Viva among priorities in \$7B capital plan

BY DAVID FLEISCHER Staff Writer

The GTA has a new regional transit plan and Viva is among the first beneficiaries.

Metrolinx, the regional transit authority, formally approved its \$50billion plan for transit expansion plan. Friday and quickly recommended funding for the expansion of York's

Viva bus transit.

The construction of bus-only Scarborough. rapidways on Hwy. 7 and Yonge

Also approved were plans to con- chairperson Rob MacIsaac said. struct light rail transit on Sheppard

Avenue, connecting the subway to

"We are confident that the (plan's) Street was listed as among the construction program will gener-15 priority projects that could be ate almost 430,000 jobs in Ontario. immediately implemented as part In the first full year of construcof a \$7-billion, five-year capital tion alone, the plan will create an estimated 17,000 jobs," Metrolinx ects remains to be determined. A as now will take advantage of tran-

Metrolinx is digging into the \$11.5

billion set aside by the province for form of road tolls. its prioritized transit projects.

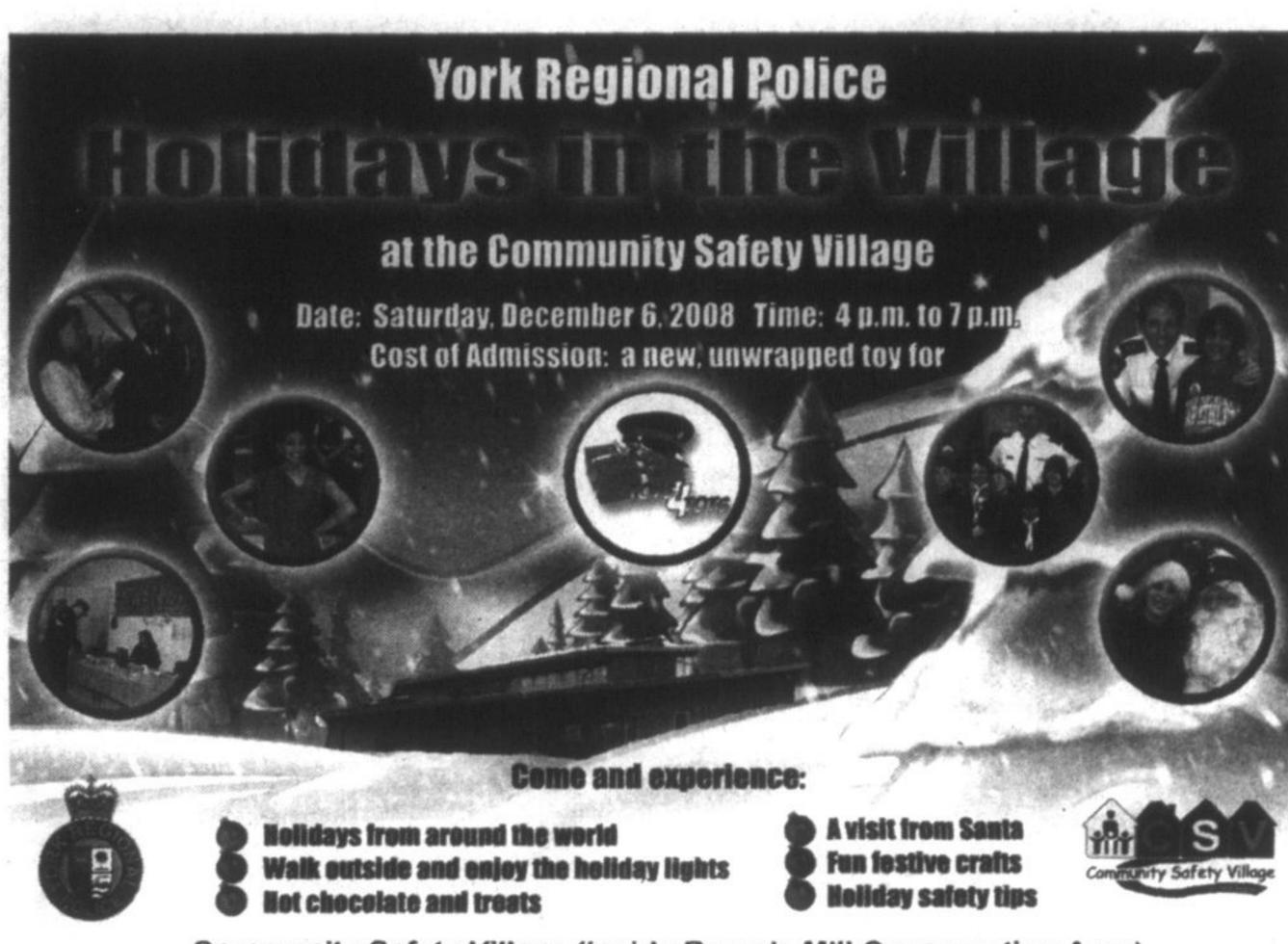
Spadina subway extensions.

