



Stouffville firemen were the victors in last Saturday's tug-of-war. Kinsmen defeated the Lions and in turn succumbed to the firemen. Fire Chief Walt Smith directed while other firemen did the brute work. Loud groans were

heard when Keith Sutherland, while presenting the trophy donated by Roy Morgan, referred to the event as the "annual tug-of-war".



Cutter rides, and snowmobile runs were also very popular. All rides were free, with the owners of the teams or machines donating their time to the event. The firemen

made their annual contribution of free hotdogs and this year, with the large crowds, they ran out in record time.

## Snow-sculpting, tug-of-war highlights Stouffville Lions annual Mardi Gras



### Stouffville past takes on flesh and blood by visiting with seniors

By Annegret Lamure

STOUFFVILLE — When the students looked at Wes Brillinger's grandfather's wedding socks, the past suddenly took on a whole new dimension. The socks were a deep bright pink, warm and heavy, and obviously made entirely by hand. "These are my granddaddy's wedding socks, knit in 1870," Mr. Brillinger told the fascinated children.

The students as part of a Friday electives program at Summitview P.S. were visiting some of the residents of Parkview to get firsthand accounts of what life in Stouffville was like in the old days, and the oldtimers were having a great time recalling the past.

Mr. Brillinger explained that his granddad's sisters had each dyed their own yarn and knitted one sock. This accounted for the slight difference in colour and length between the two.

The children were also very interested in the old school photographs and maps of the area which Mr. Brillinger displayed as part of his presentation.

Mr. Brillinger told the students that he was the sixth generation of Brillingers in Stouffville and then gave an account of how his family first settled the land. "My grandfather got chased out of Pennsylvania — he didn't want to stay in a country where they had to bear arms," he explained. "My great-grand-daddy came to Whitchurch — Stouffville riding a horse and it took him six weeks to get there. He came looking for land and saw a British officer who had lots of land, 9,000 acres, as a matter of fact, for his service in the army. My grandfather traded him 600 acres of land for his horse and saddle, and then walked all the way back to Pennsylvania," concluded Mr. Brillinger. He then described how the family loaded up the

Conestogas (covered wagons) and headed north with five of their 11 sons. The road was so rough the milk got churned into butter on the wagon and it took them 12 weeks to make the trip. They only covered about five to eight miles a day and had to stop every few days to build a shelter and rest the horses. When they finally arrived the hard task of clearing the land began. "There were 48 stumps on just one acre of land, so you can imagine how long it took to clear 100 acres," Mr. Brillinger told the children. "Everything was done by hand, they had no machinery. Everything they needed they made. They knit socks, made brooms out of ironwood, and produced everything they ate."

Following the presentation the children

interviewed the seniors and looked at some of the antique items they had brought to show the youngsters. The girls were especially intrigued by two very old dresses that had been in the family of Frances Storry for over 80 years.

One was a cream coloured wedding dress with a mandarin collar that would be quite stylish today, and the other a two piece striped garment with provisions for a bustle. "When we were kids, we used to go in the top veranda and play in the dresses," said Mrs. Storry. She indicated the bulge at the back of the striped number. "There used to be a bustle in there, but we kids used to put a cushion in it."

The girls hung on every word and looked longingly at the dress. It was obvious they were all dying to try it on.



