Dog-bite victim honoured at new library

Courtney's Corner remembers little girl who loved books

BY JOAN RANSBERRY Staff Writer

A little girl's love of reading is being passed on to others.

Prior to her tragic death at age eight, Courtney Trempe often attended Story Time at the local library.

"Courtney loved books," said her mother Donna Trempe. "Going to the library was always a happy time."

To recognize Courtney's avid interest in reading, the new Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will include Courtney's Corner, a spacious room designed to accommodate children while they read.

Donna, her husband John and son Carson have donated \$31,000 to build and furnish Courtney's Corner. A plaque bearing the child's name will be displayed on the wall.

Courtney's Corner will include a window seat, a rocking chair and fantasy animal-shaped bean bag cushions. Decorated in strong primary colors, it will be a bright and happy place, explained local chief librarian Marilyn Ferguson.

The windows will be so low even the smallest of children can look outside. The room will also include moveable shelving for books,

Ferguson added.

Wednesday was a special day for the Trempe family. It would have been Courtney's 11th birthday. A Grade 2 French immersion student at Dickson Hill Public School, she died three years ago following a dog attack in a Stouffville backyard. The death devastated her family, left Whitchurch-Stouffville in a state of shock and led to a lengthy inquest.

The Trempes are now strong advocates of responsible dog ownership. In making the donation, the family hopes when children arrive at Courtney's Corner, their parents will take a quiet moment and think of Courtney. As well, the Trempes want people to give some thought to responsible dog ownership. "A (dog) attack only takes a second," said Donna. "I want parents to think of that. This tragedy was preventable. If the dog wasn't let out, we wouldn't have lost Courtney."

The library, part of a multi-purpose complex, is under construction Memorial Park South. It should be ready for public use this summer. At that time, a dedication will be made to the memory of a little girl who loved to read.

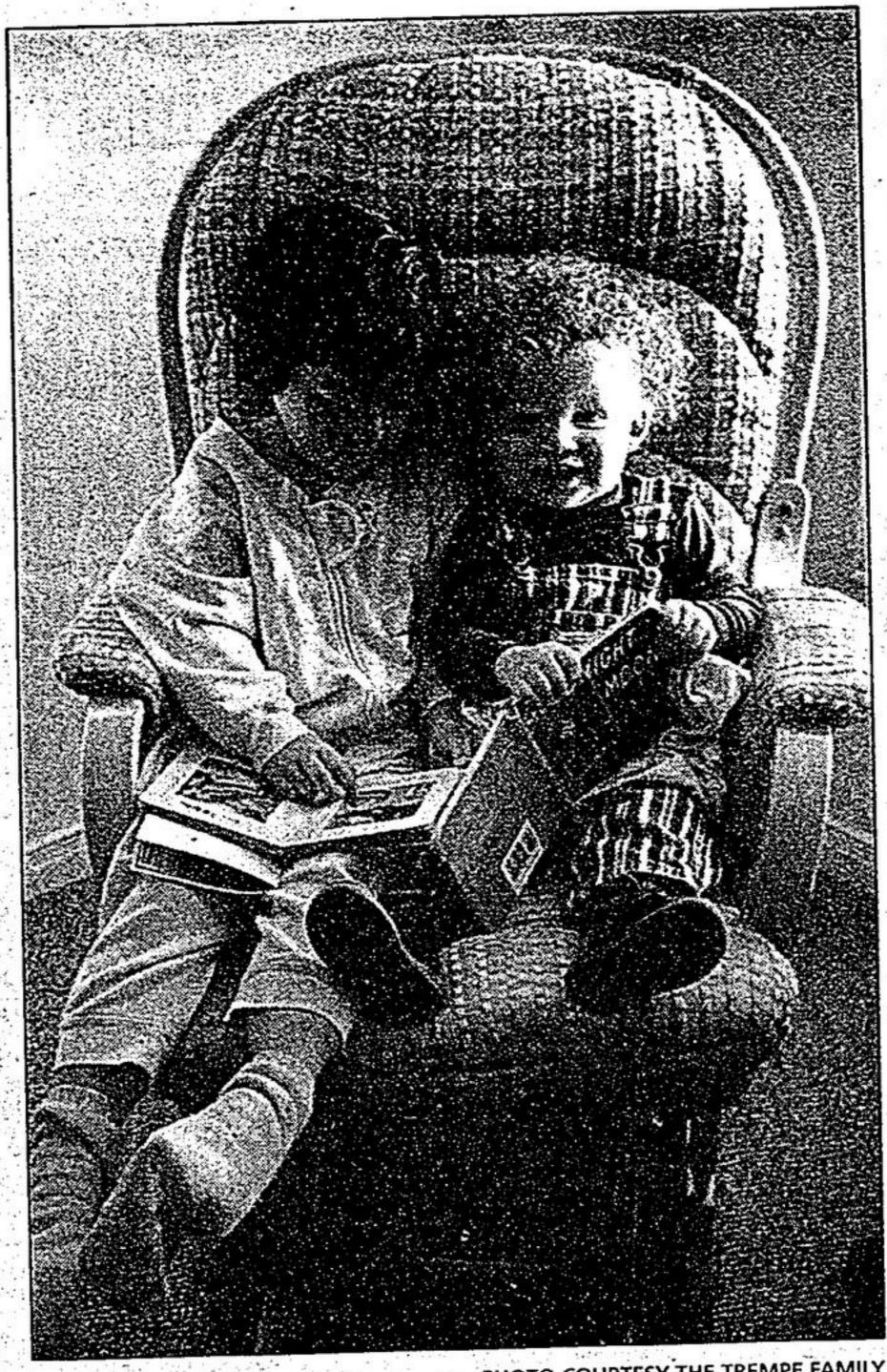
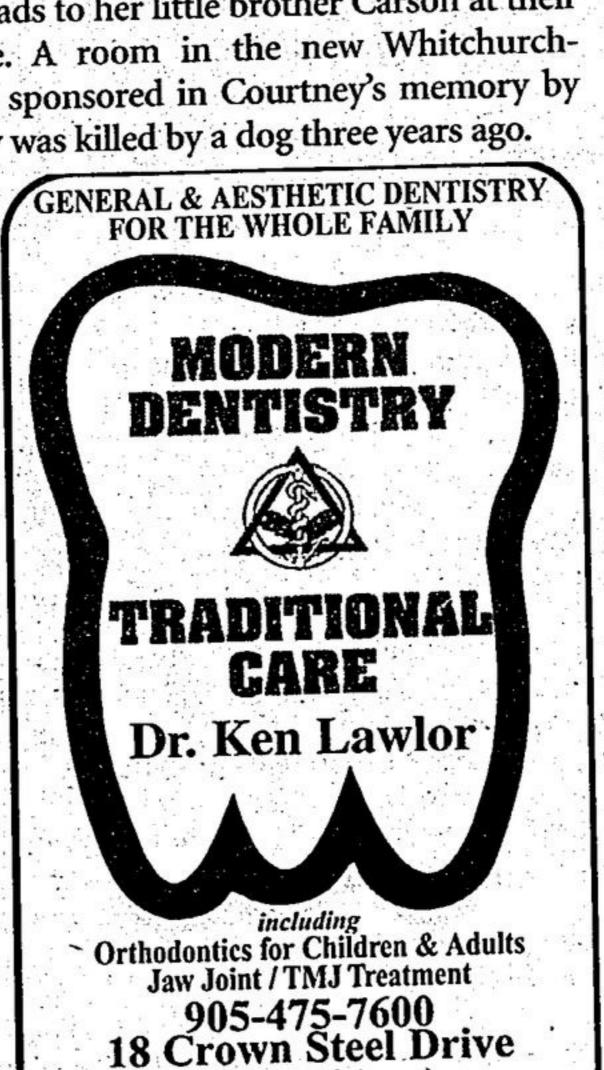


