



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

Owner Fred Karakolis tops up coffee cups for Garth Bell (left) and Tom Winters at Jughead's. The popular downtown Stouffville restaurant is preparing to close.

'We have micro-managed the town from this table'

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"We have micro-managed the town from this table here," regular customer Garth Bell said.

He said committees and think tanks that have been struck over the years adding, "They have never come to us."

The spot is also popular with students from Stouffville District Secondary School. Mr. Karakolis has gotten to know the teenagers so well he knows when they're due in class. He's made sure to

head them that way if they look like they're thinking about being late.

Mr. Karakolis decided to close the diner to move onto another career. Over the past three years, he's earned a degree in business management at Ryerson University. Mr. Karakolis says he'll take time off first before deciding where his next venture, or as he says, adventure, lies.

"But no more restaurants," he stated.

He'll miss the regulars, he said, patting the "head table", where so much of the town's business has been carried

on, albeit unofficially. Mr. Karakolis will also miss his involvement in supporting local sports.

He has been a member of the Stouffville Lion's Club since 1998, helping out at Strawberry Festival and Markham Fair, among other events.

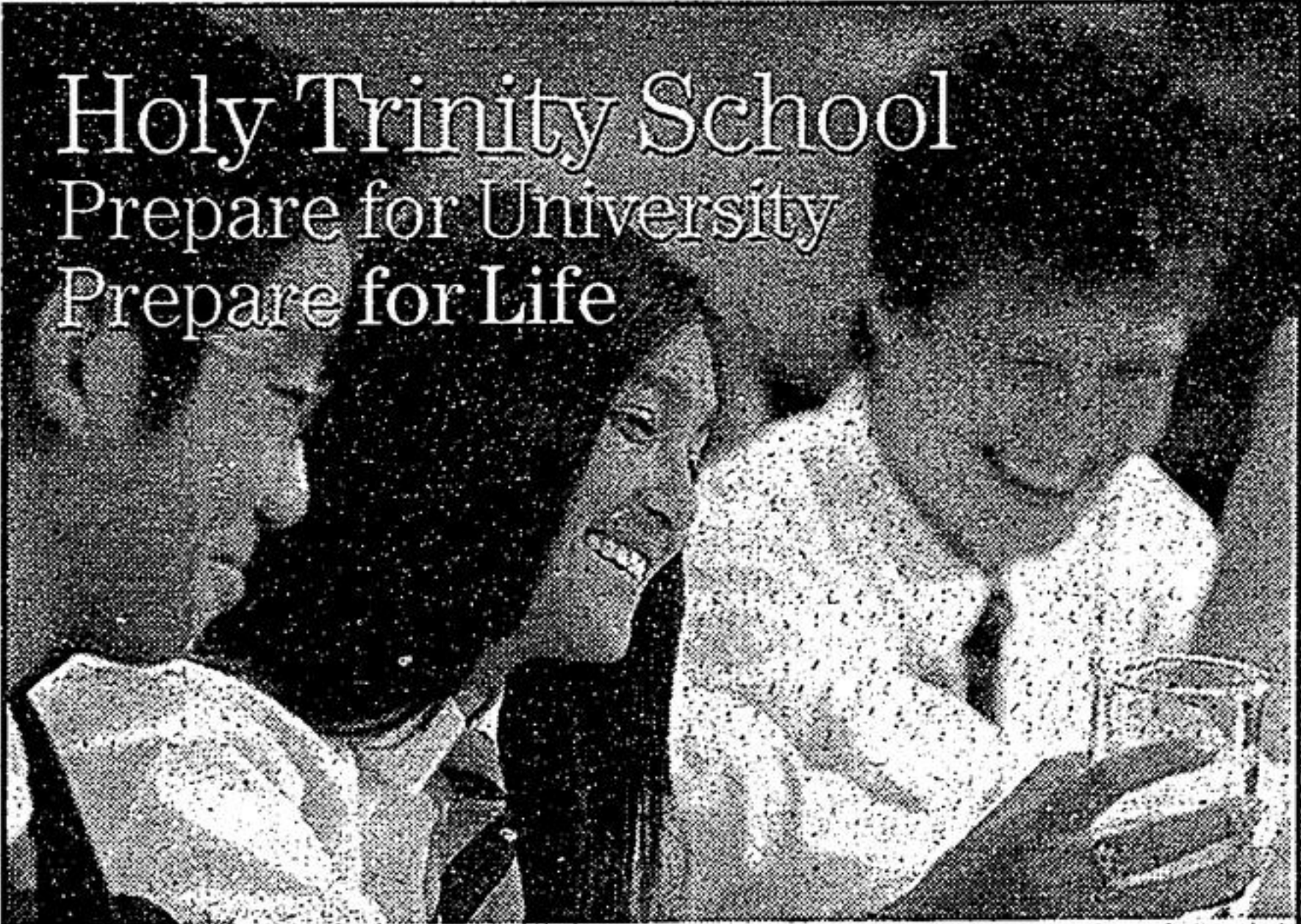
He'll miss the high school students he's trained for their food handling certification.

If more businesses were like Jughead's, Mr. Bell said, there would be no problem about keeping Stouffville's downtown core as a drawing card. He is the past chairper-

son of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce and a member of the committee which examined ideas to revitalize downtown Stouffville.

The restaurant will have a new look next year. Sara Marsala will open the new Tempest in a Teapot there in March.

She will continue in her present location across from the Clock Tower on Main Street over the next two months, but will close the tearoom during January and February. The gift shop will remain open, however.



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