

Fiery blaze leaves second family homeless

A second Milton family has been left homeless in less than three weeks, as the result of a fiery blaze. Fire raged through the motor home of William and Patricia McIneroy at 7373 Thompson Rd. shortly after 5 a.m. Friday morning, after an electric heater placed near an oil line to keep the line from freezing set fire to the trailer.

The blaze has left the couple and their two children Ricky, two and Lorn, 10 months, without a home, clothing and furniture. The family carried no insurance on the contents of their home.

According to Milton Fire Department, Mr. McIneroy attempted to douse the flames himself but "he had no chance to save any belongings."

According to Fire Chief Jim Coulson, the fire brigade arrived too late to do anything. Fire officials are still uncertain why the original fire call went to the Brampton Fire Station. That fire station contacted Peel Regional Police, which then notified Halton Regional Police to call the Milton fire department.

Fire officials estimate the loss at approximately \$20,000 for both the trailer and contents. The family of four had moved recently into the rented mobile home, said Mrs. McIneroy. The unit is owned by Ed Wilkinson of the same address.

News of the tragedy quickly spread through the community and the family is now receiving clothing and furniture from concerned residents.

"People have been really great," said Mrs. McIneroy, adding she

was surprised by the generosity of strangers who came forward with offers of clothing and help.

"The worst of it is over," she said. The family is in the process of making plans for a move to a farmhouse on the same Thompson Rd. location, this weekend.

The Omagh Presbyterian Church Women's Association has established a fund for the family and welcomes any offers of clothing or furniture.

According to Ella Patterson, a member of the association, she has already received an offer of a washing machine, bed and various other articles of furniture for the family.

Interested citizens are asked to call Mrs. Patterson at 878-5964 or Mrs. C. Paul at 878-9516.

Fire gutted the home of Bill and Jan Maxwell on Christmas Day, also leaving the family homeless. They are now staying with relatives on Martin St. in Milton.

According to Mrs. Maxwell, the community has been extremely generous in response to their plight. The family has two children, Jennifer, four, and Darryl, six.

Michael Clark is up in arms about snowmobiles... or more particularly improper use of them within the town limits.

He says there are people riding snowmobiles on town roads, sidewalks, boulevards, and parks in the town, and has complained to the town about it.

"There are lunatics in this town using snowmobiles to the annoyance and discomfort of people. Last year, they were driving snowmobiles on the roads, but last night (Sunday) they were driving them on the sidewalks."

"They have also been driving them on the boulevards and in Kinsmen Park," said Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark said he had complained to Milton Mayor Don Gordon and Staff Sergeant Eric Bullock about the matter, and both agreed snowmobiles were prohibited from sidewalks. Mr. Clark also said he understood the two differed on other parts of the by-law governing snowmobile use in Milton.

Town by-law 53-70 reads, in part: "All snowmobiles operated within the Corporation (town) limits

shall be subject to the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act.

"All snowmobiles shall be prohibited from operating on sidewalks, boulevards and median strips.

"No person shall operate a motorized snow vehicle at any time, except for ingress and egress (pause) on Main St. from Bronte St. to Ontario St. in the Town of Milton.

"No person shall drive a motorized snow vehicle anywhere within the Corporation of the Town of Milton between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m."

The by-law makes no mention of snowmobile usage in parks.

Mr. Clark said the second last clause was the contentious one. It can be interpreted two ways, and he said he felt the mayor and the police have different interpretations.

Mr. Clark said he got the impression, from talking with the mayor and Sgt. Bullock, that the mayor interprets the act as prohibiting snowmobiles within the town except on Main St. and Bronte St., while Sgt.

Bullock interprets the act as meaning the opposite.

The meaning of the clause can be changed merely by pausing in different places within the clause. This phrase: "No person shall operate a motorized snow vehicle at any time (pause) except for ingress and egress (pause) on Main St. from Bronte St. to Ontario St. (pause) in the Town of Milton," means exactly the opposite of this phrase: "No person shall operate a motorized snow vehicle at any time (pause) except for ingress and egress (pause) on Main St. from Bronte St. to Ontario St. (pause) in the Town of Milton."

The former phrase supports what Mr. Clark says is the police interpretation banning snowmobiles from Main St., but permitting them on other roads in town. The latter phrase supports the opposite interpretation.

