

COLUMN

Katherine Crescent all lit up for Christmas

While I'm not a judge in the Christmas home decoration competition, two properties on Stouffville's Katherine Crescent will undoubtedly attract attention.

One of these is the home of Rick and Susan Wannop and the other the residence of neighbours Ken and Lynda Kelly.

At the Wannop home, a 50-foot spruce is adorned with 1,500 coloured lights. In addition, a beautiful wreath hangs atop the garage and a street-side mailbox is all aglow.

"It's only a start," said son Andrew with assistance provided by sisters Alison and Laura.

A crane had to be mobilized to crest the tree with a silver star.

"It was much easier when the tree was smaller," said Wannop, "it keeps growing every year." So does their light display. They won the Lions/Sun-Tribune contest in 2012.

"Should we win, we'll give the money back," she said. "The Lions do so much for our town."

Across the road, the Kelly home is beautifully illuminated by 2,000 lights. Annie, Mr. Kelly's mother, supervised the project.

Entries for Stouffville-area homes only are welcome until Dec.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

14. Send (jmason@yrmg.com) or phone (905-640-2612 ext. 23) them to editor Jim Mason.

Schools like performing

The 22nd annual Student Music Scholarship Concert, entertaining a standing-room-only audience at Stouffville District Secondary School Nov. 21, was an amazing success with 500 young people representing eight Whitchurch-Stouffville schools taking part.

But what of the choir, band and dance directors who gave voluntarily of their time and talents to make it all possible?

They include the following: Susan Whitebread, St. Mark; Kris-

ten Stewart and Katherine Ivic, Ballantrae; Peggy Keeler, Stouffville Christian; Lisa and Emily Taylor, Glad Park; Lisa Parkes, Katie Boylan and Kelly DeGrace, St. Brendan; Diane Marlatt and Miriam Sellick-Smith, Stouffville District Secondary; Allan Alexander, Wendat Village and Brendan Rawlins, Summitview. Appreciation also to Glad Park for filling the vacancy when Oscar Peterson School surprisingly withdrew.

So what were the band, choir and dance leaders' responses to the concert? As one of the organizers, here's what they told me:

Whitebread: "It's always a good evening, a yearly highlight for my choir. The children enjoyed it, especially our 30 Grade 1 boys and girls. It was their first time."

Parkes: "We were honoured to be a part and would be delighted to participate next year."

Stewart: "The children had an awesome time. We had something to work towards during September and October. We're already looking forward to next year."

Taylor: "Thanks for providing so great an opportunity for our children. It was a lot of fun."

Marlatt: "We always look forward to this night. It's such a wonderful evening to celebrate great musical achievements within our

family of schools."

Sellick-Smith: "We love this concert. It's always a wonderful night. Count us in next year."

Alexander: "It was our pleasure to be a part of so wonderful an evening and see all the preparation come together."

During the past 22 years, admissions and donations have totaled more than \$102,000 with all monies returned to participating schools to assist their music programs.

Hey, you're not Rudolph

Recently, while northbound on the Ninth Line approaching Muselman's Lake, I spotted over my right shoulder, a red light. Thinking it was maybe Rudolph out for a pre-Christmas run, I slowed down slightly for a closer look.

To my surprise, it was not jolly old St. Nick checking his bag of goodies from the interior of a brightly coloured sleigh, but a grim-faced York Regional Police officer brandishing a radar gun from inside a multi-tinted cruiser.

"Gotcha," he undoubtedly said to himself as he later handed me a \$55 ticket bearing no resemblance to a Christmas card.

"I could have let you go," he said somewhat apologetically, "but you were a little high, (54 km/h in a 40

zone)". Oh yes, a last resort plea as a Stouffville school crossing guard didn't change his mind.

Store ready for Santa

With the arrival of Santa Saturday, Main Street stores will be all dressed up in their Christmas finery. Already attracting attention is The Hearty Artichoke operated by Suze Joyce. Immediately following Halloween, the seasonal change-over took place. She was assisted by Dario Valente and Laura Cusack.

