

# Damage estimate shoots up, pub re-opening delayed

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The Earl of Whitchurch will re-open sometime next month, maybe, according to pub owner Scott Roskar.

The Main Street pub remains closed longer than first anticipated because of extensive damage to its interior and back wall, which was the result of a patio fire last month.

At about 3:45 a.m. June 22, a resident from the Stouffville Creek

Retirement Residence, which is next to the pub, saw smoke coming from the area of the Earl of Whitchurch and called 911.

When the Whitchurch Fire and Emergency Services personnel arrived, the patio was "pretty much engulfed," according to Mr. Roskar.

A propane tank, used to warm the patio, exploded from the heat of the cedar patio's fire, shattering the pub's kitchen window.

Once the fire made its way

into the restaurant, the sprinklers turned on.

Foul play is not suspected and the cause has been classified as undetermined, according to Whitchurch-Stouffville fire chief Rob McKenzie.

Damage was originally estimated to be between \$80,000 and \$100,000. However, to fix just the interior, which received smoke and water damage, it's going to cost \$250,000, according to Mr. Roskar. The repairs

are covered by insurance.

Damage to the exterior back wall, however, is quite extensive and it may have to be replaced, Mr. Roskar said, adding the cost of that repair is being covered by the building owner's insurance.

"I'm not sure what their price is going to come in at, but it's going to be a lot," he said.

The restaurant's patio has been a popular summer hang out.

Mr. Roskar would not say how

much money his business has lost due to the fire, but he was forced to remain closed on two of his busiest days - Canada Day and the Saturday of the Strawberry Festival.

There are also 17 full and part-time employees out of work.

When the pub finally does re-open, Mr. Roskar said "we're going to do it up right" with a big party.

For updates on when The Earl of Whitchurch will re-open, go to [www.theearlpub.ca](http://www.theearlpub.ca)



