

CHRISTMAS TREE PEGGED AS CAUSE OF DEADLY ACTON FIRE

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The cause of a deadly fire in Acton has been determined. On Dec. 28, the Halton Hills Fire Department responded to a fire at 46 Cobblehill Rd. in Acton.

The result of the fire was one fatality, a 75-year-old woman, and one occupant treated for burns and smoke inhalation.

An investigation by the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal determined the cause of the fire was accidental due to a failure of the Christmas tree lighting system.

"The public fire safety message that is important in this case is to ensure that your Christmas tree is kept watered," Jason Williams, fire and explosion investigator, said in a release, "and that it is removed after the Christmas season or kept watered to ensure it doesn't dry out and become



Graham Paine/Metroland

The cause of a house fire in Acton on Dec. 28 has been determined to be a Christmas tree.

readily ignitable."

Williams noted research showed half of all Christmas tree fires happen between Dec. 22 and Jan. 5.

Approximately 20 firefighters attended the scene along with members of the Halton Regional Police Service and EMS.

According to Bryce Marshall, Halton Hills Fire Department's deputy chief, one-third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical issues and residents should never leave tree lights on when they are not at home.

RACIST GRAFFITI FOUND AT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Halton Police are investigating another report of racist graffiti found at a Georgetown public school.

On Dec. 28, Halton Regional Police Service was notified of racist graffiti at Silver Creek Public School (170 Eaton St.). The graffiti included two swastikas and the letters "KKK" placed on the school's exterior walls using duct tape.

The incident remains under investigation while the graffiti has since been re-



Metroland file photo

Halton Police are investigating racist graffiti found on a Georgetown public school on Dec. 28.

moved.

Earlier in December, racist graffiti was found spray-painted on exterior walls of George Kennedy Public School (75 Weber Dr.).

Anyone with information is asked to contact the 1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4777 ext. 2415 or ext. 2416.

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