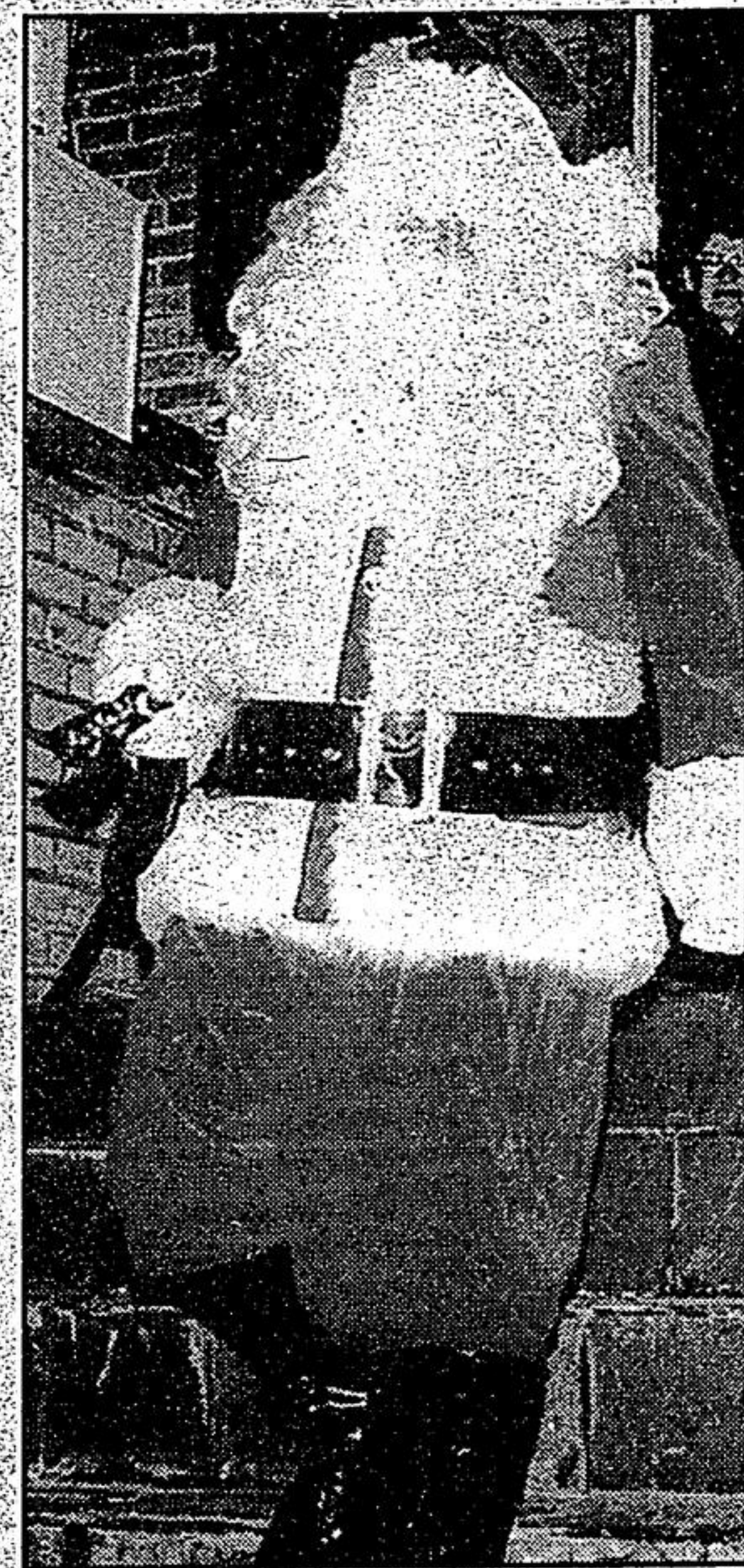




The festival has plenty for everyone — choirs singing Christmas Carols (left) as well as other entertainment, in-house specials and Santa (below) who lights the Christmas Tree and visits with all the boys and girls



to begin an evening of fun, music and magic," said Flaxman.

■ Please see page 15 ■



Alex LaSalle's Petting Zoo is a festival favourite and will make an appearance again this year.

## Festival of Lights Get into the Christmas Spirit

LISA CARTWRIGHT  
Features

You know Christmas is just around the corner when Markham's Business Improvement Area hosts their annual Festival of Lights November 28.

The 13th annual celebration is the town's first taste of the holidays and one many people don't want to miss, said Mary Flaxman, manager of the BIA.

"It's a tradition. (People) come every year. It gets them in the holiday spirit."

From 6 pm to 10 pm, people can stroll along the Main Street-Markham — decorated for the holidays — browse through the stores that are brimming full of merchandise, listen to the entertainers, sam-

ple roasted chestnuts and warm their tummies with hot chocolate and hot apple cider.

**Opening ceremonies begin at 6:30 pm**

The Town Crier will call the over 5,000 people excepted at the festival, to the corner of Main Street and Robinson Street. After the mayor greets the crowd, the three winners of the window decorating contest will be announced. (Each of the Main Street merchants are encouraged to decorate their windows with the theme Angels in the Village. The windows are judged by three local community members a couple days before the festival.)

Then Santa arrives.

"Santa lights the tree



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