# HE OAKVILLE

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ANDREW COLLINS / SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

FIGHTING FIRE: Oakville firefighters braved not only fire, but scorching temperatures on the hottest day of the year as they battled to contain a blaze that broke out yesterday afternoon at an air-conditioning business on Chartwell Road.

# AC business up in flames on hottest day of year

By David Lea

OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Oakville firefighters braved intense heat Thursday while fighting a blaze at an Oakville air conditioning and heating business.

Fire broke out at A1 Air Conditioning and Heating, located at 557 Chartwell Rd., at

around 3:30 p.m. and while employees were working at the time, all got out safely.

With temperatures approaching 40 degrees Celsius, Thursday's intense heat was said to be a threat to civilians let alone firefighters attacking a fire while wearing more than 50 pounds of gear.

To combat the danger of heat exhaustion

acting Oakville Fire Chief Lee Grant said special precautions had been taken.

"We have some specialized equipment, which are cooling chairs. You put your arms in the cold water (housed within the arms of the chairs) and it helps lower your core temperature," he said.

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## Not just hot, but dry on creeks and farms

### Water restrictions could be coming

**By Christina Commisso** METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

With showers not expected until Sunday, and even then, only a 30 per cent chance - July's heat is taking its toll on local creeks and crops — not to mention parks and lawns.

Conservation Halton's director of communication Hassaan Basit said the wet spring has helped weather the unseasonably dry summer — but that will only continue for so long.

"Because of the good wet spring into early and late June, it's allowed us to be a little more resilient than we would have been had we had an average year. Now, however things are changing and they're changing fast. Water in the creeks and wetlands, even though they were quite full up until the end of June, the water is disappearing fast."

He said fish in Halton's watershed are stressed due to the high temperatures and low water levels and added that parts of Oakville's Fourteen Mile Creek are already dry.

Halton's historical average for rain in July is 76.1 mm – so far the region has seen six mm for the month.

Oakville has gotten zero millimeters of rain this July, however, which brings the Halton average down to

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