

Observatory
available
exclusively
to our town

Richmond
Hill
Edition

The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, in all things Charity"

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The David Dunlap Observatory will be available exclusively for Richmond Hill residents September 17, as part of the town's Discovery Days celebrations.

Observatory director Donald MacRae said he would not accept reservations from the general public that night "so that it will be reserved for Richmond Hill exclusively."

"We will also not require reservations in advance but will take a chance on being able to accommodate all visitors without too much inconvenience," he said.

The Observatory which has been part of Richmond Hill life for 42 years, is located in the south end of town, just east of Yonge Street.

Mr. MacRae hopes many of the Hill's newer residents take the opportunity to visit the observatory.

"Of course, we hope that it will be clear that night and that everyone will have an opportunity to look at some celestial object through Canada's largest telescope," he said.

Richmond Hill's night at the observatory will begin at 8 p.m.

Liberal Holiday Hours

The Liberal will have new deadlines in effect next week to accommodate the Labor Day holiday.

People wishing to book display advertising space should contact the office before 5 p.m. Thursday, and have copy

available at 5 p.m. Friday.

The classified and editorial departments will be open Monday as usual and classified deadlines will remain the same, 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The Liberal's business department will close Monday.

Richvale project

Sewer installations bogged by weather

This rainy summer has certainly not helped in the construction of the Richvale sewer project and residents in the area are asked to be patient by the consulting engineer, Paul Kerkoff of M. M. Dillon Ltd.

"This has been the wettest August in 49 years and this excessive amount of water has disrupted soil conditions and delayed construction," he said.

The \$2.8 million project began in mid-June of this year and is expected to be mostly completed by Christmas.

One area affected is bounded by Langstaff, Bathurst, Yonge and Carrville Road and the northern section is between Weldrick and May and Bathurst and Yonge, said Mr. Kerkoff.

Five different construction firms are working on various sections of the project and there are approximately 150 workers, many of them local.

The town felt they could get better bids and provide more competition if more firms were used, said Mr. Kerkoff who is supervising the entire construction.

"I am amazed that we haven't had more problems but we have had our share of complaints from the residents," he said. "We have tried to maintain at least one lane of traffic and access to driveways as far as possible."

To provide access, granular material

is usually filled in the driveway but it has been so wet that it usually turns into mud and does not really help.

Other delays result when crews must pump water out of a hole before they can lay down pipe.

Besides the fact that the project was late in starting, (scheduled to begin in May), this is one of the first major metric projects in this area which calls for adjustments.

