

Where did the true spirit of Christmas go?

Dear Editor,

Where has the true Christmas Spirit gone?

Have we lost the real meaning of Christmas or am I too old-fashioned?

I am a senior citizen of this town, born in Markham, started school in this district and knew Stouffville many years ago.

After spending over 40 years out of the province came back six years ago and chose this lovely town in which to end my time on earth.

While away from the district, I kept up with the local news as for many years we received the local papers regularly.

Frequently Stouffville was mentioned as the town of churches. While there are still many churches in the district I have not as yet got an exact number.

After spending at least an hour on the phone I got figures from seven to 27. I have two lovely publications in front of me, Senior's Directory and Whitchurch-Stouffville Living, but neither one lists churches or even mentions them. Do I have to assume that this is no longer a town of churches or church people.

Coming back to this town

EDITOR'S MAIL

just before Christmas, I was really thrilled when walking down the street to hear carols being boomed out from loud-speakers that were hung overhead on posts.

These were greatly enjoyed for a few years, but then they were silent. This disturbed me so much I phoned the town office and was told that such expense was no longer in their budget.

This I could not understand. The next year I was told that the B.I.A. had assumed the responsibility for the street decorations including carols during the Christmas season. Last year I was pleased to hear some music again but when strolling down two days before Christmas this year failed to hear one note of Christmas music that many of us seniors enjoy so much.

Once again I phoned the town office asking questions.

The girl who answered was very nice but admitted that she had not noticed the absence of the carols.

While she could not give me a reason, she took my number and the very next day, which was Christmas Eve, the mayor herself called, and I was told again that the B.I.A. was responsible.

She evidently checked with them and told me that they were now on. While that was quite late in the season, I do thank Mayor Sainsbury for acting so promptly.

Since I do not get around town as much as the younger folk, I wondered how many Nativity scenes were in front of the churches or even at private homes. I checked with a friend who in her work covers the town thoroughly and was told that she had not seen even one Nativity scene.

I wonder if that man in North York who had used no less than 8,000 bulbs included anything in his display to even give a hint of what Christmas really means or should mean.

To conclude, I want to quote a

message I received from an 11 year old girl Nov. 23, over a month before Christmas.

She says, "I am writing this from Michigan where we are enjoying, Christmas Wonderland. This is a place of Christmas shopping open 361 days a year. We were overwhelmed by the decorations that stood sky high. I started to count the Nativity scenes but gave up at 60. Everything had a touch of

Christmas. Even snowflakes painted on the parking lot."

Now my question is, why should that place in a nearby state have so much and we in this town of churches have nothing.

Or am I too old fashioned? I just wonder, where has the true Christmas Spirit gone.

Name withheld
Stouffville

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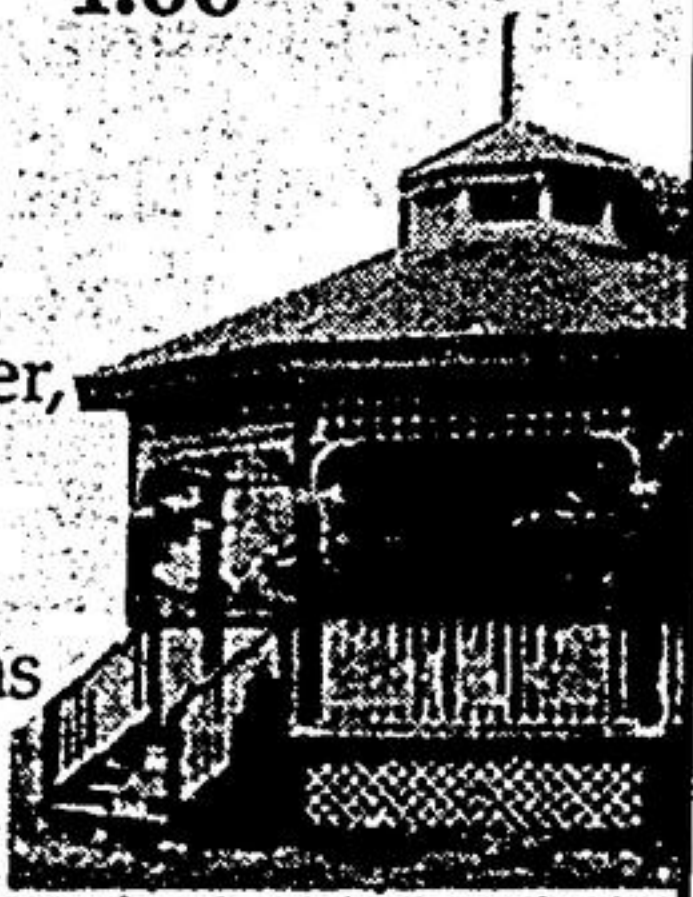
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