Sandy leaves little damage in her wake

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The storm, for which Ontarians were warned to have food and water on hand and prepare for the worst, turned out to be relatively minor.

Damage around the region included fallen trees, destroyed haunted house displays and downed power lines, along with some toppled fences, but no injuries were reported.

"It was fairly quiet," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Rob McKenzie.

Firefighters answered "three to four minor hydro incidents that involved arcing trees onto wires all before midnight".

"There were no wires down, just arcing," Mr. McKenzie said.

Prior to Monday's storm, the fire chief alerted all staff to make themselves available.

"It's no different than any other night. The volunteers are alert. But we didn't ever call them that night," Mr. McKenzie said.

"We really didn't know (what to expect) but we were ready for the worst," he said.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville issued alerts to residents Monday in advance of the storm.

York Regional Police handled about 40 storm-related calls, most related to downed trees and hydro lines, spokesperson Const. Blair McQuillan said.

"As a result of (Monday) night's storm, many more fences have fallen down and have become even more dangerous and precarious," said Vaughan resident Laurie Orrett, whose home backs onto the CN rail tracks.
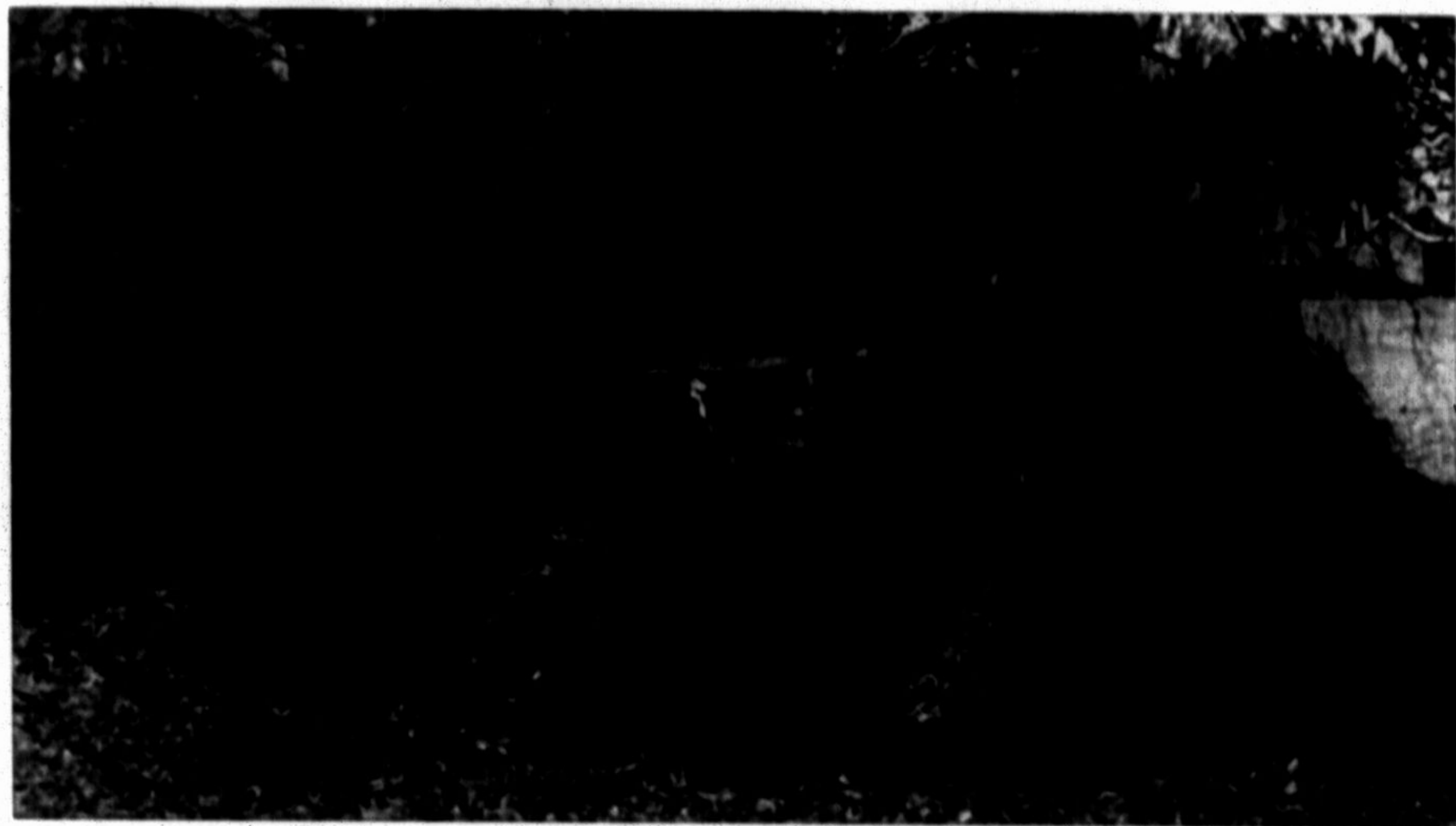
Meanwhile, Woodbridge resident John Di Santo woke up Tuesday morning to find his haunted house display shattered to pieces by high winds, the result of superstorm Sandy.

"I couldn't believe the damage," said Mr. Di Santo, who lives on Tasha Court. "It actually picked up the coffin and moved it almost eight feet and smashed it."

The portable garage he had set up in his driveway flipped over and landed in the street and his neighbour's driveway. And the wooden fence he erected around his yard was toppled as well.

Two of York Region's fire chiefs said they had "quiet" nights during which firefighters answering a handful of calls about downed trees and power outages.

"There was really nothing significant," Vaughan Fire Chief Greg

Mary Attwell and Bob Bowman shared this photograph with Sun-Tribune readers of a willow tree that was blown over during Monday night's storm at their home at the Maples of Ballantrae golf course.

Senay said Tuesday. "We are expecting a few more power outages this afternoon, but the wind has died down a significant amount since 6 a.m. this morning.

"There are still some significant gusts though."

Georgina Fire deputy chief Steve Richardson said he was amazed at how few calls the fire service received.

"We were really quiet last night," he said. "All we had was a couple of minor calls about trees down, but that's about it."

There were no storm-related calls in Newmarket and Aurora according to Central York Fire deputy chief Paul Leslie.

"I was up late with my radio on and I was surprised, he said. "I expected at least modest issues."

— with files by Adam Martin-Robbins