

## Mardi Gras Saturday

STOUFFVILLE — Saturday at 2 p.m. the Stouffville Lions Club Mardi Gras will get underway as sleighs and cutters load up in the Park to give youngsters and grownups alike the thrill of an old-fashioned winter's afternoon.

Snowmobile rides will be offered for senior citizens, while roads surrounding the site will be blocked off to through traffic.

The main event in the evening begins at 8 p.m. with a program offered by the Stouffville Figure Skating Club. Adult skating, (costumes optional) is at 8.30 with music by the East York Concert Band.

A teen dance at Latchum Hall will get underway at 8.30 and will continue to 11.30. Music for the occasion will be supplied by John Brunke of Stouffville.

## Council says plaza plan premature

STOUFFVILLE — A shopping plaza proposed for the north-east corner of Hwy. 47 and Main Street East has not been recommended for development at the present time.

The plans for the site were originally submitted to Planning Board, Jan. 15, along with the prospect that the local I.G.A. store might relocate in the plaza. (I.G.A. owner and manager, Jack Chambers, later reported he had never been approached on the matter and had no intention of leaving his present premises.)

Councillor Cathy Joice was the only member to speak in favor of the plan when it was reviewed in Committee last Thursday.

"There's a need for a plaza in the east end of town," she argued. "People who live there deserve it." Mrs. Joice said she also believed that, if a supermarket was necessary to make the plaza development viable, a third grocery chain could be accommodated in town.

Although Mayor Gordon Ratcliff supported development in stages, it was generally decided that, until recent Traffic Study recommendations were discussed and a downtown criteria established, the proposal for the east end site was premature.

## Inquiry dates are set

PICKERING — The Airport Inquiry Commission has announced dates for three Public Hearings.

The first is Monday, March 18 at 6 p.m., in the Howard Johnson Hotel, Dixon Road and Hwy. 27.

The second is Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m., in Pickering Dist. High School.

The third is Monday, April 22 at 6 p.m., in the old City Hall, Toronto.

Justice Hugh F. Gibson is the Inquiry chairman.

