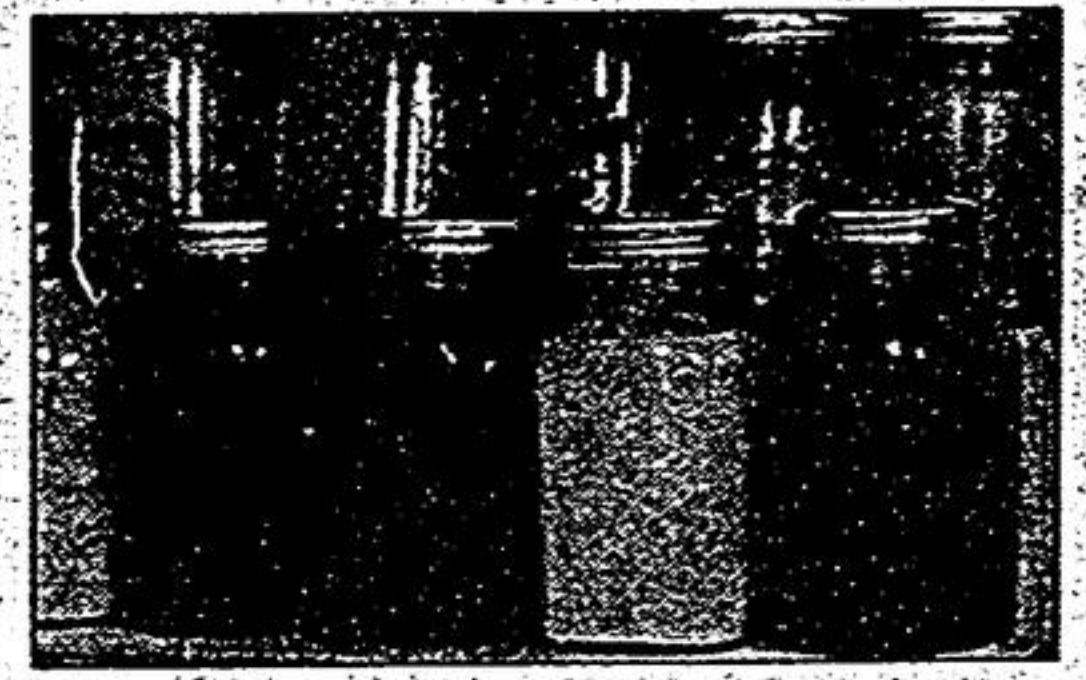


# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, AUG. 27, 2005 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 44 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



**25** Well preserved: Keeping the best of summer's fruit and vegetables  
Opinion .....6  
Sports .....18  
Registration .....20  
Classified .....27

## Ross case stirring memories for families

Search continues for missing woman

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE AND JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writers

Few people understand the pain Alicia Ross' family is going through as police desperately search for clues into her disappearance.

Janet Jessop, whose nine-year-old daughter, Christine, was abducted outside the family's home in Queensville 21 years ago, is one.

"It's a very confusing time for those folks," she said from her Keswick home Friday. "Something or someone has left a hole in their hearts."

Christine was missing almost three months before a farmer stumbled upon her skeletal remains in a field near Sunderland and Ms Jessop will never forget how she felt during that time.

