

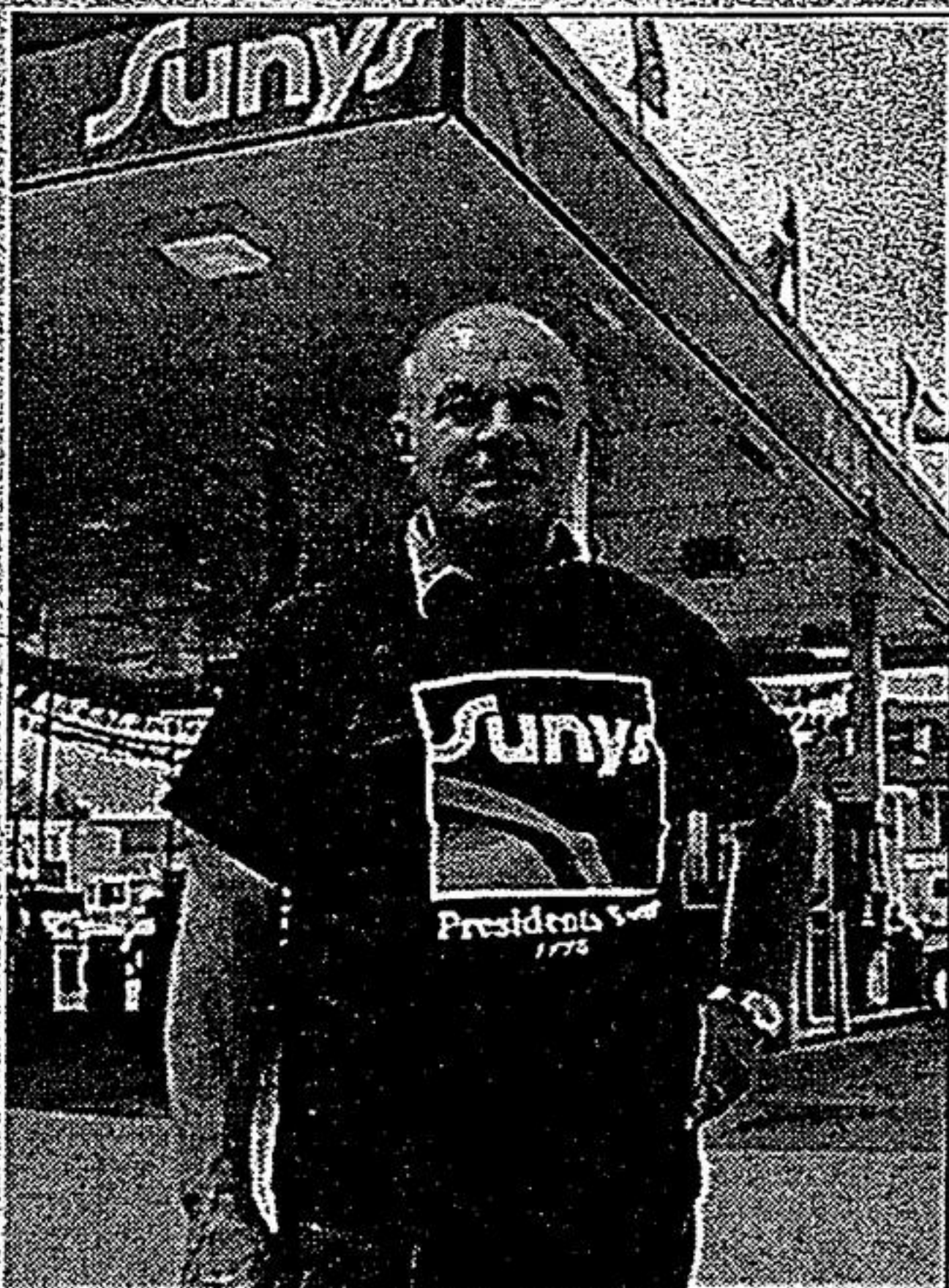
Station owner fights giants in gas price wars

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

From his office window, Sunys station owner John Guizzetti can watch drivers pull off Yonge Street and up to his pumps. Today, as on most days, he sees every car his employees serve as money he has lost, not gained.

