

Community

Close-Up

Recreation enthusiasts get all they need at Stouffville outlet

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent



Spotlight on business

If you've taken a look at Betz Pools while on Main Street West in Stouffville recently, you'll notice that the garden furniture and pool accessories have given way to an impressive selection of billiard tables, dart boards, card tables and other indoor recreation equipment.

This new departure for the company doesn't mean that Betz Pools is less committed to its original clientele though, stresses Ted Bennett.

"We still cater to pool owners 100 per cent, but we felt a need to make the retail end of the store carry over for 12 months of the year, and we also saw a need in town for this type of product," he says.

A billiard or snooker table can cost anything from \$3,500 to \$8,000, explains Mr. Bennett.

"Our top two models are solid oak or mahogany and they range in size from 4'x8' to 6'x12'."

The company also carries tables with oak rails and veneer bases which range from around \$1,600, as well as a wide selection of cues and billiard balls.

For arcade game enthusiasts, the Super Chexx hockey game is hard to resist.

"It comes from the States and it's almost as much fun to watch as to play," he notes. Super Chexx comes complete with sound effects, which include wild cheering when a goal is scored and a "boo" button which can be employed when the wrong team is on a roll.

An electronic scoreboard records goals and keeps time, and, since the game comes from south of the border, players are treated to a somewhat ponderous version of "The Star Spangled Banner" before the puck drops, or in this case, when it pops up onto the "ice."

Other games carried in the store include bumper pool, air hockey and table soccer, and they also offer shuffleboards and handsome dart board sets with a choice of cabinets — some of which are locally made.

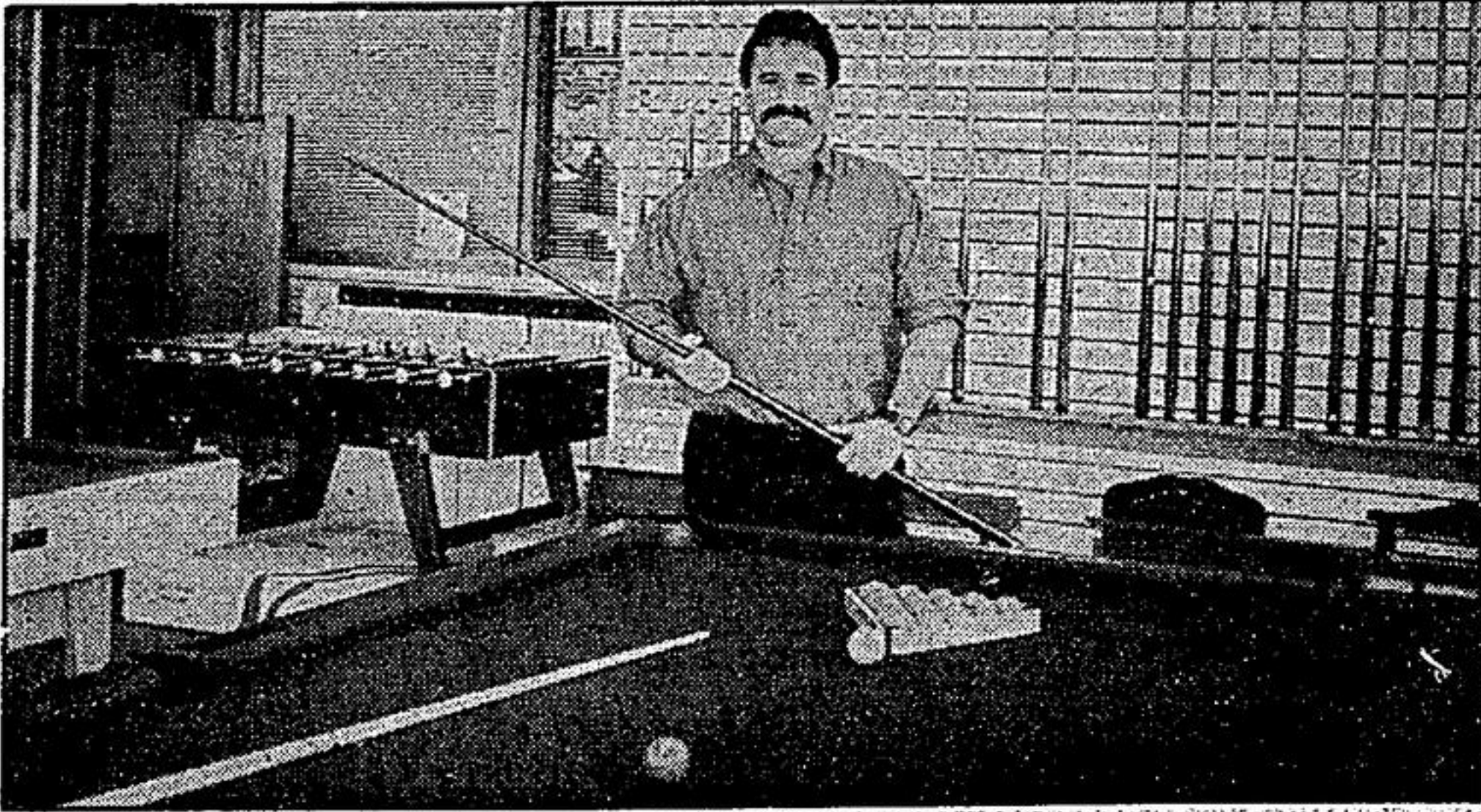
Since opening in October, the store has been doing a brisk business, particularly in the weeks before Christmas, reports Mr. Bennett.

