

Firefighters take on yet another suspicious blaze

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By **Stephanie Hounsell**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Five suspicious fires to abandoned buildings in five months. A Wednesday morning blaze at an old barn on Ninth Line is responsible for that round number.

Crews from the Milton Fire Department responded to the fire between Derry and Britannia roads just after 3:30 a.m., taking over for the Mississauga fire department, which arrived first on the scene.

Since the structure was fully involved with no occupants, there wasn't much to be done but douse it with water, said the Milton Fire Department's fire prevention inspector, Steve Ellis.

"If it looks like it's abandoned and there's nobody living there, it's not worth taking the risk to get inside," Ellis said, adding, "It (the barn) was pretty much gone by the time we got there."

Adding to the reason for the defensive approach was the fact the barn was slated for demolition by a developer, Ellis said.

As with the other four fires so far this year to abandoned or unoccupied buildings, the cause of the blaze is undetermined. But also as with the other buildings, this one was without electricity, putting the fire in the "suspicious" category, Ellis said.

Police are investigating.

"It's an abandoned structure that really

shouldn't just spontaneously combust," said Halton Regional Police's Sgt. Duncan Taylor.

Due to the extent of the damage, Ellis said it isn't possible to locate where the fire started, never mind the cause.

Firefighters remained at the scene into the afternoon Wednesday to put out hot spots.

They battled a similar fire to an abandoned barn on Ninth Line April 1.

"This is one area that seems to be a bit of a focus," Ellis said.

Situations where the Mississauga fire department is the first responder are costly for the Milton Fire Department, since Milton is billed for the neighbouring department's services, Ellis said, part of an established agreement that goes both ways.

There have been talks between the Milton Fire Department and the Town of Milton to address the possibility of having abandoned buildings demolished sooner than later to help reduce the frequency of these types of fires, Ellis said.

Terry Kay, the Town's chief building official, said the fire department contacted the Town to look at having some vacant buildings — particularly those around Ninth Line — deemed unsafe under the Ontario Building Code so they could be removed.

"(It's a) group effort to look at (the situation) to see what we can do," Kay said.

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Milton fire prevention inspector Steve Ellis (front) and technician Brett Hill survey the aftermath of a fire that destroyed a Ninth Line barn Wednesday.

Notice of approval for the Halton District School Board's EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Halton District School Board passed an Education Development Charges By-law on the 20th day of May, 2009, under Section 257.54 of the *Education Act*; AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 257.65 of the Act by filing with the Secretary of the Halton District School Board on or before the 29th day of June, 2009, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The By-law comes into force on June 8, 2009. The education development charges imposed by the By-law are as follows:

- \$1,755.00 per dwelling unit in regard to residential development
- \$0.49 per square foot of gross floor area in regard to non-residential development

The education development charges are imposed on all development of lands in the Region of Halton. Accordingly, a key map showing the location of the lands subject to the By-law is not provided as part of this notice.

A copy of the complete By-law is available for examination in the offices of the Board located at 2050 Guelph Line, JW Singleton Education Centre, Burlington, Ontario, during regular office hours or on the Board website at www.hdsb.ca.

Notice of a proposed by-law amending the education development charge by-law or passage of such an amending by-law is not required to be given to any person or organization, other than to certain clerks of municipalities or secretaries of school boards, unless the person or organization gives the secretary of the Board a written request for notice or any amendments to the education development charge by-law and has provided a return address.

Dated at the City of Burlington this 21st day of May 2009



Halton District School Board

Bruce Jones, Chair of the Board
Halton District School Board

Wayne Joudrie, Director of Education
Halton District School Board

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