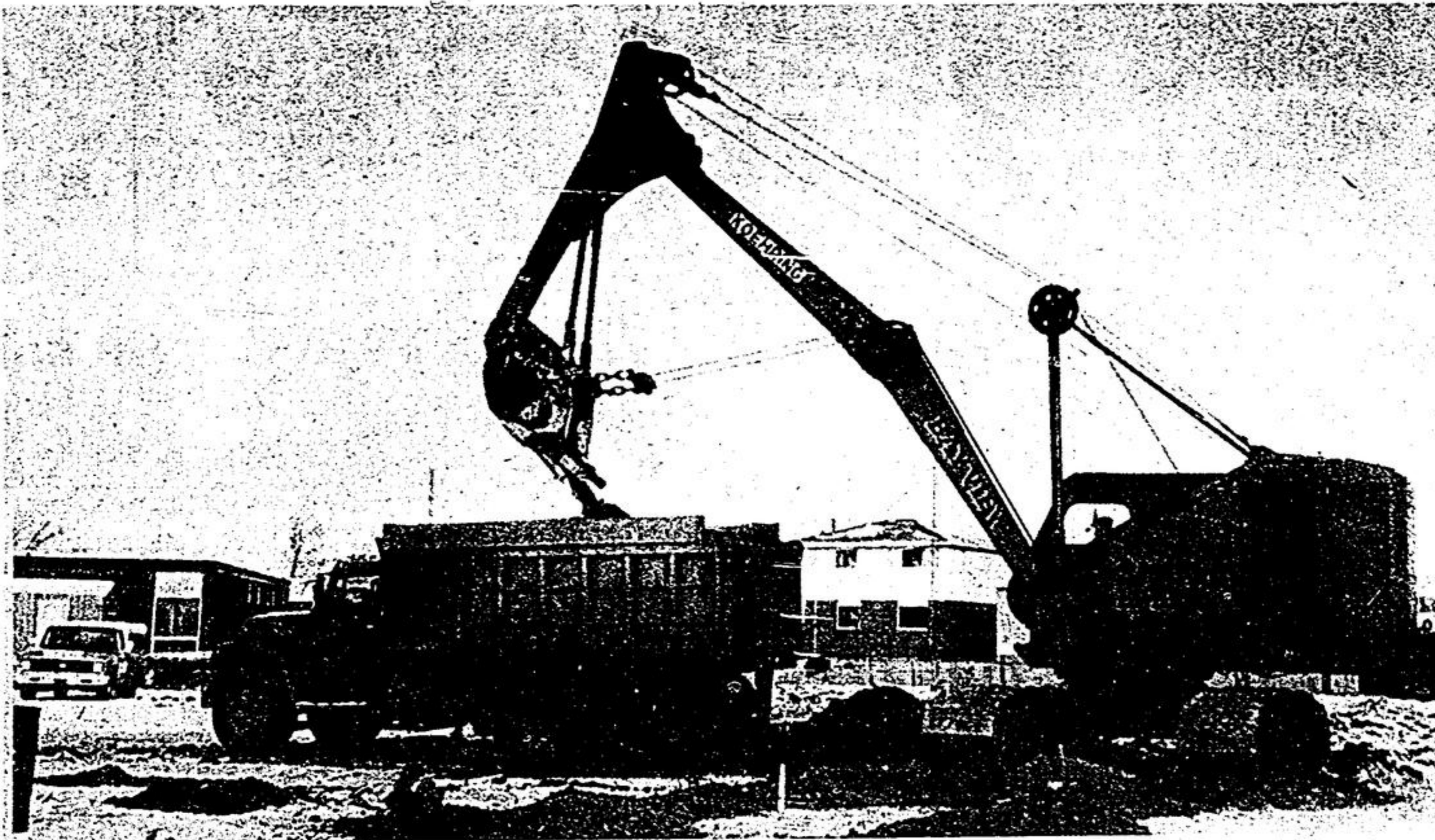
## House of memories goes up in flames

BETHESDA — Clifford Burkholder watched helplessly Tuesday as the house he had lived in most of his life was completely gutted. Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters fought the blaze for more than five hours.

The house, built in 1921 by Mr. Burkholder's father, was located on the 5th Concession and made up part of the 18-hole course owned by Rolling Hills Golf and Country Club. It was vacant at the time of the fire.

Mr. Burkholder, who now lives a short distance away, said he saw smoke coming out of the house at 9 a.m. and while he went to investigate, his wife phoned in the alarm.

The brick house had eight rooms. Only a burnt-out shell remained after the fire.



## Temporary shut-down at apartment site

Truckers blamed the Town, and the Town blamed the police, but regardless of who was responsible, construction work on the new Parkview Home apartment, north of Rupert Avenue, was temporarily closed down. It is understood that complaints were

received, concerning conditions of nearby streets, leading to and from the site. The ground, surrounding the excavation was soft at the time. The shut-down lasted only half a day.

—Jim Thomas.

## Renovations

### Phone call needed so work can start

UXBRIDGE — After a hasty phone call Thursday Jan. 31, Fred Ballinger agreed to go through with renovations to the Uxbridge Municipal Offices. Mayor Carl Puterbaugh had previously read a letter from Mr. Ballinger withdrawing his bid.

The letter stated that the bid was withdrawn until public tenders were let for the renovations. Council had previously received two invitational bids and Mr. Ballinger's was the lowest.

The letter added that rumors and comment in the local press had prompted his decision to withdraw the bid. His brother is Regional Councillor Bill Ballinger.

Councillor Ballinger declared his interest and left the council chambers both times the matter was discussed. Fred Ballinger submitted a bid of \$3,155 to do the urgently needed renovations that would provide more office space for the township staff.

The work had previously been approved Jan. 17.

