

Funding cut upsets gallery

BY CHRIS GARBUTT

The administrator for Stouffville's Latcham Gallery is unhappy with the way a recent funding suspension by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) was handled.

"I have reservations about the way we were dealt with," George Schlubbier said Monday.

The gallery received a letter from the OAC Feb. 11 indicating it had been cut off from \$5,000 worth of financial support. The OAC added the gallery may re-apply for funds in November, 1987.

Mr. Schlubbier said that when he questioned the suspension, the OAC responded that the gallery had been examined by a committee of peers, and was failing to meet the criteria set out by the council.

"They give grants on so-called 'artistic merit.' The Ontario Arts Council is making a big mistake by trying to decide what is 'good art'... let them (the community) decide what is good art. We feel that we have met the criteria," he said.

Mr. Schlubbier claimed the names of the members on the committee of peers were kept confidential, and their notes on the problems with the gallery were not released.

He said the OAC is a government organization, and "should not withhold names of decision makers. You have got to be accountable, (and) they are not accountable."

Schlubbier noted that The Latcham Gallery is the only public one in York Region other than the McMichael Canadian Collection in Kleinburg, and public funding plays a major role in its operation.

Irene Emig, director of the gallery, emphasized the importance of not relying solely upon the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville for funds.

"I'm personally frustrated with this whole process," Schlubbier said. "The Latcham Gallery has achieved a good reputation throughout the region."



Cake kids

A cake-decorating contest was one of several fun events held Saturday at Whitchurch Highland Public School's annual Country Fair. The brother/sister team of Matthew (left, rear) and Jennifer Brain baked up a storm to claim top honors in the junior (Gr. 4-6) and intermediate (Gr. 7-9) classes respectively, while Kinderkarten student Holly Ghadery (front) was best among primary entries.