Guizzetti is selling gas at 50.4 cents a litre, but his cost is 49.9 cents — not enough profit to cover wages, never mind expenses.

He has no choice: his closest competitors — one a Petro-Canada mega-station sporting 18 pumps, a car wash and a full-sized grocery store with selections of coffee, muffins, magazines and newest of all, cigars — are both selling at 50.4.



John Guizzetti stands in front of his Yonge Street station. Photo by MIKE ADLER

To sell even a few 10ths of a cent higher would drive Guizzetti's customers away.

"If I sell more product, I work for nothing," he said from behind his desk this week.

He's owned the station just north of Hwy. 7 in Richmond Hill since 1959, and the last three years have been the worst.

During that time, York Region's consumers have enjoyed the lowest prices for gas — the product itself, without taxes — since the 1970s.

Local motorists see a cycle of price wars and irritating sudden jumps. But independent station owners like Guizzetti see a merciless campaign by major oil

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David Barry, President of Stouffville Co-op, holds up a 14K gold, 63ct diamond ring that will be a silent auction item by the Stouffville Lions Club. The funds raised will go toward a proposed pavil-

lion shelter to be constructed in the town park. David Barthau, president of the Lions Club, adjusts the ring.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

Co-op donates prize ring for Lion's draw

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

The old saying, "What goes around, comes around" has been proven once again.

In February, the Stouffville Co-op was the lucky winner of a raffle held by the local Lions Club. The prize was a \$5,000 diamond ring.

The Co-op board decided that the Lions Club could further benefit the local community by using the ring as the prize in yet another fundraiser.

The Stouffville Lions Club, thrilled with the gesture, will hold a silent auction for the diamond ring.

"We would like to contribute all proceeds from the auction to our picnic shelter project," said Lions

president David Barthau.

The silent auction got under way today (Tuesday) and will carry on until June 27.

The ring will be on display in the front window at Barthau Jewelers for the next two weeks. There will be a special showing on June 25 at the Lions' beef barbecue.

Entry ballots will be available at the Main Street Bank of Nova Scotia during business hours.

The highest current bid will be posted daily above the ring display.

"We are very pleased and excited to be granted this opportunity by the Stouffville Co-op to provide additional resources for our town's development and look forward to a lively auction for the ring," said Barthau.

Council to get pay raise

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A seven-year wage freeze for Whitchurch-Stouffville council has been thawed.

Whitchurch-Stouffville politicians granted themselves a \$1,500 pay hike this week.

The wage package includes \$1,500 retroactive to January of '98, \$1,000 as of January '99 and \$500 as of January 1, 2000.

It means a local councillor's salary goes from \$12,240 to \$13,640 with a \$1,043 car allowance. Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmer-

son's annual income goes from \$20,806 to \$22,306 with a \$3,650 car allowance.

Emmerson also earns \$22,640 as a member of York Regional Council for a total of \$48,596.

The last time Whitchurch-Stouffville council got a raise was in 1991.

Golf carts stolen from Maples

Two golf carts, valued at \$9,000, were stolen from a Stouffville golf course on the weekend.

Officials of the Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club reported the theft to York Regional Police on June 13.

The carts were housed in a fenced-in compound at the golf course located on Hwy. 48.

Police are investigating the theft.

