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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

BIG STRETCH: Five-year-old Joshua Ben checks out the size of a massive fire truck, part of Fire Prevention Week activities at the Central Fire Station on Steeles Avenue Saturday.

CO detectors causing nuisance false alarms

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton's fire chief is urging residents who own carbon monoxide detectors to educate themselves on the devices — a move he hopes will reduce the number of false alarms the fire department responds to.

The request came Tuesday at the Town's community services committee meeting, where Mayor Gord Krantz pointed out in a staff report that local firefighters investigated 45 carbon monoxide alarm activations — all

of which were false — over the past three months.

Chief Larry Brassard explained the detectors actually only have a lifespan of three to five years, meaning once they're past that point and need to be replaced, they could go off falsely. Low batteries can also trigger them incorrectly.

"It is something the general public can improve their knowledge on," Brassard said, noting by simply reading the detector's manual, residents can often trouble shoot any problems they're having. "It's a matter of self edu-

cation. Most false alarms can be easily prevented."

He pointed out if firefighters are attending a false alarm, it takes them away from "true emergencies" and results in delayed responses.

But he emphasized that he doesn't want to discourage residents from calling the fire department if their alarm is going off.

"We'd always rather air on the side of safety," he said.

So far this year, the Milton Fire Department has responded to 142 false carbon monoxide

• see CHIEF on page A10

Walk-in clinic opening soon

A new walk-in clinic on Bronte Street that'll operate almost 12 hours a day is gearing up to open its doors next week.

The initiative, called the Milton Urgent Care Clinic and Family Practice, will be headed up by two full-time doctors — Dr. Mustafa Kamouna and Dr. Ziad Al-Qaseer — and four part-time.

Dr. Kamouna said he anticipates the clinic will be ready to open on Monday. It'll be located in the medical building portion of the Bronte Corporate Centre at 400 Bronte St. S., just north of the corner of Bronte Street and Derry Road.

The new location will also have a lab and pharmacy on-site, along with many other physicians, including a surgeon, obstetrician, urologist and pediatrician.

The clinic will operate from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Both doctors are accepting new patients as well. To reach the clinic or sign on as a new patient call (905) 876-3843.

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