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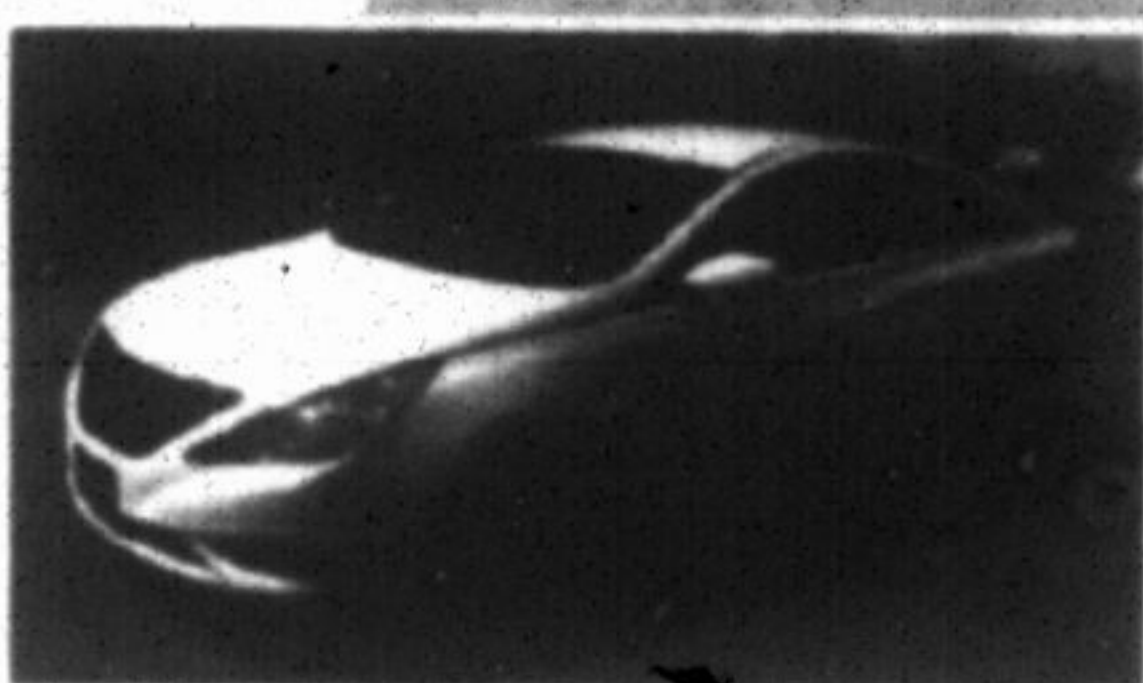
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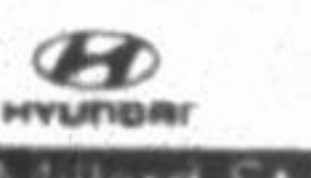
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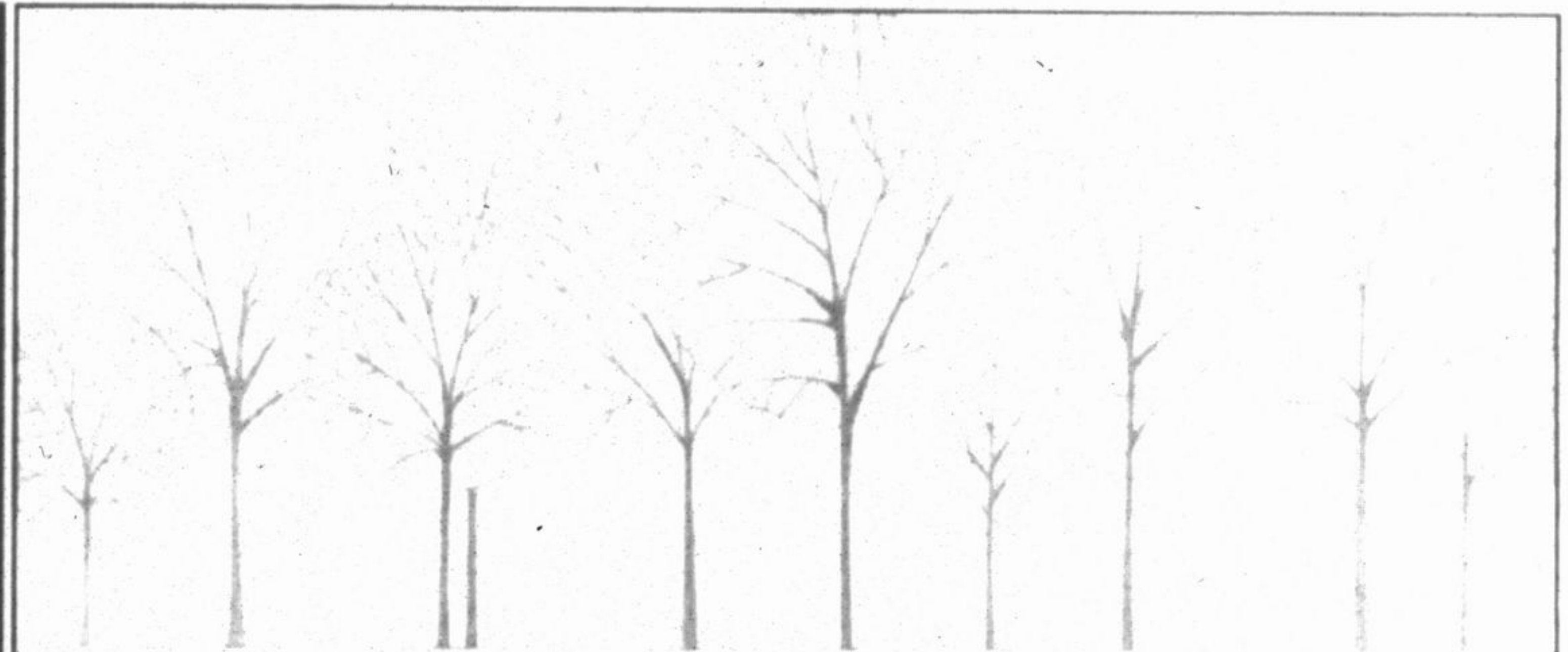
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12:10-1:30 ... Evan Doherty  
1:30 ... John Washington Gypsy Jazz  
2:10 ... Dan and Marisa Orlander  
3:00 ... The Daily Aesthetic Unit  
3:50 ... The Sleepers Clowns

Sunday, July 17th:  
10:00 ... Terry Hart  
10:45 ... D'Arcy McKhwan  
11:30 ... Jerry-Lynn Hammond  
12:15 ... Chase Doherty  
1:00 ... Erwin Schenk  
1:45 ... Jimmy Potts & Friends  
2:30 ... Dan McCann  
3:15 ... James Brown  
4:00 ... The Sleepers

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