

The best choice is here!



Ken Prentice
Merry Christmas
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Carol Clements
MONEY CONCEPTS
The Money Management People
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Letters to the
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Turkey deal gone bad

A local meat store was forced to cancel 400 turkey orders after problems with Maple Leaf Poultry shipment.

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The owners and staff of Harpers Fresh Meats in Stouffville have done little else but talk turkey for days.

Over the weekend, about 400 Harper customers were notified that their turkey orders couldn't be filled as promised.

Linda Fretz, spokesman for

Harpers, said despite the fact that the store owner had placed the order a month ago and made arrangements to give suppliers, Maple Leaf Poultry, a certified cheque for \$13,000, the shipment of 400 turkeys failed to arrive at the Main Street business Friday.

With so many customers banking on placing a turkey on the table on Christmas day, store co-owner Ken Harper called Maple Leaf.

Fretz said her boss was told his store was being put on a "waiting short list" and that the best Maple Leaf could do was "substitute the Grade A birds with utilities."

Substituting Grade A birds with utilities is common in the poultry industry, said Anthony Stiteri, director of marketing for Maple Leaf Poultry.

Utilities are birds with such deficiencies as missing limbs or a tear," explained Fretz.

Fretz said Harpers was assured that the utility birds to be shipped to Stouffville would "only have missing wing tips," said Fretz.

Stiteri, however, disputes this. He said the company could not guarantee a "missing wing tip" promise. On Saturday morning, the Harper's turkey shipment arrived. "Instead of missing wing tips, a large quantity of the birds were mutilated," said Fretz.

The birds were in such bad shape that customers after customer started to back away. "Many don't want the birds," said Fretz.

"Every time the phone rings, it's a cancellation."

As well, people who ordered

hams with their turkeys are cancelling both.

Harpers estimates the profit loss to be about \$7,000.

Not only is it a financial hit for the store, it's a great inconvenience to the customer, said Fretz.

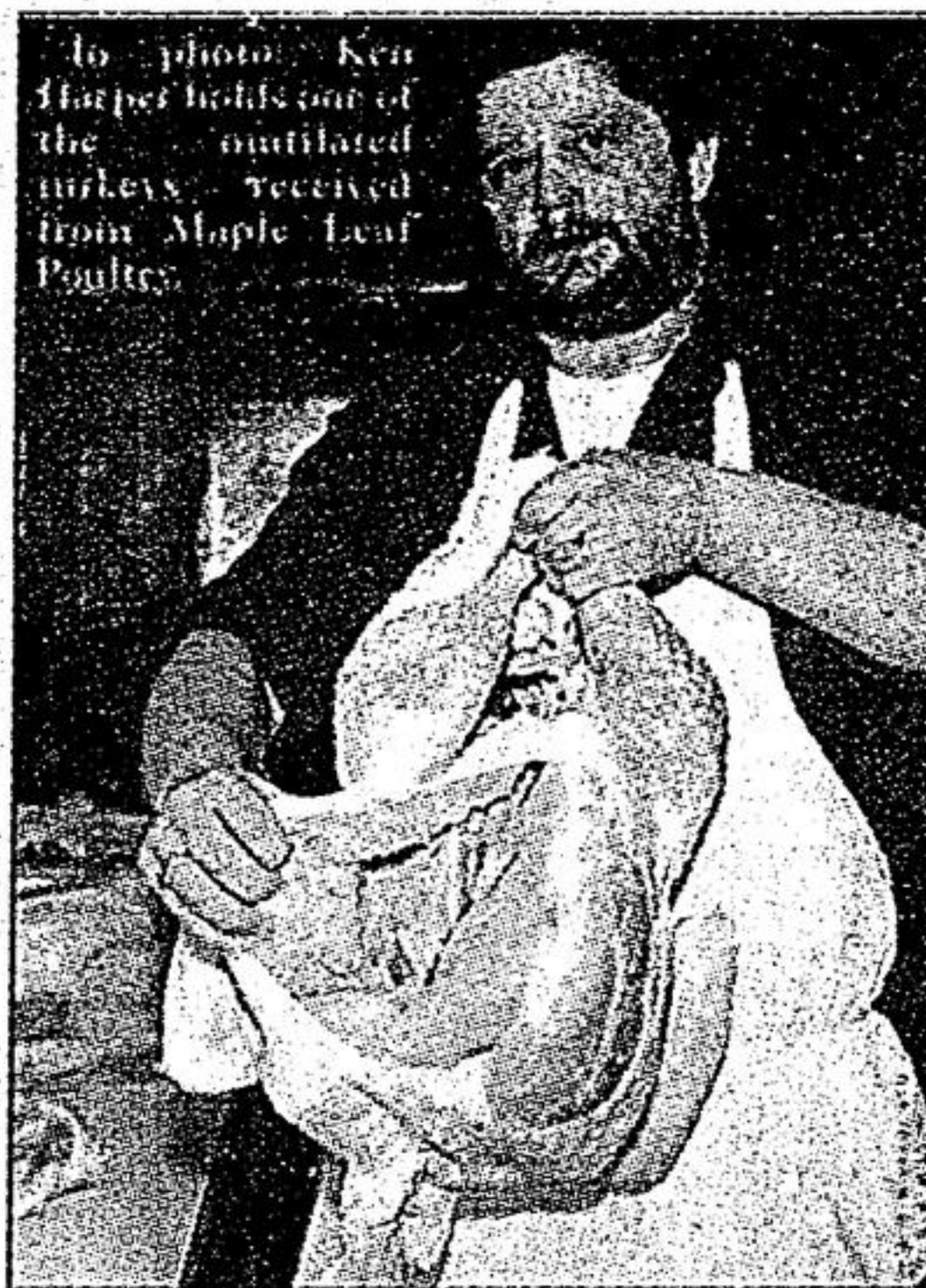
"It's very disappointing for everyone," she said. "People placed orders for Grade A birds and we can't fill them."