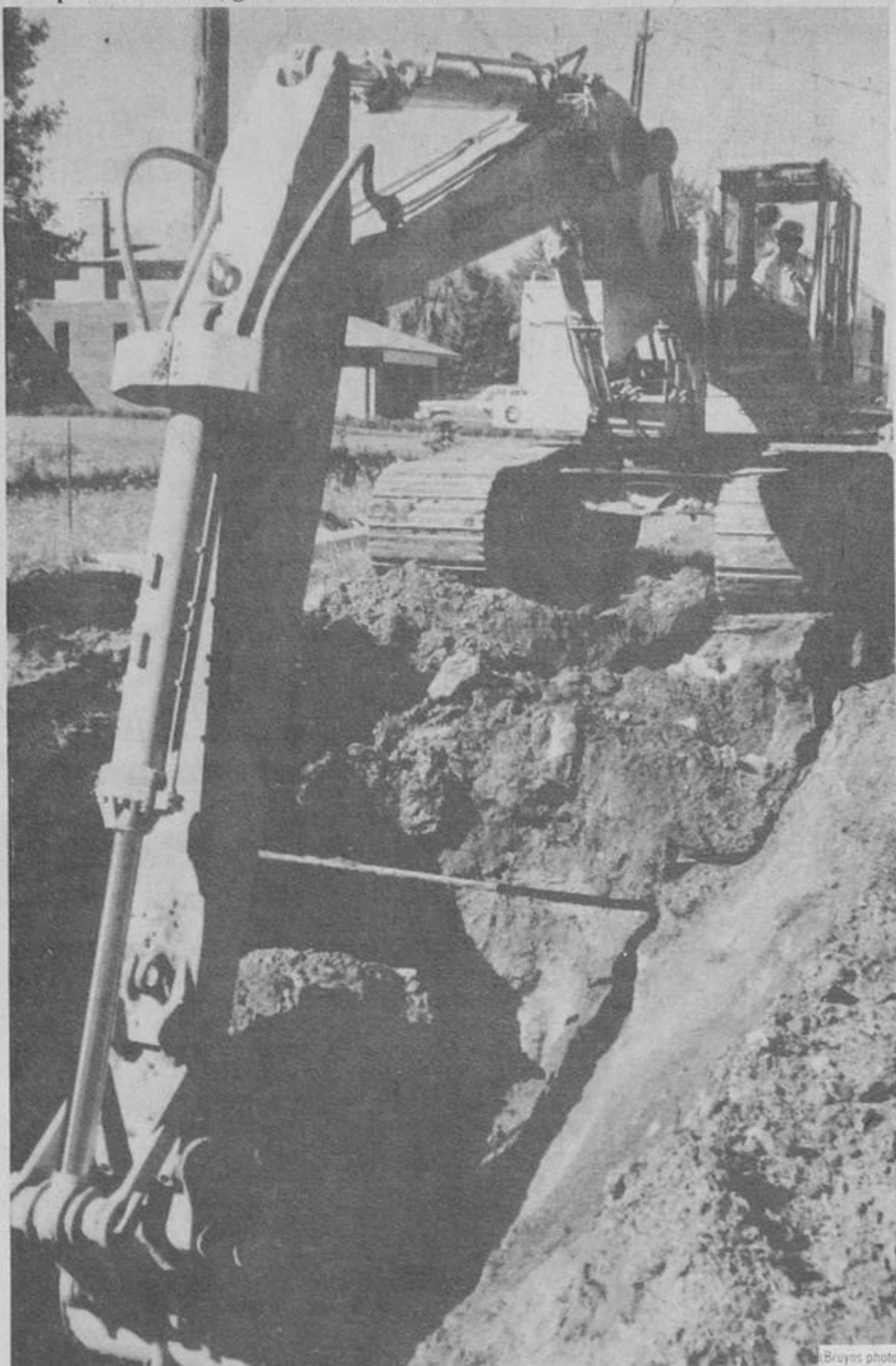
"I am satisfied with the quality of the project but these disruptions are discouraging. The rain has made the back-fill material so soft, parts of the area look like mud-holes," he said.

This large and complex project uses 12 to 15 backhoes and local trucks from the community. It is now about one quarter completed.

The BAIF area, sandwiched between the two areas of construction, has its own sewer system so is spared the hassle of other Richvale residents who have been using septic tanks.

The installation of a sewer system was felt to be necessary since septic tanks become worn out and are often times not properly cared for, said Mr. Kerkoff.

"I know this mess is frustrating for the residents but I just want them to know we are doing the best we can," he said.



Careful dig

Five different construction firms are working on different parts of the Richvale sewer project which should be completed by Christmas. Here, a worker from Silvio Construction works on Pemberton Road cautiously avoiding wire and gas lines below and electrical lines overhead.

BY RON WALLACE
Associate Editor

Two multi-alarm fires in as many nights rocked Richmond Hill last weekend.

Blazes at Thornlea Lumber on Observatory Lane Friday night, and Quality Utilities on Dufferin Lane Saturday night, caused an estimated \$860,000 in damage.

Friday's lumber fire was by far the worst of the two, with damage estimated at \$750,000.

Richmond Hill Fire Chief Bob Kennedy has called in the Ontario Fire Marshal's office in an effort to determine the cause of the blaze which kept some 50 to 60 firefighters on the scene until dawn Saturday.

The location of the lumber yard, several hundred feet east of Yonge Street, posed a problem as water had to be pumped from Yonge.

A Richmond Hill pumper truck was stationed at the Yonge Street hydrant, and a Vaughan pumper was located halfway to the fire scene to get water to the blaze.

In addition to Vaughan's assistance, Richmond Hill got help from Markham and Aurora Fire Departments.

Deputy-Chief Dave Bagley estimated thousands upon thousands of feet of hose were strung to fight the fire.

