



GRAHAM PAINE/CANADIAN CHAMPION

**CHARRED REMAINS:** A two-storey home was left with about \$150,000 in damage after a fire broke out Saturday at about 2 a.m. on Lower Base Line, east of Trafalgar. Both the Milton and Mississauga fire departments responded after being alerted by two passersby. The fire started on the first floor and spread through the attic. Fortunately, the house wasn't occupied at the time and was being used mostly for storage. The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

## Plugged chimney causes blaze

Firefighters responded to the first chimney fire of the approaching fall season this past weekend. And they're using it as an opportunity to get across a very important message: clean your chimney.

The Milton Fire Department responded to a home on Guelph Line in Brookville Sunday at about 12:30 p.m. after a woodstove fire was reported.

"It was the same old story," said fire prevention inspector

Barry Kory of the Milton Fire Department.

The pipe to the stove was plugged with congealed creosote and ash, Kory said, which prevented it from ventilating properly.

Fortunately nobody was hurt, and the fire was contained to the chimney.

The homeowners told firefighters they poured water down the pipe to help put out the fire. Fire crews arrived to

completely extinguish it, but later that afternoon they returned after the fire started up again, Kory said.

Not only was the woodstove not cleaned out, it also wasn't installed properly, Kory said.

He's encouraging residents thinking about firing up their woodstoves or fireplaces this fall to first hire a professional to do a proper cleaning.

"I can see more (chimney fire) calls coming," he said.

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