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GE04-426cs

Woman who defrauded employer ordered to stay home except to work

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

A 48-year-old Milton woman convicted of defrauding her former employer of almost \$100,000 will spend the next 15 months at home except to work.

Judge Richard LeDressay delivered the sentence last Tuesday at Ontario Court of Justice in Oakville.

"It's a serious fraud in terms of the amount and it's a serious offence because it's what's referred to as a breach of trust," Judge LeDressay said.

"That situation must be taken into consideration. On the other hand, I've taken into consideration your guilty plea. That indicates you've accepted responsibility and shown some remorse."

He also said he kept in mind that she had no prior criminal record.

Cathy Shoebridge was charged in April of last year with committing fraud from 2000 to 2002 while employed by Blue Beacon. Ms Shoebridge was charged with

additional fraud counts two months later relating to the same complaint.

In total, the charges she faced were: two counts each of forgery, fraud over \$5,000 and uttering forged documents.

She pleaded guilty to the charges.

Ms Shoebridge was earlier in the case ordered to pay back \$87,000 in retribution to Blue Beacon, which she did through the sale of her house, Judge LeDressay said.

In addition to the 15-month conditional sentence and two years' probation imposed last Tuesday, she was also given 150 hours of community service.

Moments before the sentencing, Ms Shoebridge told court she was sorry for the trouble she had caused Blue Beacon.

"I was wrong in handling the financial situation in the way I chose," she said, adding she's embarrassed by what she did. "I hope to forgive myself someday."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Milton man wins \$250,000

Lottery luck has struck Milton again, this time for 63-year-old Brian Chambers who claimed \$250,000 from the October 1 Encore draw.

"Things have been tight financially for me and my wife," he said when picking up his prize at the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's Toronto office. "When I found out I won the lottery, I said

to my wife, 'Now you can have the whole pay cheque to yourself!'"

Mr. Chambers is a driver for a printing company. He and his wife, Ann, have two adult children and five grandchildren. He plans to pay his bills with his windfall and enjoy a debt-free life.

The winning ticket was purchased at Dominion on Derry Road in Mississauga.

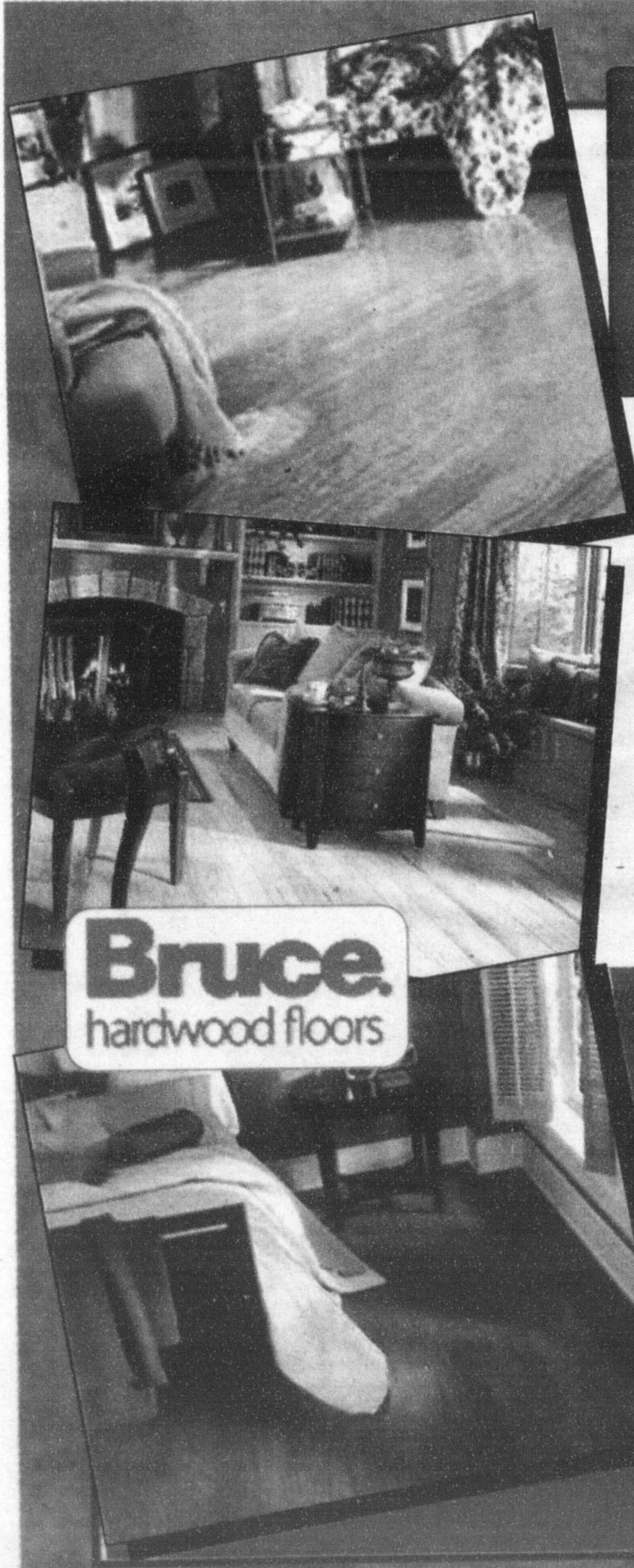
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