PHOTO COURTESY THE TREMPE FAMILY

Courtney Trempe reads to her little brother Carson at their home in Stouffville. A room in the new Whitchurch-Stouffville library is sponsored in Courtney's memory by her family. Courtney was killed by a dog three years ago.





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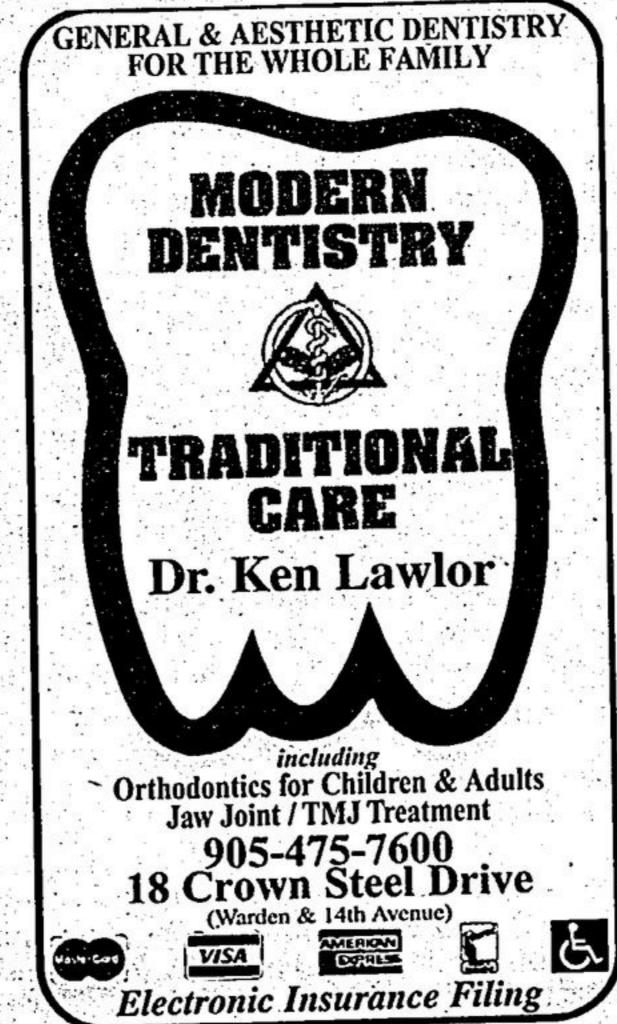


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