

# Missing teen found in Toronto

BY PATRICK MANGION  
Staff Writer

The mother of a missing 14-year-old girl who went missing from a Markham group home was relieved to learn police had located her in Toronto Thursday night.

"I'm just so happy she's not on the street," said 38-year-old Newmarket resident Melinda Kidd, choking back tears.

Toronto police spotted the girl, who had been missing for three weeks, at about 7 p.m. near Yonge and Wellesley streets.

In an interview Friday, Ms Kidd said her daughter had been returned to Newmarket where she would be staying in a group home.

Ms Kidd said the two had been living together in Newmarket up until the summer.

Her daughter spent September in a Newmarket group home, Ms Kidd said.

However, Ms Kidd said the two remained close, saying she spent the entire day with her daughter attending

a Santa Claus parade and decorating the Christmas tree prior to her disappearance from Markham on Nov. 25.

"I was out searching all over Toronto at hostels ... everywhere," she said.


"This is the hardest thing for me. It's the hardest thing as a parent."

Ms Kidd said her daughter, a twin suffering from personal problems, did

not run away from her. Rather, she was experiencing difficulties at the group home.

Meanwhile, Ms Kidd said her other daughter has been living in Keswick with her former common-law partner.

She is grateful to have both daughters nearby and is hoping for a family reunion over the holidays.



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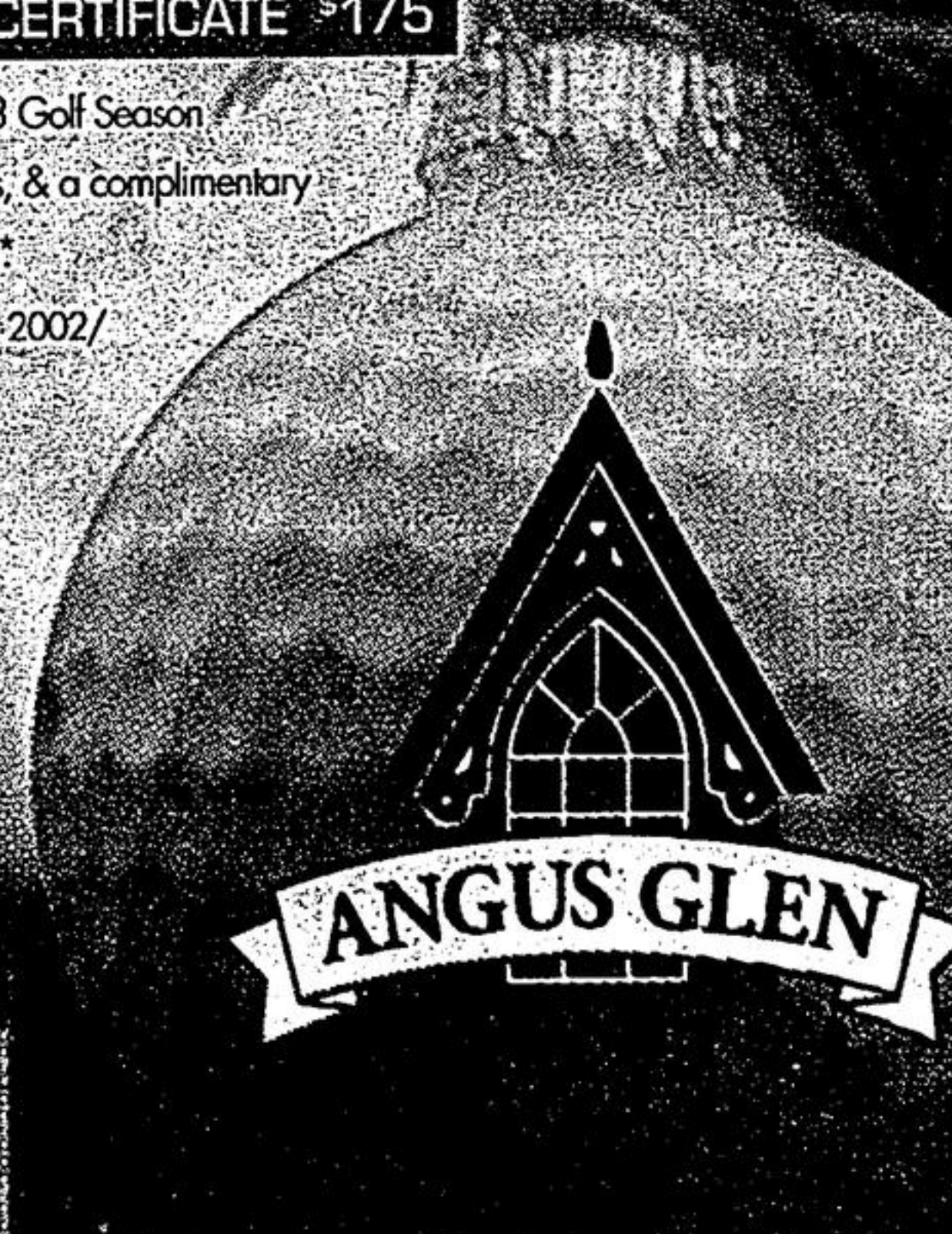
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