Sun-Tribune

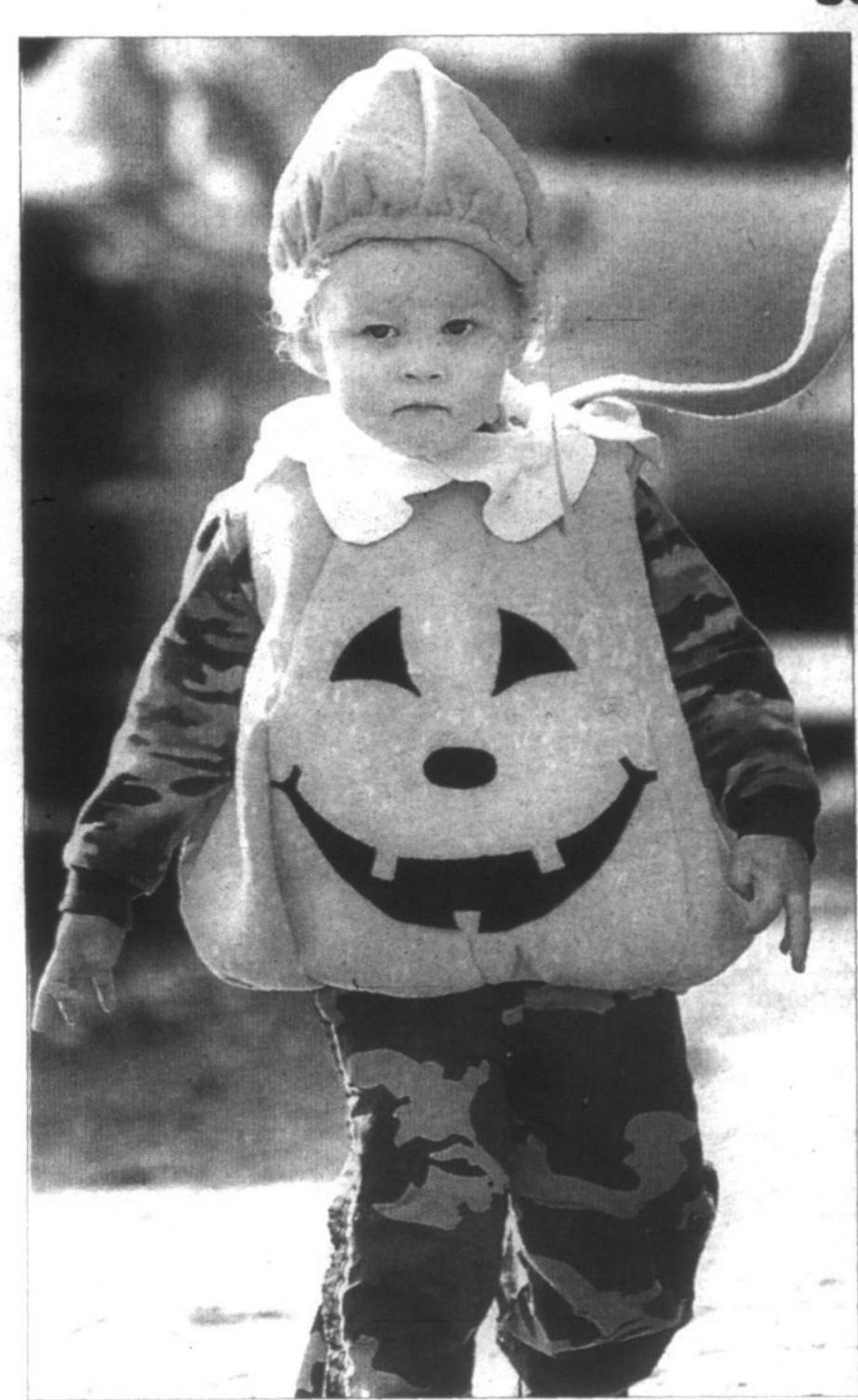
THURSDAY, OCT. 30, 2008 SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