Since the order from Harpers was placed a month ago, the owner was sure all was well, said Fretz.

There are no absolutes in the poultry business, stressed Stiteri.

"Not everyone gets their quotas filled," he said.

As well, some orders are placed "a year in advance," Stiteri added.



Police seek witnesses to crash

POLICE

Police are seeking witnesses to a Friday night accident in Stouffville that seriously injured a Scarborough woman.

Ontario Provincial Police reported that the accident took place on Highway 7, west of the Ninth Line at 9:05 p.m.

Police constable Barb Spoelstra explained that the accident took place when a 1997 Chev Cavalier, driven by Patricia Vanalstire of Scarborough, was on the shoulder eastbound on Highway 47 when it made a U-turn into the path and struck a 1992 Pontiac Grand Am. Vanalstire was admitted to Markham-Stouffville Hospital with serious injuries, while Scarborough resident Kathleen Wilson, a passenger in the Cavalier, and Ferdinands of Newmarket were both treated for minor injuries and released.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department also responded to the accident. Anyone who witnessed the accident is asked to call Constable Spoelstra at (905) 841-5777.

Garage destroyed in blaze

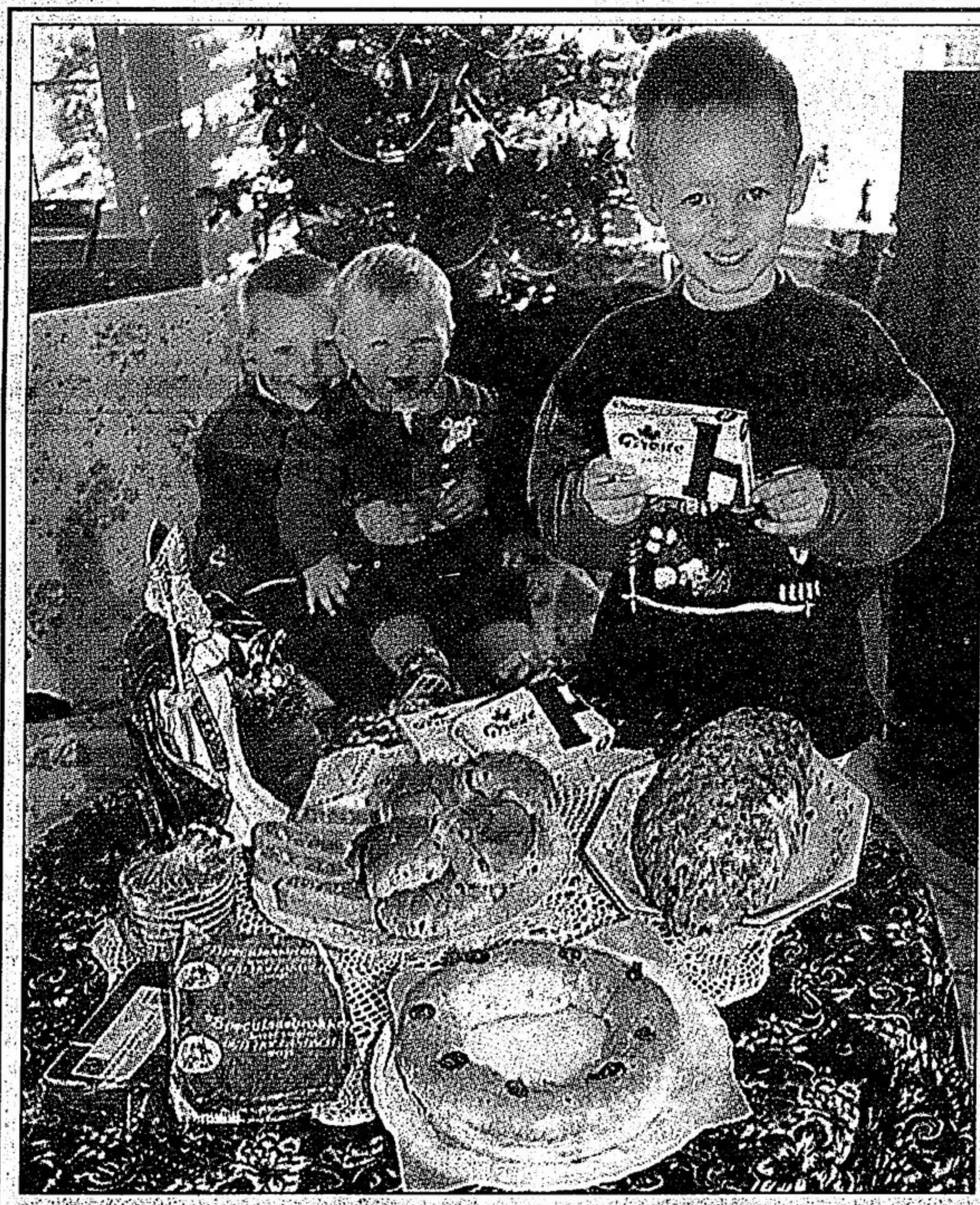
Firefighters managed to save a house in Gormley Sunday night after fire destroyed a large garage on the property.

