

# Barbecue blazes concern local fire department

By JANET BAINE  
Staff writer

The Halton Hills Fire Department has responded to more barbecue fires than usual this summer.

"Between June 10 and July 14 there have been four, in a little over a month.

That's above average, there are usually six over the entire summer," said Fire Prevention Officer David Ford.

While none of these fires have resulted in any injuries or damage to anything aside from the barbecues, they can be prevented easily.

Ford said these four fires all started because of a connection problem when a propane cylinder was refilled and then reconnected to the barbecue. They started when people went to use the barbecue,

and turned it on but then found a fire along the hose at the connection valve.

It's very important to check for leaks in the valve so this doesn't happen, Ford said.

When reconnecting a cylinder, check for leaks by putting some soapy water around the valve area. If the soapy water bubbles, then there is a leak, Ford said. If this happens, shut the tank off,

tighten the fitting again, and test for leaks. If there is still a leak, then the cylinder should be disconnected, and the o-ring seal should be replaced, he said.

Barbecue fires can also start because the barbecue isn't cleaned properly, and some of the small ports which release the propane in the burners become blocked. When cleaning the barbecue and lava rocks, make sure the ports are not

blocked and scrape down the scale which builds up, then vacuum it out.

"Heavy grease build up can also catch fire, and this is like any normal grease fire, it burns very hot," Ford said.

Make sure the cylinder is secure and upright once it is mounted to the barbecue. Cylinders shouldn't be bounced around, because they can be damaged easily.

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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News

Digest

### Break-in

A night watchman at the former Club 2000 on Guelph St. in Norval reported to police that at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday someone had broken into the building, which is now vacant.

He saw someone with a flashlight in the building and yelled out, which made the suspect run away.

A door had been taken off the frame, but nothing was missing.

The suspect was male, about 6 ft. tall, had a medium build and dark hair, police said.

### Mag wheels taken

Some Mag wheels and Camero logos were taken from a 1982 Camero parked on John St. sometime overnight Tuesday, police said.

The value of the stolen property is \$200.

### Swans on vacation

Two European swans reported stolen were merely on a two week vacation.

The swans, a male and female, live at a pond on 32 Sideroad in Acton. They went missing on July 1 and the owners believed they had been stolen because their wings were clipped. But the swans were found at a pond on Third Line, which they had apparently decided to visit, police said.

The couple have returned back home.

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## Fabulous Fazio!



Nathan Fazio, 6, of Norval, shows the form that has made him one of the top peewee dirt bikers in Canada. Nathan recently finished fourth at the Eastern Canadian championships. See story on page 13.

SIMON WILSON photo

## Students get shots

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

Special to the Independent/Free Press

All Grade 7 students in Halton will receive three inoculation of Hepatitis B vaccine next year at school.

Halton Region's chief medical officer, Dr. Robert Nosal, fully supports the move, made possible through provincial funding.

Dr. Nosal said the provincial government "in its wisdom" has decided to pick up the tab and added, "I agree 100 per cent." About 300 cases of Hepatitis B occur in Ontario each year. In Halton, the number doesn't get out of the single digits.

While Burlington councillor Ralph Scholtens raised an eyebrow over the \$75,000 cost in Halton and the low incidence of the disease locally, Dr. Nosal said, "this is an extremely cost-effective strategy. As far as the dollars are concerned this is a bargain."

He pointed to possible costs incurred with the treatment of one or two cases of Hepatitis B related illness.

Hepatitis B is a virus which attacks the liver. Some infections are mild but the virus can cause permanent liver damage, scarring and sometimes death. It's the leading cause of liver cancer.

Primarily it is spread by sexual contact or through blood via dirty needles, body and ear piercing and tattooing. About half of those with Hepatitis B never feel sick. They carry and spread the disease unknowingly.

It's estimated 4,750 Halton students will be eligible for vaccination in the upcoming school year. Participation in the immunization program is voluntary - each student's parents will have to consent through a health department/school letter sent home - and students must receive three \$5 doses of vaccine during the year.

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