

Mayor frustrated by lack of tips from residents

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Emmerson. "Whoever these people are, they have disrespect for our community.

"These people have disregard for private property. They seem to think they have the right to do this, but they don't."

It took virtually all of December, but town staff managed to clean up the first two bouts of graffiti from the more than 100

hydro, electrical and mail boxes throughout town, as well as the Stouffville Arena. Schell Lumber was also tagged in late December.

FIRST BOUT

Although the cost to clean up last year's graffiti remains unknown, Mr. Emmerson estimates it to be about \$10,000, when he factors in the time staff have dedicated to removing the graffiti, the cost of cleaning materials as well as police time spent investi-

gating the matter.

Once the suspect has been caught, Mr. Emmerson said he or she will not only have to face criminal charges, but will also have to pay for all costs associated with the cleanup.

"We'll take them to court even if they are young offenders," he said.

What has become very disheartening to town officials is the lack of co-operation from the public.

"I do not know why people

wouldn't come forward," Mr. Emmerson said. "I've got a real good feeling people know who this is."

PAY ATTENTION

In the meantime, Mr. Bartley wants people to pay more attention to their surroundings.

"I think we need to be more vigilant. I think everybody should keep their eyes open for anything different," he said. "Somebody will see something."


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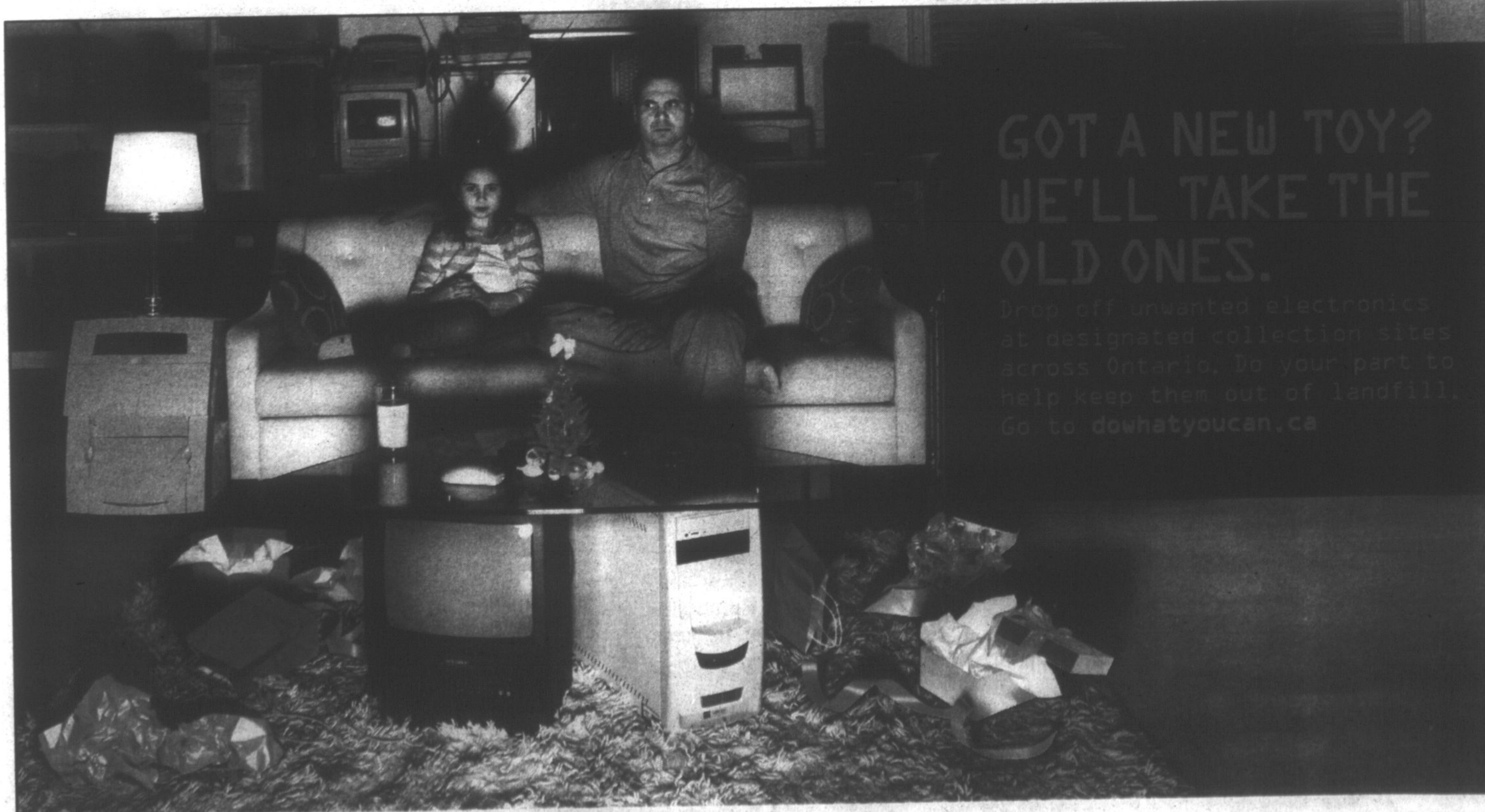
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