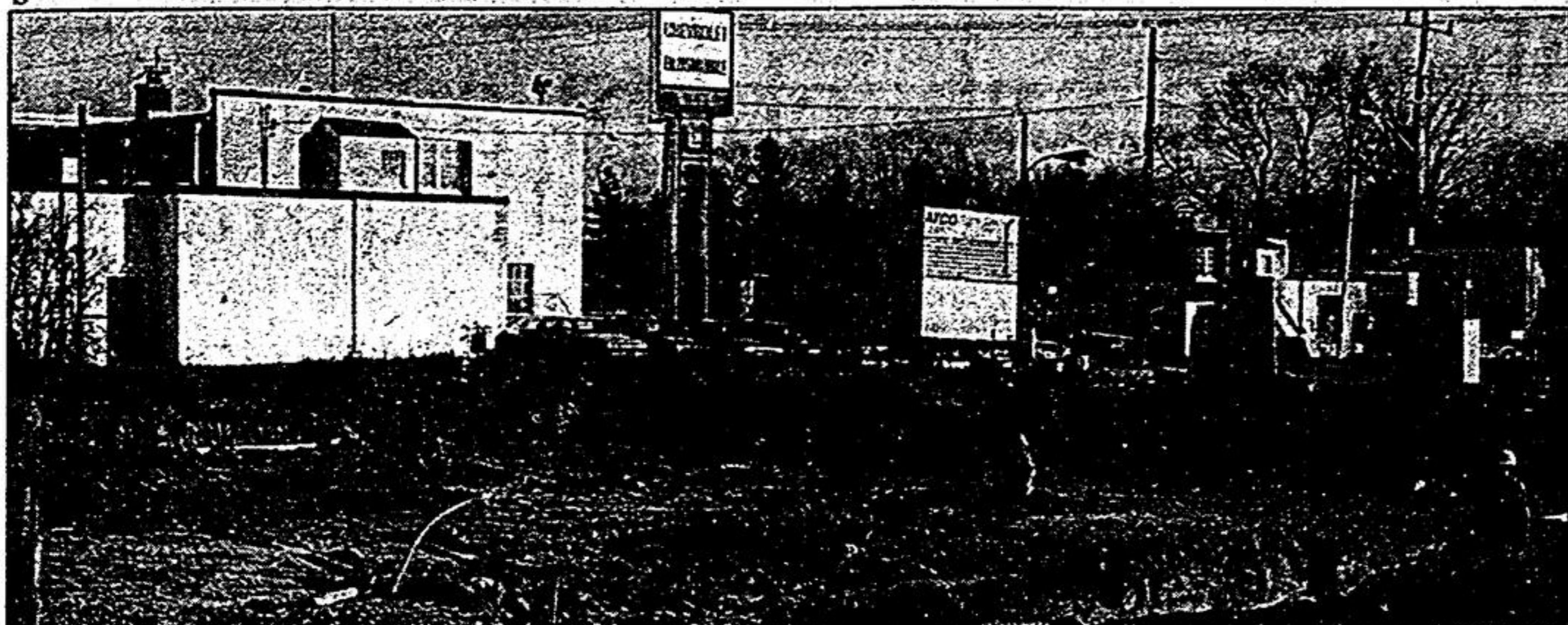


Editor's Mail

Photos irritate mom

Dear Editor:  
I have a complaint, something that's bothered me for years. I hope readers (and merchants) will understand.  
Every Christmas, Santa Claus 'sets up shop' at various locations, (as time permits). This is fine. Invariably, photo sessions accompany these 'visits' with a fee associated with all pictures ordered.  
This is not fine.  
If a parent is given the choice, (photo or no photo), it's not so bad. However, when a picture is taken of each child, mom and dad are put 'on the spot'. It's hard to say no, yet sometimes refusal is necessary.  
There are three ways to handle this: First, no pictures at all. Second, request permission of the parent. Third, make the picture free of charge.  
At Stouffville's Canadian Tire Store, free photos were provided the first 100 kids. This, I considered generous and fair. However, to anticipate payment for every click of the shutter, can be embarrassing. Believe me, I know.  
Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Andrea Collins,  
R.R. 1, Goodwood



Photo/STEVE HOUSTON

New project

The Sunoco gas station at the corner of Winona Dr. and Main St. in Stouffville has been torn down and construction is underway for a new service station. Other stores are also planned for the property.

Obituary

Bob Cornes:  
Character with  
a big heart

Bob Cornes was a wee man with a big heart and a lot of soul. He was a volatile character. He never did anything in a small way. He was intelligent, inquisitive and energetic. Perhaps his greatest asset was his wry sense of humor. Never one to worship at the altar of tradition, Bob's irreverent and razor-sharp wit, carved up many a sacred cow. Unreasonable politicians and bureaucrats who threw obstacles in his path, bore the full force of his fury. More importantly, those less articulate than Bob could always count on him as a ready champion and spokesman. Community-spirited, Bob never hesitated to become involved in the issues of the day. He loved his home, his family, his late mom, 'Granny Grinch' and his friends. He enjoyed taking pictures. He also loved his greenhouse, his garden, (especially his roses), his animals, even his old Jeep and tractor. He was obsessed with knowing how things worked and an intellectual giant when it came to making them work. Bob was a complex personality. He was kind and sensitive but not demonstrative with his affection. He preferred instead to use nicknames as endearments, thus shadowing his more vulnerable, sensitive side. A determined man, he was even known to be impatient and quick-tempered when the universe did not unfold as he thought it should. But those of us who knew him, loved him as much for his holler as for his humor. Few of us who met him, failed to be touched in some way by the emotional electricity of his presence. We are richer for having known him and we'll miss him. From his friends 'Goldie' and 'The Chairman'.

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York Region school caretakers may be on strike on Monday, January 9th. We hope we can avoid this disruption to the school year, but we feel it's only fair to warn parents and students that a strike is a real possibility. Final negotiations to avert a strike will begin January 3rd. We will go into those negotiations 15% behind caretakers in North York and Scarborough schools. The York Region Board of Education is offering 3.5% (well below inflation) and an additional 1% to patch up the difference. That barely begins to close the gap. We do the same job as caretakers in North York and Scarborough schools. And almost two-thirds of our members work in schools just a few blocks or a few miles from North York and Scarborough.

There's just no way to justify the very large difference in our wages. A second major problem is the school board's refusal to provide a long-term disability plan. Most school boards in this area provide LTD plans with premiums paid 100% by the board. We have no protection at all against long-term illness or injury. In fact, the school board is demanding in this round of negotiations the right to dismiss employees who are off sick for a year — even if they can't work due to an on-the-job injury. You can help avoid the disruption a strike would cause by contacting your school board trustee and urging them to reach a settlement that's fair to both employees and parents.

York Region Board of Education Trustees

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