DAVID RITCHIE / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Firefighters battle a McNiven Road blaze that destroyed a large metal storage structure.

Second fire on property

By Stephanie Hounsell
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A resident was taken to hospital after attempting to retrieve a pick-up truck from inside a blazing shed in what was the second such fire in as many winters at the McNiven Road address.

The Thursday morning fire, just north of Derry Road, destroyed a 2,000-square-foot metal storage structure as well as the property inside, used for contracting purposes — the truck, an excavator, a backhoe and various tools.

The homeowner had finished re-building the shed only a short time ago following a fire in December, 2008. Neither fire is considered suspicious.

"Isn't it ironic," said Insp. Barry Kory of the Milton Fire Department, remembering the first blaze on the property, which also happened on a cold winter's day. "Needless to say, he's (the owner) a bit beside himself — totally shocked."

The man — who was in his nearby house on the property — was alerted to the fire by an alarm company. He tried to drag out the pick-up truck by chaining it to another vehicle — and had it halfway out of the inferno — before he was stopped by arriving emergency services.

"Police had to pull him away," Kory said.

He was taken to hospital for minor smoke inhalation.

The Burlington Fire Department was first to arrive on the scene at about 5 a.m., and was joined by Milton crews.
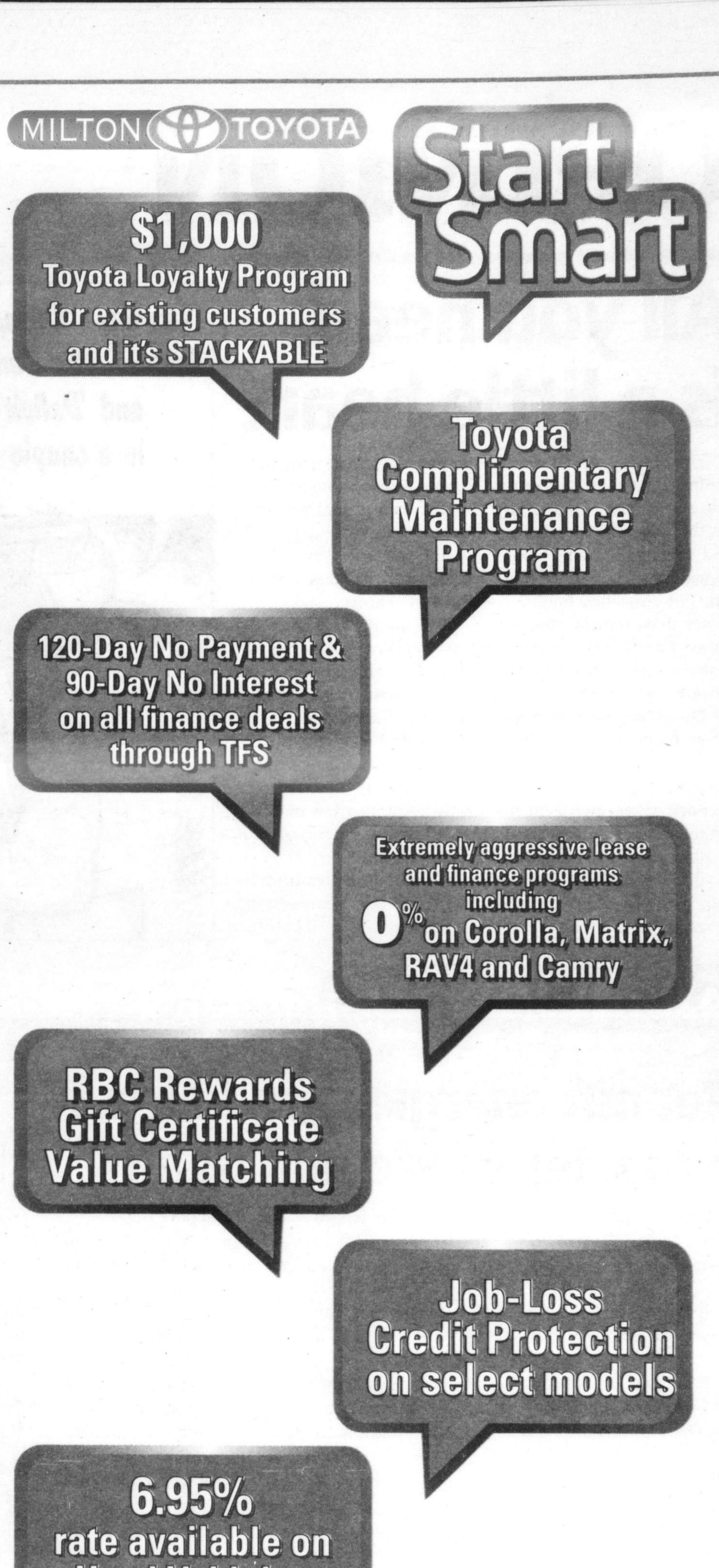
More than 30 firefighters fought the blaze for a couple of hours, with a tanker shuttling in water from a hydrant at Derry Road and Appleby Line.

The fire was stubborn, partly because of the wood frame inside the metal walls.

The cold temperatures made water from the hoses freeze; Town of Milton salters and sanders were on hand to help out.

It's believed the fire started in or around the pick-up truck, Kory said.

Damage is estimated at about $300,000 to the shed and equipment inside. The house on the property wasn't damaged.

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