Town workers honoured

Fifteen employees were presented with long service awards Saturday when the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville held its annual staff Christmas party at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Honored were: Peter Alcorn, 45 years; Connie McVicar, 35 years; Sharon Norton, Janet Ruhl and Dianne Carnrite, 25 years; Marc Pourvahidi, Mark Busse, Trevor Wawryk, John Winters, Kirk Walker and Andrew McNeely, 15 years; Joy Mashinter, Kelly Leveck, Mark Carroll and Rob Raycroft, 10 years.

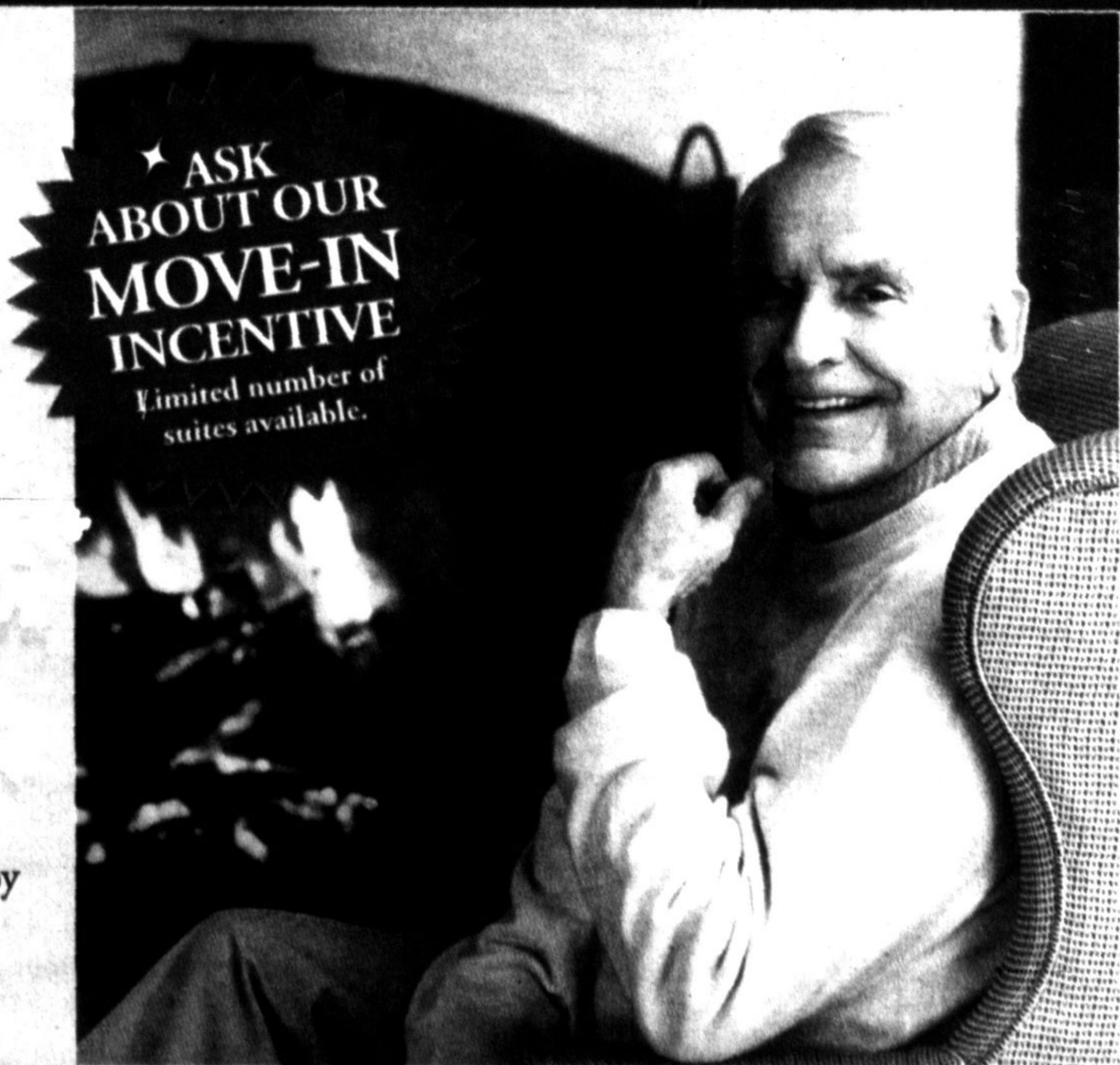
Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

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