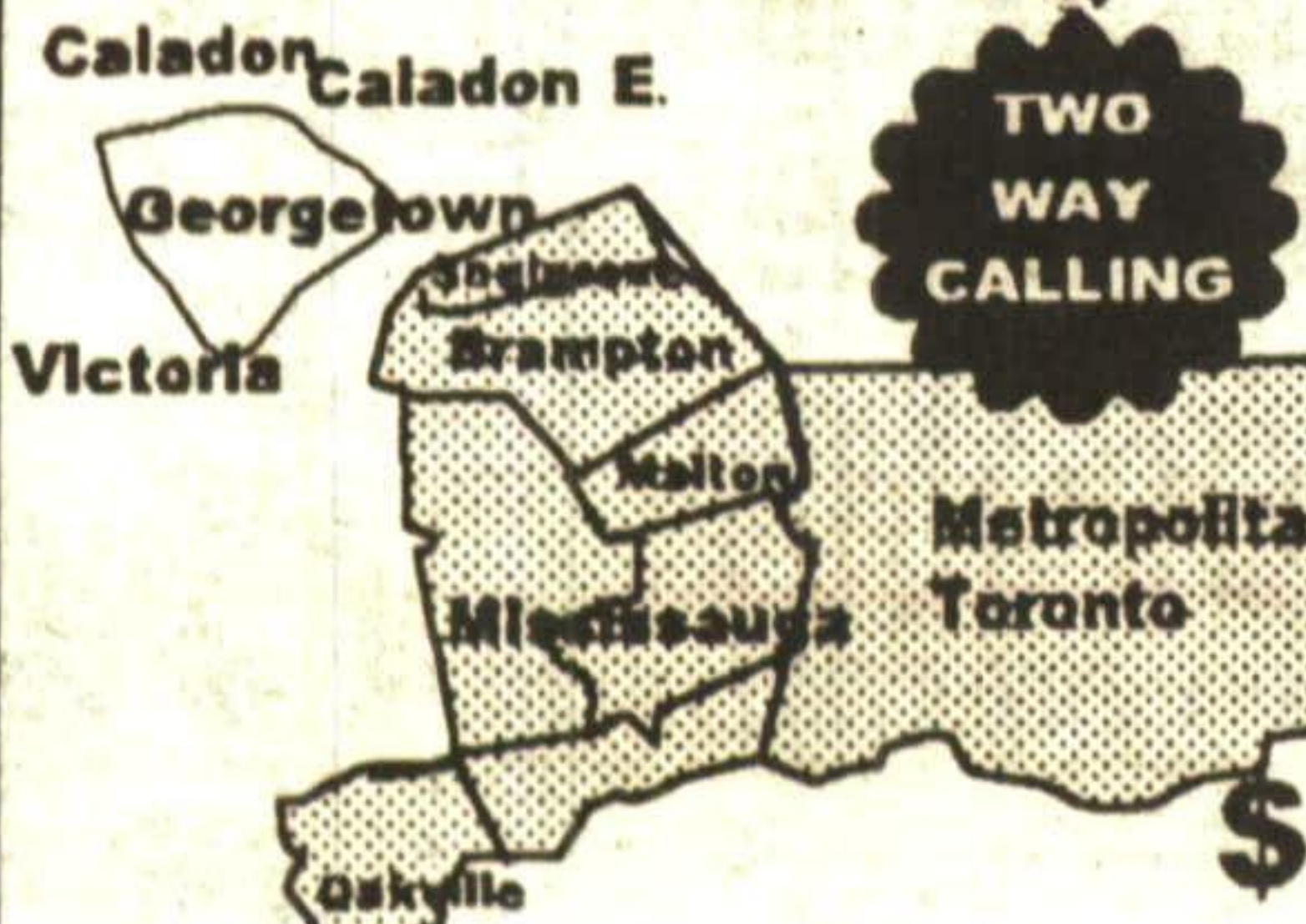


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# Propane tank explosion damages Acton home

By JANET BAINE  
Staff writer

A leaky barbecue propane tank is believed to have caused an explosion Monday night at 264 McDonald Blvd. in Acton which caused extensive structural damage to the house.

The homeowner, a single man, had gone to the garage, where he heard a 20 gallon propane tank (barbecue size) hissing and brought it into the basement to investigate further, police said. He had opened and closed the valve several times when the man, whom officials did not identify, heard a bang and was temporarily blinded by a flash of light. His eyebrows were singed, but he was not treated at hospital.

