

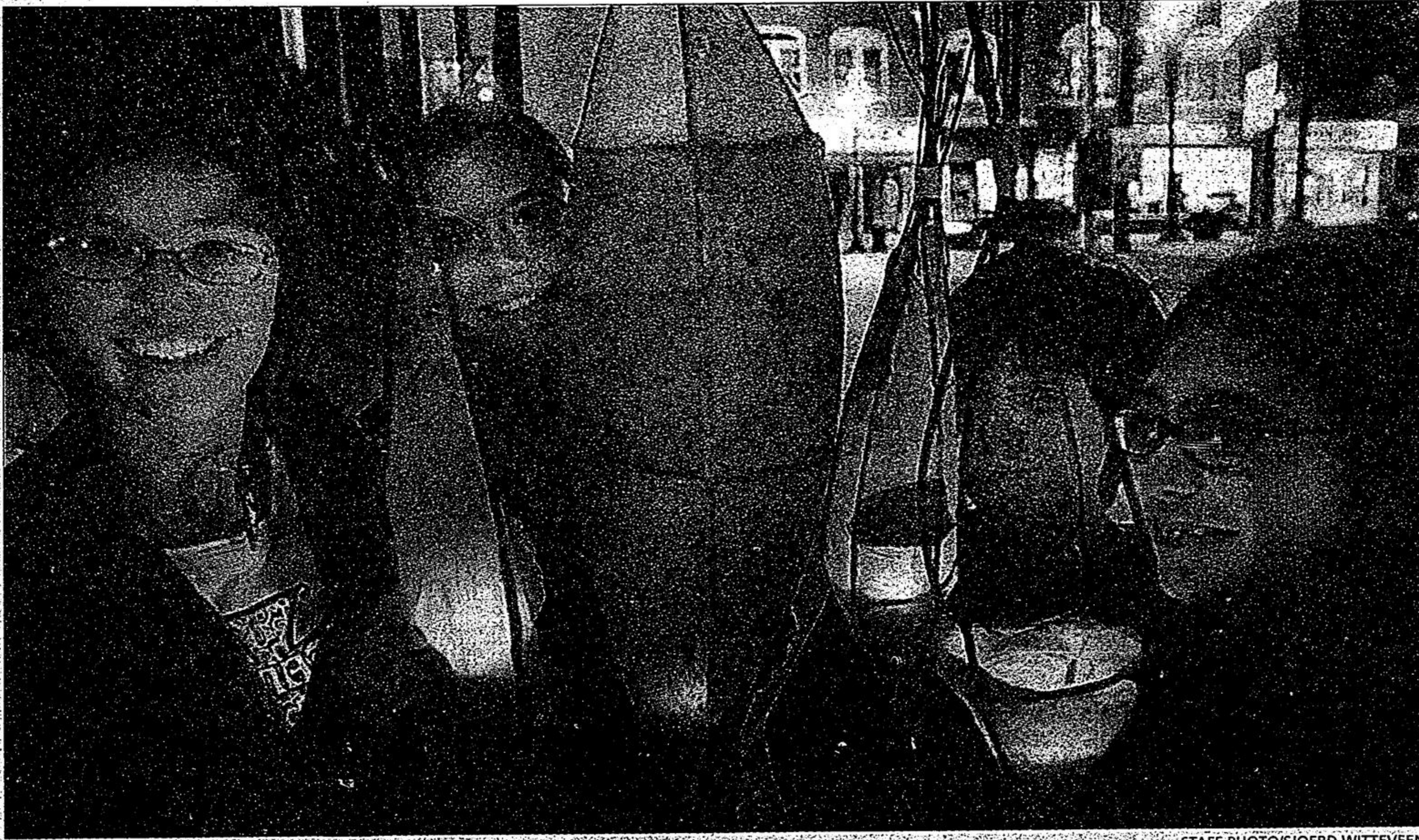


11 Santa heads back to Stouffville for Kinsmen parade Saturday

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Stouffville Sun-Tribune

THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 36 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

Night lights

Isa Nilsson-Byberg, 12 (from left), Erin Shanahan, 12, Patrick Shanahan, 11, and Miranda Clayton, 12, model their lanterns they made in the Art Bunker at the Silver Jubilee Club on Main Street in preparation for the candlelight parade at the Festival of Lights tomorrow. Parade participants should meet in front of the Latham Gallery on Main Street at 6:30 p.m. The parade heads to the Clock Tower just before 7 p.m., where the Christmas tree will be lit. For more information, call 905-640-0749.

POOR QUALITY, ILLEGALITY SCARE SOME MOVIE FANS

Illegal DVDs still in stores

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
 Staff Writer

Three days after the biggest pirated DVD bust in Canadian history, it was hard to find copies of first-run movies and new release DVDs at the usual knock-off retailers around York Region.

But not impossible. At the Image and Sound in First Markham Place, where police seized almost 200,000 counterfeit DVDs Saturday, clerks were handing out cards with directions to the store at Times Square in Richmond Hill.

A Barrie resident who bought more than 100 counterfeit DVDs at Pacific Mall last week was frustrated to find only Asian titles in stores Tuesday, but left smiling when he was directed to Times Square and was able to get 40 more.

"You can't beat the price," he said. At Times Square, movies like *Get Rich Or Die Trying*, *Two For The Money* and others still in the theatres were selling five for \$20, just as they had at the two Markham malls before the busts.

Cash only, no tax, no receipt and a strict no-returns policy was still in effect, but wasn't a deterrent to the dozens of customers who filled the store midway.

In contrast, only two or three customers milled about the DVD shelves at Best Buy in Markville Shopping Centre, even though it was Tuesday, the day legitimate distributors release new titles for sale.

When told they could buy the same

See CHILDREN'S, page 8.

See BUYERS, page 26.

Retired farmer hit as children's author

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

Four pairs of wide-open eyes stare at Robert Lewis as he starts to tell his latest story, featuring the animals of Misty Meadows.

He calls the stories *Adventures in Misty Meadows — stories with a difference*.

The self-published author made the stories a bedtime ritual for the foster children who lived with him and his wife, Margaret, for a number of years.

Every evening, the little ones would have a treat, a story and prayers — "in that order," Mr. Lewis said.

The stories sometimes featured Leo the

dog, Miss Kate and her three kittens, Skit, Scat and Skitter, and a little girl, based on Mr. Lewis' granddaughter, former Stouffville resident Rachel Lewis.

A lively senior with a quick wit, Mr. Lewis retired from farming several years ago. He has written almost 2,000 stories over the past 25 years, by his children's estimation.

He has self-published 21 books in the Misty Meadow series, completing the last one this month. The stories were 10 years in the making.

He was only able to publish the books with the help of family and friends. His son Jerry helps with the printing after David Clubine has prepared the books. Dorothy

Mott handles clerical details, Ruth Herbert edits the stories, while Adelaide Kerr produces the charming illustrations.

"It's a hobby," he said. "It is a little bit of ministry and morals."

The main animal characters were based on Mr. Lewis' dog and the neighbour's cat, who often traipsed over for a visit. He included a lot of the animals you find in rural Ontario, including minks and muskrats. The first stories featured simple conversations among the animal characters and the little girl.

The children would listen spellbound to

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