

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

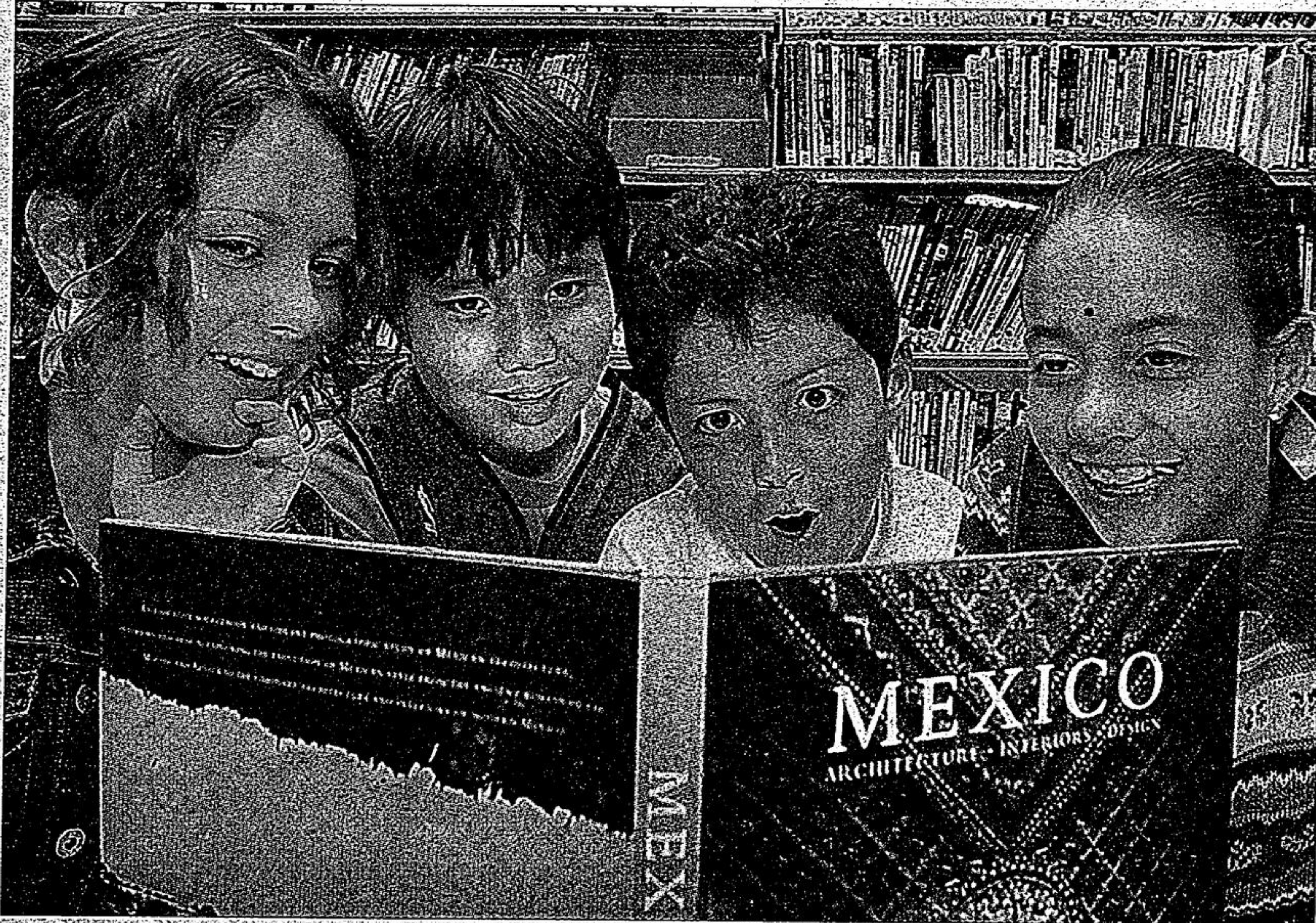
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



18 Former Spirit general manager lands same job in Collingwood

Opinion 6
 Calendar 15
 Sports 17
 Classified 19

MEXICAN EYE-OPENER



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville students Krista Bradshaw (from left), 13, and David Trembetzky, 11, learn about the hometown of visitors Sebastian Amaya, 11 and Daniela Samperio, 11. Thirty students from Mexico City are visiting students and families from Glad Park Public School this month. For more, see story on page 3.

Her family, victims still reeling from \$15-M fraud

Buyers want money back from realtor sentenced to 5 years

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
 Staff Writer

A woman taken for \$50,000 by disgraced Stouffville real estate broker Courtney Wallis Simpson says she "learned a lot" from her experience.

On Monday, Ms Wallis Simpson, 40, was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay back \$4.5 million to her victims after pleading guilty to a charge of fraud over \$5,000 in August 2006, according to York Regional Police Det. Fred Kerr.

In 2005, Markham resident Chitwan Brar tried to buy a commercial plaza in the Main Street and Ninth Line area of Stouffville.

After writing a cheque for \$50,000, Ms Brar didn't hear anything from Ms Wallis Simpson, she said.

"We didn't receive any papers even though we put the cheque in trust to her company," she said.

When a stop was put on the cheque, Ms Wallis Simpson got in touch with Ms Brar again, saying the money was crucial to the deal going through. Ms



COURTNEY WALLIS SIMPSON: Former Stouffville realtor duped investors and buyers out of \$15 million, York Regional Police say.

Wallis told Ms Brar she hadn't contacted her because she had been out of town.

Ms Brar wrote another cheque for \$50,000, but never saw any return. She hasn't seen a dime of her investment since.

"It's good she's been sentenced but we want our money back," she said. "Those were my savings that I used for groceries and mortgages. I'm hand to mouth now."

Ms Wallis Simpson defrauded more than 60 investors while she operated York Region Realty on Main Street between

See II, page 7.

Institute founder also a lifesaver

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Sheila Richardson's family has a history to be proud of.

Not only was her grandmother the first president of the Vandorf Women's Institute, she also saved her life.

When Mrs. Richardson was two years old, she and her grandmother, Gertrude Van Nostrand, were attacked by a ram in a neighbour's field. Mrs. Richardson's grandmother did not survive the attack, but managed to protect Richardson, who walked away with only bruises.

"I don't remember the event," Mrs. Richardson said. "I wish I did."

FACES & PLACES

Ms. Richardson's mother was also a member of the women's institute, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

To mark the event, the institute made a book presentation to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library at the Vandorf Community Hall. The book, *For The Home and Country*, was donated to by mem-

bers of the branch.

About 70 people attended the presentation, including Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Councillor Ken Ferdinands, library CEO Carolyn Nordheimer James and Women's Institute Ontario president-elect Joy Trimble.

There are more than nine million members worldwide in women's organizations.

The Vandorf branch has 11 members, including three generations. The branch was started in 1907. The branch's oldest member, Mary

See WOMEN'S, page 9.

410-AUTO
 SPECIALIZING IN
 Volkswagen • Audi
 Porsche • European
 Asian & Hybrid
 138 Sandford Dr., Unit 5
 905-642-2886
 1-877-410-AUTO
 www.410auto.ca

STOUFFVILLE Family Dentistry
 Dr. Sheldon Lazier • Dr. Waseema Ali • Dr. Dan Kobbie
 Leon Kofman DD
 DENTURIST
 FREE CONSULTATION
 (905) 642-7474
 www.smileclinic.ca
 6212 Main Street, Just East of the Train Station

Easter Carats for Easter Bunnies
Barthau Jewellers
 6312 Main St.
 Stouffville
 (905) 640-4646
 www.handpickeddiamonds.com