"I think the majority of Miltonians feel snowmobiles in town just aren't a required mode of transportation. I mean, we aren't in northern Saskatchewan where it's a necessity. It's fine in the rural bush areas, but

not the by-law was repealed. A lot of by-laws were repealed in 1974 or 1975, and I think that was one of them. I know the hunting by-law was," he said.

"Mr. Clark is right, the by-law can be taken two ways. He told me he would write a letter to council about it, and the matter will be dealt with then."

Help sought for Vietnamese refugees

Local church groups are being sought as possible sponsors for newly-arrived Vietnamese refugees.

Bob Howsam, spokesman for the Canada Employment Centre in Milton said the agency is interested in finding local means of support for one or more of the many families who are arriving in Canada.

"We would like the Church to offer accommodation and some financial assistance if possible," he said, adding the assistance would be necessary only until a job was found for the immigrants.

Once the families are settled, they will also receive federal financial aid, he said.

Approximately 200 Vietnamese families are expected to arrive in Ontario within the next year with the bulk of the families going to Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor

and Hamilton. The majority of the individuals have lived in Vietnam for the last 20 to 30 years and speak Cantonese and Vietnamese he said.

"Very few have English."

Organizations interested in helping are asked to contact Mr. Howsam at the Employment Centre at 878-4139.

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Vandals strike at Baldwin PS

Halton Regional Police are investigating a case of vandalism at Robert Baldwin School.

According to police, four windows were smashed, including the windows of three portable classrooms.

The incident happened during the last holiday weekend, said police. In addition to the smashed windows, three fire extinguishers were taken from the portables. One was later recovered in a nearby field and a second retrieved from the roof of the school.

Members of Theta Tau chapter of Beta Sigma Phi are ringing in the new year with two new members—Elaine Burns, a new pledge, and Shirley Steeves, a transferee from Brampton.

On January 3, the first meeting of the year was held at the home of Janet Smith. The members welcomed their guest, Barbara Crowe, to the business meeting.

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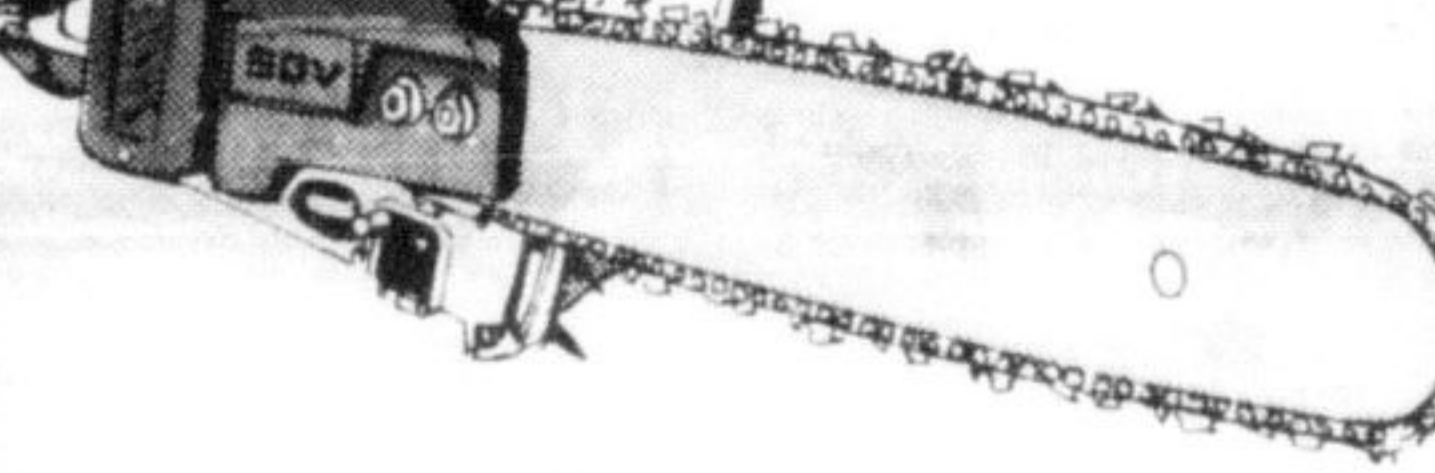
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By-law unclear

Snowmobiles anger residents

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