

## MEET CANADIAN ARTIST

ROBERT  
BATEMAN

SUN SEPT 29TH

11 AM - 12:30 PM

Golden Eagle Art Gallery

18 RINGWOOD DRIVE  
UNIT 3 - STOUFFVILLE  
905-642-2279SHOW  
&  
SALEOVER 200 FRAMED LIMITED EDITION  
BATEMAN'S ON DISPLAY DURING SHOWANNOUNCEMENT  
2002/2003 Board of Directors

Peter McNeill



Wyn Chivers, Chief Executive Officer of United Way of York Region, is pleased to announce the election of Peter McNeill as Chair, Board of Directors, for 2002/2003.

Mr. McNeill has previously served as Vice-Chair of United Way's Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Board's Fund Distribution Committee. He is currently Marketing Manager for Wysdom Inc., and has held managerial and administrative positions with BCE Emergis, Compaq Canada, and American Express. Mr. McNeill holds a BA from York University, and is completing his MBA at the Schulich School of Business.

The Board of Directors for 2002/2003 includes: Shazeen Bandukwala, Frank DelZotto, Mike Egan, Ally Esmail, Marion Jones, Ranjit Kumar, Susan Lalingo, John Livey, Myrna Mercer, Jim Mitchell, Mary Neal, Zafrin Nurmohamed, Catherine Patterson, John S. Rogers, Mary Wilson-Trider and Tony C. Wong.

United Way of York Region funds 124 programs provided by 37 local agencies. One in three, or 250,000 York Region residents, are served by United Way funded agencies. The 2002 Campaign goal is \$5.8 million.

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MARKHAM  
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

## Markham, Stouffville rally around family

From page 1.

day with her after that.

"Her ankle, her muscles and tendons are all OK. Her prosthesis will be like a sock that she can just pull on, with the toes' prosthesis attached at the end. It sounds awful, but they told us of all the amputations, this kind is one of the easiest to deal with."

It been a tough go, however.

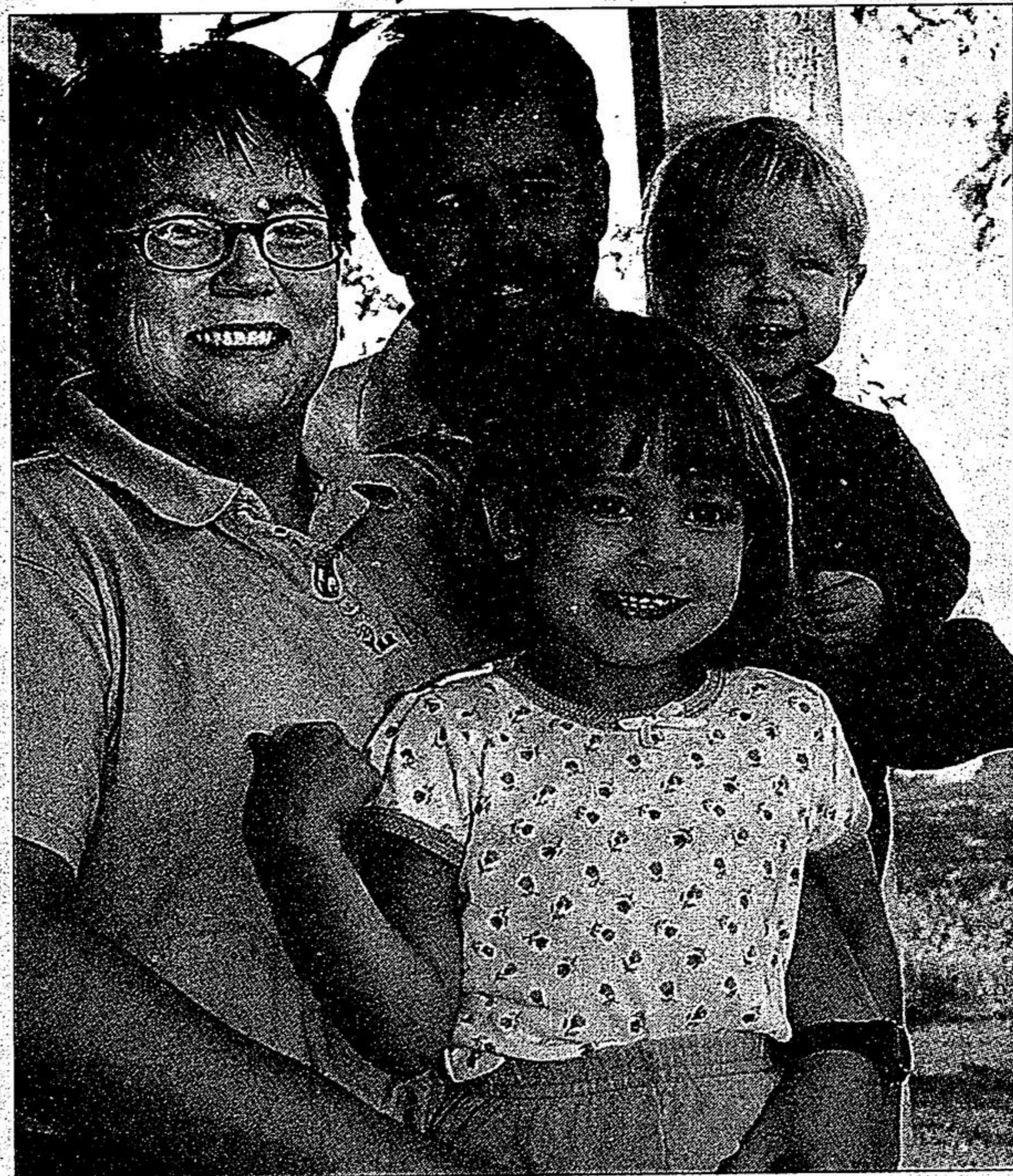
"It was very hard the first few days; she was in critical condition and very drugged. She had surgery the Thursday, the Saturday and again on the Monday and they had to put her out every day to change the dressings," said Mrs. Ramer. "They took skin for the skin grafting from (her buttock and back thigh area) and that site had to heal as well. It will take a year or two to fully heal."