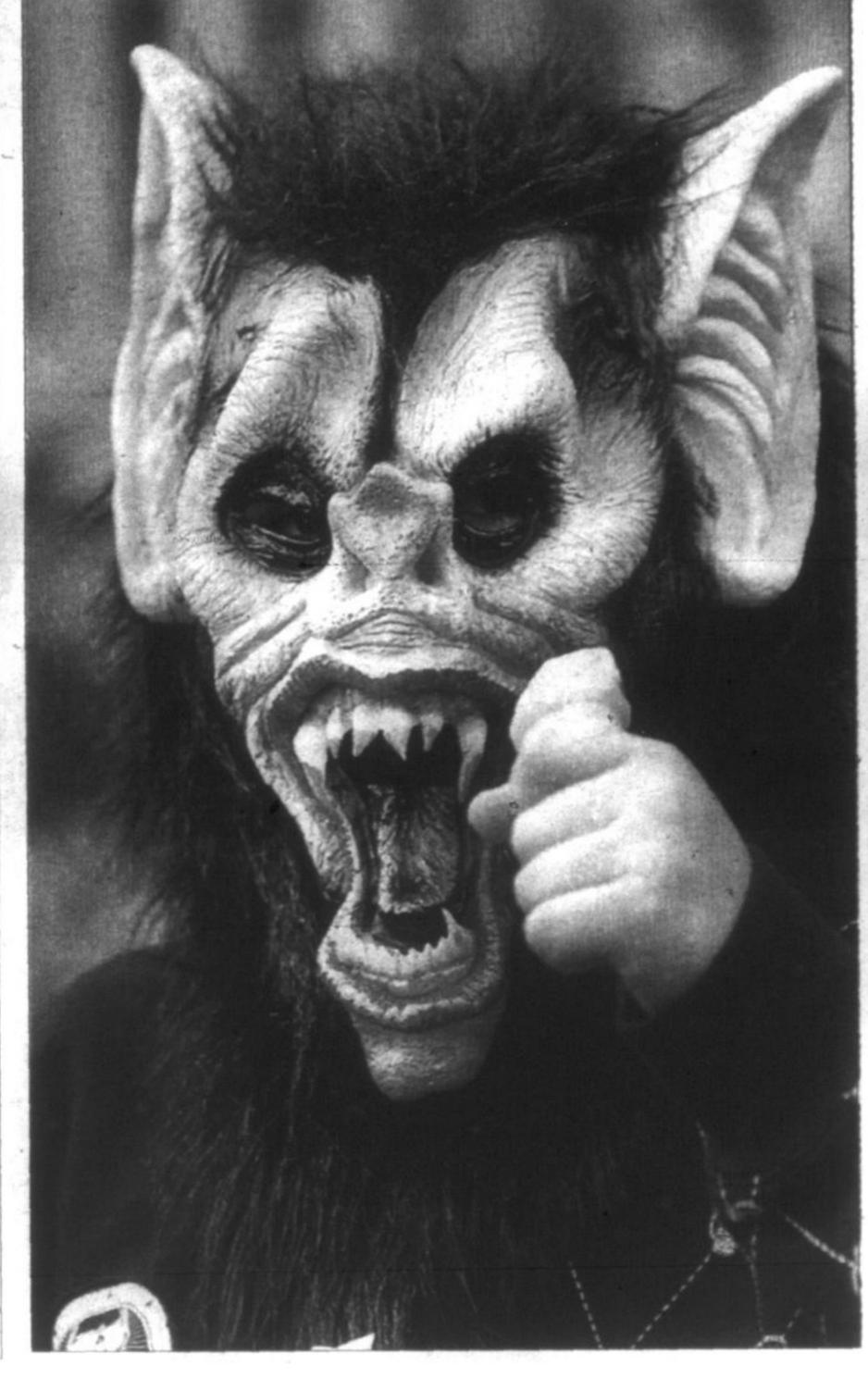


Student music scholarship concert grew from humble beginnings

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COMING SOON: TO YOUR FRONT DOOR







STAFF PHOTOS/BILL ROBERTS

William Poulter (from left), 2, Thomas Abbott, 9, and Deanna McAulay, 4, rehearse for Halloween night fun during the downtown Stouffville BIA trick-or-treating event Saturday.

YOU'LL WAIT SIX MONTHS FOR A DECISION IN YORK REGION, MISS UP TO EIGHT DAYS OF WORK

Delays plaguing region's court system

BY JOE FANTAUZZI

Staff Writer

If you have a legal matter at York Region's courthouse, you can expect to wait at least six months for a decision and miss as many as eight days of work for court appearances.

Delays and backlogs are slowing justice to a crawl, records from Ontario's attorney general show.

To help alleviate the problem, the attorney general's office announced the Newmarket facil-

ity, which serves all of York Region, including Whitchurch-Stouffville, has been chosen as an "action site", along with courthouses in North York and London.

The provincial effort aims to move cases through the justice system faster by reducing unproductive criminal court delays and appearances by making more effective use of justice system resources.

The province is targeting 30-per-cent reductions in average of days and court appearances

needed to complete a case. It plans to meet the target within four years.

York Region's population growth, commuting population and its proximity to Toronto have led to delays at the Newmarket courthouse, Attorney General Chris Bentley admitted.

Within four to five months, the province should have a fairly good idea of solutions to implement, he said, adding Ontario is determined to make its justice system more effective.

There were 29,732 charges received at the

Newmarket courts last year, requiring an average of 195 days and 8.5 appearances until a judgment, statistics indicate.

That compares to 2000, when 24,858 charges were received in Newmarket, requiring an average of 176 days until disposition and an average of 6.8 appearances before a judgment was made.

While the average days to disposition and appearances required in Newmarket cases are up

See CHARGES, page 7.





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