

Stouffville Tribune

VOL. 102 NO. 51 A Metroland Community Newspaper Wednesday, December 19, 1990 32 Pages 50 cents

Mother outraged

Court tosses out case in fatal crash

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A grieving Stouffville mother feels outraged and cheated by the justice system and wants stiffer fines for drivers involved in fatal car accidents.

Joan Wardley says her rights were violated by the courts after a judge stayed charges Nov. 28 against a man whose mistake at the wheel killed her youngest daughter last Valentine's Day.

"It's outrageous this thing with the courts. People aren't even aware of this. They're trying to clear the courts of backlogged cases, but they shouldn't be clearing major cases," Mrs. Wardley said during an interview at her home last Monday.

"When (Judge David Scott) stayed the charges I went numb. I felt like I was screaming and no one could hear me. I really came unglued," Mrs. Wardley said.

Nearly 6,000 Ontario court cases

have recently been stayed or dismissed because judges claim trials are not being heard within a reasonable time. That, say many judges, is a violation under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms Act, reports show.

But Mrs. Wardley wonders about her and her family's rights.

"The charges were stayed with no evidence heard. It took 15 minutes to dispose of this case. I feel victimized, outraged and like my rights have been violated," Mrs. Wardley said.

Melinda Wardley was killed at Stouffville Sideroad Feb. 14, 1989, when the driver of the car she was a passenger in was hit broadside by a car travelling eastbound at the McCowan Road intersection.

It seemed like any other evening when 20-year-old Melinda and her then 23-year-old sister Nicole jumped into John Damato's car for a drive to Markham for a Swiss

Please see 'Charges' Page 2



MELINDA WARDLEY
Valentine's Day fatality

Stouffville Feeds closing after 100 years of service

Stouffville Feeds is out of business after 100 years of service to Whitchurch-Stouffville and area farmers and residents.

Owner David Low, who took over the business in July, 1988, confirmed Monday the Main Street business is going into receivership.

Mr. Low blames the country's current recession for the company's demise.

"I blame high interest rates and the poor economy. Mulroney is not doing his job. He's just not helping the independent businessman," Mr. Low told the Tribune Monday.

Officially closed for business Dec. 13, the fate of the business is unclear while Mr. Low negotiates with a trustee and a lawyer.

He also said high costs for "back yard farming" needs played a major role in the store's closure.

He said the bank "pulled my line of credit" after reviewing the firm's files.

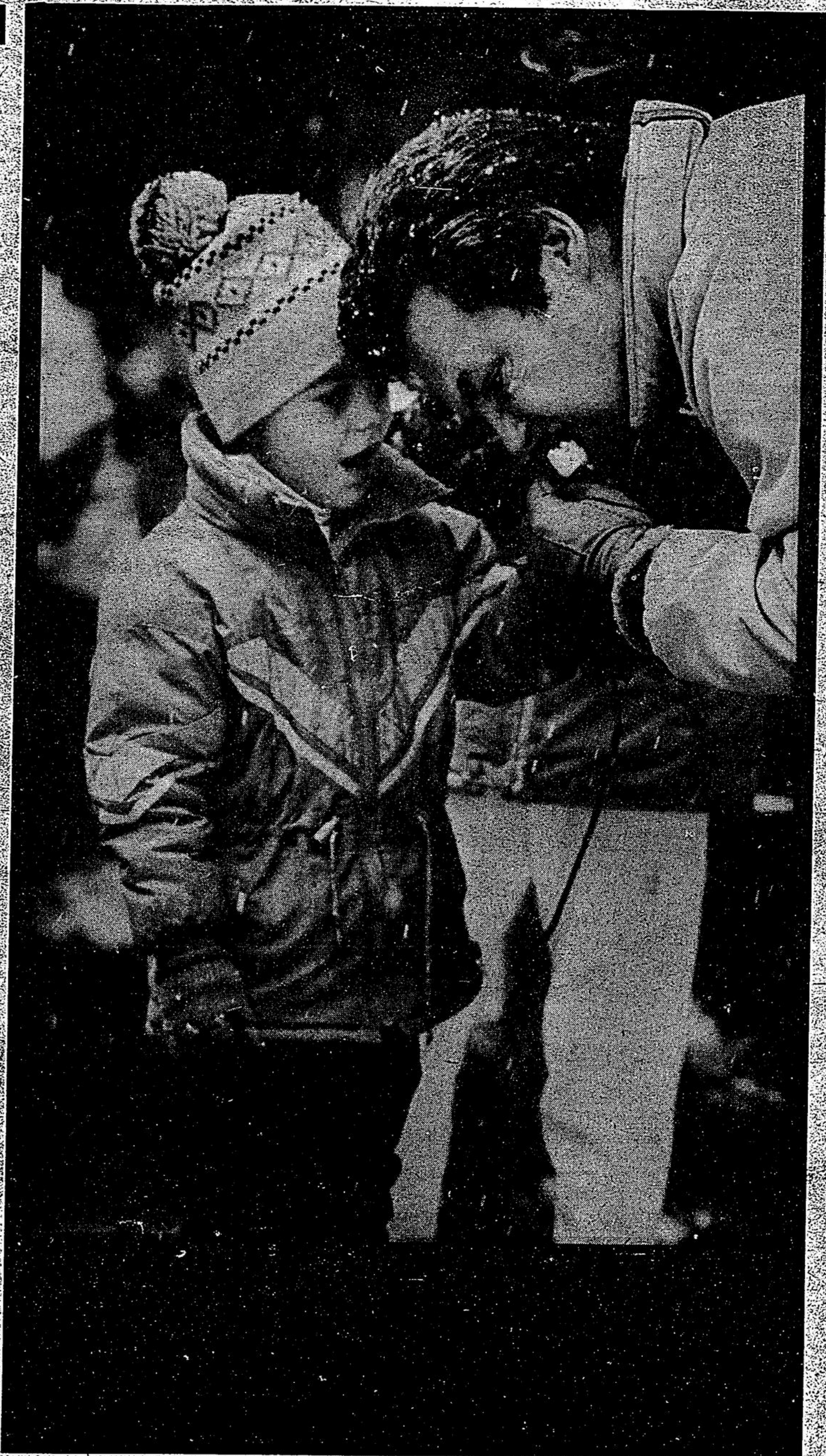
"The government gives money to Co-op businesses but not to independent ones," Mr. Low said.

"For 100 years the Stouffville Feeds has gone through all kinds of trials and tribulations, but it just couldn't handle this," Mr. Low said.

Meanwhile, Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury said she is sorry to see the business go, but admitted it came as no real surprise.

"That's a very old business in town and the owners have served the community for many years. There's not many bona fide farmers left. We used to be a farming community but now we're quite urbanized."

"I feel badly about this," Mayor Sainsbury said.



ONLY SIX
SHOPPING
DAYS LEFT

JOIN PARTICIPATING DOWNTOWN STOUFFVILLE
MERCHANTS FOR AN OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY DEC. 23 FROM NOON TO 4 P.M.

SUPPORT
YOUR
MERCHANTS