Explaining what had happened was not easy either.

"I had to say you and I were in the same place by mistake. The lawnmower blades are sharp and your leg was cut, half your foot is gone. She cried for about 10 seconds and then said 'what if I can't wear my favourite shoes?' I actually had them with me and put the one on and went for a walk. She didn't want to look at her foot the first time, but she did, and she seems OK. I told her she'll be getting new toes."

The Ramers turned down an offer from the Shriners, who offered substantial support including an assessment at its Montreal hospital and a prosthesis, because Mrs. Ramer's benefits as a GO Transit enforcement officer will cover the full cost of Rebecca's potential needs, including artificial limbs and a walker. The War Amps organization will also help fill any gaps in the cost of Rebecca's care.

"We would have to travel to Montreal and that would be difficult," she said, adding Rebecca's sister, two-year-old Hannah, has also been affected by the accident, missing both her sister and her mom.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Rebecca Ramer, 4, who lost half of her foot in a lawnmower accident, is back home with her family: mom Jane, dad Paul and sister Hannah, 2, all of Reesor Road in north Markham, after a month-long stay in the Hospital for Sick Children.

"And we'd have to start all over again with new doctors which would be hard on Rebecca — it took her two weeks before she would even look at her doctor."

Rebecca was sad to have missed her first day of school, junior kindergarten at Summitview Public School in Stouffville,

but she had a few preliminary classes while in hospital and plans to start Oct. 21. A nurse will accompany her the first day to explain Rebecca's condition to her classmates, Mrs. Ramer said.

The one bright light since the accident has been the unflinching support of people in the Markham Stouffville communities — both financial and emotional.

"It has been pretty amazing," said grateful dad Paul Ramer. "A neighbour came over and helped a cow calve so I could get to the hospital. I had friends who helped me put in straw and hay and my neighbours helped me speed things up around here with extra equipment."

Mrs. Ramer's family — mom Irene, sisters Susan and Lynn, brother Ted and sister-in-law Shinauna — have all pitched in to help care for Hannah and offer moral support.

The Ramers' babysitter Julie Whiteway and her foster sister Katie have been great with Hannah as well, added Mrs. Ramer, bringing her home, bathing her and putting her down as her parents trekked back and forth from Toronto during harvest season.

And the money has been pouring in.

Generous customers of the Stouffville A&P gave \$1,550 after staff set up donation cups at the check out lines. A fund set up at a local TD Canada Trust — branch 3700, account number 6210743 — has raised \$1,340. Others have handed over \$1,500 to the Ramers directly while Mrs. Ramer's co-workers at GO raised \$550.

