

## Lights contest winner not done yet

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Thousands of colourful Christmas lights lovingly arranged by Roy Bartell all over his house and yard earned him first place in Stouffville's 13th annual outdoor Christmas display contest — for the second year in a row.

Reindeer pulling Santa in his sleigh swoop over the scene created by almost 19,000 colourful bulbs, festooned over trees, shrubs and railings at the 6 Geoffrey Cr. home.

Four winners were selected from this year's 12 entries. The second place winner was the Jacobs family at 67 Geoffrey Cr., third place was earned by the Hetheringtons at 263 Loretta Cr. with Marc Cussion at 7 Spring St. coming in fourth. The winners received cash prizes ranging from \$150 for the grand prize to \$25 for fourth place.

The contest is sponsored by the Stouffville Lions Club, along with the Stouffville Tribune and the Stouffville Sun and Noma Cable Tech.

This year's display was just a stepping stone for Mr. Bartell towards the fully computerized animated display with around 45,000 Christmas lights he hopes to have ready in two years. He wants to create a show set to music, lasting about 15 minutes each time. Using animation should actually drop his hydro costs, Mr. Bartell said, because the lights aren't all on at the same time. The Stouffville resident exchanges ideas with other members of an association of Christmas light designers.

The Bartells have been using their light display to raise funds for Dog Guides Canada at P.O. Box 907, Oakville, Ont., L6J 5E8. They spent many months socializing their little puppy Minden for eventual training as a hearing ear dog. But after Minden got to Oakville for further dog guide training, she failed her physical due to hip displacia. The Bartells decided to adopt her for good, and they haven't ruled out socializing another dog for the Dog Guide program sometime in the future.



JESSICA BURROWS: Stouffville ballerina making debut in National Ballet's Nutcracker.

## Ballerina meets hometown idol

BY KRISTIN MACKEY  
Special

Jessica Burrows' dedication and commitment to ballet is beginning to pay off.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville resident — who started dancing at 4 years old — is performing for the first time in the National Ballet of Canada's The Nutcracker at the Hummingbird Centre until Jan. 2.

Jessica, 12, was thrilled when she was chosen to be in the production and began practicing in October. She plays three characters: a child in a poor family, a unicorn and a courtier.

Her dream came true when she met her favourite ballerina — and past Stouffville resident — Stephanie Hutchison who plays the snow queen in the show.

"One day I'd like to be a principle dancer," said Jessica, who wants to continue dancing for as long as she can.

At three years old, she started figure skating lessons and then moved on to tap and ballet dancing. With the support of her family, Jessica continued to pursue ballet training.

In 2000, she was accepted at the National Ballet School in Toronto. Now in her third year, she lives at the school for most of the year and comes home on weekends.

"As well as school, we do a two-hour ballet classes every day," said Jessica, who also does other forms of exercise classes.

For tickets, call 416-345-9595.

## FACING UP TO SANTA CLAUS



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Seven-year-old Erin Godown resorts to making a funny face to try and get little brother Adam, 3, to smile for a photo with Santa during Whitchurch District Girl Guides Breakfast with Santa event at Ballantrae Community Centre. Hopefully, the Godown kids received what they asked for yesterday from Santa.



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