

Three lucky lottery winners

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

There are no flashy cars, jewels or wild spending sprees for the three Acton residents who had big lottery wins recently – the main plans for two who won just over \$75,000 each, include paying bills, taking trips and investing the balance.

Rural Acton resident Sue Stone-Dudas had the biggest win - \$76,233.60 – which was second prize in the January 16 LOTTO 6/49 draw.

After paying debts, Stone-Dudas said she and her husband Steve plan to do some home renovations and invest the remainder for retirement.

Stone-Dudas, a Burlington auto parts store manager, is a regular lottery player who buys five tickets each week. Her biggest win until now was \$384, several years ago.

Stone-Dudas purchased the winning ticket at Mac's Milk in Acton, and said she didn't pay too much attention when the lottery terminal started making a lot of noise when she took the ticket in last week to check it.

"The (terminal) music goes off all the time and I figured I'd won a free ticket or \$10, no big deal, but then the store clerk and I both looked at the ticket and went 'huh,'" Stone-Dudas said on Friday.

"We kept looking at the ticket and we still couldn't believe it and then he (the store clerk) started checking the rest of the tickets. I just stood there and stared at the ticket while he went around the store telling people 'she won big, she won big,' and I still couldn't believe it."

After presenting the winning ticket at the lottery office in Toronto, Stone-Dudas, who said she was "paranoid" it would be stolen, rushed to the bank to deposit it.

Acton's Colin Ash was a winner for almost three months and didn't know it as his winning ticket - \$74,949 – sat unchecked on his desk until he checked all tickets last week.

Ash, a Toronto firefighter who has played lotteries for at least 10 years, said he usually lets his tickets pile up and checks for winners once or twice a year.



FIREFIGHTER WINS BIG: Toronto firefighter Colin Ash and wife Sylvia were all smiles when they realised a 6/49 ticket purchased back in November had won them \$74,949. – submitted photo

"I had about 50 tickets to check and this one (the winner) was about half way through and then I went on the Internet to check the numbers and find out what the prize was," Ash said on Sunday, adding a subsequent ticket

from the pile, a Super 7, was a \$142 winner.

"I'm pretty calm about it now, but I was really excited when my wife came down to my (home) office and asked if I had any winners. When I told her I had five numbers

and the bonus she told me it was a winner, but at that point I didn't know how much I'd won," Ash said, adding he and his wife Sylvia drove right down to the lottery office to claim the prize. His winning ticket was purchased at a Loblaw's store in York.

Ash, who has three grown children and three grandchildren, said after paying his one outstanding bill, he plans to put the rest away so he can retire a few years earlier than planned and eventually take an Alaskan cruise.

The third winner, Pat Cripps of rural Acton, won \$25,000 with an Instant Crossword ticket she purchased at Royal Mini Mart.

