

Home under construction severely damaged in fire

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

A woman stopping to check the progress of her new Milton home Tuesday was caught by surprise when smoke prevented her from seeing through the window.

She went to notify a representative for the new subdivision and when she returned, the fire had escalated. By the time it was put out by firefighters shortly after, the Bradley Terrace home

— which is in the new Sundial Homes development near Derry and Thompson roads — had sustained \$60,000 worth of damage.

The homeowner was supposed to take possession in just three weeks.

The Milton Fire Department received the call just after 5:30 p.m.

Mike McConnell, acting captain, was the first person to reach the scene.

"When we got there, the owner or contractor advised me that the fire was in the basement. We opened the front door, and it was fully charged

with smoke," Capt. McConnell said. "A good part of the floor was already collapsed, and I saw flames coming through the basement."

Fortunately, since the house was under construction, Capt. McConnell said he knew nobody was in the home. But he also knew that any fire that's in a basement has added risks for firefighters.

"(Firefighters) can easily get trapped, falling through the floor," he said. "If we were there five minutes before, who knows what would have happened. We could have fallen through."

The firefighters entered the basement and put out the fire in about 10 minutes using foam, which helps the water "stick to the surface," Capt. McConnell said.

They used a thermal imaging camera, which allowed them to see through the smoke so they could better locate the source of the fire.

Don Stewart, chief fire prevention officer, said the fire was smoking-related, caused by a worker working in the basement.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Father Curtis is appointed chaplain of fire department

Father Mark Curtis was recently appointed chaplain for the Milton Fire Department.

The chaplain — or padre — position requires him to be available at all times to assist the fire department and public at any

emergency incident that may arise.

"The fire department padre counsels firefighters after all types of stressful incidents and issues," said Fire Chief Harold Penson.



Mark Curtis

"He is also available to meet and assist in the counselling of the public at an emergency incident. This is a very important position that requires a person that is dedicated and has the trust, confidence and understanding of all firefighting personnel."

Some of Father Curtis' duties may include counselling firefighters and emergency medical services personnel and their families, visiting injured firefighters, providing assistance to victims, assisting at emergency scenes and providing for the spiritual needs of department members and their families.

Father Curtis has previously worked as an emergency chaplain at hospitals in Hamilton, Waterloo and Guelph.

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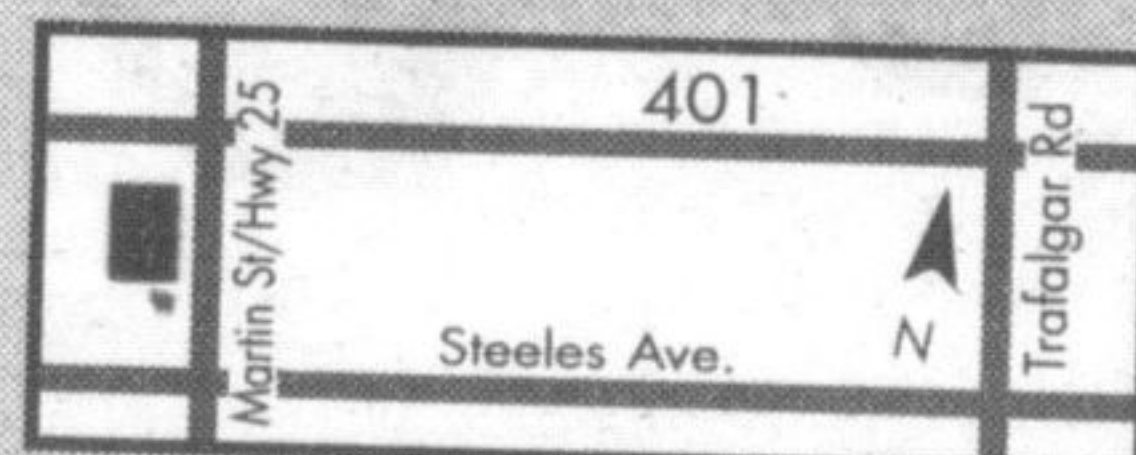
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TAX NOTICE

Ratepayers of the Town of Milton are reminded that the second installment of the 2003 interim billing is due on April 30, 2003.

If you require information about taxes, please contact the Corporate Services (Tax) Department at (905) 878-7252 ext. 2193, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Tax payments must be received in the Corporate Services Office on or before the due date to avoid penalty. A late payment charge of 1.25 % will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month in which the default continues.

It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the taxes are paid by the due date, even in the event that the bill is not received as mailed.

Taxes may be paid:

- By mail: Corporate Services (Tax) Department, 43 Brown St., Milton ON L9T 5H2
Cheques post-dated to the due date are acceptable and encouraged.
- Telephone or Internet banking (check with your financial institution for details)
- By using the mail deposit box to the left of the glass doors at Town Hall (all hours)
- Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Corporate Services (Tax) Department, Town Hall, 43 Brown St., Milton. (Cheque or money order is preferred, rather than cash). Direct Debit also accepted.
- Please contact our office for details regarding the Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Program.