

Editor's Mail

Gallery thankful

Dear Editor:
I wish to advise you publicly that The Latcham Gallery was recently the fortunate recipient of a generous donation.

William Souter of Gormley donated \$5,000 to assist with The Gallery's operating expenses for the 1988 fiscal year.

Through The Tribune, we wish to extend a profound thank you to Mr. Souter for his generosity and support of the arts with the intention of promoting culture within Whitechurch-Stouffville.

Appreciation is also expressed to the many volunteers and the membership of The Latcham Gallery for their constant dedication throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Deen Glover,
Co-ordinator,
The Latcham Gallery

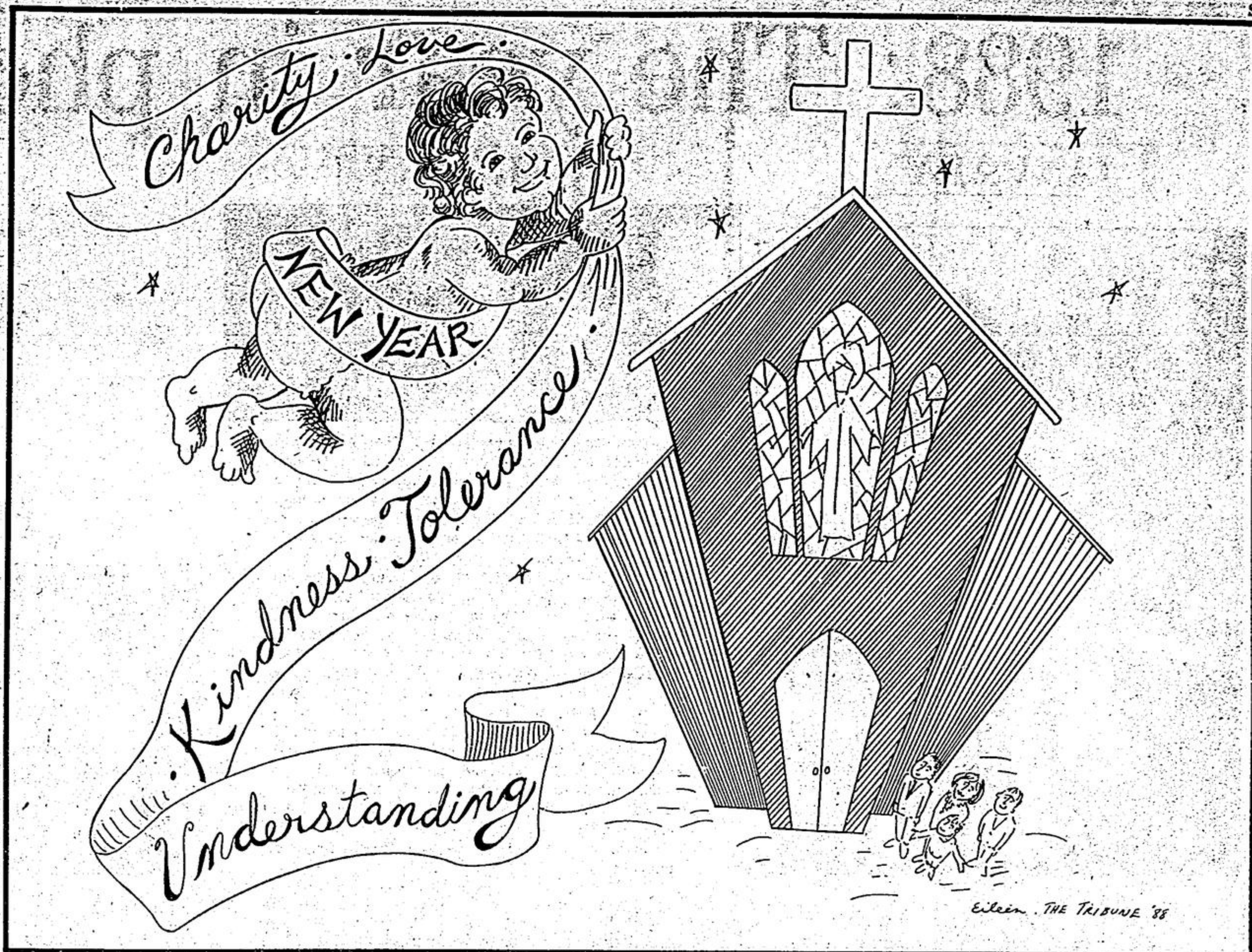
No frills, she says

Dear Editor:
With regard to the editorial, (Dec. 14), 'Junior Kindergarten Called A Frill', I feel you're ill-informed.

