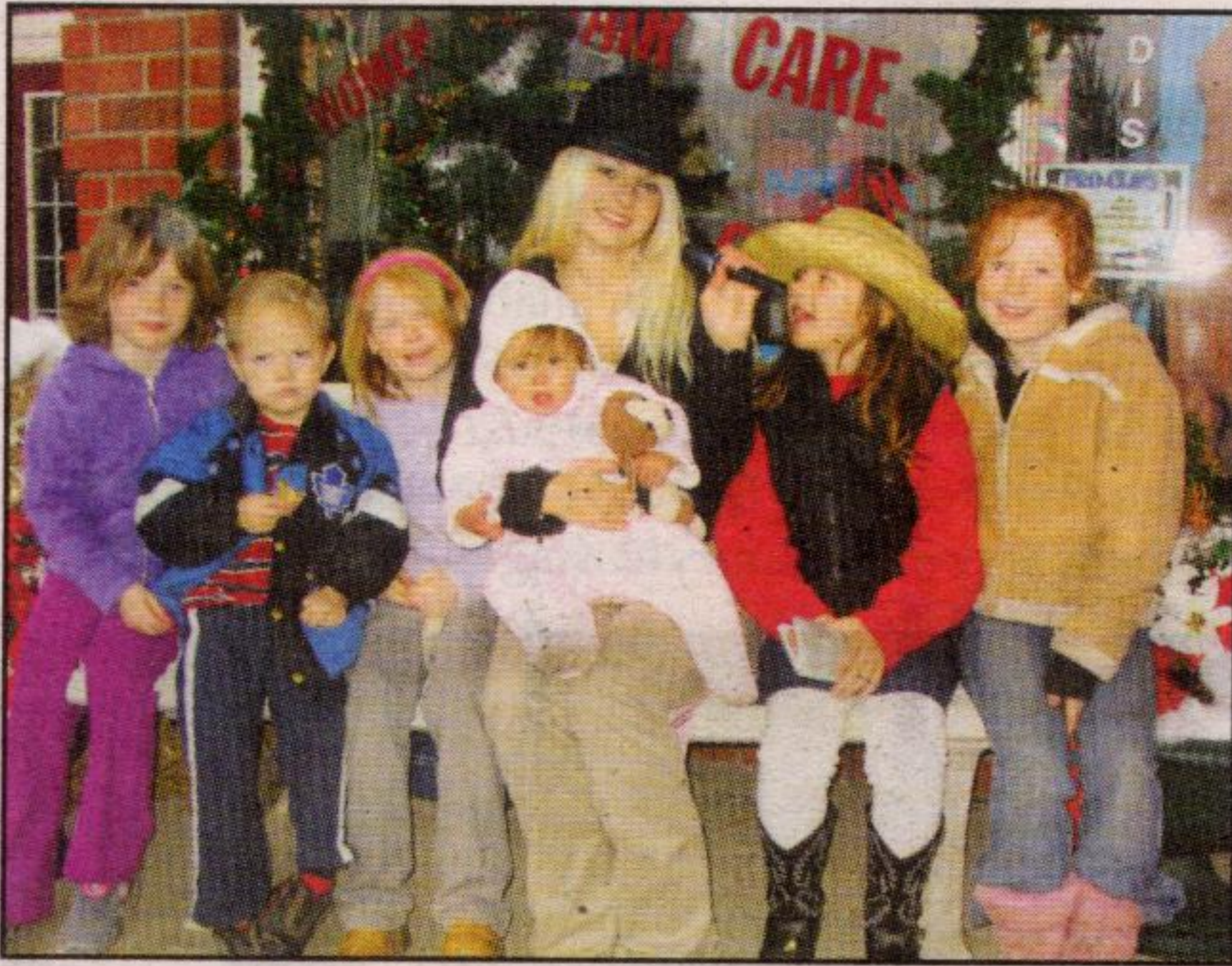


Christmas in Campbellville Festival

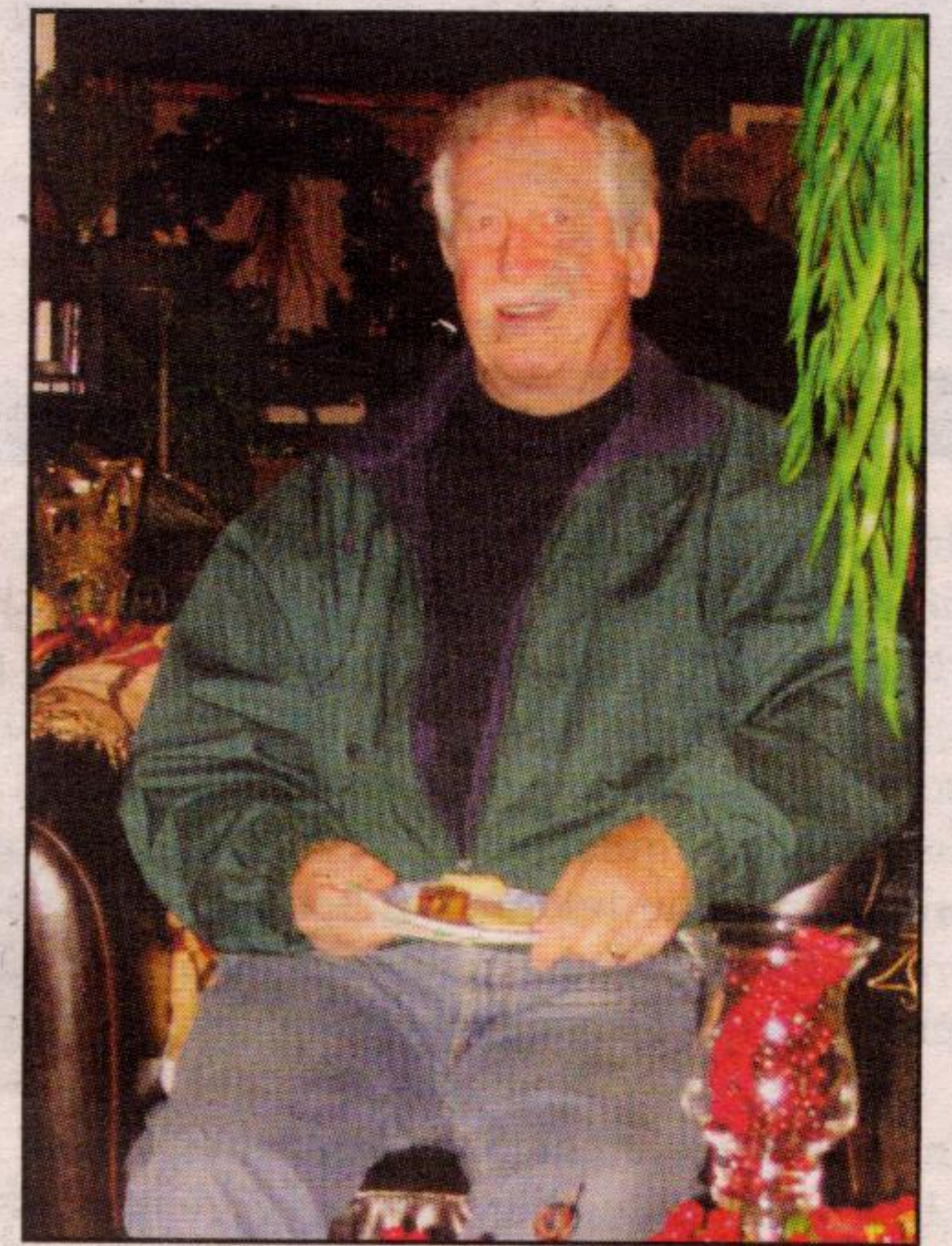


Local singer Alysha was part of the Christmas in Campbellville Festival held the third weekend in November. Alysha is shown here with many of her young fans, from left to right: Ashley Rivest, Matthew Rivest, Emma Westwater, Abigail Horland (on Alysha's lap), Julianna Kobow and Alexis Westwater



Volunteer Yves Cayen cooks up lunch for Kyle Max during the Christmas in Campbellville celebrations. The BBQ was hosted by the Nassagaweya Animal Hospital and all proceeds were donated to the Oakville Humane Society.

PHOTOS BY
DONNA DANIELLI



Shopper Ken Gold takes a moment to relax while shopping at International Trading's Open House during the Christmas in Campbellville celebrations.

