

Laushway Thanks Police & Firemen

At a meeting of York Regional Council November 11, Whitchurch - Stouffville Mayor Kenneth Laushway expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of several municipal fire departments and the York Regional Police when a fire destroyed a block of businesses and apartments in the heart of the community on November 9.

The fire, which caused more than a half million dollars damage and left a dozen people homeless, would have been much worse but for the aid that came from fire brigades in Uxbridge, Clarendon, Markham and Vaughan, said Laushway.

When the fire erupted again the next morning, he told council, the regional police responded promptly to re-route rush hour traffic away from the area.

Citizens have responded generously, said Laushway, in offering accommodation to those who lost their homes and furnishings. Churches and service clubs have been gathering goods for the people, many of them senior citizens, who occupied the apartments over the stores. Cash donations are being accepted at local banks.

Mr. and Mrs. David Ku who had emigrated from Hong Kong in 1907 with their four children lost their restaurant and store, said Laushway. They had been offered accommodation by a local widow with a large home and hope to remain in Stouffville, said the mayor.

About 60 volunteer firefighters were on hand at the height of the blaze, and many people, including the mayor, narrowly escaped serious injury as walls tumbled into the street.

The fire was confined to the 72-year-old brick building, but neighboring buildings were evacuated as a safety precaution.

"It pays to have lots of fresh, cold water, Laushway told council.

Vaughan Will Pay \$12,600 Lights

Vaughan Town Council is willing to contribute \$12,600 as its share toward providing street lights in the area of the proposed CPR grade separation at Steeles and Islington Avenues.

The project is being planned by the Borough of North York. The borough is also designing the grade separation and related work involving road construction, storm drainage, surfacing, channelization and lighting.

Council agreed at its November 15 meeting that the Steeles Avenue boundary between Vaughan and North York at the CPR crossing "should be lighted within the limits of the project and the street lights on the north side of Steeles will be Vaughan's responsibility."

Vaughan initiated a street lighting program for a five-year duration to erect lights generally in built-up areas throughout the municipality.

This program is reduced to four years with the current year the one in which the program will be completed.

The \$12,600 will likely be included as part of the continuing program to install lights in the municipality.

In other business, council agreed that money in the sum of \$722 belonging to the former Thornhill Community Centre Committee be applied against costs of installing lights in the Thornhill ball park.

The Thornhill Minor Baseball Association is being billed \$1,000 for installation of the lights.

Request for the \$722 was made by the Thornhill Area Recreation Committee and Tom Jackson of the former Thornhill Community Centre Committee.

The money has been deposited with the Township of Vaughan and dissolution of the committee and set up in trust and reserve accounts.

It was noted that the \$722 was raised for private subscription and not public funds.

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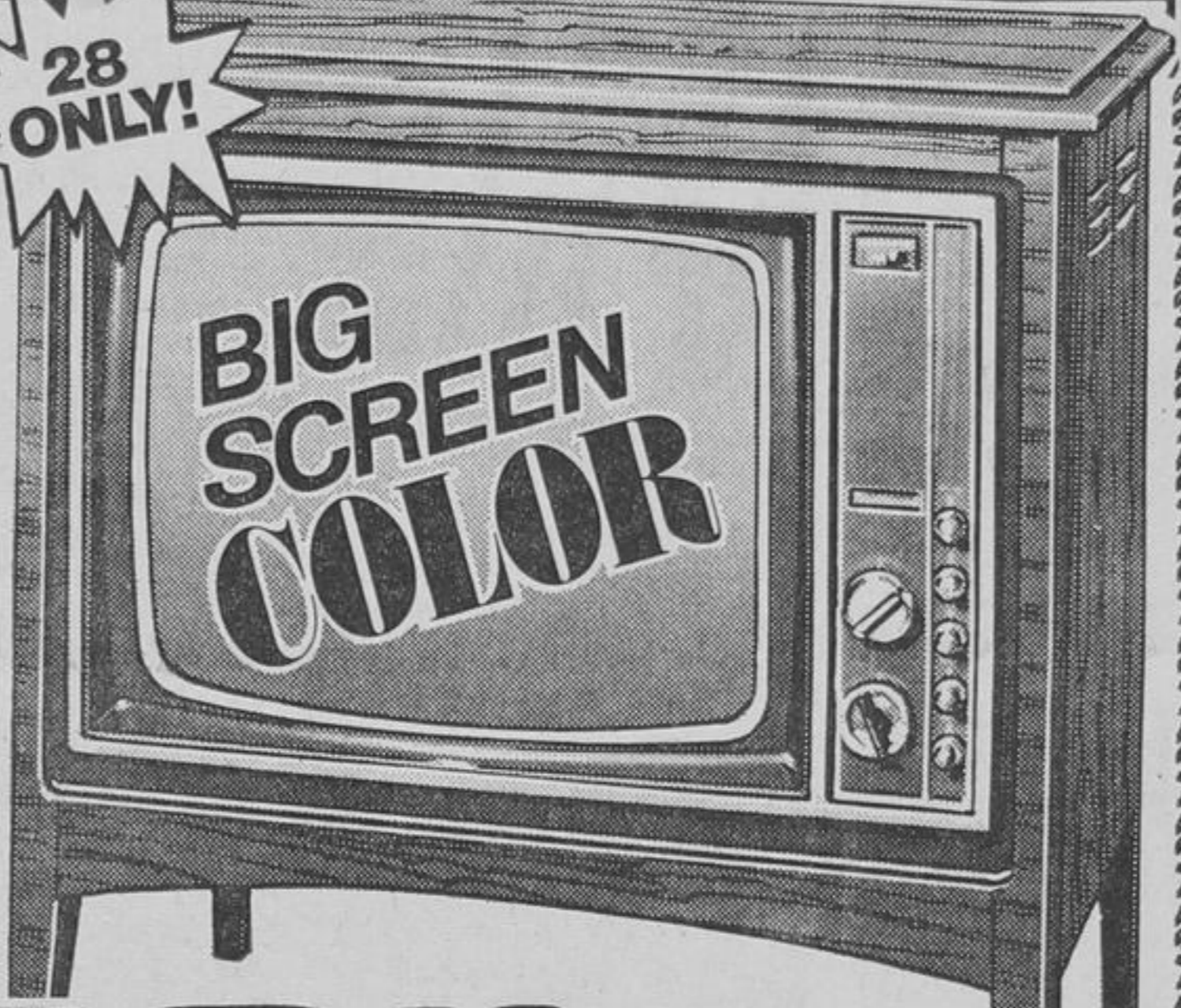
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