The money has helped pay for incidentals like gas to and from Sick Kids, meals and dozens of cell phone calls to family and friends. The rest will help pay for Rebecca's on-going care and will also be used to start an education fund.

A Concert of Thanksgiving in the Ramers' honour will be held Friday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. at Stouffville United Church.

The Ramers are moving on, thankful for the support but anxious to get back to their lives.

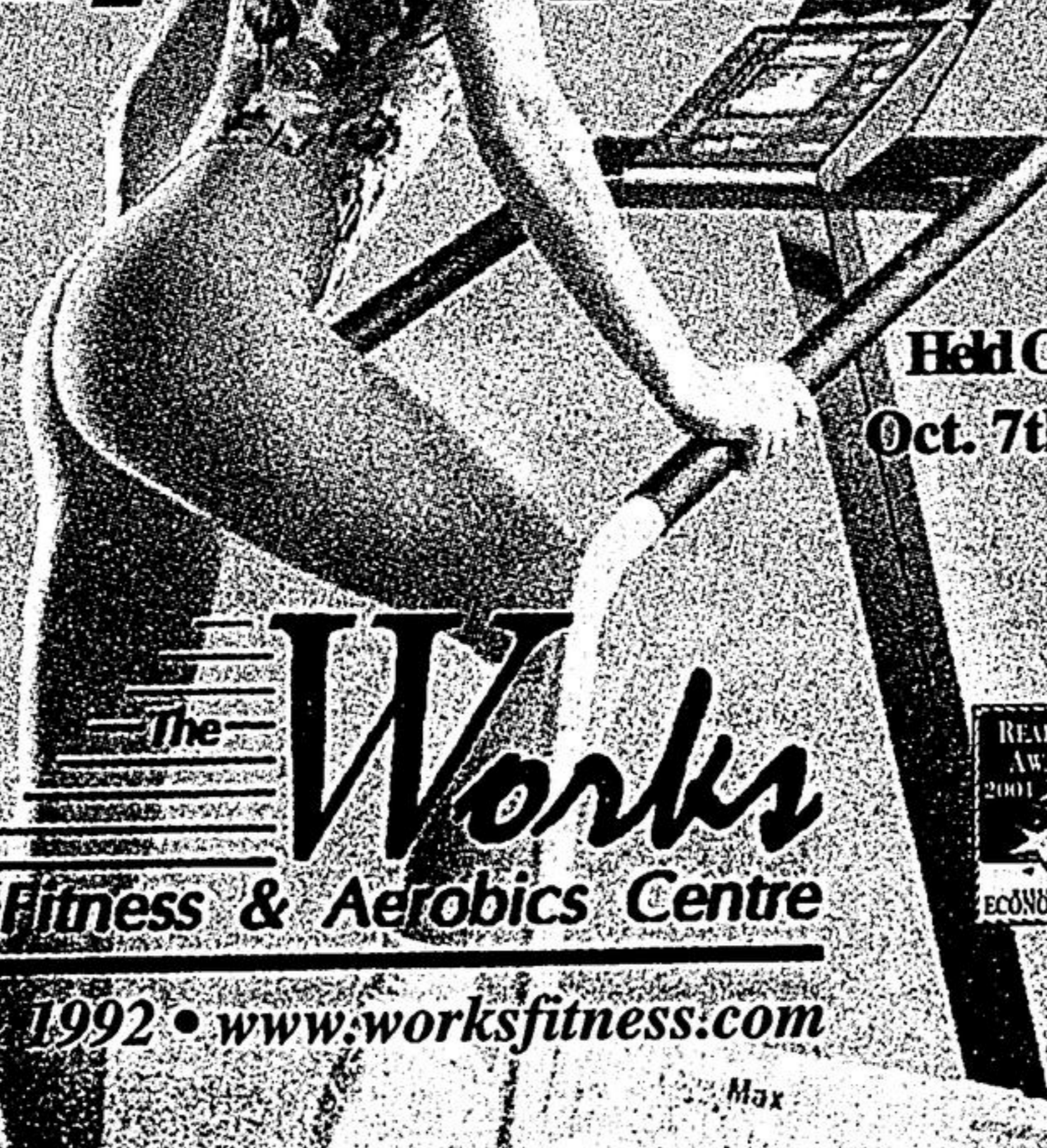
"For the most part Rebecca has adjusted well," said Mr. Ramer.

"She's Rebecca," added her mom.

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