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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Hot, hot, hot

Allison Williams — half of the stage act 'The Daring Devlinis' — shows the art of fire eating to an enthralled crowd at the Ontario Renaissance Festival, which opened for its seventh season on the weekend. See more photos on page 9.

## Mould temporarily closes local shelter for battered women

By RICHARD VIVIAN  
The Champion

Mould has forced Halton Women's Place to temporarily close its doors, but it should be ready for re-opening within a couple weeks, said an official from the local shelter for battered women.

"We've undergone all of our clean-up procedures," said shelter spokesperson Cheryl Taylor.

The facility must sit empty for a total of 21 days before re-testing can be done. More than half that time has already passed.

"If all is cleared, then the shelter will undertake efforts to re-open," Ms Taylor said.

When the shelter closed five weeks ago, all residents were transferred to other nearby facilities outside Milton. Staff were transferred to a Burlington shelter.

The mould was first discovered after an employee approached her doctor complaining of respiratory problems, said Ms Taylor. At that time, the doctor recommended an air test be done for her workplace.

"There was some mould detected, but it wasn't any kind of a serious mould. At that point we re-located her office, but that made us think we should start having the whole building tested just to see what was there," she said.

"When we were undertaking that, a different type of mould was discovered and the health department said it wasn't good to have children and people with respiratory problems around it."

Ms Taylor said the employee took minimal time off due to the mould and no other

complaints of illness or irritation were reported.

The mould was discovered in the walls of the more than 100-year-old house.

The Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services is funding the clean-up.

"A lot of century-old homes would have the same problem, but because we're a residential facility there's a whole different set of guidelines that you have to adhere to," Ms Taylor said.

A new Halton Women's Place shelter is currently under construction in Milton and is expected to be operational by December.

"The biggest shame in all this is that we're so close to getting in there," Ms Taylor said.

"We're hanging on by a thread, hoping everything stays in good shape so that we could just move, but we had to deal with this little situation."

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