



Fire caused extensive damage to the balcony of a Moreau Lane home. Firefighters believe the blaze started from the sun heating up dried peat moss in a flower pot.

Peat moss deemed culprit in fire on house balcony

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A fire that broke out recently on a house balcony appears to have been caused by somewhat of a natural phenomenon.

The culprit? Peat moss, which experts say can spontaneously combust.

That appears to be the cause of a fire on Moreau Lane July 10, said Barry Kory, fire prevention inspector with the Milton Fire Department.

At about 1 p.m., some teens at a nearby park noticed a fire on the balcony and a girl used her cell phone to call 911, Kory said.

At the time, nobody was inside the home.

Firefighters arrived and quickly knocked down the blaze, which caused about \$15,000

in damage; the floor was severely charred, as were the surrounding walls.

At first, while investigating the cause, Kory thought it must have been careless smoking. But the resident said he hadn't smoked there for weeks.

There were no nearby outlets that could have caused an electrical fire.

That's when Kory turned to the possibility that the fire started with a plastic flower pot containing dried peat moss and a dead plant that was on the balcony.

John Coull, a fire investigator at the scene from the company Origin and Cause, said he has seen the aftermath of numerous fires that started with peat moss.

"I think the peat moss absorbs the heat
• see KEEP on page A12



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c.O. 18, as amended, AND IN THE MATTER OF the lands and premises at the following municipal address in the Province of Ontario.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE Council of the Corporation of the Town of Milton intends to designate the exterior at the following municipal address as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O. 18, as amended.

Municipal Address: 6588 Ninth Line, Milton, ON (Edwardian Farmhouse)

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

Legal Description:

Part Lot 9, Concession 9 NS, RP 20R594 Part 4, Town of Milton, Regional Municipality of Halton.

Description of Property:

The Hamilton farmhouse is a two and a half storey red brick house that is a good representative example of the Edwardian Classicism style of architecture.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The subject property is known as the Hamilton farmhouse and was built circa. 1900. Its cultural heritage value lies in its historical, architectural and contextual value.

Design Value or Physical Value

The Hamilton farmhouse is a good representative example of the Edwardian Classicism style of architecture. Edwardian classicism was prevalent in Ontario at the beginning of the twentieth century and its simple balanced designs represent a reaction to the decorative excess of the late Victorian era. Edwardian Classical houses in Ontario are typically constructed of smooth red brick. They are box-like in their massing and are a full two storeys in height with hipped roofs above. They are largely devoid of exterior ornament with the exception of generous verandas which often feature stout classical columns and chunky railings.

The Hamilton farmhouse is a two and a half storey smooth red brick house and rusticated concrete lintels and sills. It has a large off-set verandah with simple timber ornamentation typical of the period. The house has a rusticated concrete foundation and a hipped roof with gable dormers. The house is of particular value as it has been largely unaltered and so retains most of its historical floor plan, original internal doors, architraves, simple decorative wooden floors and trim.

Historical Value

The subject property has a long association with the Hamilton Family. This local farming family built this house at the turn of the twentieth century and owned the property from 1879-1986. The house was probably built by James Hamilton, who was the second of four different members of the Hamilton family to own the property. Prior to that the property also had a long association with the Cordingley family. This early pioneering family owned a number of different properties along both sides of Ninth Line from 1836 and for over the next one hundred years. David Cordingley was from Lancashire in England and was the first of the Cordingley family to arrive in Canada. He owned the subject property from 1850 until he sold it to his son Charles in 1855. David and his wife Mary were living with Charles on the subject property when he died in 1867 aged 85 years. The Cordingleys lived in a 1-1/2 storey frame house that predated the current red brick farmhouse.

Contextual Value

The subject property has contextual value in being one of the few large and relatively unaltered Edwardian Classical farmhouses that remain within Milton's Trafalgar Township. It also represents a farmhouse that was constructed at a time when the prosperous farms in the Trafalgar Township were producing enough income to allow their owners to replace the earlier smaller frame farmhouses with more impressive farmhouses that reflected the increased wealth and status of their owners.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes:

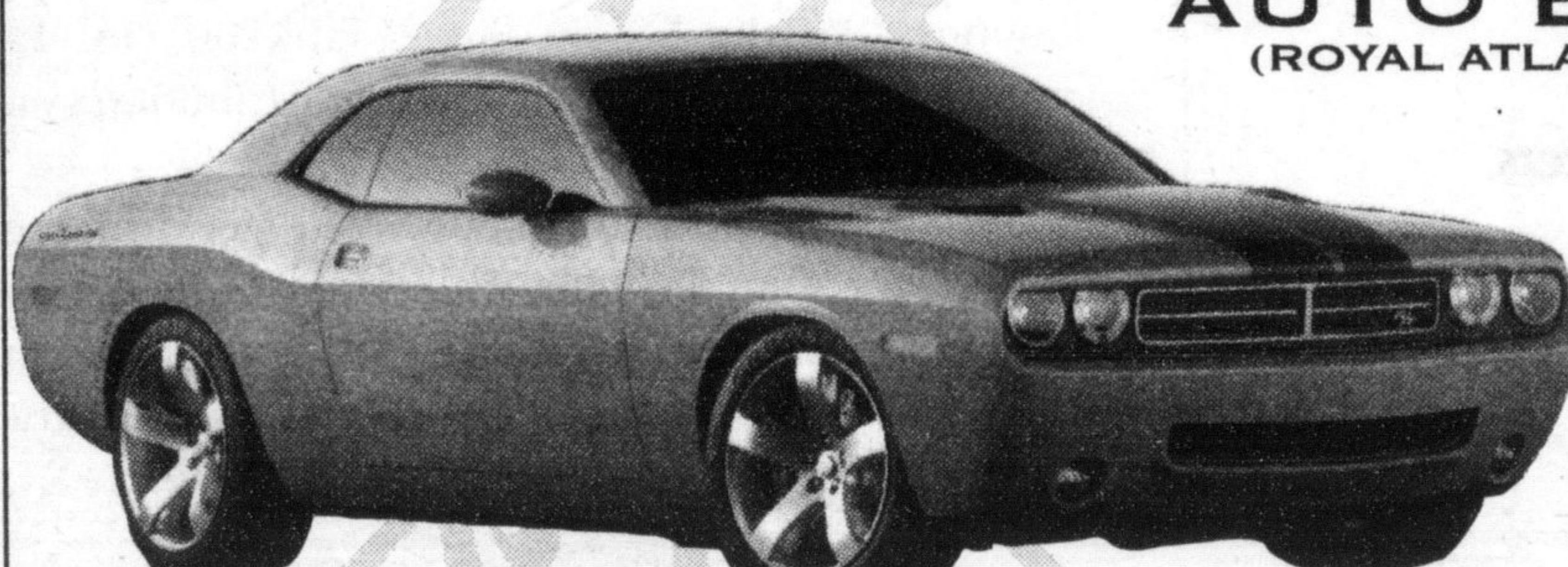
Important to the preservation of the Hamilton farmhouse, 6588 Ninth Line are the following character-defining elements/heritage attributes:

- The two and a half storey form and structure of the house including its red brick cladding and recessed bay.
- Hip roof with gable dormers
- Placement of windows and doors
- Rusticated concrete foundation and stone window sills and lintels
- Large verandah with brick and stone piers and timber columns above and timber frieze, plain timber cornice
- Chimney

ANY PERSON MAY, within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Milton, notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received by **August 24, 2009**, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Milton shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

DATED AT MILTON this 24th day of July, 2009.


Troy McHarg, Town Clerk
150 Mary Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 6Z5




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