### 'YOU DON'T SLEEP'

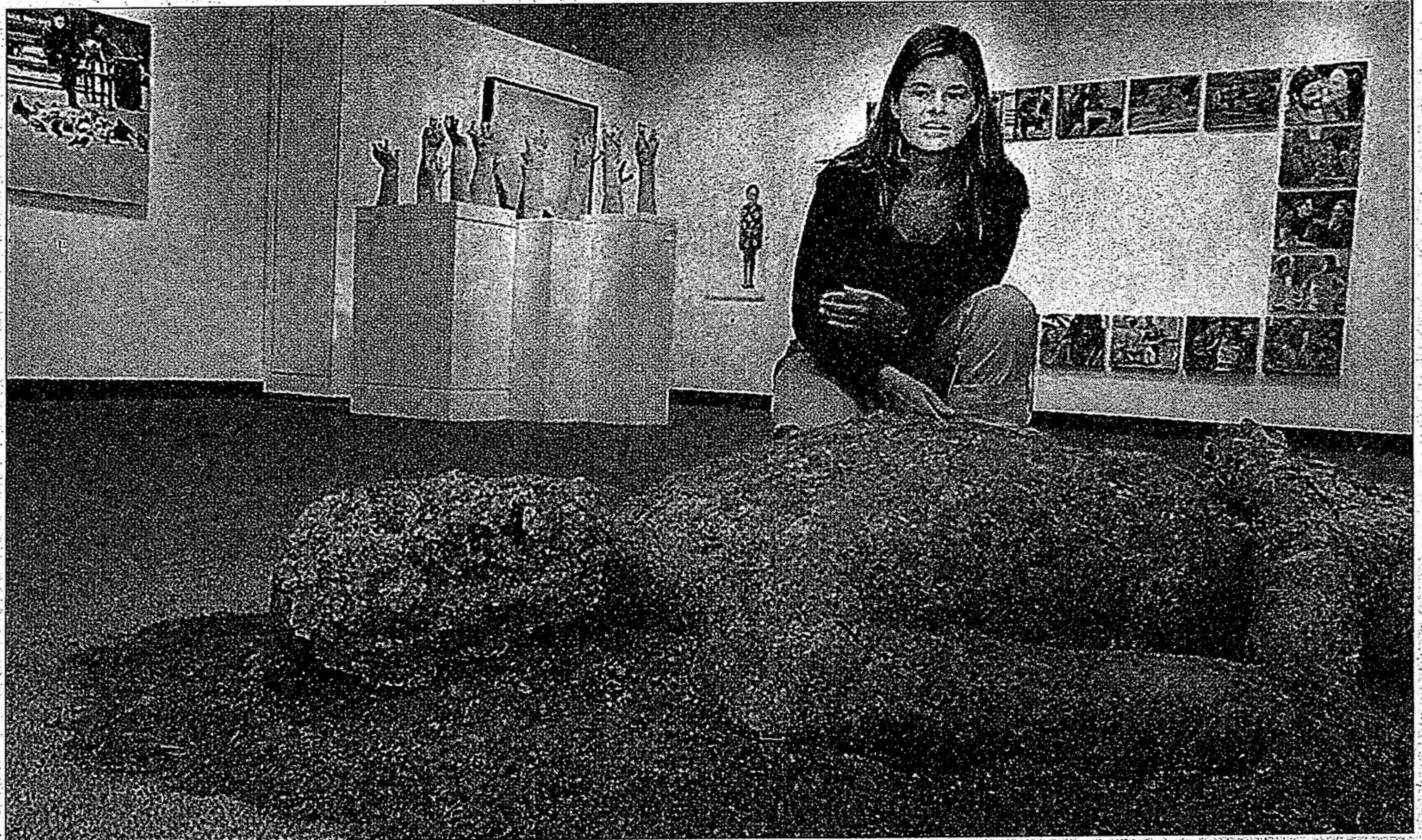
"It's terrible. You panic, this is your child gone missing," she said. "You don't sleep, you don't eat, you're totally confused. I completely understand every feeling they probably have and what they're going through."

"Unfortunately, one has to experience it to really understand. It's a parent's worst nightmare."

Ms Ross, 25, a Thornhill resident and computer firm

See **MOTHERS**, page 12.

## FOR THE LOVE OF PEAT



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Julia Beaubien looks at *The Cannibal*, a sculpture made of peat, at Latham Art Gallery in downtown Stouffville. The work is part of an exhibition called *The Figure* which opened Thursday and runs through Sept. 25.

'WE DID SO MUCH ... FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS'

# Residents 'begging' for flood relief

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

When a tsunami hit Southeast Asia last Christmas, Woodbridge storm victim Ken O'Brien rallied his extended family to raise \$10,000 in aid for the devastated area.

In addition, Mr. O'Brien's tax dollars to various levels of government provided relief to tsunami victims.

But he and his Jeanne Drive neighbours have been left alone to cope with hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to their homes since a violent storm hit southern Ontario Aug. 19.

Mr. O'Brien, who has sent his three children to live with relatives because his house is uninhabitable, confronted Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara about lack of

government assistance during a visit Thursday.

"For the tsunami victims half a world away, we did so much. In our own neighbourhood, can't we do anything?" he said, adding the province donated \$22 million to victims of the Peterborough storm last summer.

"I have lost everything. Now, we are standing here begging for peo-

ple's mercy."

The O'Brien family's tsunami assistance was matched dollar for dollar with taxpayers' money from the federal government, not to mention another \$500,000 from York Region's property taxpayers.

In fact, in a controversial decision, regional politicians were so eager to help tsunami victims, they

See **SORBARA**, page 9.

**Seaway Pools & Hot Tubs**  
27 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM  
294-8030  
beachcomber HOT TUBS

**AJAC AWARD WINNING VEHICLES FROM AN AWARD WINNING DEALERSHIP!**  
How Do You Go ZOOM ZOOM? Sedans, Sports Cars, Wagons, Mini Vans, Trucks & SUV's

MAKE YOUR MOVE

www.markhammazda.ca

**MARKHAM MAZDA** 5396 HIGHWAY #7 MARKHAM 905-294-1210

0% Financing Up To 60 Months On All 2005 Models

**Sutton GROUP**

Town and Country Realty Ltd.  
640-0888