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Artist called 'master' by diocese secretary

 from WELL-KNOWN on page E1 of religious icons and symbols, a slightly textured and almost indestructible painting is created.

This is the same medium used by Michelangelo to create the world's greatest fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

There's only a handful of truly respected fresco artists in the world today - perhaps five or six out of 50 — and imitators who use canvas and acrylics abound.

The true process is arduous, painstaking slow, and inevitably evolves into a labour of love.

Mr. Marunich, 57, who learned his trade at a Greek art school in his 20s, first travelled from Serbia to Milton in 1994 just prior to the church's consecration.

At that time, he painted a depiction of Jesus across the dome, which spans seven

Working in Michelangelo fashion, Mr. Marunich painted on his back on scaffolding 26 metres high.

Completed two walls

He returned in the winter of 1996/97 to paint behind the altar and this spring, he completed two walls.

"I entrusted him to do a wonderful job," attested Mr. Milicevic. "Most bishops in Serbia just let him do his thing. He's a master."

Mr. Marunich does much of his work in Serbia but he has also worked abroad. In Canada, he has also painted two other churches in the Hamilton region and his paintings adorn church walls in other countries such as Sweden, Germany and Australia.

Mr. Marunich acknowledged his work at the Holy Transfiguration, located off McNiven Rd. about 8 km south of Highway 401, is his best.



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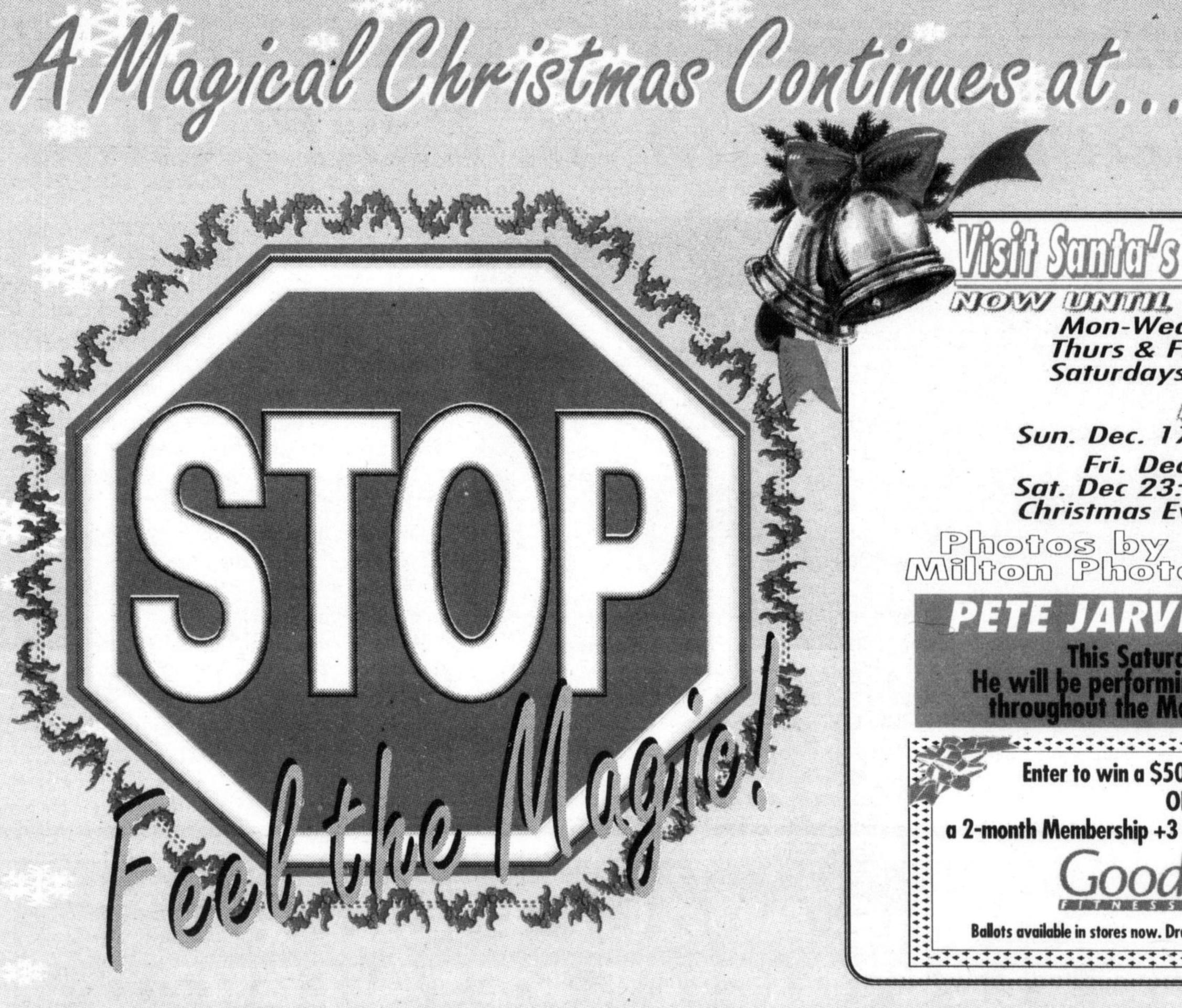
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