After reading the letter Mayor Puterbaugh expressed dismay that the renovations would be delayed and, "we are starting at square one again."

A number of councillors agreed that the situation was unfair and that Fred Ballinger should not be discriminated against because his brother is a councillor.

Councillor Joe Esmonde said he had made every attempt to contact all local building contractors in the yellow pages. He told Council that he had talked to three of them and received bids from two—Fred Ballinger and Bob Davis. The other contractor was Scott Hockling.

"I have no qualms whatsoever about this," Councillor Esmonde said Thursday.

A suggestion to put the job up for tender was opposed by Councillor Fred Kelland who said the project would be delayed another month by re-tendering.

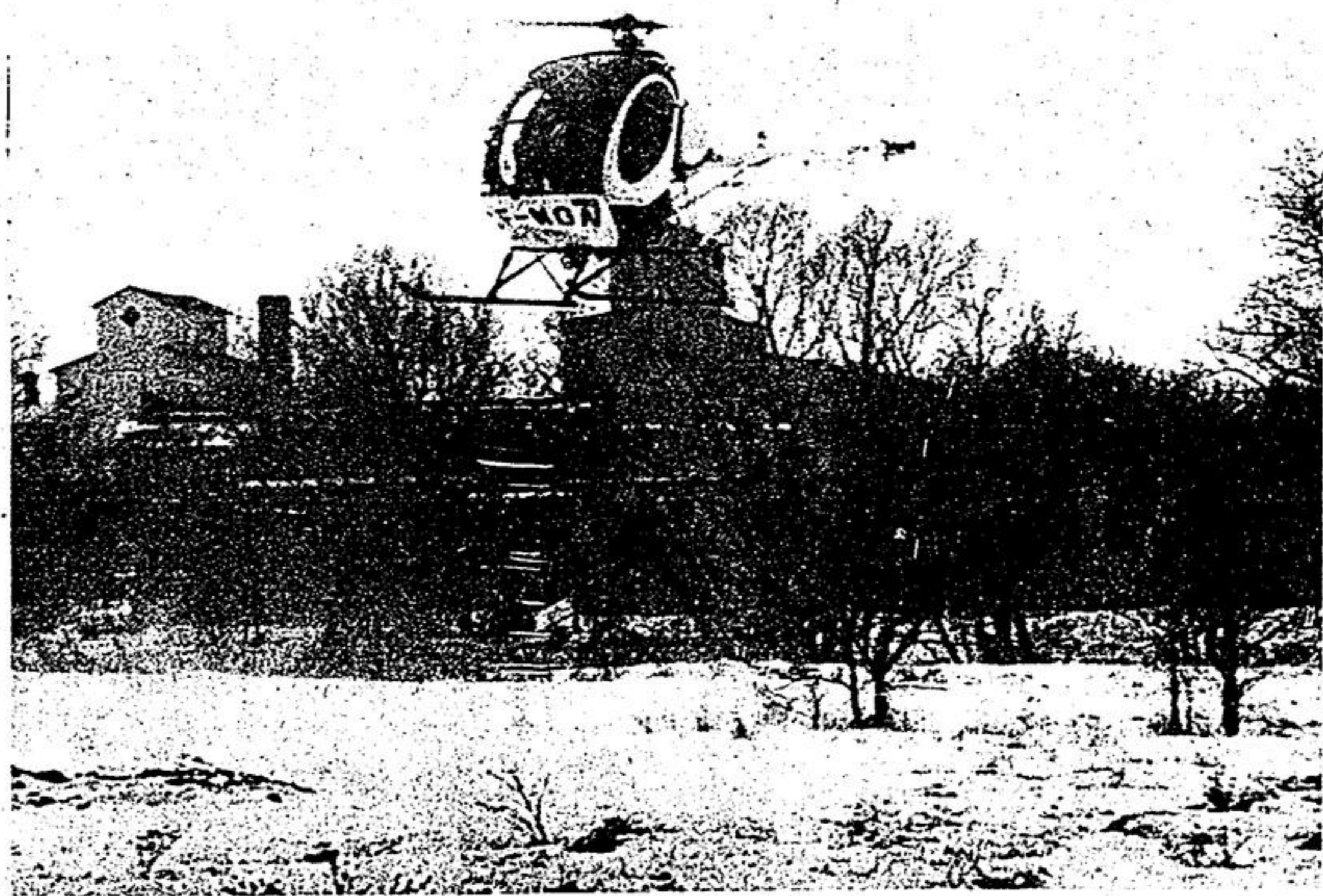
## Million dollar tag on Dadson Farms

STOUFFVILLE — One million dollars! That's the reported price paid for Dadson Farms, Hwy. 48, north of Ringwood.

The purchaser is said to be the owner of Brookwood Golf and Country Club, north of Steeles Avenue in Scarborough. The sale of that property is rumored at "around \$4 million".

It is anticipated that the 18-hole course at Brookwood will be shifted to the Ringwood site, some time in the future.

## Whirlybird comes home to roost



Eddie Luther, Mill Street, Stouffville, is the well-known C.H.F.I. traffic-spotter. On occasions, he brings his 'whirlybird' home to roost, landing within a few steps of his residence.

## Teacher situation

### Schools open but Markham all but empty

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville Dist. Secondary School has not been as hard-hit by the teacher resignations as others in York County, but Markham Dist. High School is virtually deserted.

The S.D.S.S. has been operating at about 30 per cent of capacity this week. On Monday,

10 high school teachers were present and 260 students. The Grade 8 section of the school was operating normally, with all teachers present.

Friday 300 students attended and were told they could stay or go home. At 9.30 a.m. the buses took most of the students home.

This week special help for those who want it has been offered in mathematics, science, French, German, Latin, history, drafting, woodworking, art and music. The guidance centre and resource centre has been opened for general study.

Principal Desmond McCartney said students are getting individual help in those subjects and a number of students are completing individual projects.

