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CHARRED REMAINS: This \$1.1 million century-old log home undersontruction on 27 sideroad at Silvercreek was levelled by a suspicious fire early Saturday morning. Halton Detective Colin Grierson said the cause of the fire remains undetermined at this point - *Marie Shadbolt photo*

'Suspicious' fire destroys \$ million dollar log home at Silvercreek

By Frances Niblock

The Ontario Fire Marshall's office and Halton Police continue to investigate a suspicious fire that gutted a vacant \$1.1-million executive-style log home in

Silvercreek early Saturday morning.

The two-storey open style residence with cathedral ceilings on 27 Side Road, east of Trafalgar Road was under renovation when the fire was reported by a

passer-by. Officials say the raging blaze may well have consumed anything that could lead them to a cause.

Halton Hills Chief of Fire Prevention and Public Education Harry Olivieri said the house was fully engulfed when crews arrived on the scene at 3 a.m.

"There was no opportunity to attempt an offensive type of structure fire fighting - it was mainly a defensive attack to make sure things didn't go array," Chief Olivieri said on Monday.

The Fire Marshall's Office and police were called in, as mandated when fire losses exceed \$500,000, and Olivieri said he was told both agencies consider the fire suspicious because of the circumstances, including "the ownership, the people involved and the property," but could not provide any additional details.

Nineteen Acton firefighters were at the scene with six fire vehicles during the height of the blaze and two firefighters stayed on fire watch at the scene until early Sunday morning as a precaution.

Halton Detective Colin Grierson said the cause of the fire remains undetermined at this point in the investigation as they try to determine the "confusing" ownership of the residence.

"It looks like we've got some people who may be on title, but other people who may have actually put

money into the house, so we're just trying to establish who exactly has interest in the home," Detective Grierson said on Monday, adding the residence, which was in the name of S. Mosun, sold for \$1.1-million last summer.

Ontario Fire Marshall's office fire investigator Tom Hutton said because of the total destruction of the house, he might not be able to pinpoint a cause.

"It was already totally engulfed and ready to collapse when the firefighters arrived," Hutton said on Monday.

"It smoldered and burned for 16 hours that we know of, but we don't know when the fire started. When the clay roof collapsed, it collapsed onto a lot of construction material and it continued to burn and smolder and destroy a lot of the ignition sources rendering them unexaminable. So at this time, although we're still looking at it with the police, it doesn't look like we're going to be able to draw many conclusions, just because of the amount of devastation."

Hutton said now it becomes more of a police investigation with interviews of any witnesses. He said he was not aware there were any witnesses.

"It's not to say that in a week or two, something may surface, but at this point in time, there is nothing."

St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church Acton

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GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 10

3 Hour Solemn

Service 9:00 to noon.

(Participation is flexible come in and leave as you will)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Egg Decoration at 10:30am

There will be hotcross buns and beverages in the lower Parish Hall.

12 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Good Friday 8:00pm to

Gloria Saturday 11th 8:00am

(Participation varies from 15 mins onward)

At the end of the vigil there will be breakfast at 8:15am

EASTER DAY SERVICES

April 12

9:00am and 10:30am

