

Firefighters honoured for saving man from burning home



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

BRAVE MEN: Milton firefighters Steve Ellis (left) and Andrew Brassard (second from right) show their awards for bravery after being honoured Thursday at Queen's Park. Looking on are Ontario Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman (second from left) and Milton Fire Chief Larry Brassard.

Ellis and Brassard two of only four firefighters to be awarded the medal this year, and are the first Milton firefighters ever to receive the award

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Two Milton firefighters who selflessly rushed into a burning building to rescue a young man were recognized Thursday with Ontario's most prestigious award for valour.

Steve Ellis and Andrew Brassard of the Milton Fire Department were presented the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery by Lieutenant Governor of Ontario James Bartleman and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Facilities Monte Kwinter during a ceremony at the Ontario Legislature.

Ellis and Brassard were two of only four firefighters to be awarded the medal this year, and were the first Milton firefighters ever to be recognized in this manner. In Halton, only one other firefighter has ever received the medal.

The two firefighters willingly risked their lives in a White Drive house fire in July, when they rescued an unconscious 21-year-old Matthew Grant from certain death.

Brassard said he's proud of the

award, but doesn't view himself as a hero.

"It's what we're paid to do. There are tens of thousands of firefighters across Ontario who'd do the same thing in that situation," he said.

Steve Ellis said he'll wear the medal on behalf of everyone at Milton Fire Department.

"It takes a lot of teamwork and coordination to make something like this happen and to turn out the way it did," he said.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said he spoke on behalf of the entire town: "We in Milton are very proud to call them our own."

Fire Chief Larry Brassard said the whole fire department should be proud of the award.

"Everything we do in the fire service is done as a team, and so while it's very fitting that we recognize the heroic acts of Matt's rescue by Steve and Andrew, in a very real way, everyone who wears the uniform of the Milton Fire Department can be proud of this recognition."

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

Crime Stoppers of Halton

Trailer loaded with snowmobiles stolen

Halton Regional Police are investigating the theft of a snowmobile trailer.

Sometime between November 1 and 4, suspects entered onto the property of Whitman Manufacturing, 855 Steeles Ave., and stole a trailer loaded with three snowmobiles.

Stolen was a 2001 black,

covered trailer valued at \$10,000. Also stolen were a 1995 black Skidoo, a 1999 blue Polaris and a 1998 black Polaris.

The total loss for both the trailer and its contents is \$25,000.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other matter, you may be

eligible for a cash reward.

You will never have to give your name or testify in court.

Crime Stoppers of Halton doesn't subscribe to call display.

Call 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477) or check out Crime Stoppers' Web site at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com.



Watch for the "BAG"

and fill it with non-perishable food items, during the Salvation Army Food Drive.

Bags will be inserted in **The Canadian Champion** on Friday, Nov. 24.

Bags will be picked up by the Milton Firefighters on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005.



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