There is a great deal of active learning in our Junior Kindergarten classes.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Consuella Tabone,
Stouffville



The Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1888

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GUEST COLUMN

Post Christmas slump hits

By KATE GILDERDALE

It's that nasty time of year again; Christmas is over, the orgy of over-indulgence has added pounds to your waistline and annihilated your life savings, and all that cheerful bonhomie laddled out by everyone from your boss to the bank manager has evaporated into the crisp winter air, to be replaced by an oppressive air of restraint and an alarming lack of ho, ho, ho.

Making New Year Resolutions is a long-standing, if hopelessly optimistic tradition; one that in the self-righteous 1980s may even be obsolete.

Perennial resolutions such as giving up drinking, smoking and over-eating have never been more socially acceptable; it's simply not done to be immoderate these days.

Of course, it's always easier to tell other people how they could improve, rather than going to the trouble of working on your own minor inadequacies.

Now that election year is behind us, and with it the inevitable rhetoric, perhaps our local politicians can stop telling us what they'll do and start telling us when they'll do it (install new traffic lights; build a swimming pool; and announce new affordable housing.)

And how about more parents with children who are in public school, or involved in extra-curricular activities, resolving to lend a helping hand instead of complaining at the outcome of the meeting they were too busy to attend?

Stouffville is a town that prides itself, rightly, on looking after the older members of the community. Nevertheless, many of them are lonely and would appreciate a visit or an offer of

help from a more mobile neighbor.

We all know we haven't time, but isn't it strange how it's the busiest people who can always find that extra hour to help someone out?

The local merchants have lived up to their resolution and given us more reasons to shop at home, with the attractive 'improvements' in the downtown area.

Now it's up to us to shop locally instead of automatically jumping into the car and heading south.

It would be nice to see someone put up visible directional signs for the IGA parking lot in 1989. This may be Canada, where we drive on the right, but the almost-obliterated arrows direct cars to the left, when they enter or exit onto Market Street.

The result is that those who follow the arrows (or what's left of them) often risk a fender bender with those who follow the rules of the road.

And, 1989 might be a good year to stop complaining and show some appreciation for things that are done well. For instance, service definitely seems to be improving at Canada Post, and mail seems to be moving faster, even over the Christmas period. Unfortunately, no one ever appreciates it when things are going smoothly.

Let's keep the spirit of giving and caring alive in the community during the next 12 months. It's not just a matter of donating money; in today's world time is a scarce commodity and many charities are finding it more and more difficult to recruit willing volunteers.

For my own part, I resolve not to lose those spindly bits of paper which have replaced the computer card inside library book, since the advent of the new system.

They tell you the date the book is (or in my case, was) due back. Unfortunately, they're as elusive as a winning streak by the Maple Leafs, mysteriously disappearing as soon as you get them home.

Someone in our house must also resolve to get up earlier on a Tuesday morning to put out the garbage and our shiny new recycling box.

The first week of recycling, we left our newspapers out late on Monday, it rained during the night and the next morning we discovered a sort of paper mache sludge disintegrating into our lawn next to the upturned box.

It's going to be hard, but I'm determined to be polite and helpful in future to the hoards of people who constantly but-tonhole me to ask the way to the sales-barn on Saturday mornings. Next time, I'll restrain my impulse to give them directions to Oshawa.

Also, 1989 will be the year I learn to skate (maybe). As for self-improvement nowadays you can get lost in the tidal wave of people clamoring to be the perfect physical specimen.

We all know resolutions are made to be broken, usually because they demand more effort and self-sacrifice than most of us are capable of, but at least we can say we tried. Just remember as you dig into that forbidden chocolate bar, it's a case of everything in moderation; including moderation.

Editorial

Slowing down can prevent accidents

The holiday season seems to bring much tragedy as well as joy. And, much of that tragedy comes because of needless traffic accidents — especially drinkers who get behind the wheel of a car.

But as bad as drinking and driving is, there are also those who seem to take driving a car or truck lightly. Carelessness seems to be all too prevalent on our streets and highway.

