

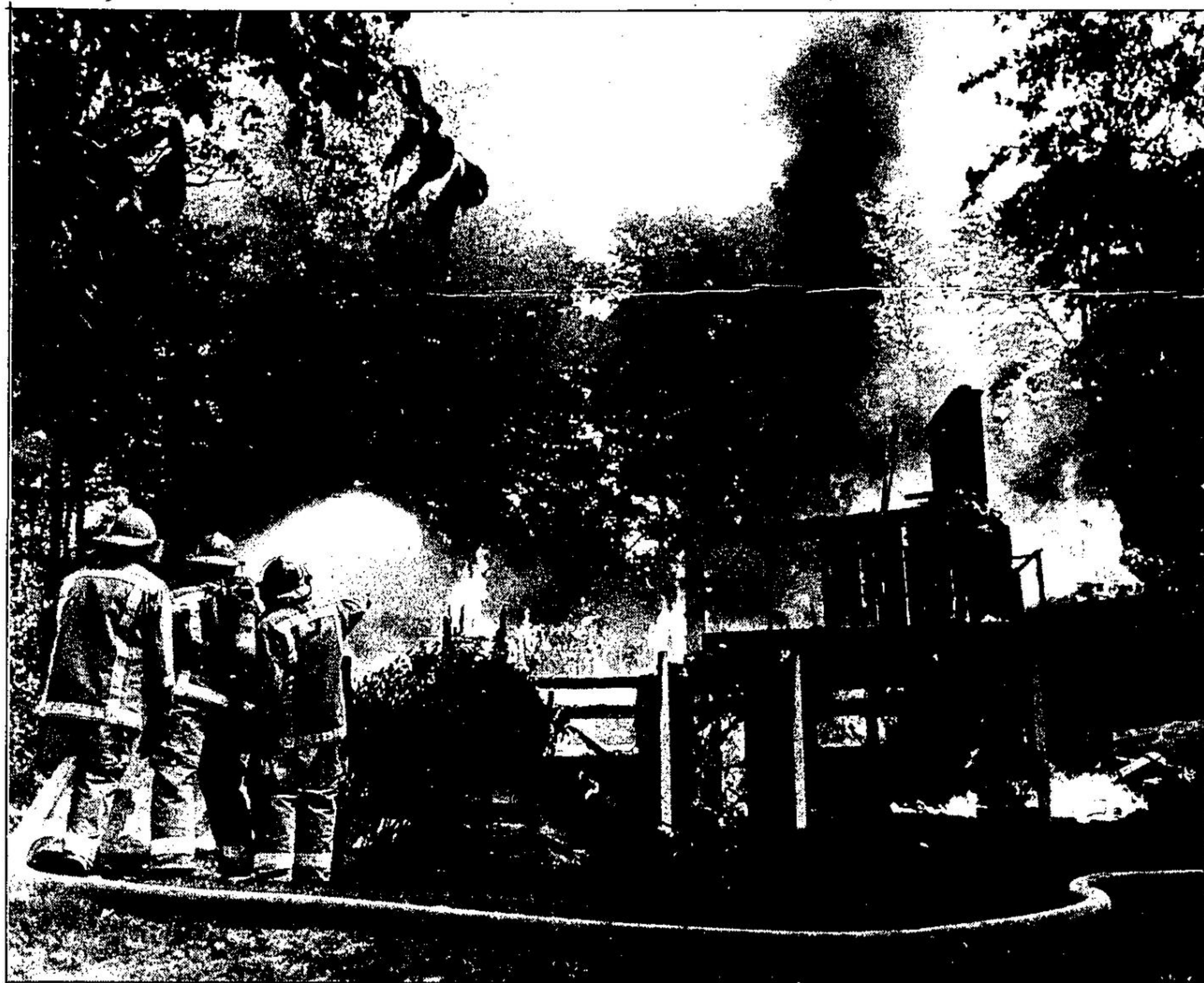
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All Halton Hills firefighters could do when they arrived at this house fire on 6th Line west of Hwy 7 Monday night at approximately 4:30 p.m. was to keep the fire from spreading into the adjacent trees: The two-storey wood and brick home, owned by Bob and Margaret Brown,

was already engulfed in flames when firefighters and the Browns, who were shopping, arrived. Firefighters are still investigating the cause of the blaze which caused, according to Halton Regional Police, approximately \$250,000 in damage. (Photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Ontario Fire Marshall's Office to investigate mysterious blaze

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Bob and Margaret Brown weren't gone more than an hour when they travelled to town to buy a door knob for the basement door of their house Monday evening. By the time they returned to their two-storey wood and brick home on the 6th Line west of Hwy. 7 they found they wouldn't need the doorknob because their house was engulfed in flames.

Halton Hills firefighters realized they were fighting a losing battle

by the time they arrived on the scene at approximately 4:30 p.m.

