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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Learning the ropes

Little Brandon "Sparky" Pye, a kindergarten student at Holy Rosary, learns about firefighting from firefighter Paul Hollingshead at a fire safety presentation Wednesday. The Learn Not To Burn program included a video, safety talk and tour of a firetruck.

House destroyed in blaze

A family cat and smoke detectors alerted occupants of a \$300,000 Campbellville home that their house was on fire early last Friday morning.

The strange behaviour of a pet cat woke the two occupants of the wood-framed house on Twiss Road.

The home's smoke alarms also went off.

The Milton Fire Department received the call at 5:51 a.m.

All three local fire stations, with the assistance of the Halton Hills Fire Department's tanker and canteen truck, battled the blaze for several hours.

Crews stayed on the scene for 24 hours making sure the fire was out

and helping with the investigation, said Captain Mark Cross, Milton Fire Department spokesman.

The fire, which started in the basement, was electrical in nature, he said.

"The house is a total loss," he said.

Luckily, both occupants, as well as the cat, escaped the fire uninjured.

Hospital emergency department getting continuous coverage

A doctor will be on-site, non-stop

By IRENE GENTLE
 The Champion

A novel method of paying doctors will provide Milton District Hospital (MDH) with non-stop, on-site physician coverage in the emergency department.

The new fee formula is being touted as an alternative to the traditional fee-for-service model employed by OHIP.

Under the conventional fee set up, emergency department physicians are only paid if there are patients to treat. That can leave doctors reluctant to man sluggish emergency department shifts.

But the new formula sets aside a pool of money to assure payment on even the

slowest shifts.

"Now they can come in and do a shift and know they're going to be paid," said Cindy McDonnell, leader of the Milton family practice program. "It doesn't depend on volume."

And it suits everyone, she said.

"The benefits to the physician I think are obvious. It's guaranteed payment for low volume times," said Ms McDonnell at a Hospital Board meeting, held Tuesday at MDH. "And the hospital gets continuous coverage. This is something we've been wanting for a long time."

So far, \$60 million has been earmarked for smaller hospitals reporting less than 35,000 annual emergency department visits.

Of that, \$1.25 million has been set aside for MDH, which sees between 30,000 and 35,000 visits each year.

"The amount of money is totally volume driven. It has nothing to do with the acuity of the patients," said Ms McDonnell.

And though the pay is up-front, physicians are asked to submit dummy invoices

• see MILTON on page 7

Boy falls 30 feet from lift

A seven-year-old Milton boy is at the Hospital for Sick Children with serious head injuries after falling 30 feet from a chair lift at Glen Eden Ski Area last Friday.

The 8:45 p.m. incident is still under investigation. Not much was known at press time, but Halton Regional Police did say the bar of the chair lift was up.

The young boy was treated at the scene by the Ski Patrol before being taken to Milton District Hospital and then transferred to Toronto.

He's expected to recover.

Det. Larry Brassard of Halton police told The Champion that Sick Kids Hospital officials said "he was a very lucky young boy."

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