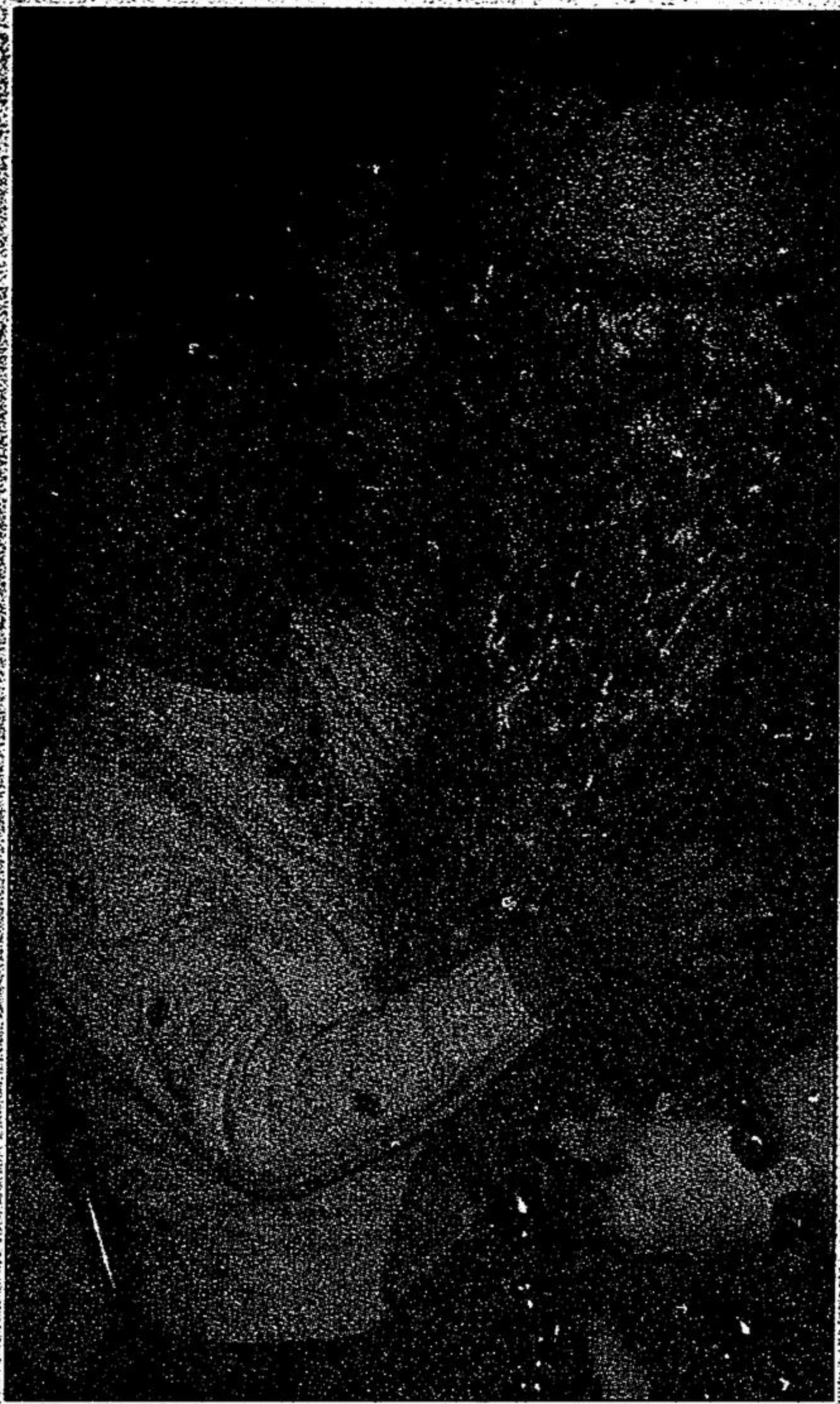


## Santa turns tables

A surprised Margaret Fitzpatrick had Santa Claus sit on her knee when he visited the annual Ballantrae seniors dinner and Christmas party Nov. 28. Around 100 seniors enjoyed dinner and entertainment at the event hosted by the Ballantrae and District Lions Club. The Ballantrae Guides helped out at the event, held at the Ballantrae Community Centre.



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

## 'NOSYRB' scam new to police, Star

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

A scam may have made its way into Stouffville just in time for the holiday season.

A Stouffville resident recently found a Christmas card inside his *Toront Star* asking for funds to be sent to the "NOSYRB Fund" in lieu of a Christmas gift for his newspaper carrier.

### WEEK-OLD NEWSPAPER

The newspaper that landed at the end of the resident's driveway last Thursday was more than a week old.

Although the carrier's correct name was used on the card, the message asking for funds was scrawled in an amateurish fashion.

The message added both Visa and Mastercard were acceptable and contained a phone number.

There was no response when *The Stouffville Sun-Tribune* tried to contact the

phone number.

The resident actually called his carrier and the carrier gave us a call," said York Region Police Const. Carline Young.

Morris Greener, *The Toronto Star's* circulation manager for the Greater Toronto Area, said he had not heard about the problem or any similar incidents and is looking into the matter.

Residents who find this type of message with their newspaper should call York Region Police at 905-881-1221, ext. 7500.

"We will try to track down who sent it," Const. Young said.