A first phase of "quick win" projects is already under way.

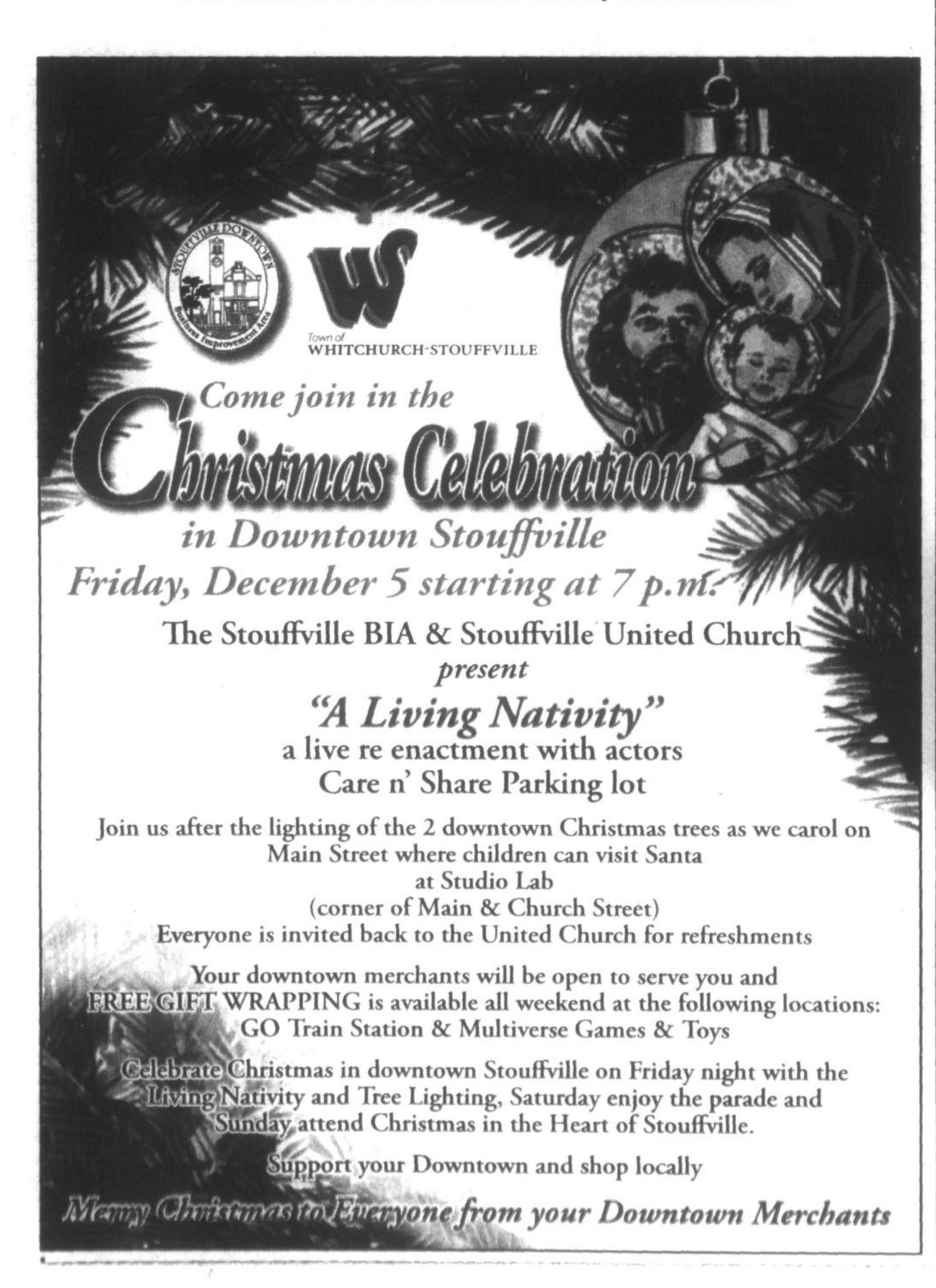
Funding for a third phase of projoptions, possibly including some even as the population grows.

