



Drugs

Fire ends pot plant

A marijuana-producing facility was put out of action in Aldergrove when an electrical generator caught fire.

by Peter Severinson

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A generator at a marijuana grow operation caused a fire that destroyed a building in Aldergrove on Friday.

Firefighters were at the scene at around 8 p.m. and battled the fire until about midnight, according to Len Foss, assistant fire chief for Langley Township.

Three fire crews were put to work on the fire, and water tanker trucks were brought in because no hydrants were in the area.

The building was little more than a 20x20-foot shed containing only the generator, Foss said.

The generator, he said, was supplying power, via underground wiring, to equipment used for growing plants in a nearby building.

Foss said firefighters were impressed by the scale and technology of the growing facility.

"It was a beautiful thing to behold," he said. "It was a nice job they did."

The plants and other growing equipment were not damaged by the fire.

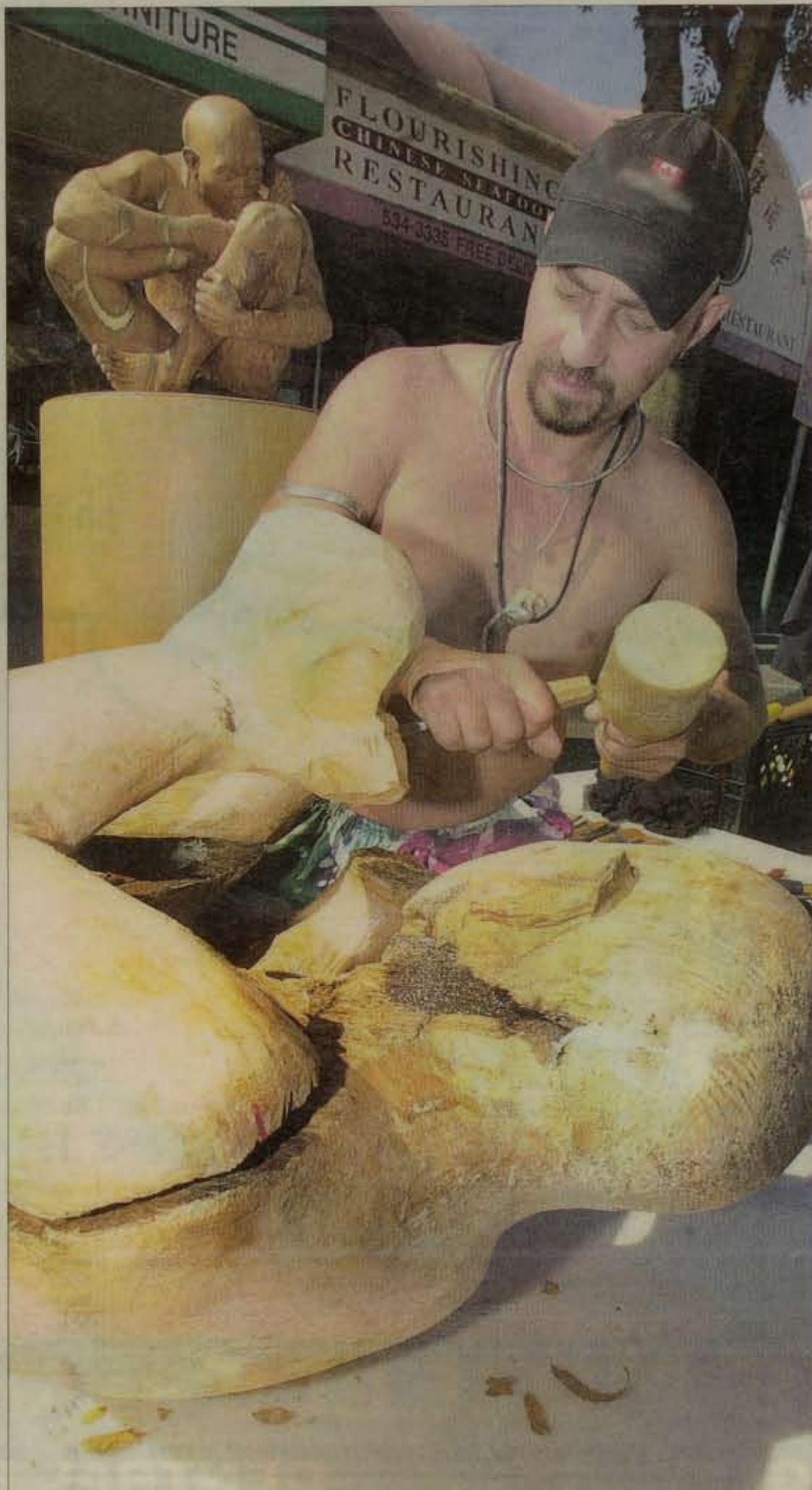
The shed fire was difficult to put out, Foss said, because it had been sound-proofed and contained several layers of walls. To extinguish the fire, firefighters had to demolish the building as it burned.

"We had to go in with chainsaws and cut it all apart," he said. "It was the only way we could put it out."

No one was at the property when fire crews arrived, and police were notified of the drugs that the firefighters discovered, Foss said.

Cpl. Diane Blain of the Langley RCMP said the plant-growing facility was sophisticated.

No arrests have been made relating to the discovery, she said, but police are investigating.



Toy Landville/Langley Advance

Art brought to life downtown

Stefan Rogenmoser displayed his carving skills as his sculpture "Mankind" — which he created from solid maple wood in 2003 — sat behind him. Rogenmoser's work was part of the bustling artistic activity of Arts Alive! in downtown Langley City this weekend. For more on Arts Alive!, see page 11.

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