And if you don't see exactly what you're looking for on display, you can look through brochures and Betz will be happy to order it for you.

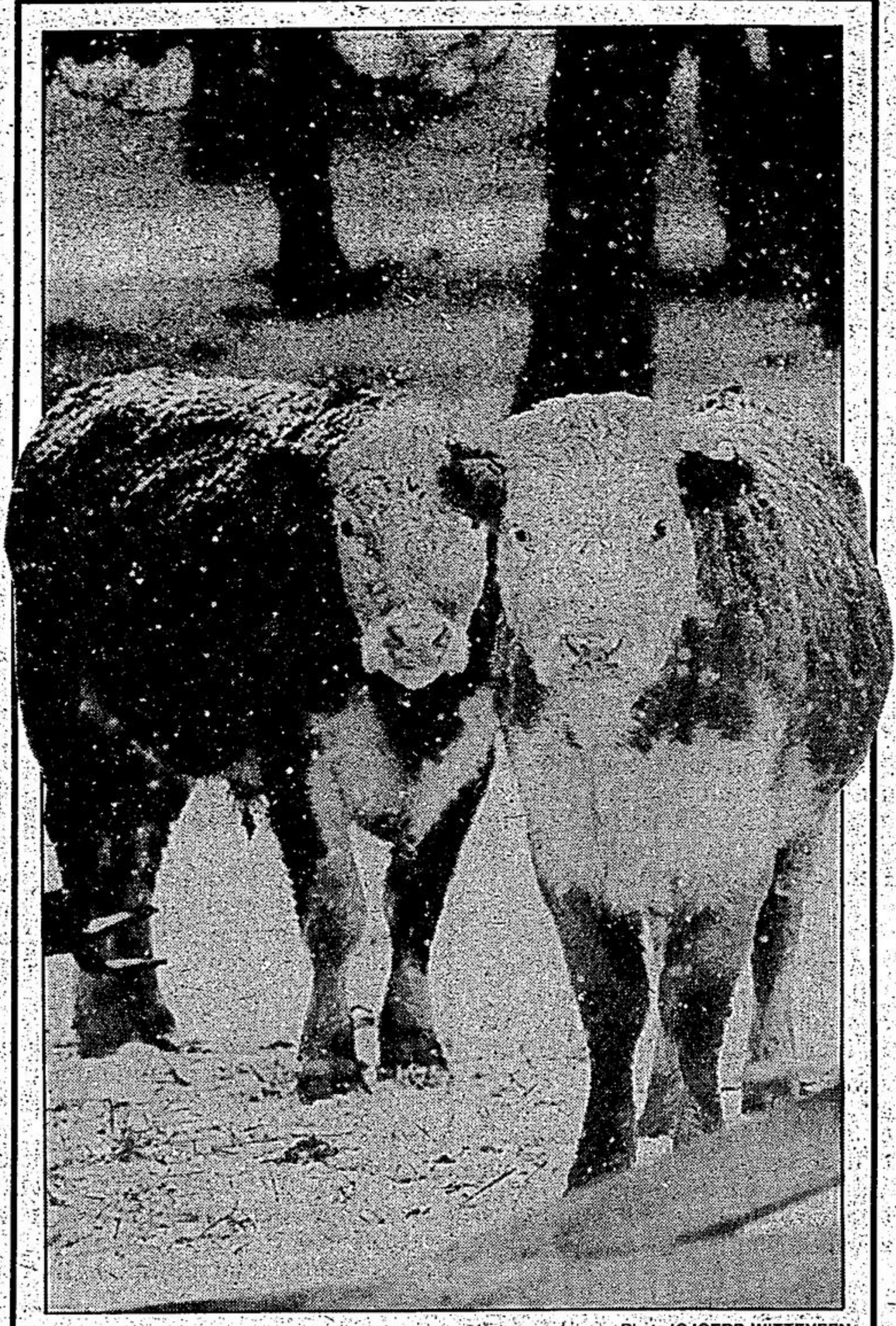
Accessories range from darts and billiard cues to playing cards and rule books, as well as snazzy billiard ball key rings.

