

# Careless smoking close calls prompt fire service warning

Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services is reminding area residents to safely dispose of smoking materials after two recent incidents that could have resulted in serious consequences had the homeowners not been home.

David Ford, Captain-Public Education, said in one incident Saturday (Jan. 26) afternoon, the bottom of a flowerpot being used as an ashtray in an Elgin St., Acton apartment got so hot it discoloured the coffee table it was sitting on. If someone hadn't been home the table could soon have ignited.

Firefighters were also called to a possible garage fire at a Ninth Line home the same day but, when they arrived, they found it was actually smoldering peat moss in a flowerpot caused by a match that had been discarded in the pot. Again, fortunately, Ford said the residents were home. "This is very concerning, because we experienced other incidents over the past summer," said Harry Olivieri, Chief of Prevention and Public Education. "Had they not been home we would have experienced some very serious fire damages."

Past incidents included patio flowerpots with peat moss smoldering, flowerbeds at two malls with peat moss and mulch and plastic flowerpots on wooden surfaces melting from smoldering peat moss.

All the incidents could have

resulted in serious fire damage and dollar loss if they weren't detected.

Ford stressed that contrary to what people believe, peat moss is not dirt. It is combustible and usually smolders rather than igniting into open flames.

The fire service suggests using properly designed ashtrays for the disposal of smoking materials, and where possible, rinse the containers/butts and hot matches under water before disposing into the garbage receptacle.

## Trafalgar Trail renamed to honour nature lover

Halton Hills council has approved the renaming of the Trafalgar Trail to the Chris Walker Memorial Trail.

Walker, who passed away in 2007, was a nature enthusiast who made a significant contribution in promoting and building trails and trail linkages in Halton Hills and Ontario through his involvement with the Bruce Trail Association and the Town's trails advisory committee.

Council will spend \$600 from its own contingency account to buy the recognition signage and plaques. The existing trail runs from the Civic Centre through Trafalgar Country, Moore Park and the Fairgrounds and back to the Civic Centre.

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