

Compare fire to 'blitz'

STOUFFVILLE — "It reminds me of the Blitz."

Mrs. Adele Mackenzie, of Scarborough, is a stranger to Stouffville. She stopped Tuesday morning to look at the remains left by the fire.

"I lived in London all through the war," she said, "we used to get bombs we called 'strays'. The buildings they hit looked just like that."

common danger — and Mrs. Mackenzie remembered this spirit. For just a second, 1500 miles away and thirty years later, she recaptured it. Finally she turned to go, to visit some cousins

in Uxbridge. She stopped, turned back, and rummaged in her purse.

"Here's five dollars for the relief fund," she said, "these folks might be needing it."

Gallons of coffee

STOUFFVILLE — For the first couple of hours of the fire on Tuesday, one item in notably short supply was coffee.

"If somebody had a couple of gallons of hot coffee," grumbled one chilled fireman, "he could make a fortune selling it at fifty cents a cup."

By 10:30, though, the problem was solved by the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary and the firemen's wives. Stopping at the Legion Hall to pick up tables and other equipment, they headed for the downtown area. Before long, a couple of urns were pouring out streams of

coffee.

"We were up and down the street, trying to get to everybody that wanted a hot drink," said Mrs. Grant Turner.

The ladies later set up shop in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Mayor Ken Laushway brought in food from the IGA.

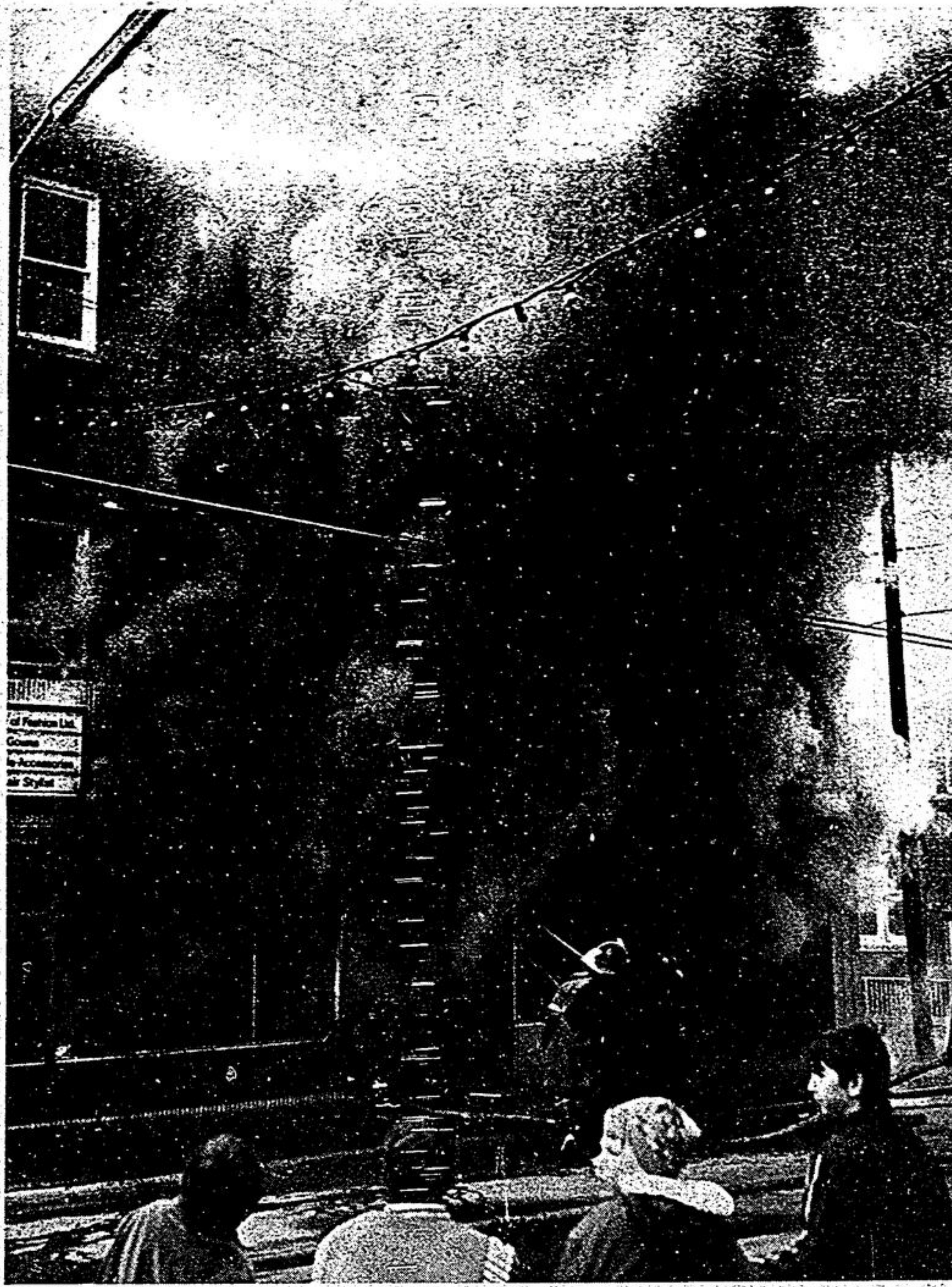
"I took a couple of truckloads from there," the Mayor said. Manager Jack Chambers refused to keep count, saying,

