

# Vandalism suspected in blaze at firefighters' training facility

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

Normally, firefighters simulate emergency situations in their training house on Nassagaweya/Esquesing Town Line.

But early Friday morning, they were called to the real thing when the training facility caught fire.

Milton fire personnel received the call at about 2 a.m. When they arrived, the house was fully engulfed in flames and its exterior had already burned to the ground, said firefighter Matt Smith.

After personnel from Milton's three fire stations doused the training house with water, the only thing left was the chimney, Mr. Smith said.

"By the time we put it out, there was nothing left," he said.

Nobody was inside the house at the time, and no fire personnel were injured.

"It went well," Mr. Smith said of the fire fighting efforts. "It was a small house and we had lots of water, so we put it out fast."

The cause of the fire hasn't yet been determined, although vandal-

ism is suspected since there was no hydro to the house.

The house sits on land owned by Dufferin Aggregates — at the dead end of Nassagaweya/Esquesing Town Line — beside two other abandoned houses also used as training facilities.

Firefighters used the house for rapid intervention and search and rescue training, among other types. Smoke machines created realistic conditions.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiesse@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiesse@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

# Help needed for BC flood victims

The Red Cross is calling on Canadians to help those victimized by recent flooding in British Columbia.

On the heels of massive summer forest fires, floods have adversely impacted thousands of BC residents, and despite government assistance there's still plenty

of help needed.

Those wishing to make a donation to the BC Flood Response Fund can do so by calling 1-800-418-1111, visiting [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) or dropping by the Red Cross' North Halton branch at 100 Nipissing Rd.

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