Tales of Glissen

The new children's book by Jenny Panda

By ANN KORNUA

Jenny Panda held a copy of her new children's story book, *Tales of Glissen*, in her hands like a freshly cut flower. The paperback novel was printed this week and this was the first copy. A bashful dragon smiles out from the cover, an illustration of one of the many characters in the book created by Jenny. Her book of imagination and magic will be available before Christmas this year.

Jenny has always had dreams for art and writing. The retired elementary school teacher has acted out in the Fine Arts Society of Milton (F.A.S.M) studio tours and performed in poetry readings at Express Yourself Café. Her new book is written and illustrated by herself and is sure to catch the imagination of children of all ages.

Tales of Glissen is a children's fantasy. "The book is about a little girl who goes to sleep and she has such a wonderful imagination that she sort of gets stuck in her dreams and finds it hard to get back to reality," Jenny explains. The idea behind witches and adventures came to Jenny one cold morning after sitting down and writing out a plan of ideas.

Jenny recently stopped by Martin Street School on Wednesday November 17 to share her new book with students and to display the craft ideas she has included in the back of her book. "I put some crafts in the back that I would have done at school with my students," Jenny says. From sock puppet dragons to apple witches, parents can help their children's creativity when reading this book. "I love the school (having been there for 16 years) and the

children were very encouraging. Many of them have ordered copies. I would do more book talks at other schools if they want to phone or email me," Jenny said.

The book will be on sale before Christmas and will be available next year on the Chapters website. You can reserve your own copy of *Tales of Glissen* by contacting Jenny herself at 905-875-1262 or by emailing her jenny@thepandas.ca