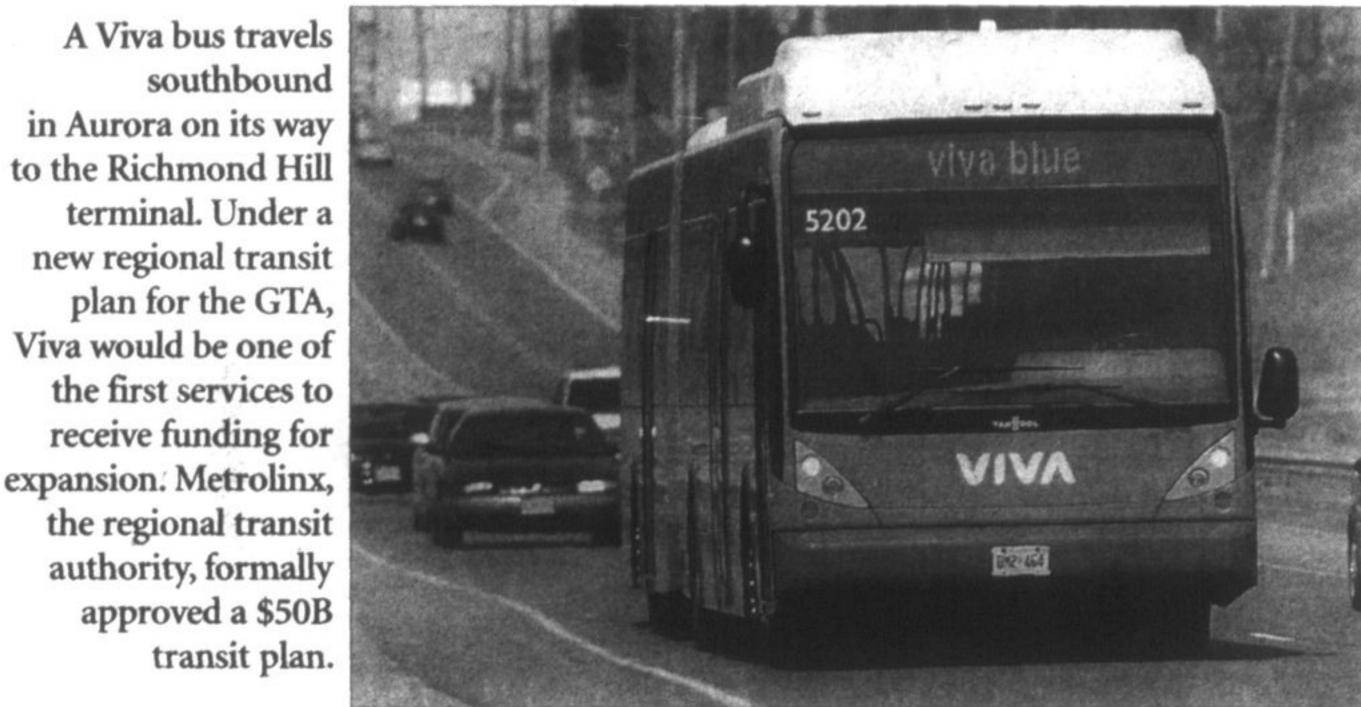
By the end of Metrolinx's 25-year Those also include the Yonge and vision, more than 80 per cent of people in the GTHA will live within two kilometres of rapid transit, compared to just 42 per cent now.

They hope twice as many people 2013 report by Metrolinx will lay out sit, reducing overall commute times



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