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# Man gets prison sentence for defrauding mother

## Mortgage fraud by former Milton man forces mother out of her Toronto home where she lived for 28 years

A former Milton resident has been sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison after pleading guilty to defrauding his 72-year-old mother of her Toronto home and forcing her to move.

Newmarket resident Frank Basso, 49, was ordered to spend 42 months in prison by Justice Bryan Shaughnessy December 6 at Superior Court of Justice in Newmarket. The judge told

the court he didn't think Basso had shown genuine remorse for what he did to his mother.

Basso was also ordered to re-pay his mother the \$450,000 he defrauded her, a request of prosecutor Michael Demczur.

This brings to an end a case that's been before the courts for a couple of years now.

In 2004, Basso — formerly of Rutledge Way — was charged along with his now-estranged wife, Catherine, with multiple counts of fraud.

The charges against Catherine were withdrawn.

In October, Basso pleaded guilty to gaining \$450,000 by mortgaging the property of his cancer-stricken mother in June 2002 by forging her signature.

He took the money and didn't make the mortgage payments, forcing his mother, Rosa Basso, out of her house

— where she had lived for 28 years — and into a small basement apartment last year.

Rosa wasn't present for the sentencing.

In a victim impact statement filed earlier in court proceedings, Rosa said her life "was turned upside down." She said her son "lied to me and manipulated me and destroyed my life."

Basso had told court he gave some of the cash to a York region organized crime figure, who was targeted in a botched murder attempt and convicted of mortgage fraud in 2004.

Basso could be eligible for parole by the end of next year, since Shaughnessy gave him eight months credit for the four months he's spent in custody.

Defence lawyer David Goodman had requested the judge refrain from sentencing Basso to prison.

-- With files from the Toronto Star

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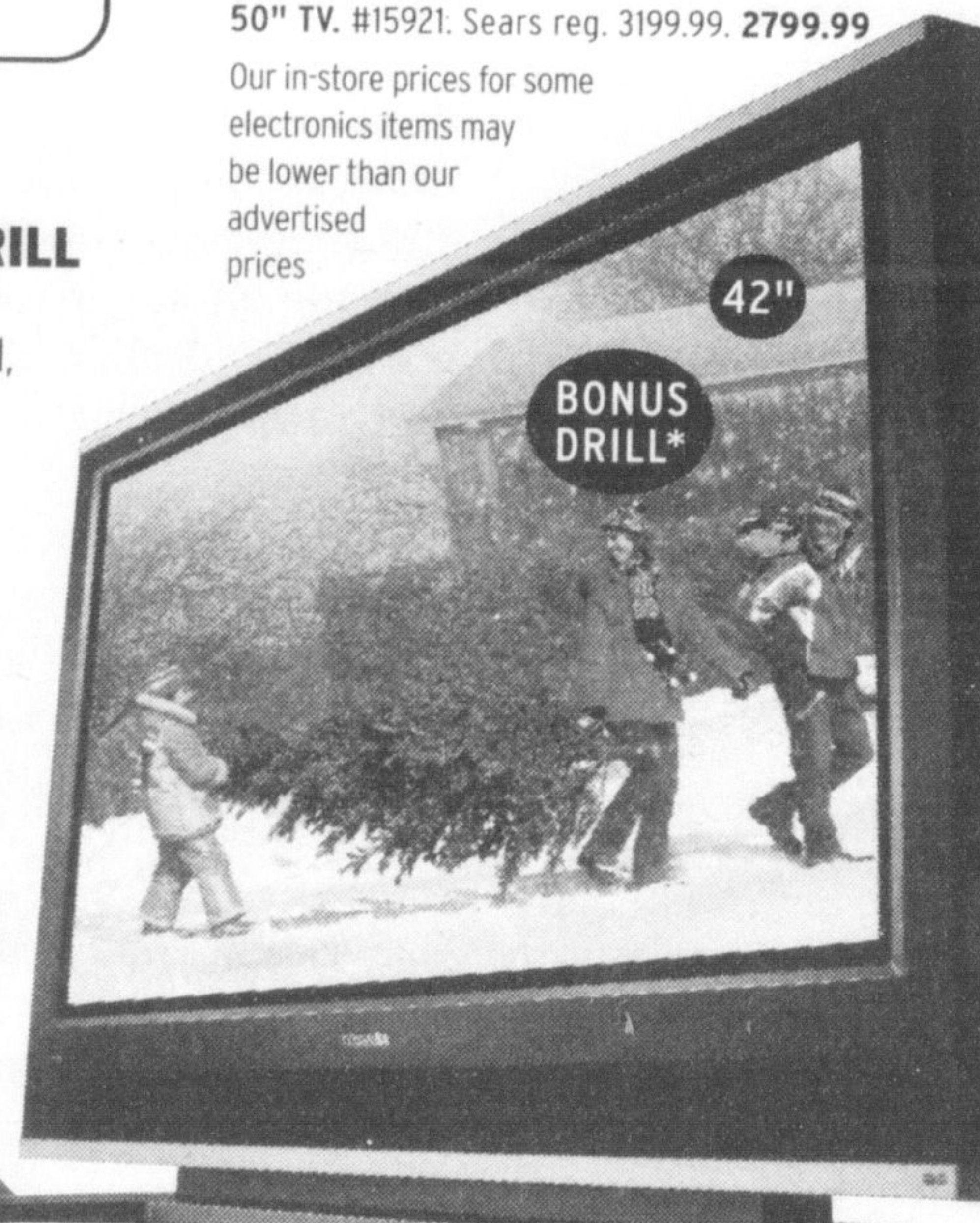


