

Livestock dies in \$250,000 barn blaze

By LISA TALLYN

Umberto and Albert Giangrande could do nothing but stand and watch as their livestock went up in smoke Saturday afternoon.

Approximately 700 chickens, 75 goats and 3 horses were lost as fire raged through their barn on Steeles Ave. east of James Snow Parkway.

The farming couple noticed smoke coming from the barn behind their house at approximately 3:30 p.m., said their son Carlo.

Milton Fire Department responded to the call at 3:30 p.m. Upon arrival, the old barn was fully involved in fire.

The barn is actually in Halton Hills fire district. That department took over from the Milton department two hours into battling the blaze.

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham says firefighters managed to save some of the livestock in the barn. Mr. Giangrande says the bulk of his parents' animals were lost.

"The heat got so intense that we had to get fire personnel out of the barn," said Chief Cunningham.

"The best thing to do in that situation is to let it burn itself out."

Firefighters, eight from Halton Hills responded to the call, were at the scene until 7:30 p.m. They were back at 3 a.m. when someone noticed the fire and called.

"It could still be smoking today," said Chief Cunningham on Monday. He says initial indications of the cause of the fire is careless smoking.

Insurance investigators were at the Giangrande farm on Monday. Mr. Giangrande says a published report of \$500,000 damage is high. He adds it could be in the neighbourhood of \$200,000.

"I just don't know how much it would cost to replace a barn like that today."

He says his parents had insurance on the barn and its contents.



Milton Fire Department was the first to respond to this barn fire on Steeles Ave. east of James Snow Parkway Saturday afternoon. The barn was destroyed. Hundreds of chickens perished in the blaze. Photos by JOHN WARREN



Umberto and Albert Giangrande lost nearly all their livestock and barn during this fire on Saturday afternoon. Firefighters from Milton and Halton Hills responded. The Halton Hills Department was on the scene into the late evening. Early damage estimates were set at \$500,000, but the Giangrande family is not sure of the total damage yet.



When Milton firefighters arrived on the scene of Saturday's blaze the barn was fully involved in fire. Later that afternoon, fire personnel were evacuated from the structure because of the extreme heat. Attempts to rescue livestock had to be abandoned.

Red Cross homemakers march on Queen's Park to protest financial ills

By LISA TALLYN

Ten north Halton Red Cross Homemakers were among more than 500 demonstrators at Queen's Park Monday to protest the amount of money promised by the government to cover the Red Cross deficit.

Social Services Minister John Sweeney announced Friday the government would kick in \$1.8 million to pull Red Cross and six

other non-profit homemaker programs across the province out of debt.

That news came only 15 days before the Red Cross said it would abandon its homemaker program across Ontario. Jan. 21 was the deadline.

Valerie Cook, co-ordinator of the Homemaker Program in north

Halton, says the money from the government will likely mean the Red Cross will be granted a reprieve for at least a year.

But Ms Cook says that money is only enough to cover the deficit. Homemaker programs will be in the same jackpot next year.

She says the provincial government is going to have to commit to larger annual payments to regional governments to cover the costs of running the programs on a daily basis.

"We will need about another \$5 an hour from the government," said Ms Cook.

Currently the Halton program receives \$8.86 per hour from the government. That is to cover the cost of wages, travel and administration.

Ms Cook says travel alone eats up a large chunk of that money. North Halton Red Cross homemakers earn between \$5.44 and \$6.62 per hour.

Ms Cook and the other Queen's Park protestors say that is outrageous.

One spokesperson at the rally noted, "Zookeepers make more than that to take care of animals."

"Our workers need to make a decent wage," said Ms Cook.

The group had the support of NDP leader Bob Rae on Monday.

Ms Cook is optimistic that some agreement can be reached with the provincial government to increase homemaker wages.

But she adds she doesn't know where the money is going to come from.

"I hope some other group doesn't have to suffer."



Town's purchase of magnetic nets \$6,500 investment in safety

The town is moving to buy new hockey nets which will help reduce the incidence of injury in Canada's most popular sport.

Monday night councillors approved a grant application that would see the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and

Recreation fund 50 per cent of the estimated \$6,500 it will cost to install magnetically controlled nets at both Memorial Arena and John Tonelli Sports Centre.

The project is included in the 1989

Taxman is getting tough

The taxman cometh. On time. And the taxpayers better be on time too.

That was the message from Milton council Monday night as the quarterly property tax deadlines were approved. They are: Tuesday, Feb. 28, Friday, April 28, Friday, June 30 and Friday, Sept. 29.

But, perhaps more importantly, town finance director Jim McQueen announced "I will be strictly enforcing the penalty policy of council, effective with the February, 1989 tax due date."

Late payment penalties will now be enforced the day after the deadlines, Mr. McQueen said.

In the past, no one has suffered penalties who had their payment postmarked on or prior to deadline day, Mr. McQueen said. However, now it would appear the onus is on the ratepayer to make certain the payment is at town hall on the due date, not just in the mail somewhere.

The backlog of mail slows up several administrative tasks.


capital budget, but that will not be adopted until, after the provincial program runs out. The ministry offer expires Jan. 16.

Magnetically controlled hockey nets are secured on the ice with adjustable magnets. The older style nets are fastened onto the ice by their metal uprights, which slide over posts in the ice.

The magnetic nets can be adjusted so that only slight pressure bumps them off their moorings or so that more force is required to do so.

Many hockey injuries occur when players slide into, or are slammed into nets which do not dislodge.

Magnetic nets can be made safe for they youngest and lightest players in minor hockey, but can be adjusted to withstand far rougher treatment before coming loose. The system Milton plans to acquire, known as MEGG-NET, is currently used in the National Hockey League.



CRIME STOPPERS OF HALTON
CALL 1-800-668-5151

Furs stolen

Halton Regional Police are asking for public assistance in solving the theft of fur coats which took place at the Burlington Mall, Guelph Line, Burlington, at 5:10 p.m. on Monday Nov. 14.

A truck belonging to a fur storage and cleaning company was making a delivery at Robinsons. The driver had parked on the north side of the store and entered. When he returned a few minutes later he saw a male person run from the truck carrying several fur coats. The suspect entered the passenger side of a white van which then left the area.

Stolen were: one brown and white Basarish full length, size 12 to 14; one dark mink, no lining, size 12 to 14; two dark mink, sizes 10 and 20; one ranch mink, size 12 to 14; one black muskrat, size 12 to 14. Total value of the stolen merchandise was \$35,000.

The suspect is described as male, white, 5'10", dark hair, wearing a black jacket.

The suspect vehicle is described as a 1980 white Ford van.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information which leads to an arrest in this case or any other case. Callers are not required to reveal their identities or testify in court. The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-668-5151.