Whitchurch-Stouffville fire chief Bill Brown said the garage was engulfed when firefighters arrived at the rented property located at Woodbine Avenue, south of Stouffville Road.

"It was a large garage. We kept it away from the house," said the fire chief.

While cause of the fire has not been determined, auto repairs were being carried out in the building, said Brown.

Financial loss will be determined when the owner is located.



DUTCH TREATS: Peter, 4, Thomas, 1, and Bart Bouwmeister, 5, get set to enjoy dutch treats at the home of their Aunt and Uncle John and Cathy Bouwmeister in Lemonville. Some of the treats are: Kersbrood, almond paste-filled Kerstring, Krentebollen (raisinbuns), Amandelvingers (almond fingers), chocolate letters, Speculaas, and Stroopwafels (Double waffles with syrup).
Photo by STOERD WITTEVEN

Bell plans to improve service

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Stouffville and Toronto.

Local residents aren't the only ones benefiting from the change: Bell Canada announced that it is implementing plans to improve service for more than 6.8 million customers in Ontario and Quebec.

The company will invest \$200 million to modernize its telecommunication technologies and services to expand local calling areas and to eliminate mileage charges as well.

A plan is in the works to expand local telephone call services for Stouffville, Markham and Uxbridge, Bell Canada announced Friday.

In two years time, residents of Markham and Uxbridge will be able to call each other toll-free.

As well, at the end of 1999, toll free telephone calling will come into effect for residents of Uxbridge,

■ Please see page 3 ■

@random

Get pumped up!

■ Concerned with the rising prices of gasoline?

Now is the time to let the government know how you feel. Bryon Wilfert, MP for the area is holding meetings with The Liberal Committee on Gasoline Pricing and the public at Latcham Gallery (in the Stouffville Public Library, 6249 Main Street) on Tues. Jan. 6 from 7-9 p.m.

The committee mandate is to examine all aspects of the oil industry that have a direct impact on the pricing trends.

The committee was established out of the concern and frustration by Canadians across the country this past summer by the sudden and significant increase in the price of gasoline.

Dan McTeague, MP for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge (committee chair) and Judi Longfield, MP for Whitby-Ajax will be in attendance. The meeting is designed to hear delegations and depositions from the public regarding this issue.

Various issues

Wilerf stated that "the committee has been examining various issues such as operations and procedures within the oil industry, wholesale and retail gasoline pricing, refining, gasoline exports, various federal, provincial legislation, consumer protection and any other issues the committee has deemed appropriate."

The committee has met with representatives from the major oil companies and independent retailers, consumer groups and government officials.

Wilerf indicated that upon conclusion of its deliberations the committee will, in consultation with the Liberal Caucus Economic Development Committee report its findings along with any specific recommendations to the National Liberal Caucus.



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Season's Greetings!
Have a wonderful New Year

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Monday - Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	Sunday/Closed
Service • Repairs • Brakes • Tires • Wash • Wax	
RETAIL STORE	8:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday	8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	
Stouffville • 1080 Main Street	