

Wind strikes twice at Coulson home on Court Street

Man finds his shed airborne during storm

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

A Court Street man whose car was destroyed 19 years ago when his chimney crashed from the roof of his house was again a victim of severe winds Thursday night.

Grant Coulson's large backyard shed blew apart and became partially suspended in the air during the late night rain and wind storm.

"What a mess," said Mr. Coulson standing in front of the ruins Friday morning.

"You'd figure the doors would go, but not the whole thing."

Neither he, his wife, or granddaughter, who were home at the time of the storm, heard any sound of the blow out.

Noticing the high winds, Mr. Coulson went to the backyard of his house at about 11 p.m. to secure his patio furniture and barbecue, but instead found the shed doors ripped open and the front of the structure elevated.

Mr. Coulson immediately tied the metal storage shed to the fence with ropes to stop any debris from spreading.

"I was worried about it going airborne and hitting somebody," he said.

Wind damage isn't new to the long-time Milton resident. In 1973, gusting winds knocked down his chimney which fell onto his car parked in the driveway.

His house backs onto an open field, which he believes accounts for the fast winds, he said. This time, Mr. Coulson estimated about \$1,500 damage was caused to the shed, its contents, and part of the fence.

Mr. Coulson, who took the day off work to see an insurance adjuster, joked it was time he cleaned out the shed anyway.

Locally, the storm's high winds also caused short power outages and pushed trees to the ground.

A driver travelling south on Guelph Line near No. 20 Sideroad smashed his car into a large tree trunk that had fallen onto the road, Halton police said.

Unlike in Halton Hills where a woman in her 40s was killed when the roof of her home caved in, no injuries were reported in Milton.



Grant Coulson of Court Street received an unwelcome surprise when he went into his backyard and found his shed destroyed. High wind Thursday night was responsible for the damage.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINÉ

Non-profit group gets \$560,000 ministry grant to open two homes for mentally ill in town

By KAREN SMITH
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A non-profit housing group plans to open two homes in Milton which will provide more independent lifestyles for the mentally ill.

People with psychological disorders — the majority schizophrenics and manic depressives — will be among the residents of the facilities operated by Summit Halfway House Inc.

The Burlington-based organization recently received a \$560,000 grant from a government housing program to develop residences for eight people in town, an area that currently lacks services for the mentally ill.

"Currently, there are no such homes in north Halton," said Kay Davison, executive director of Summit Halfway House.

The organization was founded 11 years ago to provide affordable housing for people with special needs who are able to live independently.

Locations for the facilities are still up in the air, she said, while Summit awaits word from the Ministry of Health. The group has applied for a government grant to cover operational costs.

"We've got to go around and see what's out there," added Ms Davison.

The extent of care available to residents of the homes will depend on the amount of funding the organization receives from the ministry, said Ms Davison. The home-like facilities Summit plans to open will take patients away from an institutional setting and help them recover in a more independent environment, she said.

Through the government housing program, the provincial Ministry of Housing and federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provided Summit with the funding needed to purchase the homes.

If operational funding is approved, each facility will likely house four residents. Occupants will rent spaces in the homes at a price geared to income, said Ms Davison.

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