"He was in the basement and went upstairs, called someone and then went outside," said Fire Prevention Officer Dave Ford. Neighbors who

heard the explosion called for emergency help at 9:03 p.m. and the police were first on the scene. Seventeen firefighters also responded.

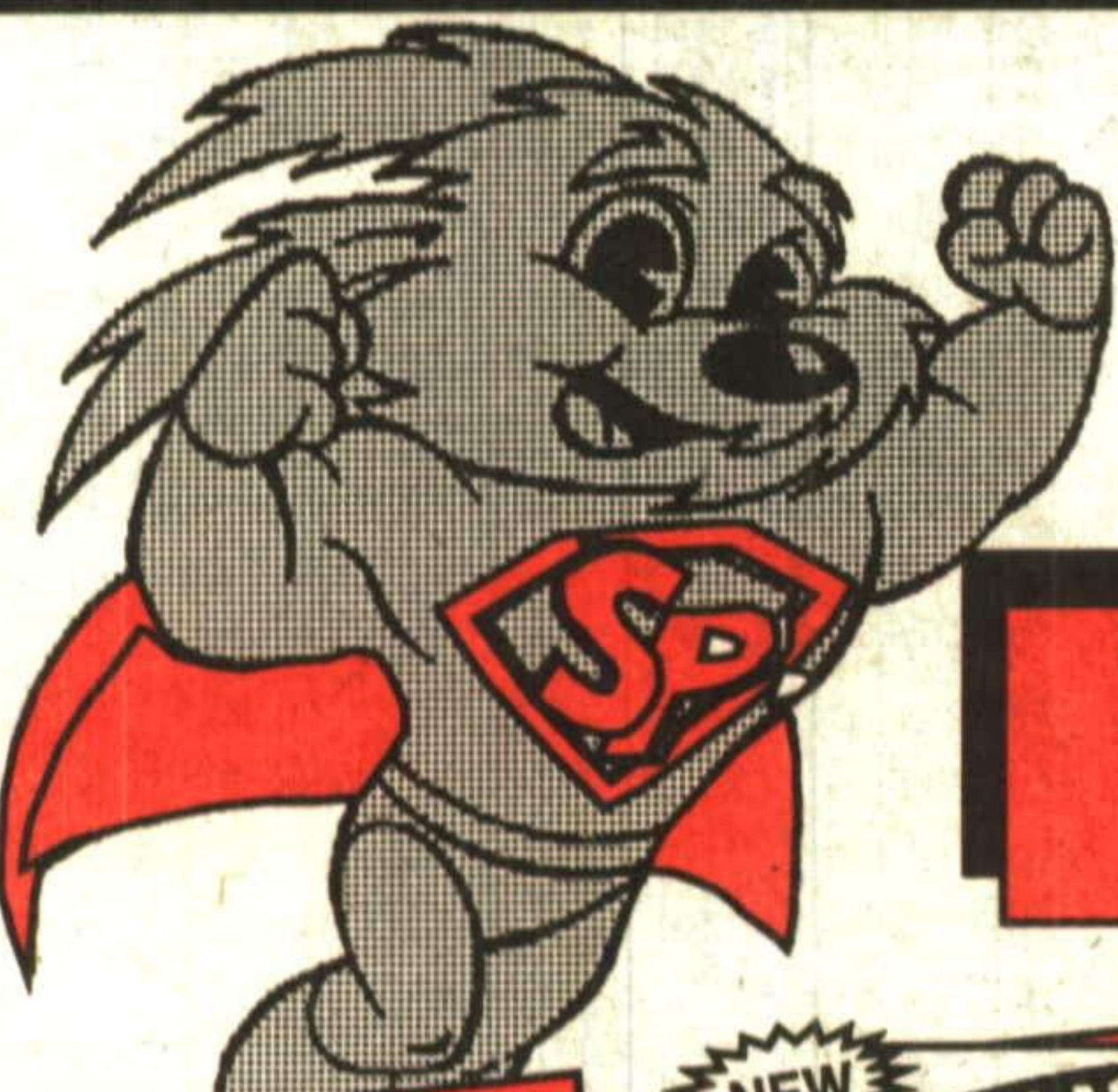
"A valve was leaking (on the tank) and propane vapor migrated through the basement and there was a source of ignition. We don't know if it was the furnace or the hot water tank," Ford said.

Ford said the Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the incident, since they are called in whenever there is an explosion.

While the police initially estimated the damage at \$50,000, Ford said that specialists were coming in to determine if the house can be repaired. The fire was minimal, but there was extensive structural damage from the explosion, causing walls to be pushed out, and windows and the sliding glass doors to be blown out. The house was insured.

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