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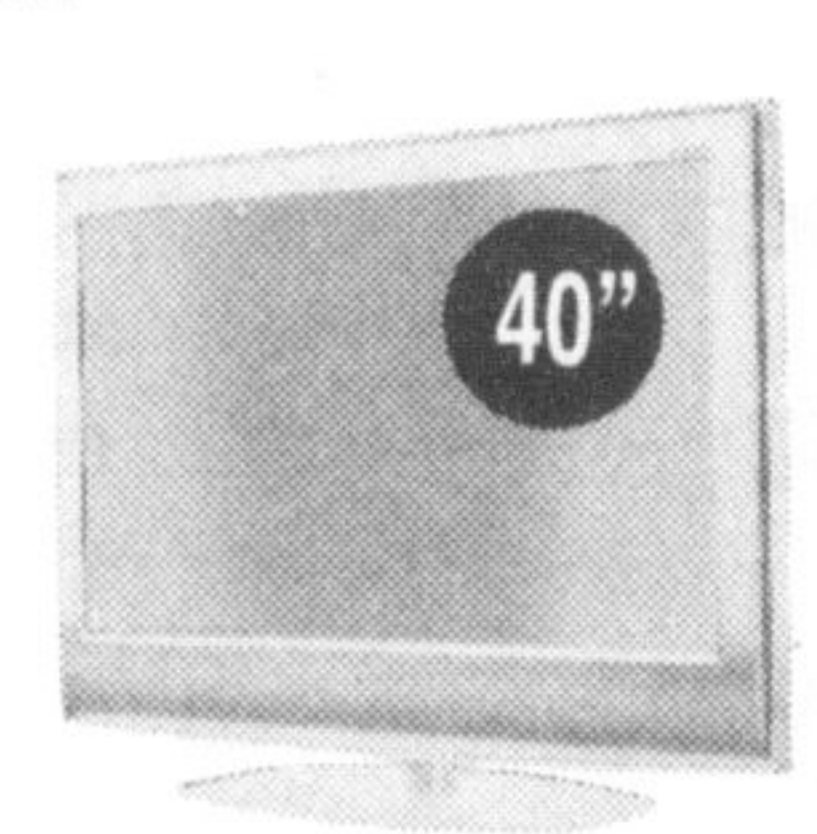
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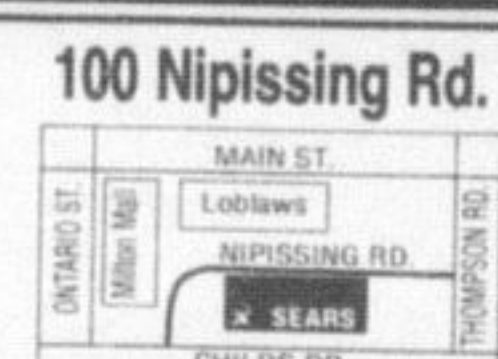
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