

BIA to host 1986 Festival of Lights

Get ready for an evening of holiday fun and frolic as Markham merchants host the Festival of Lights, Friday, Dec. 5.

Starting at 7 p.m. and continuing until 11 p.m., traffic will be detoured so residents can make their way through the village, admiring many of the recently restored buildings along Main St., while paying a visit to local retailers.

Kicking off the celebration will be the lighting of a 25-foot Christmas tree, sponsored by Family Trust, on the corner of Hwy. 7 and Main St. Tom Shea, chairman of the board of Family Trust, will be master of ceremonies for the evening, and will light the tree with Ronald McDonald's help.

Crowds will then proceed north, following the Fort York Color Guard who will go through the maneuvers.

"The tree will be the focal point

to the village," said Caroline Shannon, this year's festival chairman.

This year BIA (Business Improvement Area) members have joined together for a holiday fund raiser, with money earned to be donated to the Markham Stouffville Hospital. Bright red boxes can be seen in area stores with the Christmas tree emblem.

There are plenty of activities for children of all ages at this year's festival. Santa will be receiving gift lists in the lobby of the Tremont Hotel and Murray Grove will be providing old fashioned hayrides all evening.

Markham District High School drama students will be roaming the streets dressed as storybook characters and will be offering to paint children's faces.

Adults will enjoy listening to favorite holiday sounds with Victorian Carollers, the Suther-

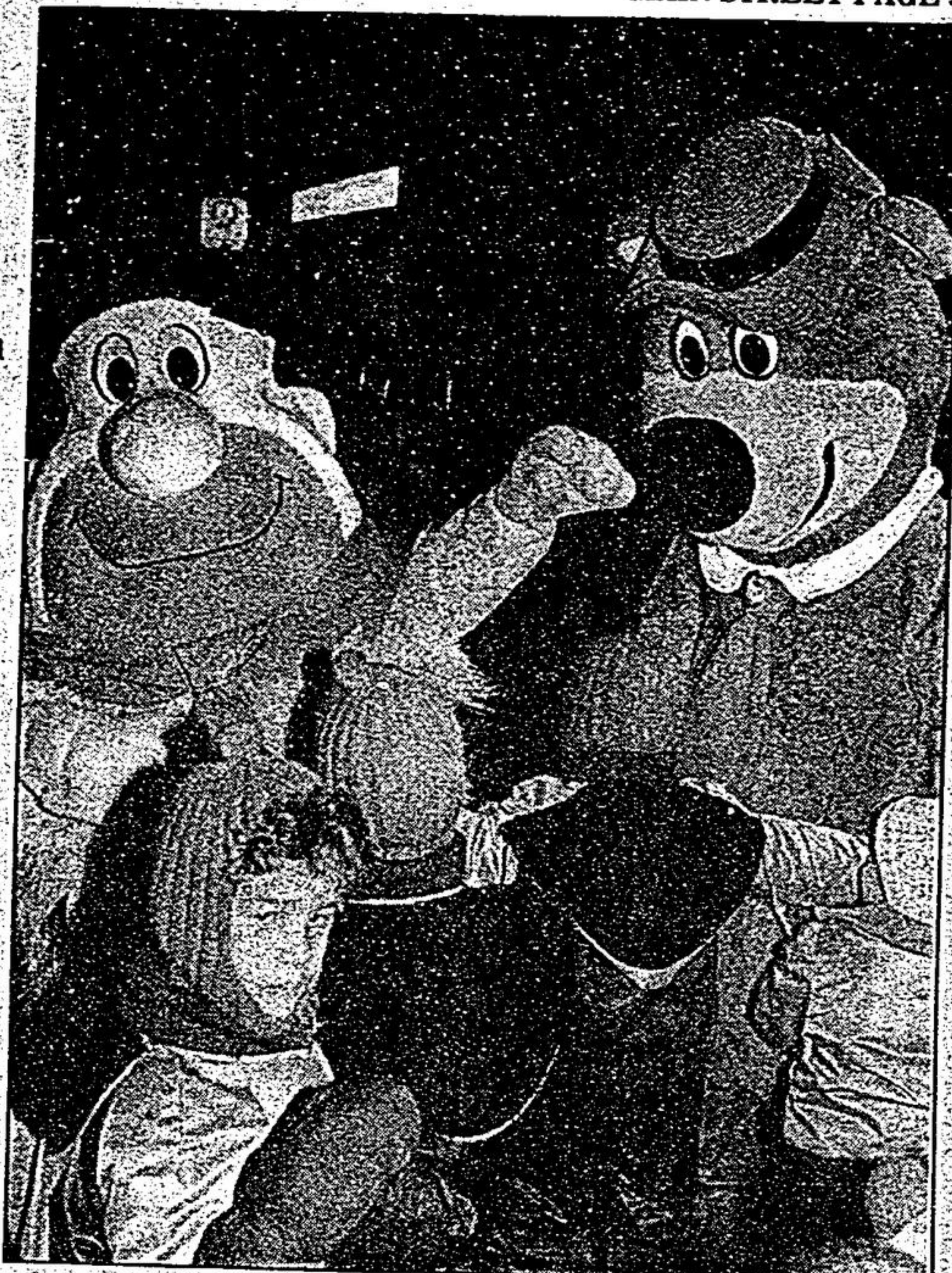
land Fife and Drum Band and Whitevale Bell Ringers.

Don't miss the art show and sale which will take place upstairs in the Tremont Hotel. Artist Harold Brault will exhibit his modern oils on canvas beginning at 8 p.m.

This year restaurants along the Main Street, including Lindner's, The Carriage Tearoom, Melba's, The Duchess of Markham and Main Street, will be offering special festival menus during the evening.

"Many people have never had the chance to join in the activities of a small village," said Mrs. Shannon. "The Festival of Lights gives residents, new and old alike, the chance to see what kind of village spirit Markham has to offer."

Merchants will be passing out treats to visitors and a chestnut vendor will be on hand selling hot roasted chestnuts on the street.



Fred Flintstone and Yogi Bear will be on hand again to entertain youngsters during the Festival of Lights on Friday.



A rousing rendition

John Simpson and Bev Foster dressed up in traditional costumes and sang carols during last year's Festival of Lights. They'll be returning this year to

entertain shoppers on the Main St.

— Bill Lanning

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