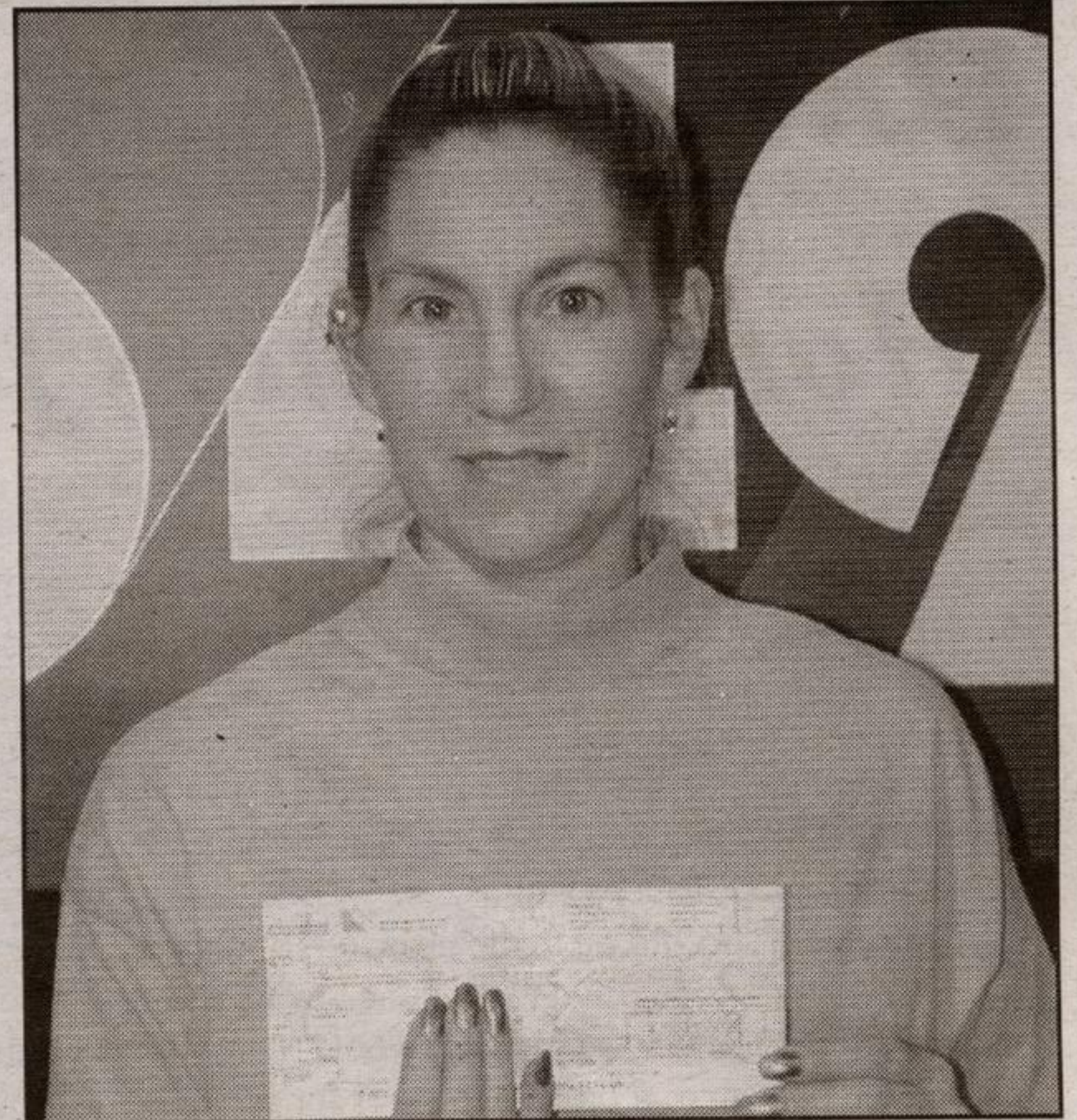
Four suspects sought in Fifth Wheel heist

An early morning robbery at the Fifth Wheel Gas Bar in Milton Monday has Halton Regional Police Service officers searching for four men.

Members of the Halton Regional Police Service attended the Fifth Wheel Truck Stop Gas Bar on Chisholm Road in Milton after a 911 call was received reporting a robbery at 3:33 am. Information received at the time from the clerk was that four men, all wearing ski masks, entered the gas kiosk and robbed the clerk of an unspecified amount of cash. One of the men was armed with a knife.

All four men then fled the scene on foot in an unknown direction. An extensive search of the area by police officers and canine was negative. There were no injuries in this incident. The description of the suspects was vague.

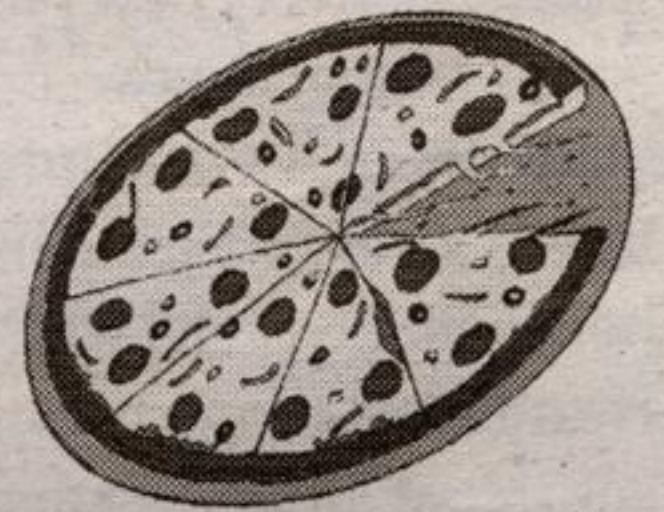
The investigation is continuing and anyone with information on this incident is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 extension 2405 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



LOTTO 6/49 WINNER: Sue Dudas-Stone holds her cheque for \$76,233.60 which was second prize in the January 6 draw. – submitted photo.

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