

## FOCUS ON MORaine



Silhouetted artists Lynn Westaway and Elizabeth Gillan speak during the opening of the The Lemonville Group of Artists exhibition, *The Views from the Moraine*, at the Latcham Gallery last week. The collection of paintings, drawings and a collage investigating and reflecting on changes in the region is on display at the Stouffville gallery through Oct. 16.

STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

## More damage found, pub opening delayed

It won't be until about mid-October before the Earl of Whitchurch re-opens its doors, according to owner Scott Roskar.

The Main Street pub has been closed since June because of a patio fire. It was expected to re-open earlier this summer.

"Things are moving forward, but just really slowly," Mr. Roskar said.

That is in part because the damage ended up being worse than originally thought.

The majority of the drywall had to be removed from the basement, kitchen and parts of the restaurant because of smoke and water damage, according to Mr. Roskar.

### SEVENTEEN EMPLOYEES

The restaurant's back wall had to be replaced because Mr. Roskar said it was believed smoke was between the cavities.

Mr. Roskar estimated the pub has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in sales since the fire. There are also 17 full and part-time employees out of work.

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

-Sandra Bolan

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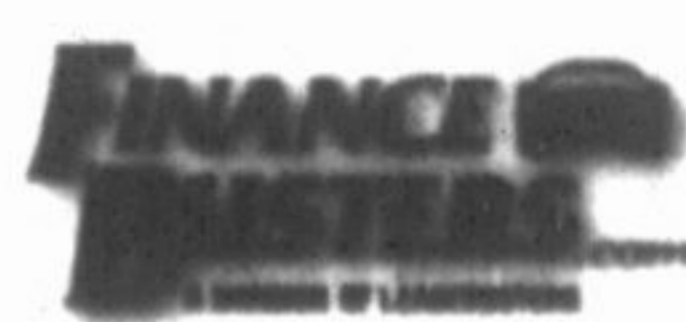


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