

Claremont Corner



Scary scarecrows

A decade (or more) ago, Claremont was infamous for its escapades on Halloween.

That image has changed. And while events still make headlines, the stories are positive instead of negative.

Claremont Village is fast becoming the scarecrow capital of Canada.

A strong supporter of the project is Bob Bell, Old Brock Road South. His home won a second prize in 1987 and it's sure to attract the judges' attention again this year.

It was 13 years ago, while he and wife Wendy were on their honeymoon in Pennsylvania, they saw Halloween show places that started him thinking. He's since put his thoughts into action.

"I begin in September," Bob explains. "I work at it weekends and evenings."

A staff member with Markham's Parks and Recreation department, Bob admits he receives great encouragement from his wife, a preschool teacher, and son Scott.

Bob provides the bare necessities and Wendy obtains the clothes.

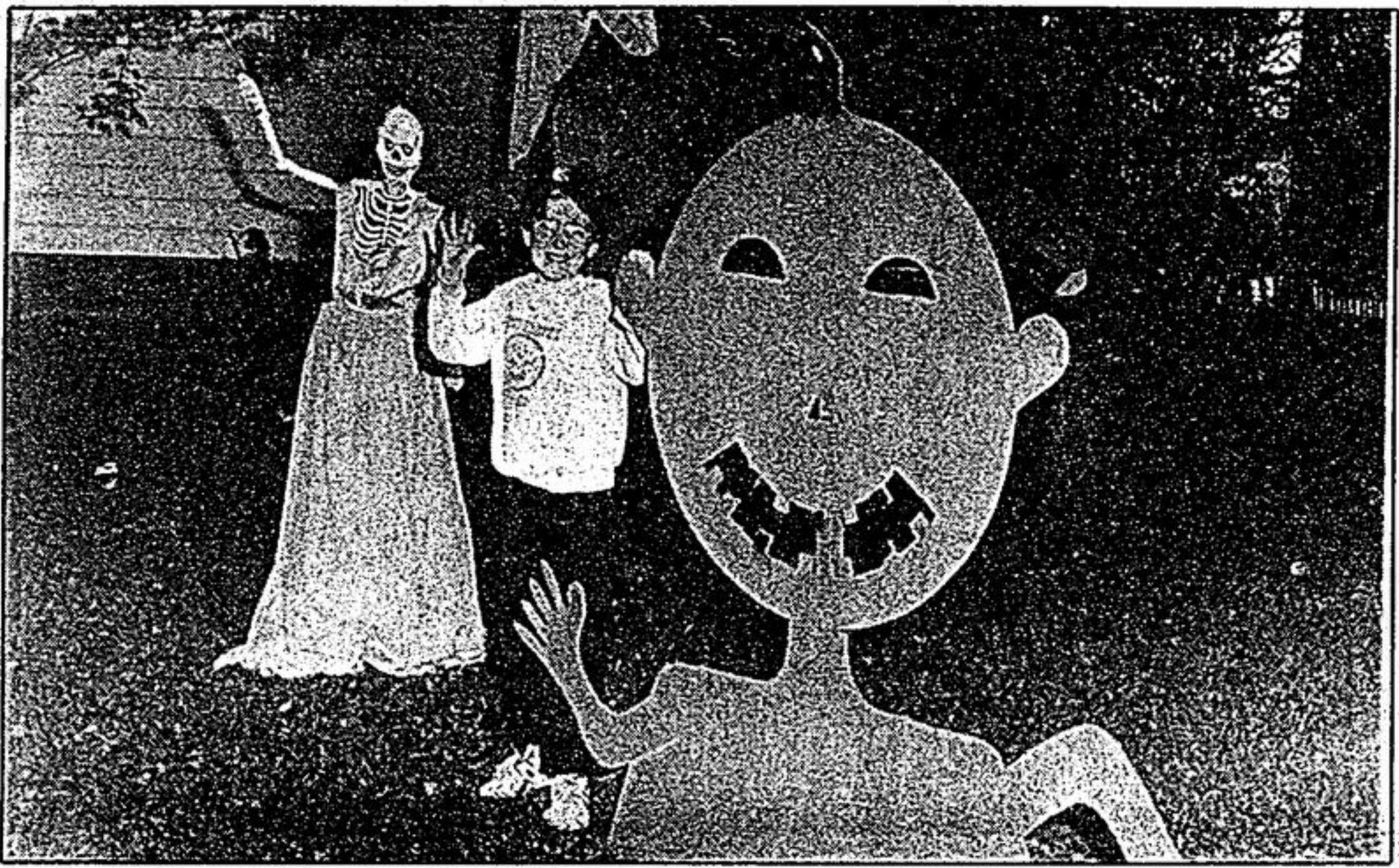
Bob enthusiastically supports the scarecrow campaign.

"We're a small community. We all know each other. It's the right setting for it," he says.

The contest has caught on in a big way. Bob, Wendy and Scott Bell are doing their part.

Claremont residents have taken up a new fall hobby in recent years. They compete to see who can create the most imaginative scarecrow. And there seems to be an abundance of talent in the area. In the top left photo, Wayne and Donna Vanderyagt and their children Tanya, 13, and Shawn 9, display a cops and robbers scene on their lawn while (top right) this scarecrow couple relax on a cutter. The display was created by Patti-Lynn Interiors of Claremont. In the photo above, a wooden scarecrow designed by Bob, Wendy and Scott Bell is on hand to ward off intruders.

Photos/JIM THOMAS



Judgment day nears

Claremont's annual Scarecrow Contest will be judged Oct. 24-29. Close to 50 entries are expected. Five prizes will be offered, all made available by business places within the community. Values follow: First prize, \$100; second prize, \$50; third prize, \$30; fourth prize, \$20 and fifth prize, a round of golf. The most recent edition of Canadian Living carried a full-color photo spread and story under the heading: CLAREMONT - Population 50 Scarecrows. For additional information call 649-2315 or 649-3234.

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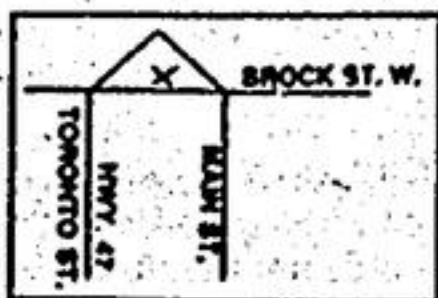
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