

Safety first for basement apartment dwellers, says MFD

Homeowners must comply with Ontario Fire Code, Town laws and standards

The Milton Fire Department (MFD) is reminding homeowners with basement apartments that they must ensure the safety of their tenants by complying with the Fire Code and other Town laws and standards.

The fire prevention division of the MFD recently charged the owners of a Weston Road home for various Fire Code offences related to a residential basement rental apartment, formally known as an accessory apartment.

The offences included failing to provide a proper way out and failing to provide proper separation between the units. The homeowners were convicted and fined \$750 each for the violations. The maximum fine for each offence is \$50,000 and/or one year in prison.

A few years ago, a Woodward Avenue fire had a near-tragic outcome, with the residents living in the basement narrowly escaping the home due to safety infractions. The homeowners were charged with

and convicted of numerous Fire Code offences related to the basement rental apartment.

"Basement apartments must comply with the Ontario Building and Fire Codes as well as other requirements of the Town of Milton," said Fire Chief Brian Ellsworth. "The Milton Fire Department is taking a zero tolerance approach to non-compliance in an effort to ensure the safety of our residents, wherever they live."

In the Town of Milton, accessory apartments are self-contained dwelling units created by converting part of an existing dwelling. They can also be constructed as part of a new dwelling. Accessory apartments are also

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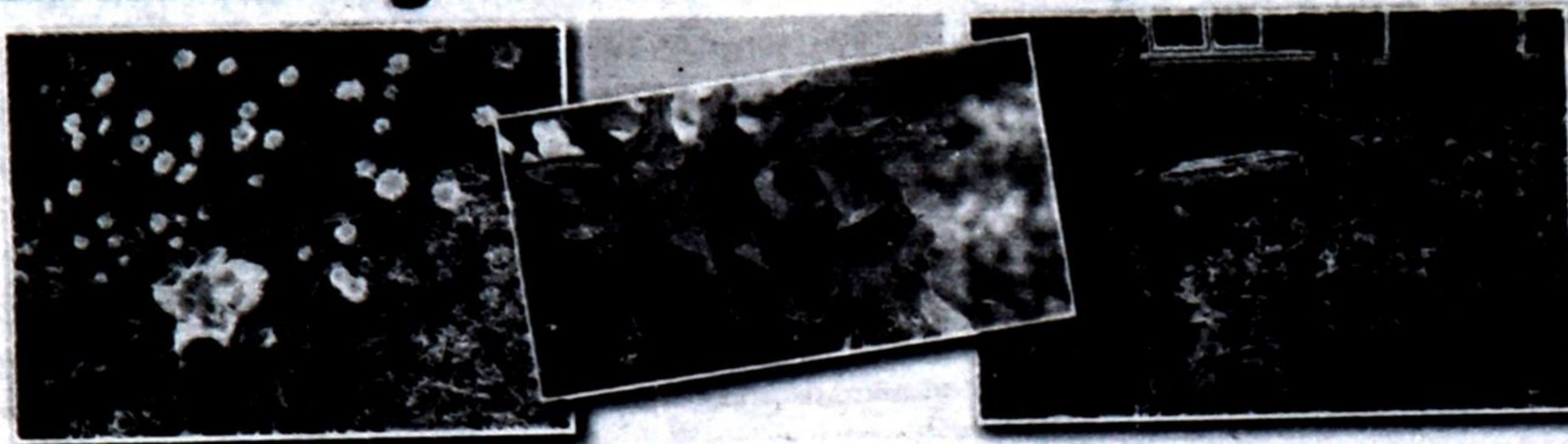
Brian Ellsworth
Milton Fire Chief

sometimes referred to as secondary suites, secondary units, basement apartments and accessory dwellings.

Only one accessory apartment is permitted in a dwelling unit that's serviced by a direct municipal water supply. All accessory apartments, both new and existing, require a building permit and must comply with any applicable laws and standards. This includes the Building Code, Fire Code, property standards bylaws and the Town's zoning bylaw.

For more information on fire safety, visit www.miltonfire.ca. For details on building permits, zoning requirements and Ontario Building Code requirements for accessory apartments, visit www.milton.ca/AccessoryApartments.

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Public Information Session

An HSBC Bank Canada Branch is Moving

On Friday, December 16, 2016, the **HSBC Milton branch at 91 James Snow Parkway North, Milton** will be moving to join our **HSBC Burlington branch at 2500 Appleby Line, Building B, Burlington.**

We will be holding an information session to hear the community's views and to answer any questions you may have about this relocation.

Date and time: Wednesday, September 7th, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Location: HSBC Milton Branch
at 91 James Snow Parkway North, Milton

Questions? Speak to our staff in-branch
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