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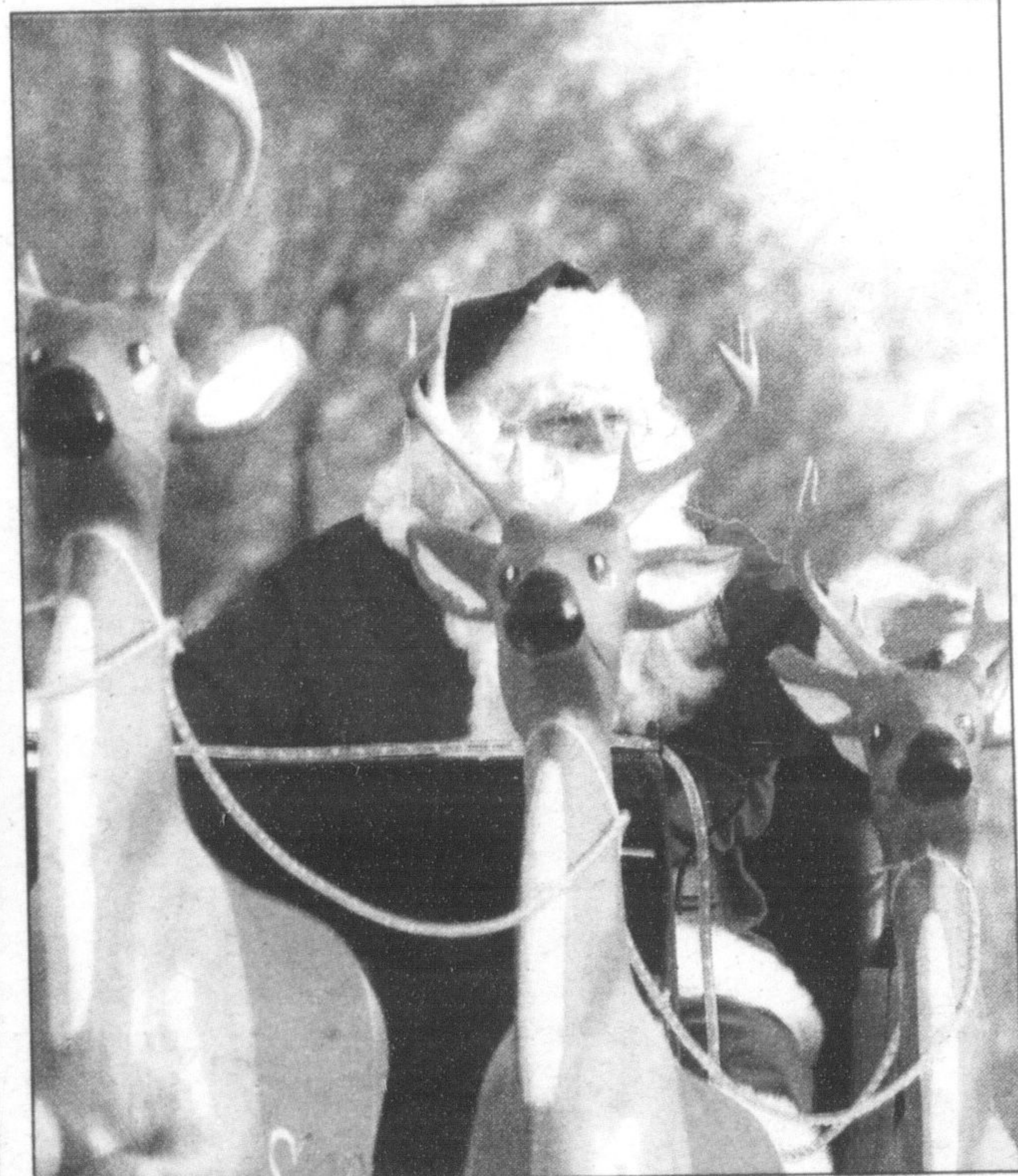
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**SANTA COMES TO TOWN:** Margaret Lussier and her two-year-old son, Daniel, wave to Santa on Main Street Sunday afternoon. They were among thousands who turned out to watch the Milton Santa Claus Parade, which featured floats and marching bands. See more parade photos on pages B1 and B2.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Judge imposes conditional sentence

*Driver sentenced to house arrest for dangerous driving that killed man*

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Michael McDonald was so proud of his new, permanent position as a postal worker in Milton.

It meant a long commute every day from Orangeville, but the 48-year-old didn't complain. His family members remember him proudly showing off his new uniform and equipment the night before an early morning accident claimed his life on his way to work.

"Two weeks later, I had to return that same

box of clothes (to Canada Post)," said Michael's father, Ramsay McDonald, in an emotional victim impact statement given Monday at a sentencing hearing at Superior Court of Justice in Milton.

Justice Michael Quigley sentenced former Milton resident Alvaro Diaz, 23 — who had previously pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death in the incident — to a conditional sentence of 22 months, of which the first 11 months will be spent under house arrest; he'll be permitted to leave only to go to work.

Terms of the conditional sentence include that Diaz not drink, take any illegal drugs and that he keep the peace and go to counselling as directed. He also received a two-year driving prohibition.

He won't spend any time in jail.

The courtroom was filled to capacity with about a dozen of Michael's family members and

another dozen of Diaz's.

It was on February 2, 2007, that the nightmare unfolded. Just before 3 a.m., the Toyota 4Runner that Diaz was driving crossed the centre line into the path of the Toyota Tercel being driven by Michael on Regional Road 25 near No. 5 Sideroad.

In addition to dangerous driving causing death, Diaz was charged with drinking and driving causing death and having over the legal amount of alcohol in his blood; the latter two charges were withdrawn.

Along with Michael's father, victim impact statements were read by his two children, Jessica and John, both in their twenties, as well as his mother, Molly, and his sister, Pam Lyons.

Soft sobs could be heard in the body of the courtroom as the individuals detailed how their lives had been torn apart.

• see EMOTIONAL on page A2

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF:  
front L-R Trevor, Dave, Christine, back L-R Mark, Val,  
Jewel, Danielle, Jackie & Jessica. Missing is Meredith & Scott

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