A total of five pumper trucks, the platform truck, two tankers and the Hill's rescue truck were pressed into action to combat the blaze.

SAVED BUILDINGS
Flames, which shot hundreds of feet in the air at the height of the fire, were visible in Oak Ridges and Metro Toronto.

Firefighters, faced with the loss of the lumber building, worked tirelessly to save a concrete plant and a house located on either side of the blaze.

With the exception of some blistered paint, neither structure was damaged. Miraculously no one was injured, although fire officials reported some scuffling with bystanders.

Chief Kennedy said someone also stole a sledge hammer and axe from one of the fire vehicles.

Several lengths of hose burst at the couplings during the blaze, Kennedy said, but they can be repaired.

1,200 BATHTUBS

Saturday night, with trucks only half full of hoses, the Richmond Hill gang was back at it again. And again, help was provided by Markham and Vaughan.

Fire, suspected to have been started by children, destroyed what at one time was a boiler room used to heat the greenhouses of H.J. Mills Roses.

Now owned by York Atlas Development and leased to Quality Utilities, the building held 1,200 bathtubs, and 2,000 wash basins.

So full was the structure, firefighters were unable to gain access, and had to fight the blaze from the outside.

NO HOPE

Damage was estimated at \$110,000, and Chief Kennedy said yesterday he was still considering whether to call in the Fire Marshal.

The old wood building was completely involved by the time firefighters arrived, and there was no hope of saving the structure.

When the brigade returned to the hall some five hours later, there wasn't a dry hose in the house.

"We used every length of hose we had," Kennedy said.

And firefighters who have been around for years couldn't remember ever having to put wet hose back on the trucks.

New feature begins today in Liberal

Beginning this week on Page C-1 of your Liberal is a new feature being presented by The Liberal and Helpmate Information.

Called the Helpmate Information Community Calendar, the feature lists upcoming events in the Richmond Hill area.

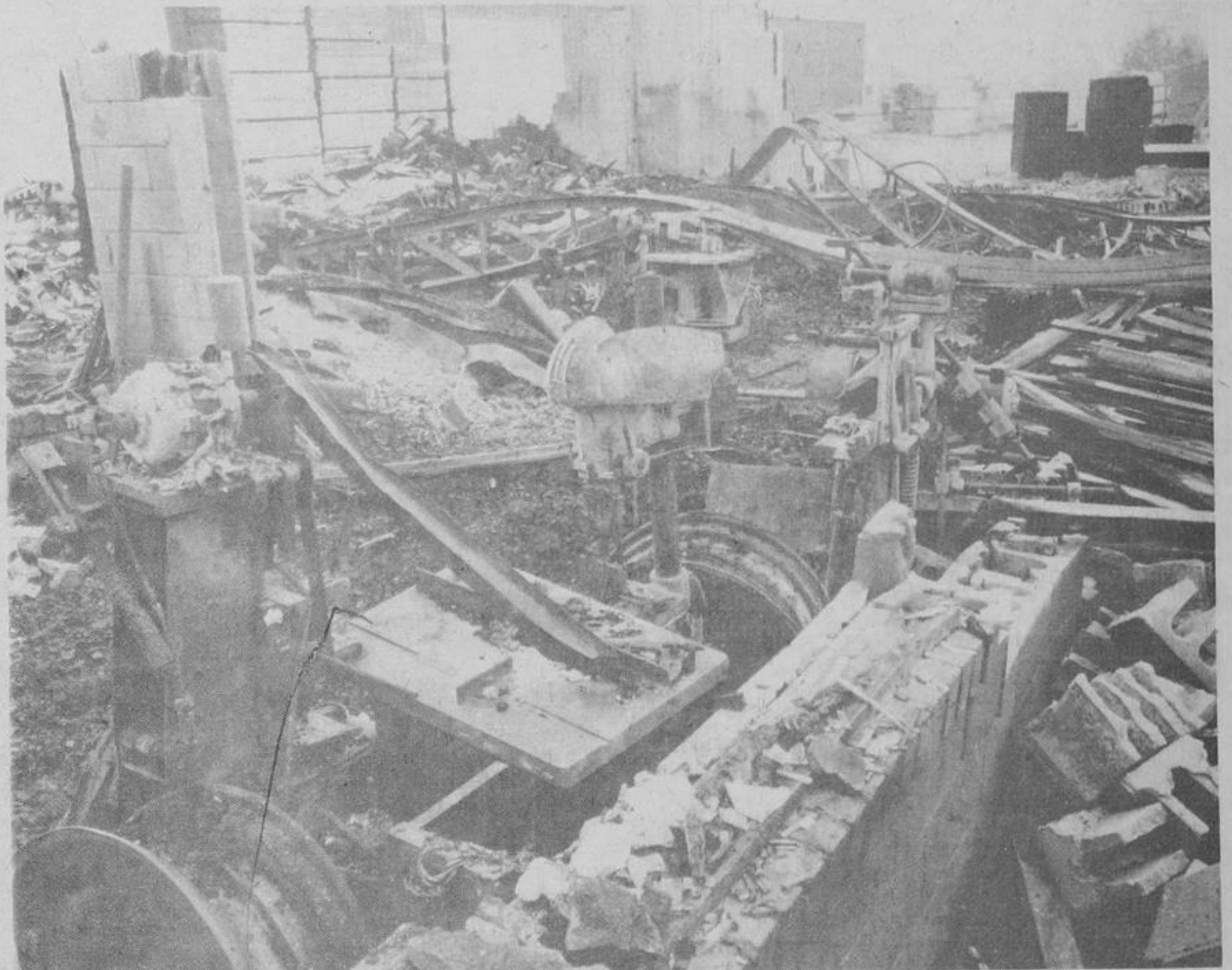
We invite you to call Helpmate at 883-2234 to inform them of any events of general public interest.