Cigarettes taken
The low cost of cigarettes didn't deter a theft at a

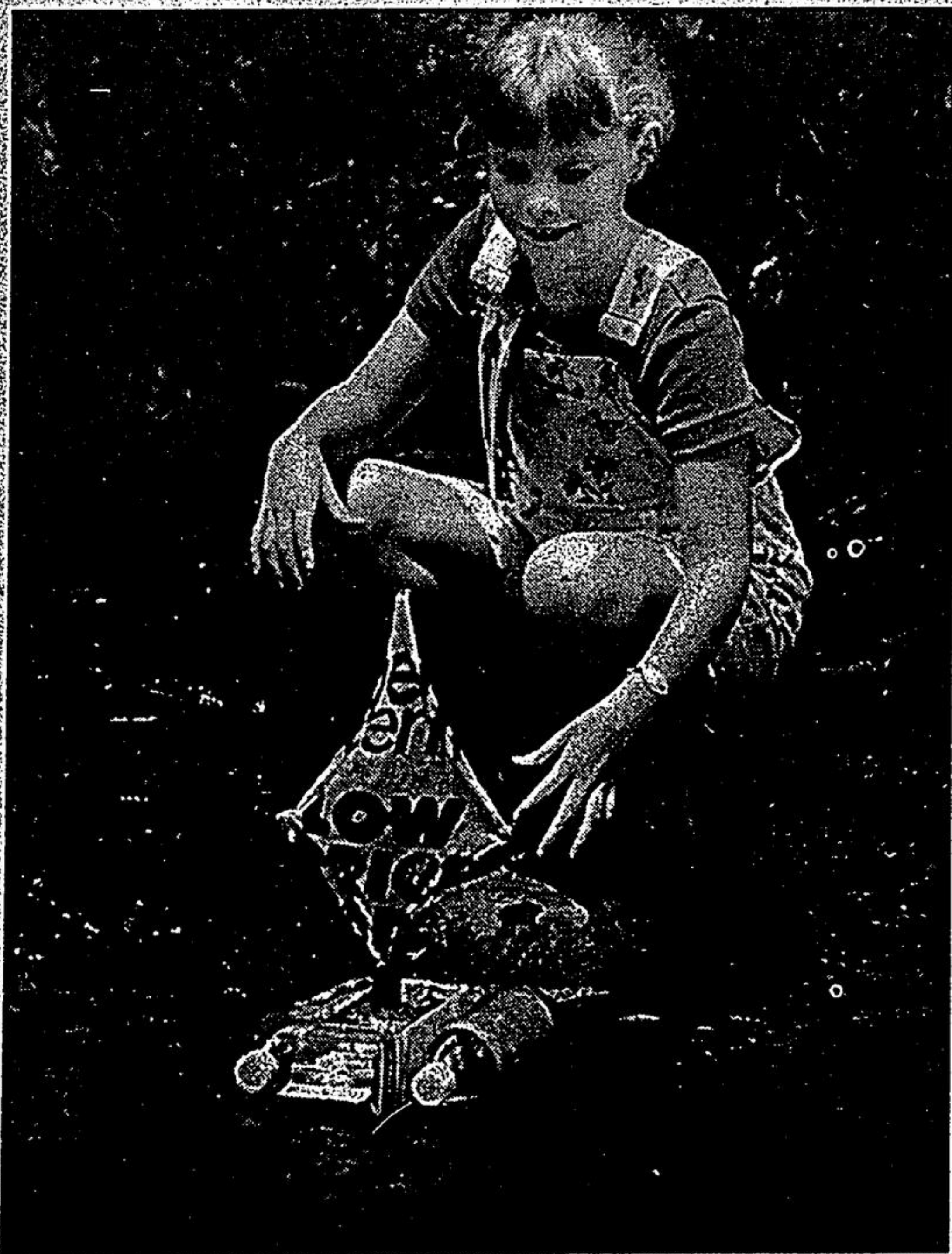
POLICE

local business over the weekend.

York Regional Police reported that \$70 worth of cigarettes were stolen from Just Fix-It on June 13.

Entry to the Aurora Road business was made by smashing a glass door.

Police are investigating the theft.



BOAT LAUNCH: Jessica Reynolds, 9, a student at Willowgrove school in Stouffville, launches her homemade boat from a rock in the stream behind the school on Tuesday as part of student boat races to celebrate the last day of school. Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN