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Ice fishing drama

Local youngster, dad caught on Lake Simcoe

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

The biggest rescue in Ontario's history was the subject of show-and-tell in a Grade 2 class at a Stouffville school Monday morning.

Amy Morrison had a story to tell and a wad of newspaper clippings to show her class. The seven year old, along with her firefighter father Wayne Morrison, were among hundreds of people forced to abandon their fishing and flee Lake Simcoe after high winds caused giant cracks to form on the ice over the weekend.

The \$300,000 military-civilian rescue operation was still being carried out at press time. About 300 people were airlifted by eight helicopters on Saturday night.



Stouffville's Amy Morrison, centre, had a quite a story for her Summitview Public School classmates at show-and-tell Monday morning. She was among hundreds of people caught on Lake Simcoe when the ice cracked Saturday.

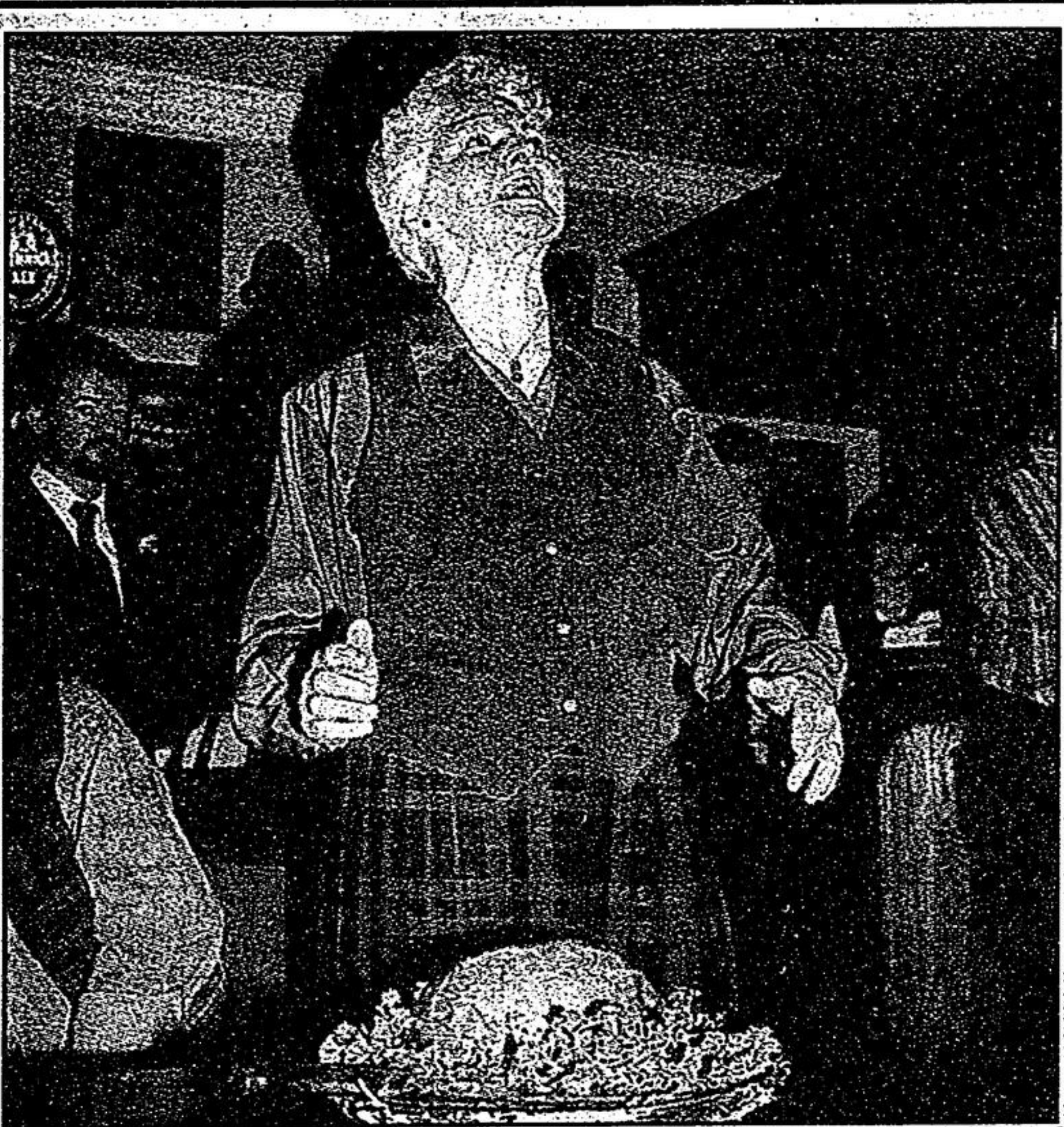
Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Meanwhile, a few remained trapped on Monday.

The Morrisons got out on their own steam at about 3 p.m., just before the airlift got underway. Amy and her father Wayne were alerted to danger when a group of fishermen, pulling a boat arrived at their fishing spot.

The situation was assessed and the two parties decided to stick together. One leading the other, they took a longer but safer route to safety. "We drove the four-wheel four miles out of our way, following the crack line," said Morrison. "I was wearing a floatation suit, but I was worried because my daughter was with me."

After watching the rescue from shore for a few minutes, Amy headed home to Stouffville. Donna Morrison, Amy's mother, said her husband reported to work at the Markham firehall, while Amy confessed to mommy that she was a bit frightened by the ordeal. "Amy said she cried when she was on the ice. She kept a scarf over her face so her dad wouldn't see the tears," said Donna.



Ode to the haggis

Sheila McLeod gives the address to the haggis during Robbie Burns celebrations Saturday night at the Earl of Whitchurch.

Photo/CHERYL JOHNSON

Stouffville men to help Ugandan orphans

By **JOAN RANSBERRY**
 Staff Reporter

Babies in need have tugged at the heart strings so much that seven Stouffville men have opted to leave their families, travel thousands of miles, work long days and risk their own health to help.

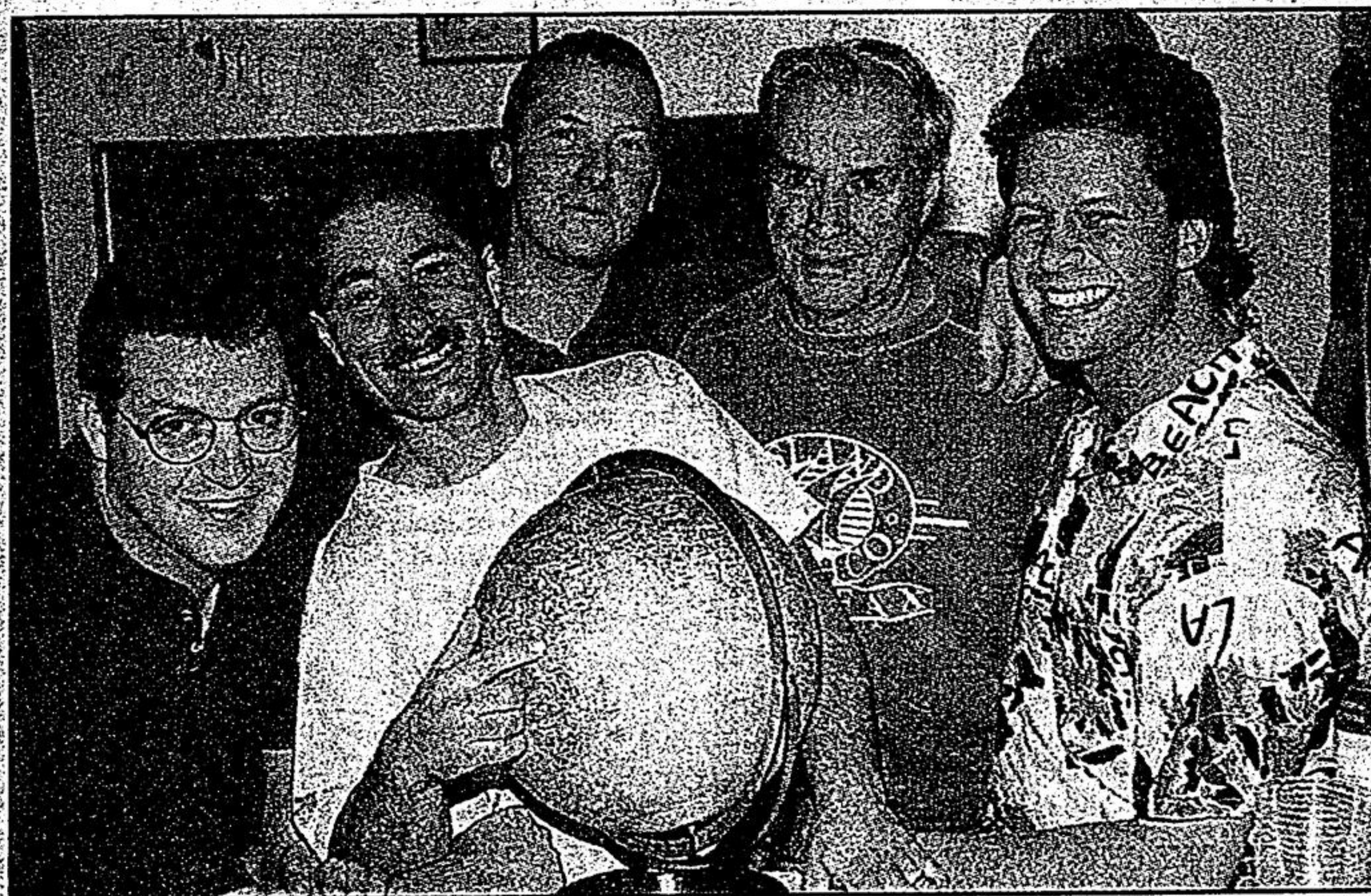
In mid-February, the local men will arrive in Uganda to take part in a three-week housing construction project, designed specifically for children orphaned because AIDS has killed their parents.

The Stouffville men will work nine hours a day. The project, involving shelter-style homes, is located in Kampala, the central African country's capital.

Uganda's 13 million people live in an area half the size of Saskatchewan.

Uganda leads the world in the highest number of AIDS cases, Michael Mels, local group spokesman, pointed out.

(Please see page 2)



Michael Mels, Steve Attack, Jon Winters, Morgan Hickman and Laurie Adrian are among seven Stouffville men who will help orphans in Uganda.

Photo/LORI EMMERSON

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