People should be particularly alert to scams during the Christmas season when many are in a giving mood.

"A person who is retired or elderly seems to be taken in by frauds more easily," Const. Young explained, "and a lot of people don't report these

things."

Credit card numbers should be closely guarded and given out only to reputable companies, warned York Region Police spokesperson Const. Steve Morrell.

"Credit card fraud happens very frequently."

He added at certain times of the year, such as Christmas, people phone to solicit funds for bogus companies.

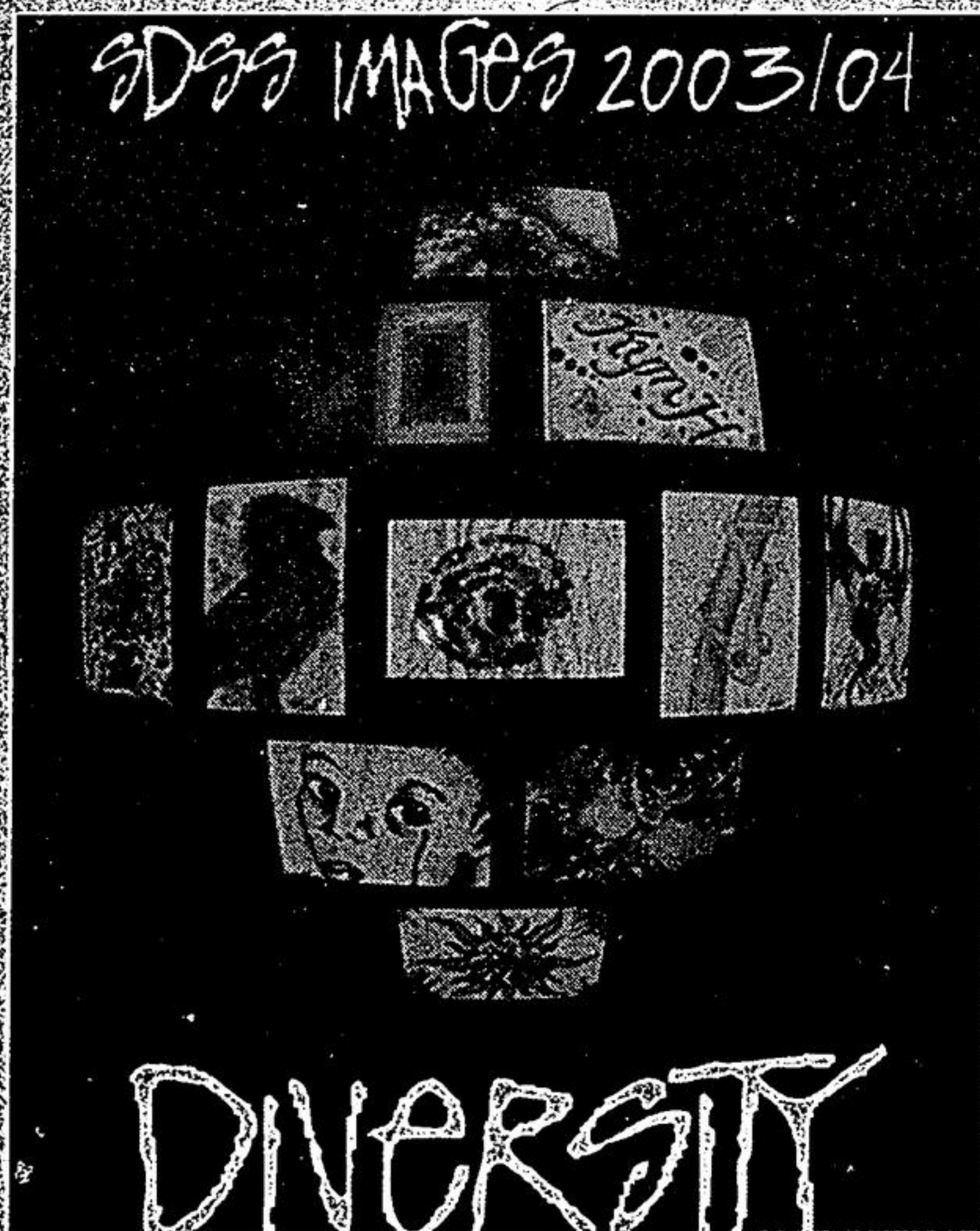
### ASK FOR CHARITY NUMBER

Always ask for an organization's registered charity number and a call-back number that can be verified, Const. Morrell advised.

If anyone has concerns about a company's legitimacy, they should call the police.

Anyone knocking on doors for donations or to make a sale should be asked for proper identification first, he said, and don't give your credit card number to make a donation.

## Stouffville's finest students show their fine art



Please join us at the Latcham Gallery for the Opening Event:  
Sunday, December 14th 1:00-3:00 pm

Exhibition continues until January 4, 2004

The Gallery will be closed on the following days: Thurs. Dec. 25, Fri. Dec. 26, Sun. Dec. 28, Thurs. Jan. 1

Giles CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE  
Div. of Olds Chevrolet Oldsmobile Limited



This exhibition has been generously sponsored by Bill Houston Ford Ltd. and Giles Chevrolet Oldsmobile. Awards have been provided by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Lions Club.



The Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main Street, Stouffville, Ontario (905) 640-8954

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