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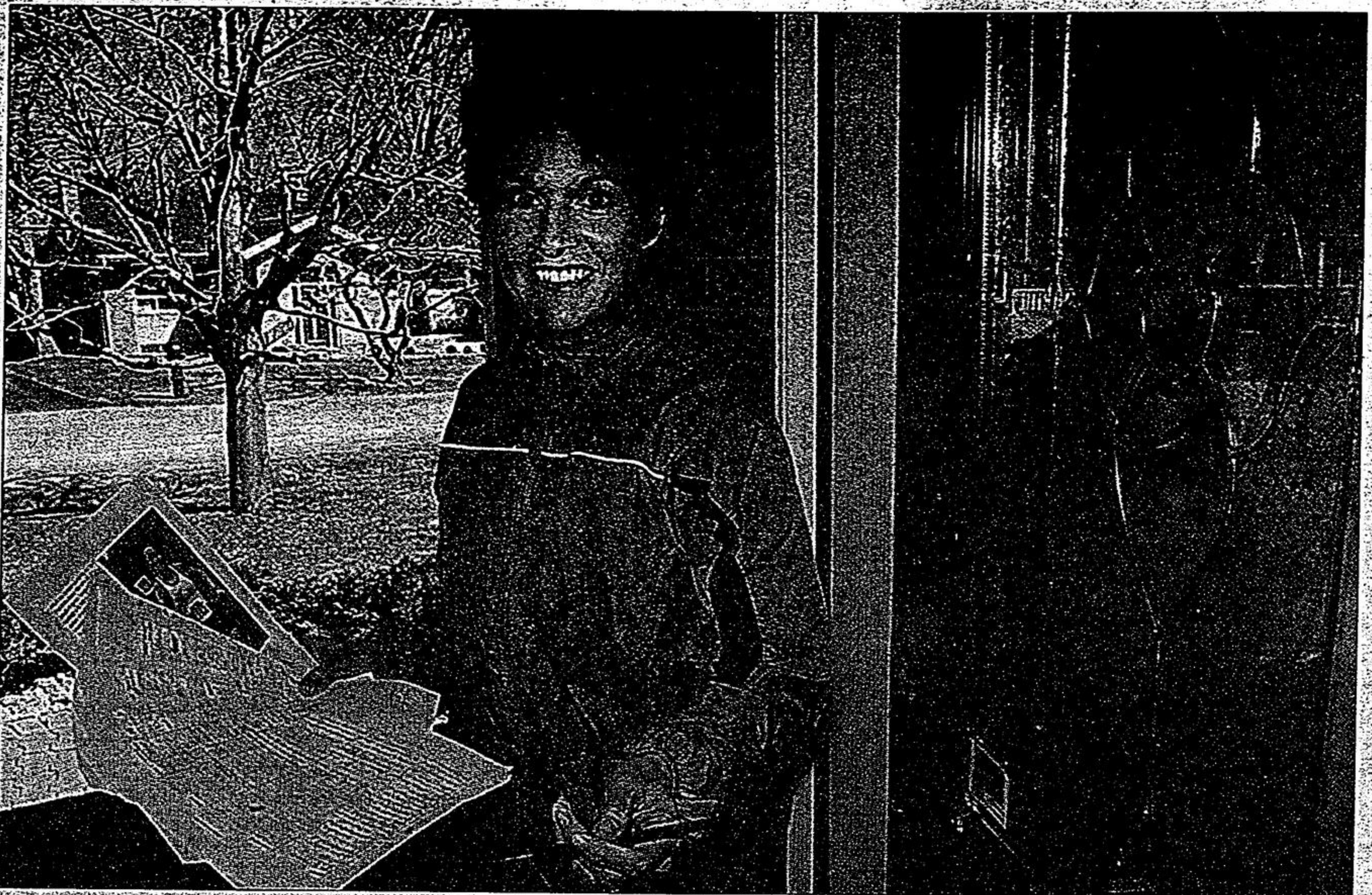
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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Robin Steckley of Stouffville will run the Boston Marathon April 19 and raise money for the Stouffville Igoma Project.

# 'We have so much ... and take it for granted'

From page 1

Neufeld said, "SIP's primary goal is to improve the quality of life in Igoma. The people of Igoma need our help. Life is especially difficult for the children."

The average income of a Stouffville family is \$90,000 a year.

"The average yearly income of a family in Igoma is \$300," Mrs. Steckley said. "People living in our part of the world are truly privileged. We have so much and yet we take it all for granted."

The average life expectancy in Igoma is 45 years.

"I am two months shy of my 46th birthday and my life is blossoming," Mrs. Steckley said. "It's hard to imagine that in Igoma, an adult's life is drawing to a close at the same age."

A recently completed medical centre in Igoma still needs equipment and supplies. Money raised at an all-faith church service at the Stouffville Country Market in December bought a \$3,000 malaria detector.

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Since malaria is the No. 1 killer in the village, the detector is being well used, Mr. Neufeld said. "So much is needed yet," he said. Other equipment such as diagnos-

tic ultra-sound machines, valued at about \$4,000, and examination kits, about \$800 each, are on the must-have list.

Mrs. Steckley thinks about Igoma's health clinic when she does her weekly training, running 95 kilometres. To qualify for the Boston Marathon, Mrs. Steckley ran a 26.2-mile marathon in Ottawa in three hours, 48.59 minutes. The minimum to qualify was three hours, 50 minutes.

Mrs. Steckley had to submit an outline of the Igoma project to receive permission to collect donations. She received the go-ahead.

Pledge sheets are available by calling 905-640-7015 or 905-640-3911. They are also available at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Stouffville Train Station on Main Street. Mrs. Steckley's e-mail is robinsteckley@sympatico.ca

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