Elizabeth Kost, a Helpmate Information volunteer, has already called many service clubs, churches, fraternal groups and other organizations in the area. If she missed you or your group, please call the above number.

Similar calendars will be posted in the main Richmond Hill Library, the Richvale Branch and the Oak Ridges Branch.

People are asked to have information to Helpmate the Thursday prior to the newspaper's publishing date. Groups listed in the second week of the calendar will have their event publicized twice.

Helpmate Information is located at 10 Trench Street, in York Central Hospital.



Twisted steel girders are mingled with other ruins following devastating lumber yard fire in Richmond Hill's south end Friday night. Damage was estimated at three-quarters of a million dollars. Fire officials are still attempting to determine the cause.

Friday



Richmond Hill Fire Chief Bob Kennedy surveys wreckage of old wooden building destroyed by fire Saturday night. Building was loaded with bathtubs and wash basins. Damage is estimated at \$110,000, and fire officials suspect children may have started the blaze.

Saturday

Parents seek integrated class for area's retarded children

A request by a trio of area parents for an integrated classroom for retarded children, was labelled "urgent" by a meeting of York County Board of Education Monday night.

The board then directed staff to evaluate the needs of the children named by the parents for such a class, "with a view to establishing an integrated class at Walter Scott Public School in Richmond Hill."

In asking for the classroom, Angelo

Risi, spokesman for the group, said the request was in lieu of one initially for a classroom "in which to implement a privately-sponsored alternative program for trainable retarded children, aged 6 to 9."

Such a proposal was now being studied by the special education committee of the board.

In order to let the study "take its course," the parents were withdrawing their request for use of a vacant room and were asking for the integrated class, he said.

He pointed out that a similar class was now operating at the school, while a second one had been closed, because of a "lack of eligible enrolment."

Risi asked that the class be re-opened to include children displaced from the closed one.

A list of 13 children was submitted for enrolment.

Gabe Elbert of Richmond Hill, said the parents were only talking "short-term" now, with the alternative program their eventual goal.

Blood clinic

Richmond Hill's quarterly blood donors' clinic will be held at York Central Hospital Sept. 12.

Red Cross chairperson Betty Armstrong says she would like to see 350 pints donated during the clinic, although the average is around 200.

The clinic will operate from 1 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., and the hospital is located at 10 Trench Street, Richmond Hill.

"Mickey" dies

The Richmond Hill Sports scene lost one of its greatest supporters with the death following an illness of Lloyd "Mickey" Smith.

Mickey was buried Friday afternoon. For full details turn to B-1 Sports.