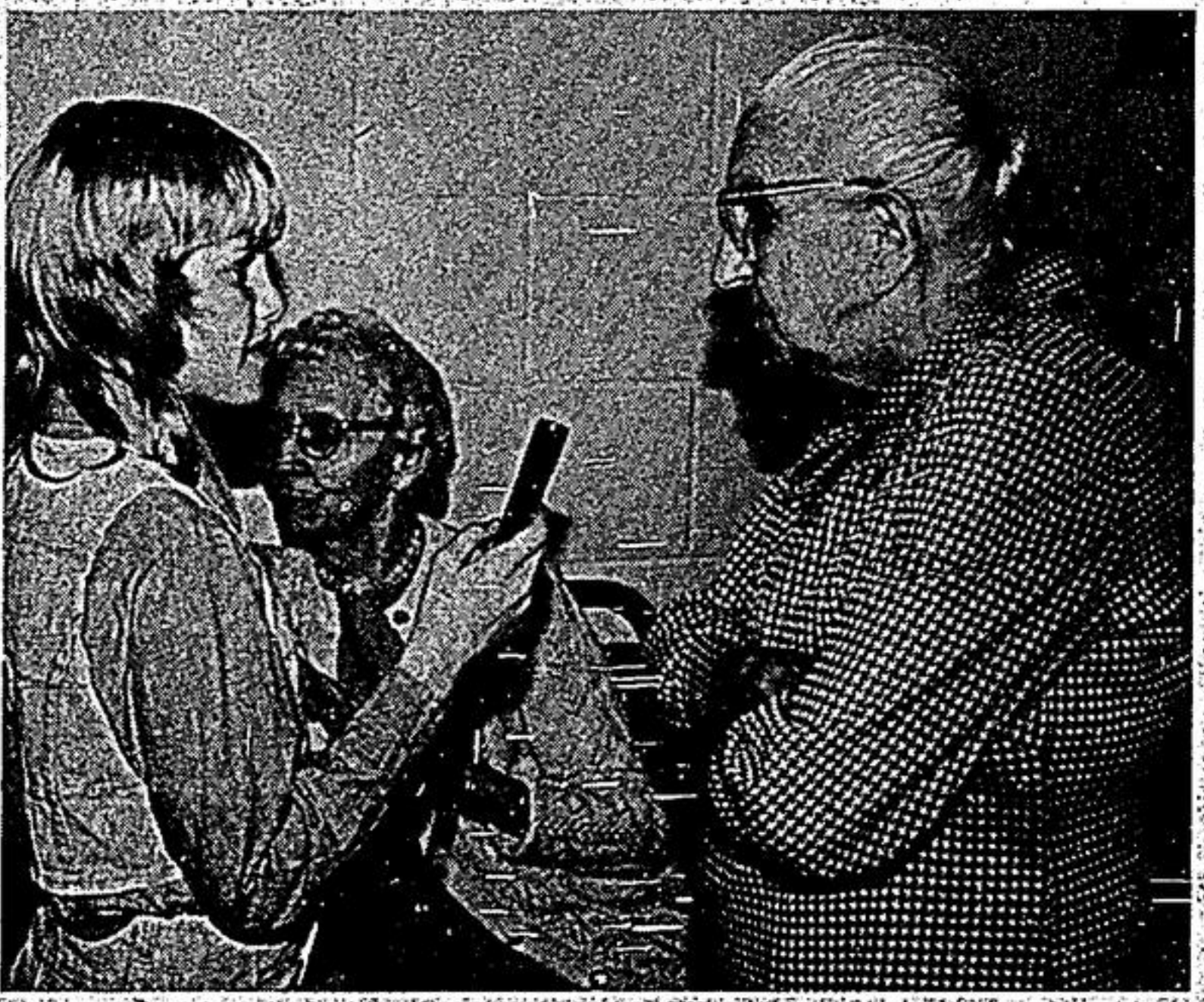
Dun Wallis had his chin set just right for throwing but unfortunately he failed to hit the target and win a chocolate bar in the snowball throwing contest. Pat Scott (falling at left) also failed to hit the target but was awarded a chocolate bar in recognition of the spectacular way in which she fell while throwing. Her daughter Sarah is looking on.

—John Montgomery



Michael Czerewko was one of three sculptors who demonstrated snow-sculpting. The demonstration was supposed to be of ice-sculpting but mild weather played havoc with

those plans. Old Man Winter seems to be about to devour Mr. Czerewko's leg. Belfry Hamilton (below) was kept busy giving buggy rides to local kids.



"What kind of games did you used to play?" was one of the things Bernice Armet asked Mae Fretz during a visit to Parkview. She's getting it all down on tape for a school project on Stouffville's past. In the background is Gertrude Hoover.

—Annegret Lamure



Old school photographs bring the past alive for these youngsters visiting Parkview's residents. David Darling,

John Jamieson and Tim MacEwan are fascinated by Wes Brillinger's remarks on the old days.



An old wedding dress catches the imagination of these girls from Summitview. Frances Storry shows Julie Trudell, Debbie Budd, Carolyn Roller and Julie

Chambers a dress of her mother's. The Summitview students are visiting Parkview residents.