

# Blowtorch destroys roof of Locust Hill home

A contractor's use of a blowtorch is being blamed for a fire that destroyed the roof of a house Thursday in the rural Markham hamlet of Locust Hill.

They were stripping paint with a blowtorch and accidentally started the fire, Markham Deputy Fire Chief Don McClean said yesterday.

Firefighters found the ranch-style bungalow, beside the Locust Hill United Church east of Reesor Road, fully involved with flames at about 12:35 p.m.

The fire, encouraged by windy conditions, did an estimated \$350,000 damage to the home and about \$50,000 to its contents.

A family had moved into the

house a short time ago and had not moved all its possessions inside. Contractors had been continuing work at the site, fire officials said.

One Markham firefighter received a minor injury from falling debris while battling the flames.

Tankers were called in from neighbouring fire departments in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Pickering to establish water shuttles at the scene.

Hwy. 7 was closed as a result for more than three hours, that afternoon.

Anyone working with open flame should be cautious around wooden structures or flammable areas, McClean said.

## Markham establishes German connection

The town took steps last month to formalize its alliance with Nordlingen, Germany, the original home of Markham's founding father.

William Berczy, born in Nordlingen, founded a settlement here in 1794 with 220 German settlers. The agreement between the municipalities is meant to promote exchanges of a cultural and heritage nature.

In recent years, Markham has also established economic ties with Wuhan City, China and with Haidian, a suburb of Beijing, China's capital.

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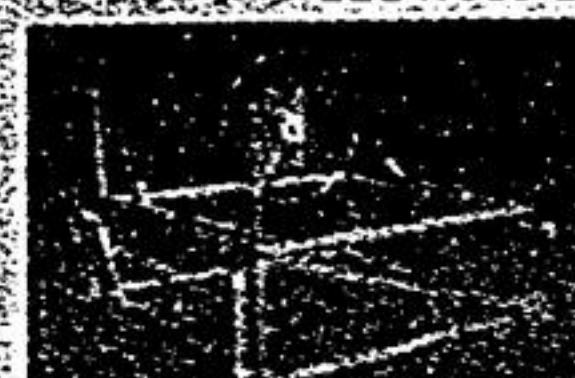
it's kids stuff.

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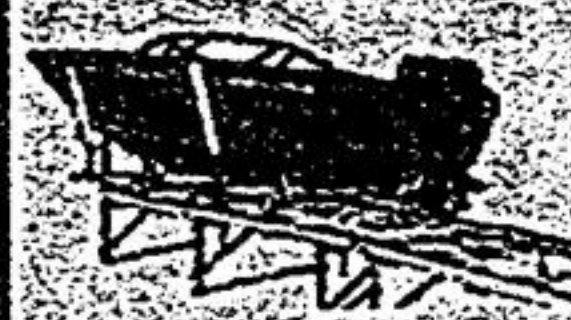
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## PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR REGISTERED CHARITIES

Registered charities are eligible for a property tax rebate equal to 40% of the taxes payable for space that is rented or leased in a commercial or industrial class of property.

In order to be eligible for this program, the following criteria must be met:

- You must be a registered charity as defined by subsection 248(1) of the Income Tax Act and can provide a registered charity number issued by Revenue Canada.
- You can provide from the landlord/owner documentation specifying the amount of property taxes payable for the rented or leased space occupied.

To receive a 2001 property tax rebate, if eligible, applications must be received by the Tax Office of your local municipality by February 28, 2002.

Application forms and additional information are available at the following Tax Offices of your local municipality:

Town of Aurora	100 John West Way, Aurora	905-727-1375
Town of East Gwillimbury	19000 Leslie St., Sharon	905-478-4282
Town of Georgina	26557 Civic Centre Rd., R.R. #2, Keswick	905-476-4301
Township of King	2075 King Rd., King City	905-833-5321
Town of Markham	101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham	905-475-4864
Town of Newmarket	395 Mulock Dr., Newmarket	905-895-5193
Town of Richmond Hill	225 East Beaver Creek Rd., Richmond Hill	905-771-8949
City of Vaughan	2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan	905-832-8502
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	37 Sandford Dr., Stouffville	905-640-1900