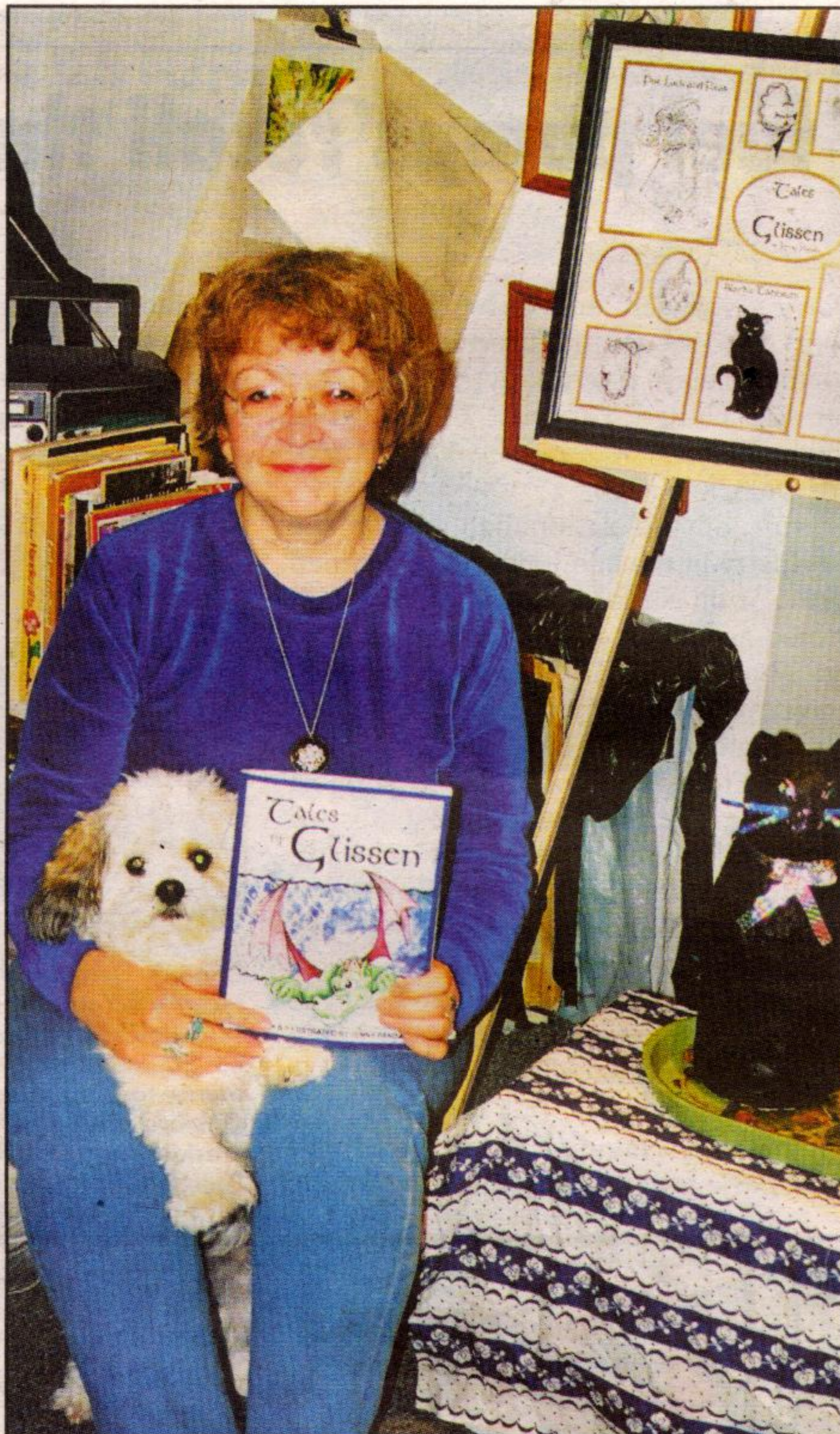


PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Jenny Panda displays her new children's book, *Tales of Glissen* which will be on sale before Christmas of this year. Next to her are a few illustrations from her book along with crafts readers are invited to make while reading the story.

Chestnuts already

By BREN CHISHOLM

Doomed, doomed, doomed, I tell you. I have barely picked up the last bit of fake cobwebs off the brick at the front of my house from Halloween and lo and behold, the stores are crammed with Christmas trees and I'm hearing Johnny Mathis singing about chestnuts roasting on an open fire.

The thing that amazes me is, how come when I was a little girl; Christmas seemed to take its time coming. It was always the "watched pot never boils" syndrome as I glared at the calendar in November knowing full well Thanksgiving had come and gone; I had eaten enough trick or treat candy to help some nice dentist pay off his cottage; so, when the heck was Christmas going to arrive?

Those times have passed and I've decided there is a direct co-relation between raising children and realizing the value of time.

I'll admit I have always been a very busy, full-throttle kind of person but having kids made me realize the best moments are often those quiet times when I'm not pushing for "the next thing". I've learned the best thing may not be what's yet to come. It might be the right here and now.

This past summer, it was all my children could do to not talk about what costume they wanted to wear for Halloween. Granted, it was hardly a blistering hot summer where the idea of fuzzy costumes and masks were abhorrent but, two months off felt too far away as a parent to even consider. It's times like that when I would offer the kids a Popsicle out on the porch to kind of slow down the hands of time.

There are sales on everywhere at your major retailers that spell profits for the stores because you can start early and run up your credit card right up to December 25th if you so wish. And you could get in a real panic mode and get stuck in that; "maybe-just-one-more-thing-because-what-if-a-neighbor-drops-by-with-a-gift" mindset that means you'll never finish.

I want my December to be as stress free as possible so, yes, I have started my shopping but my goal is to have it complete - without going overboard - so I can just savor December with all its sights and smells.

Keep in mind the really neat thing about children is despite all their wallet-busting requests, they are magically pleased with the presents they receive and seldom say, "Hey! Where's the 'Slimy Bob' I asked Santa for?"

I remember asking for long hair one Christmas and seriously believed I would somehow wake up with luxuriously lengthy tresses. You have to understand my father, who was in WWII and once a barber, kept my hair at the age of six drastically short.

Was I disappointed when I woke up and realized I still looked like little boy? Nope! Just one peak of my stuffed-to-the-brim Christmas stocking made me forget my request that only seemed so important for a brief time.

A good thing to remember is just because everyone else is going high-speed doesn't mean you have to, too. A date on the calendar need not dictate how high your blood pressure should go. Mind you, I'll admit there is a sadistic streak in me that enjoys the sight of people struggling to find parking mid-December knowing everything at my house is wrapped and tagged.

Life isn't about perfection and it certainly isn't about rushing through every moment.

So take a deep breath and by all means, do one task at a time. Do NOT attempt homemade Christmas decorations with a glue gun while frosting cookies because the phone may ring and, well...you've got a visual now, don't you?