While the store will emphasize pool and outdoor accessories during the summer, games room equipment will be available on a year-round basis.

Betz is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 640-1424.



Betz Pools in Stouffville is now into a different type of pool recreation — billiards. Snooker tables and other recreational items are carried in the store and offer leisure activity buffs just about everything they need. But swimming pool owners needn't fear a thing; that end of the business is still very much a part of Betz.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Weather watch

Even though winter came back like a lion in recent weeks, it did little to scare this Stouffville cattle herd. The animals stood silently by as the snow continued to blow around them. The photo was taken in the Dickson Hill community near Hwy. 48.

Claremont's carnival a seasonal success



Photo/ANDRE WOLBERT

Mr. CWC, always a fixture at the annual Claremont Winter Carnival, is honored with the presence of two Snow Queen contestants at last week's event.

A number of events and activities were held throughout the week, and brought the community together for fun and friendship.

CHRIS SHANAHAN
Correspondent

Claremont's United Church Women sure love a parade! For the seventh consecutive year, the UCW entered the best overall float in the annual Claremont Winter Carnival parade held Feb. 17. "The UCW has won top float every year we've held the carnival," says event chairman Shelagh Mulveney. "This year was no exception as they were judged simply the best out of our 20 parade entries."

Other parade prizes went to Whitevale District Residents Association (most original) and Claremont Lions Club (most humorous).

Marla Finn of R.R. 2, Claremont was crowned 1990 Snow Queen during a Feb. 15 pageant at Claremont Community Centre. Her Princesses are Brougham's Monica Miller and Kirstin Nagy of Claremont.

Winners of Claremont Public School's snow sculpture competition, held Feb. 16, are: Primary — green house; Junior — gold house; and Senior — gold house.

A second snow carving contest, featuring six cash prizes of \$50, was held at private homes throughout the north Pickering hamlet.

Winners are: Shawn Nagy, Christine Williams, Al Redshaw, Dean Evans, Tanis Watson and Brandon Smith.

John Clarke hotfooted it down Old Brock Rd. to win the men's open class of the carnival's Claremont Mile run, while Debbie Matic took the women's side. John Voss was the top male 12 and under runner and Jaimie Sanderson was best among the girls. The master's class went to Bruce Larter.

Andy Stenhouse and Patti Barclay won their respective men's and women's events in a cross-country skiing competition held Feb. 18 at the 4 Seasons Country Club. Awards also went to Lindsay Graham in the girl's race; Lindsay Storey and Tim Mulveney in youth; and Lillian Hall and Jack Redshaw in masters.

Les Southby of Claremont won the carnival raffle's top prize of a weekend at the Holiday Inn Downtown, with second prize of a John Richmond painting going to Ted Marshall of West Hill. Third prize of a dhurrie rug — donated by Patti-Lynn Interiors — was won by Claremont's Myrtle Brown.