

Copts to Ottawa to protest violence

St. Bishoy Coptic Egyptian Church in Stouffville is joining a rally in Ottawa Saturday to protest recent violence against Copts in Egypt.

Many of the congregation still have family in the area and are becoming alarmed at the persecution of Christians there.

The latest incident to spark the protests in Ottawa was when a Muslim man wielding a knife attacked members of three Coptic churches in Alexandria, killing one and injuring 16 others about two weeks ago.

Copts are the largest Christian community in the Middle East. For years, they have faced persecution from Muslims and from the Egyptian government, according to an article on copts.net.

At a rally in Washington last week, Muslims joined Christians and others to protest against persecution of Christians in Egypt.

A peaceful protest by members of St. Bishoy Church was held last Friday, (the Orthodox Good Friday) as they stood in silent protest in their black-draped church.

There are about 150 families in the congregation. The church, the former Stouffville Missionary Church on Main Street, opened in October 2004.

Copts will be coming from Montreal and Toronto to the protest in Ottawa to tell the Egyptian embassy and the

Our Town

with Hannelore Volpe

Canadian Parliament to oppose the killing of Copts.

For more information on the protest, call Selim Naguib at 514-485-4550.

Tourist art sought for postcards show

If you have created paintings or other artwork while travelling to other parts of the world, the Latcham Gallery in Stouffville is looking for you.

The gallery is seeking works in all media depicting places artists have visited outside Ontario for an exhibition called Postcards from Away, which runs from June 29 to Aug. 13.

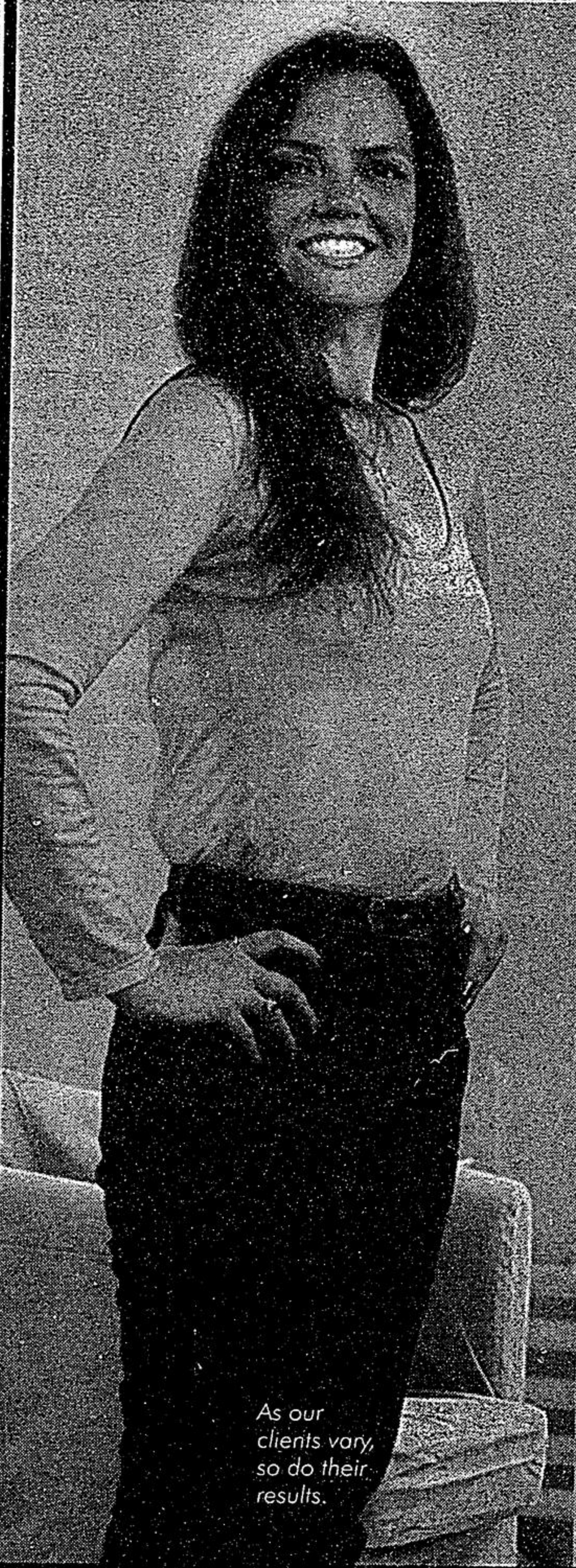
Artists who live in Whitchurch, Stouffville, Uxbridge, Markham, Aurora, Newmarket, Mount Albert, Pickering, Richmond Hill and East Gwillimbury are eligible.

Submissions for the show must be received by May 5. Only works produced since January 1996 will be considered.

For more information, call the gallery at 905-640-8954.

Hannelore Volpe can be contacted at hvolpe@ymg.com

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