"When we got here, it was already totally gone," said a firefighter at the scene.

Lauri Tothe, who lives down the road from the Browns said she first noticed the huge plumes of smoke and when she walked down the road to investigate, heard a number of loud explosions.

By 8:30 p.m. when firefighters returned to the station, nothing was left of the home except for

pieces of charred wood and blackened bricks.

Halton Regional Police, who are helping firefighters investigate, said the house and all its contents were destroyed and have estimated damage at \$250,000.

"I can't figure out what happened. I just don't understand," said Mr. Brown a few hours after the fire started. "Thank God nobody was in there and that nobody was hurt."

He said he'd never seen anything burn so fast in his life.

The couple had lived in the home for two years with their teenage son Nathan, who is on holidays, after moving from

Mississauga where Mr. Brown works for Mississauga Hydro.

"Our life is in that home," he said. "All my kids pictures were in there. We can never replace them. They're all gone."

Mrs. Brown went into shock when she realized her home was on fire and had to be treated by ambulance attendants at a neighbor's home.

District Fire Chief Brent Marshall of the Halton Hills Fire Department and Constable Duncan Taylor of the Halton Regional Police have called the Ontario Fire Marshall's office to assist with the investigation. At press time, they still hadn't determined the cause of the fire.

Women's Place receives \$36,332 from province

Women who are victims of family violence in Milton will benefit from new provincial funding announced by Halton North MPP Noel Duignan on behalf of Social Services Minister Zanana Akande. Women's Place will receive funding totalling \$36,332.

A \$21,500 increase in annual funding will be used to cover costs associated with operating the program and providing support services. As well, a \$14,782 grant will be used for new equipment and supplies.

"This home provides a compassionate, secure, non-judgemental, temporary home for women who have sustained abuse, and their children," said Mr. Duignan. "Eighteen women and children are provided with a safe environment in a crisis situation."

The shelter, opened in October 1980, provides women who have sustained abuse, with counselling, support and a home for up to six weeks. A crisis line, staffed 24 hours daily, is also run by the shelter.

Halton Hills tops Brampton

You did it again Halton Hills! For the second year in a row, this community has shown it is in better shape than Brampton by having a greater percentage

of its population take part in the Participation Challenge on May 29.

While Brampton had 54,337 get active and Halton Hills had 11,796, our area came out ahead with 34.9 percent, with Brampton falling short at 25 per cent. As a result, the Halton Hills flag was flying at Brampton city hall on Friday. Who's going to be next year's victim?

Region special report

Halton Region Council will decide today, (Wednesday), if Regional staff should write a report tracing all information that has so far been accumulated on the Silver Creek Trunk Sewer in Georgetown and related projects.

The Region's Administration and Finance Committee recommended last Wednesday the request for another report be denied.

Oakville Regional Councillor, John Graham, make the request indicating in a letter to committee that a simple request made by Georgetown resident Linda Walton over an aspect of the trunk sewer at a Regional Planning and Public Works meeting May 8 was given "little credence."

During that meeting, Ms. Walton asked the committee not to accept a status report on geotechnical studies proposed for the trunk sewer. Ms. Walton urged that committee members not accept the report until the province's Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment had first commented on the studies being carried out.

The request was denied by Planning and Public Works Committee members.

Coun. Graham was one of a minority of committee members who voted that Ms. Walton's request be granted.

In his letter, addressed to the Administration and Finance Committee, Coun. Graham writes, "the extreme reaction of a number of councillors (sitting on the Planning and Public Works Committee) to my inquiries raises some suspicion of irregularities."

Contacted Friday, Halton Hills Regional Councillor and Planning and Public Works Committee Chairperson, Marilyn Serjeanston predicted the issue will be resolved today, (Wednesday), at Council.

Coun. Serjeanston said as far as she is concerned Coun. Graham's remarks are invalid. "He seems to have been unaware of all the previous reports," said Coun. Serjeanston.

Coun. Graham couldn't be reached for comment at press time to reply to Coun. Serjeanston's comment.

Coun. Graham also indicates in his letter that a new report on the Silver Creek Trunk Sewer is needed because of two letters sent earlier this year to the Region by the province questioning the planning approach taken towards Silver Creek Valley.

One letter is from the Ministry of the Environment, while the other is from the Ministry of Culture and Communications and both suggest the several projects proposed for the valley would be evaluated in connection to one another instead of separately.

An Inside Look

SECTION 'A'	Money Matters . . . 15
Police Beat 2	Business 16
Community Forum 2	Entertainment . . . 19
Council Briefs 3	School News 22
Political Forum 4	
Novel News 8	SECTION 'B'
Comm. Service 9	Sports 1B-5B
Editorial 10	Arts & Ideas 6B
Peoples Forum 10, 11	Legion Lines 7B
Opinion 11	Classified 8B-12B