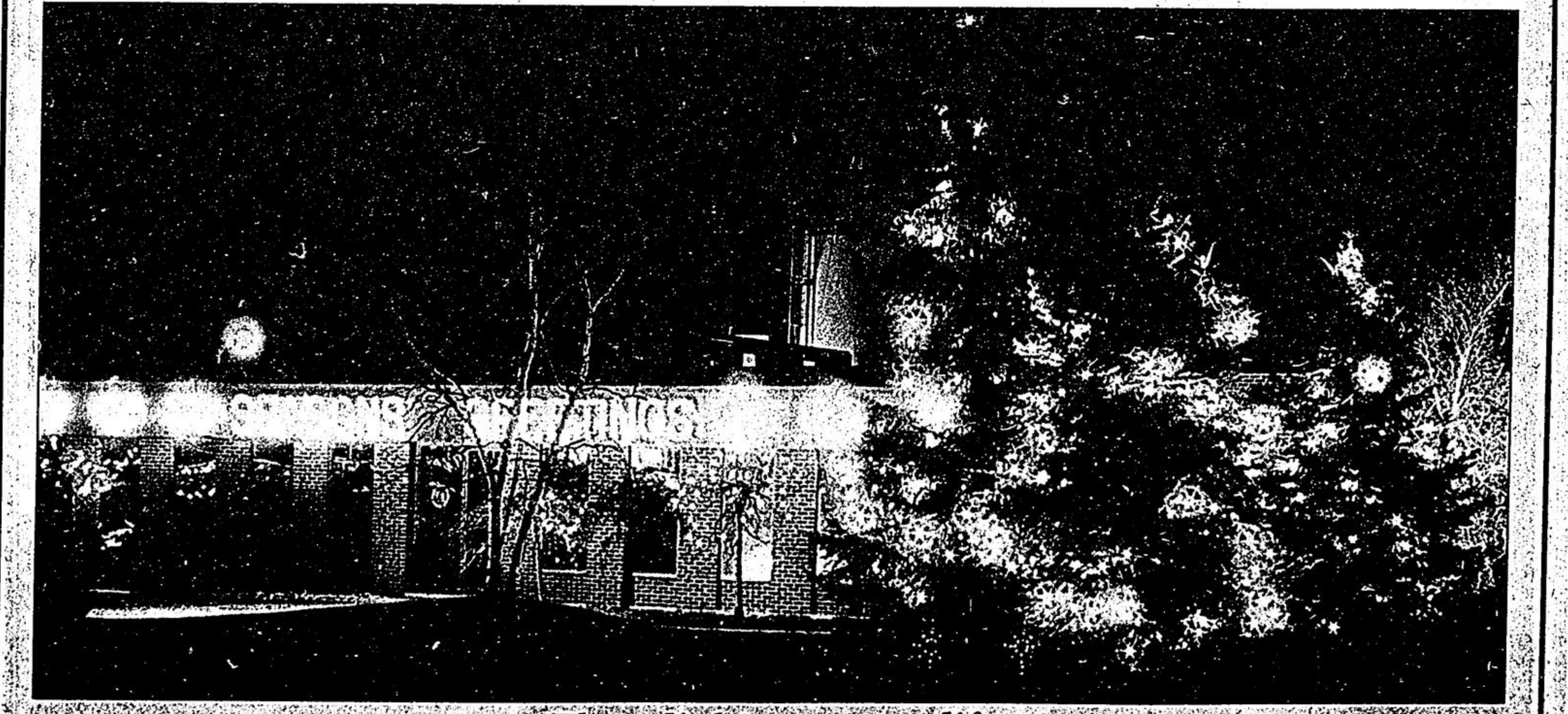
And then there's the drivers who are in too much of a hurry — they take chances, tailgate and generally make life miserable, and sometimes dangerous, for others on the roads.

As traffic increases in the Stouffville area, let's make a New Year's resolution to take things a little easier when we're behind the wheel of a car in 1989.

We'll get there just the same by slowing down and obeying the speed limits — it's better than ending up in hospital or even the cemetery for that matter.

We could all do with taking our time a little more — to stop and smell the roses as the saying goes.

So slow down, keep alert and stay sober when operating a motor vehicle. Our lives depend on it.



They light up your life

Christmas lights are a delight this time of year and Stouffville is graced with many lovely displays — glittering display at Cable Tech — it's a division of Noma a large manufacturer of Christmas lights. — Brent Lowery