—Chris Shanahan

SUNLAND LANDSCAPE

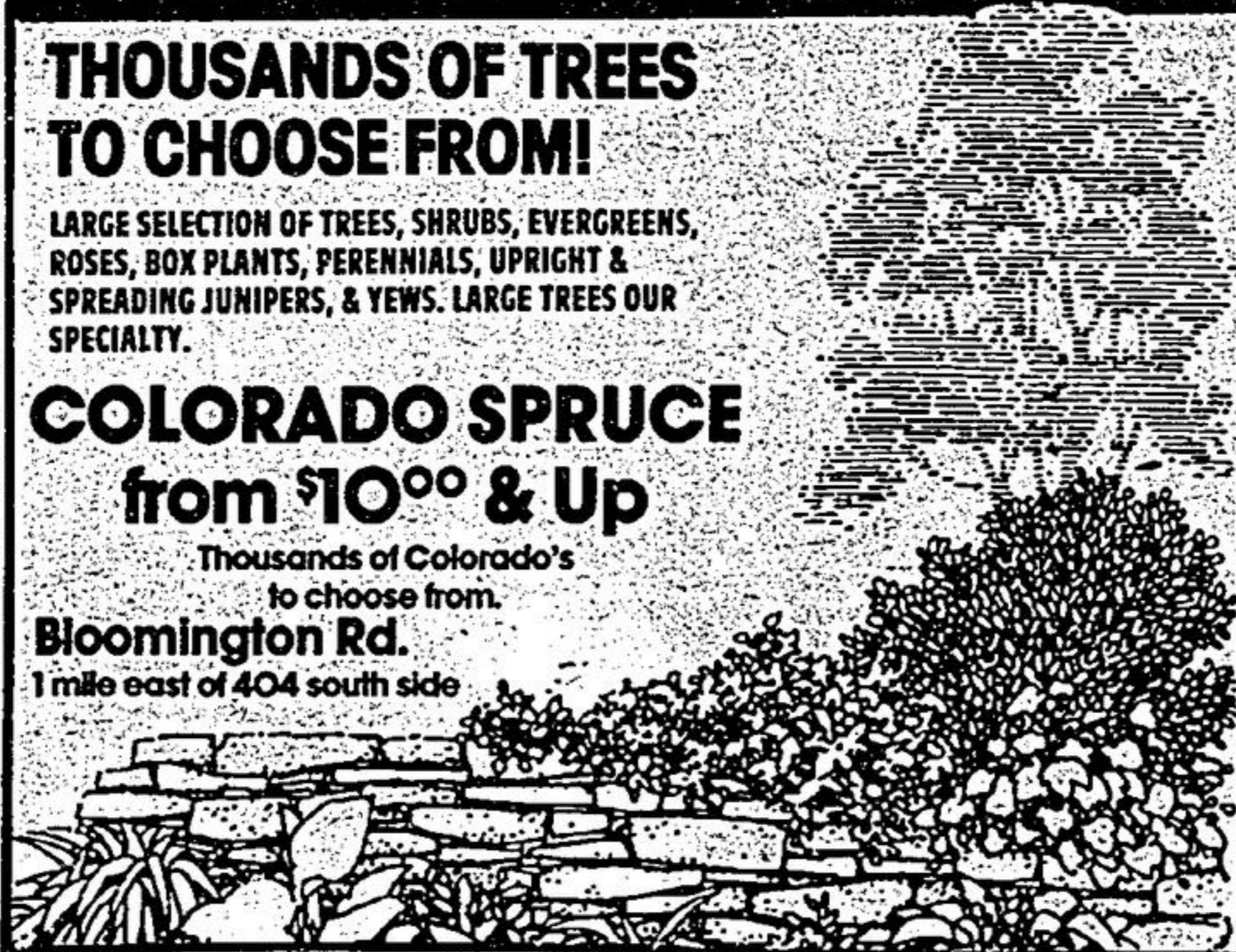
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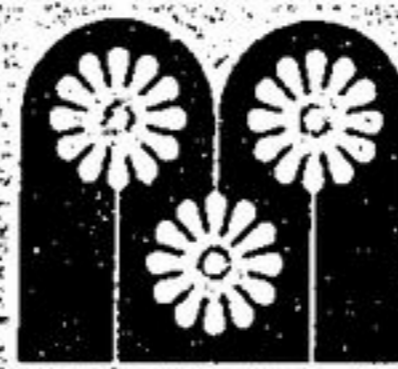
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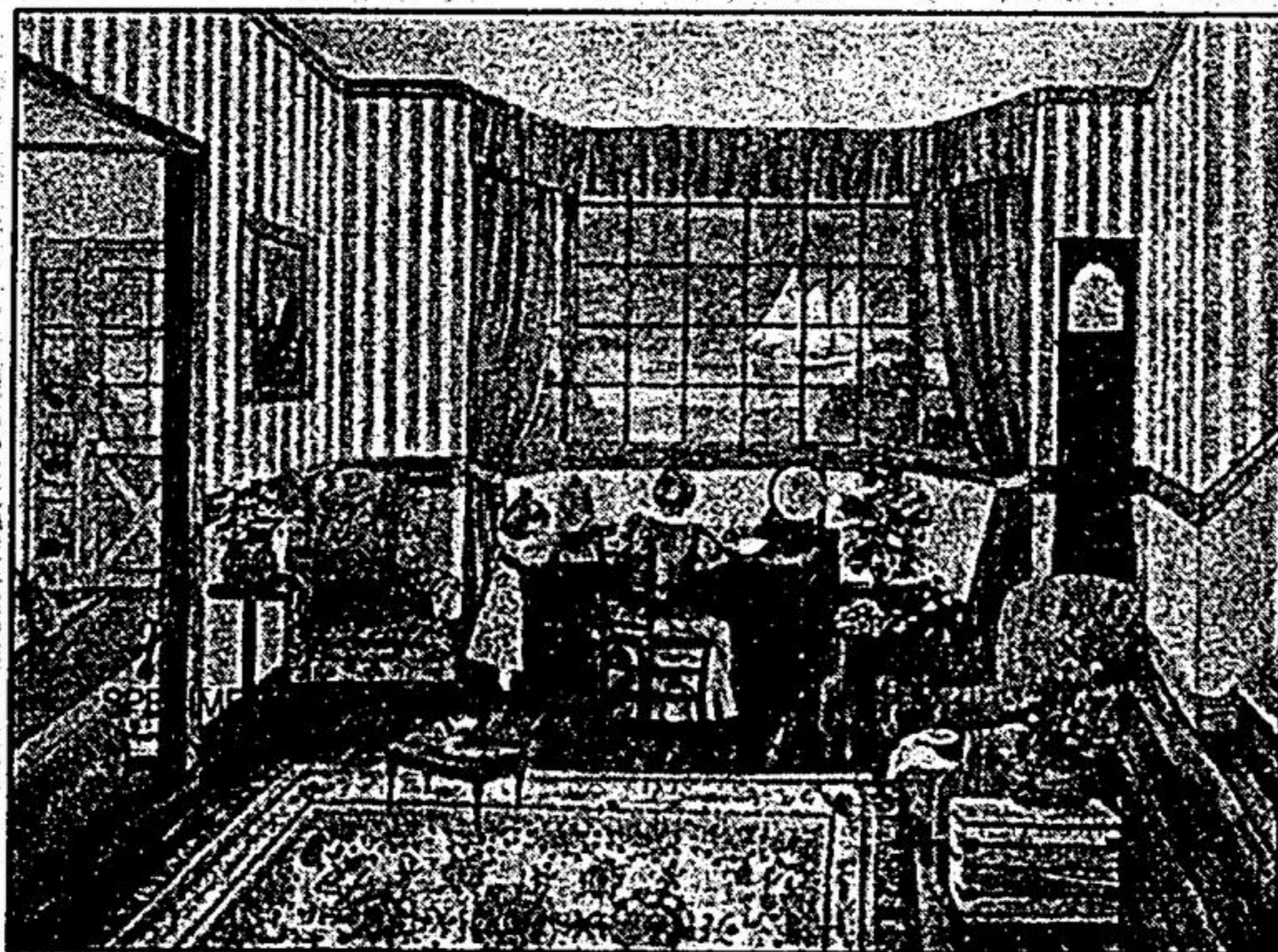
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