"This is our donation."

Several other stores, according to Mayor Laushway, made similar gifts on short-notice.

By noon, with coffee, doughnuts and sandwiches, the volunteer helpers were doing a brisk business. The lobby of the municipal building became a meeting place for firemen, police, reporters, and a number of people who had come out to watch the blaze and offer what assistance they could.

It was a small haven, although the smell of smoke was everywhere. The gratitude of chilled, exhausted men was unspoken, but obvious.



Children watch as firemen pour hundreds of gallons of water into a section of the Ratcliff Block, Main Street, Stouffville. The loss has been estimated in excess of a half-million dollars.

—Jas. Thomas.

Restaurant destroyed

STOUFFVILLE — One of the businessmen most affected by Tuesday's fire called the incident "just bad luck".

David Ku, owner of the Pine Tree Restaurant which was heavily damaged by the blaze, is unsure as to his future plans. Nothing was saved from the building, and he said the total loss would not be covered by insurance.

In addition to the restaurant, the fire destroyed Mr. Ku's apartment and all his personal effects. He and his family escaped with only the clothes on their backs.

Mr. Ku watched without expression as firemen and Consumers' Gas workmen trudged in and out of the burned, smoke-blackened restaurant. He shrugged and

turned away to look for his wife.

"What can you do?" he said.

Remembrance Service

The annual Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, in the Veterans' Memorial Hall at 2:30 p.m. The placing of wreaths will follow at the cenotaph in the Civic Square.



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Worst fire in history

STOUFFVILLE — The conflagration which totally destroyed one of the town's main business blocks, can truthfully be described as the worst fire in Stouffville's 94 year history.

The last major loss was in 1935 when a frame block near the C.N. R. and containing three business places, went up in flames.

Nearly fifty years ago, the large frame structure, originally known as Daley's Hall, and located on the site of the present postoffice was completely destroyed. Fortunately, there has been no loss of life in any of these, but a number of fine ponies housed in stables below Daley's Hall, were destroyed in that fire.

Problems-solutions

STOUFFVILLE — There were dozens of suggestions about Tuesday's fire: how it started, what the damage would amount to, how to prevent a similar occurrence.

"We need a ladder truck," said Jim McKellar, former councillor. "It was discussed at the time the new apartment buildings were being planned, but nothing came of it."

The ladder truck used at the fire came from Vaughan.

Another interesting suggestion came from one of the ladies handing out coffee and doughnuts in the municipal building.

"We ought to have a junior fire department, an auxiliary of younger men," she said.

"That's right. They'd be about the same

Children watch as firemen pour hundreds of gallons of water into a section of the Ratcliff Block, Main Street, Stouffville. The loss has been estimated in excess of a half-million dollars.

cup of coffee, "I've never seen such a spirit of co-operation in people."

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Olive Vanzant, 40 Tenth Line N., Stouffville, Ont., 640-2412

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