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**30** Spirit is looking for big things as the team opens its 1998-99 season tonight.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Bruce's Mill HarvestFest  
**WHEN:** Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Stouffville Road, east of Hwy. 404



**28** Stouffville dance troupe Motus O takes *Alice* on the road to Celebration of the Arts.

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## Blaze guts shed on golf course property

*Employees try to salvage equipment lost in fire*

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

Lightning may be the cause of a \$200,000, seven-hour blaze on a golf course Tuesday afternoon.

The fire — which broke out about 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's East Golf & Country Club on McCowan Road just north of Bloomington Sideroad — caused serious damage to the course's equipment building, office and staff lunch room.

Employees are still sifting through the rubble trying to salvage some of the equipment.

As well as battling the blaze, firefighters had to take extra precautions because potentially explosive fertilizer was stored in the building.

But for the private club members, it's golf as usual.

"Nothing stops a golfer," said St. Andrew's director, Bill McWilliams.

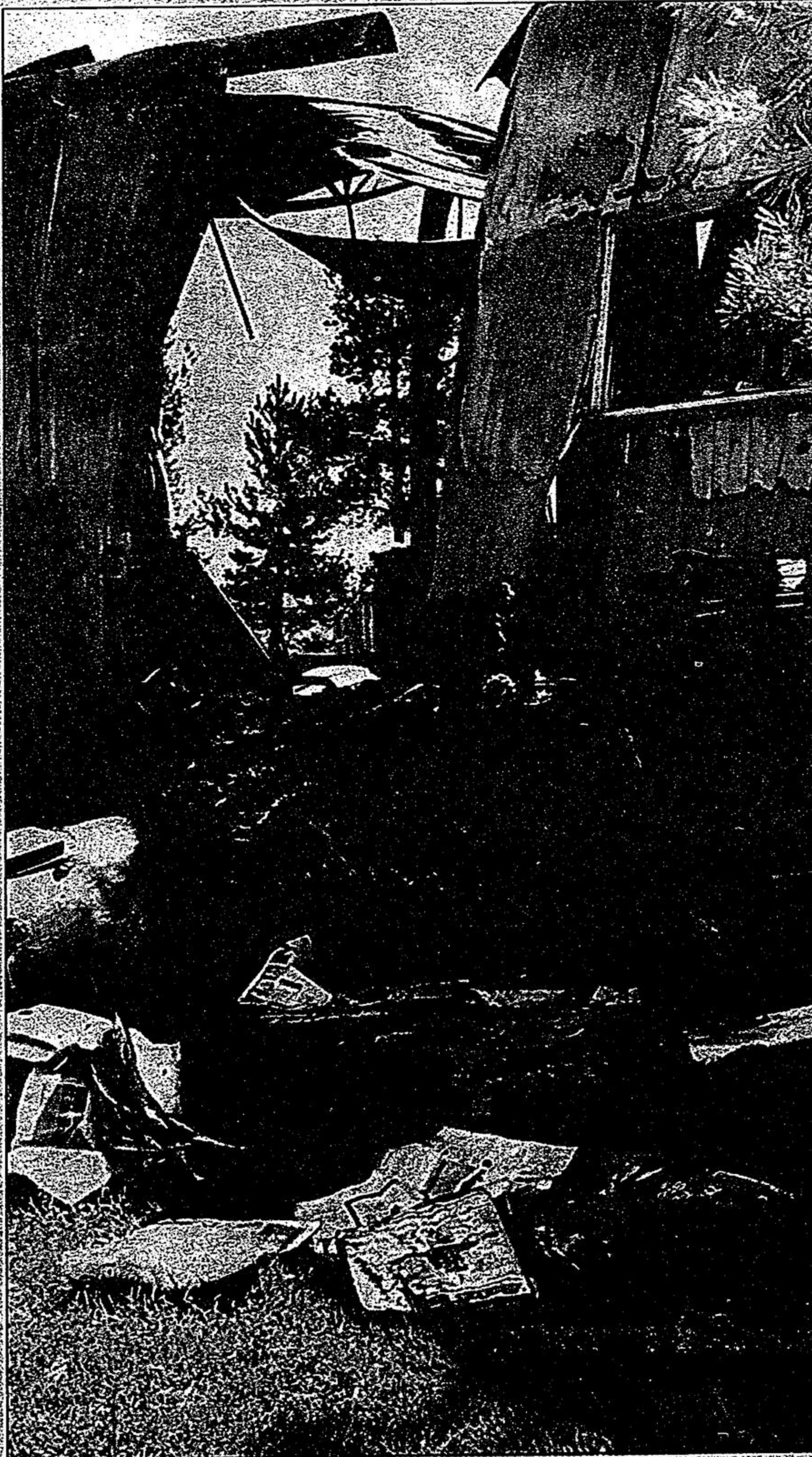
Smoke was first spotted pouring out of the large building.

"We lost a great deal," McWilliams said. The fire destroyed specialized equipment including fairway mowers. Fire destroyed the office, including 12 years of records. We'll have to start from scratch and from memory," McWilliams said.

While the exact cause of the blaze is unknown, McWilliams suspects the building was struck by lightning. "There was nobody in there because of the rain. There was lightning. It makes you wonder," he said.

Deputy Fire Chief Murray Emmerson said the blaze was stubborn.

"We're not 100 per cent sure as to the cause. We're investigating."



STAFF PHOTO/SIGERD WITTEVEEN

A \$200,000 blaze at St. Andrew's East Golf & Country Club on McCowan Road took seven hours to get under control. Firefighters took precautions because of fertilizer stored in the building. Lightning is the suspected cause.

## Parent unhappy after meeting

*Education minister won't legislate striking teachers back to work*

BY PATRICK CASEY  
STAFF WRITER

Don't expect the Ministry of Education to intervene between school boards and striking teachers anytime soon.

That was the message Education Minister Dave Johnson gave outraged parents from York Region after they took their complaints to his Queen's Park office Tuesday afternoon.

Loula Bigioni, Mary Misko, Gwenda Trimble and Heidi Kreiner-Ley met with Johnson behind closed doors for more than 45 minutes, trying to convince the minister to legislate York Region Catholic teachers back to work.

However, they left disappointed after Johnson told reporters the fastest and simplest solution is for the board and union to reach a deal.

He said back-to-work legislation can't be written until the Education Relations Commission deems the school year to be in jeopardy.

With the legislature not set to resume until Sept. 28, legislation could take up to three weeks, he said.

"The fastest way it is going to happen is to allow the teachers back in the classroom. I am calling on the unions to do that today," Johnson said outside his office.

"If they need to carry on the negotiations, fine. The unions can make this thing happen. everybody doesn't get everything they want in negotiations; there has to be some give and take. Make an agreement and get the kids back in the classroom."

Although local negotiations resumed yesterday, in Markham, more than 45,000 elementary and high school students are missing school for the eighth straight day today.

Bigioni, who initiated the meeting with Johnson, was visibly upset with his response.

"The kids are not going back to school today and they might

See PARENTS, page 3.

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