoke from several

See KATHY—Page 4



Her target was a dime, placed in the middle of an oversized \$1,000 cheque.

Record Photo by Brian Clark