"So far teachers have been able to cope with anybody coming in for help," he said Tuesday afternoon.

Markham High School is virtually deserted this week with only six teachers out of 100 attending. Friday about 1,000 students showed up for school and were told they could stay if they wished. There are 1750 students in the school. About 125 stayed and the rest went home at 9.30 a.m.

Monday 140 high school students showed up for classes and Tuesday morning the number was 120. By Tuesday afternoon only 60 remained.

Principal William Duxbury said that various activities were being carried on, but mostly in lower school subjects. There are activities in the gymnasium and the school band practice Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Duxbury said the school was scheduled to be closed Thursday (today) and Friday for professional development days. The students have those days off anyway.

In other areas of the County, some schools are operating at near normal levels, according to information from a board spokesman.

Don Head Secondary School is operating normally with 38 out of 47 teachers present.

Board spokesman, Margaret McLean, said that negotiations have been put under a news blackout and she could not say where the meetings are being held.

## Pedestrian light to go on Main St.

STOUFFVILLE — A pedestrian-operated 'courtesy' light has been recommended for a location on Main Street, midway between Market Street and Civic Avenue.

The crossing would, if approved, be positioned directly across from the I.G.A., and between Card's Hardware and Bing's Restaurant.

The present crosswalk at Civic and Main would be abandoned.

Discussion on the subject was held at a committee meeting of Council, Jan. 25. Present were Mayor Gordon Ratcliff and councillors Cathy Joice and Eldred King.

Approval is required from the Ministry of Transport. A further on-site check by the Department is planned.

Mayor Ratcliff admitted that automatic signals at this location could create a traffic 'block' at Mill, Market and Civic Streets. He suggested that such problems, should they occur, could be dealt with at that time.

"There's no use approving a Traffic Study, if we don't proceed with its recommendations," said the Mayor.

He said traffic back-ups on side streets in the downtown, could lead to making them one-way, similar to the system at Church, Joseph, Robinson and Main Streets in Markham.

—Jim Thomas.