

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 32 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST



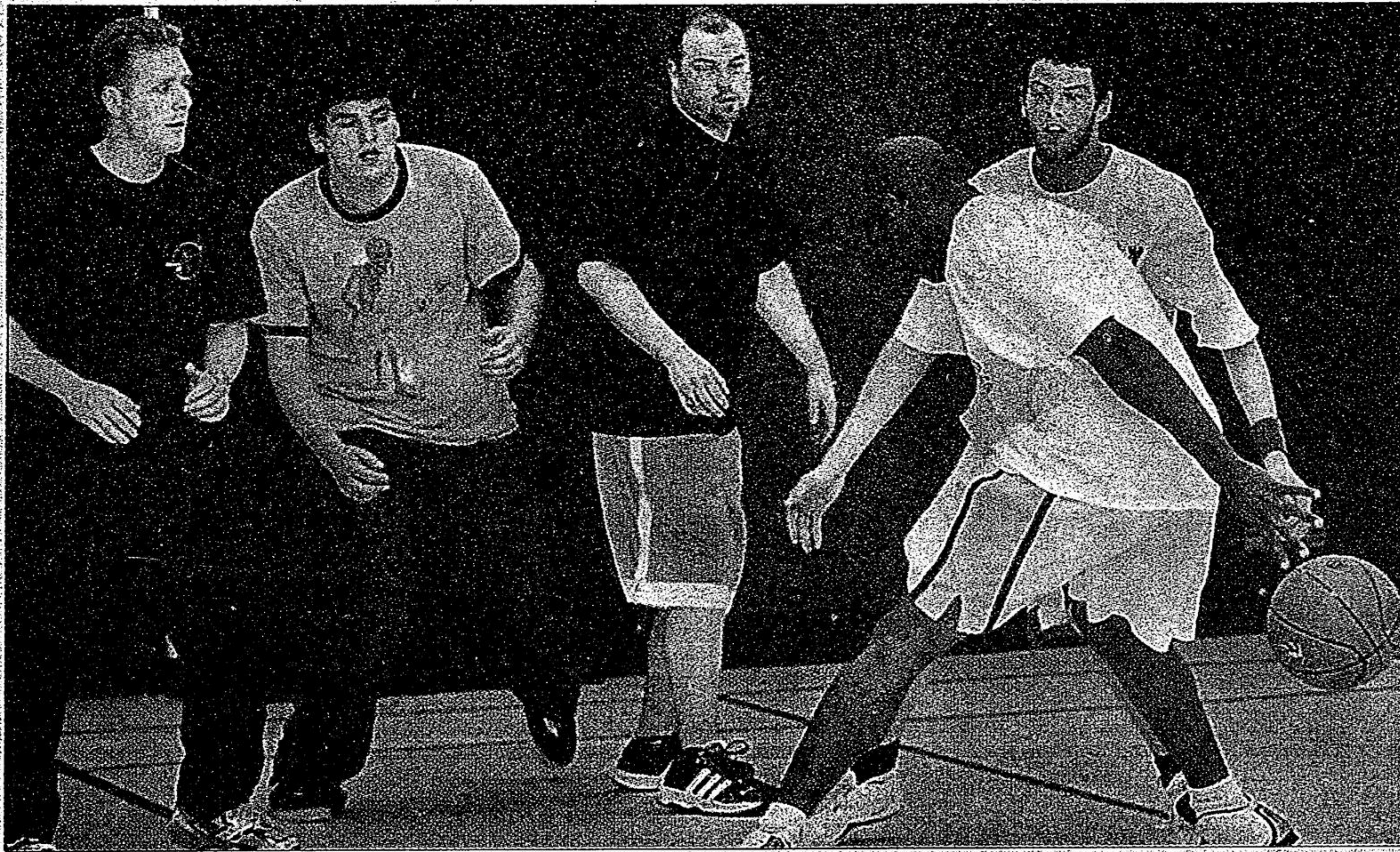
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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Court date for cops and kids

York Regional Police Const. Dameian Muirhead attempts a trick pass during a Youth Week Cops and Kids basketball game at Summitview Public School Wednesday. Watching the ball are Const. Shane MacKenzie (from left), Jason Smith, Const. Rob Martel and Nate Sanderson. The week's festivities end with the Battle of the Bands finals tonight from 7 to 11 p.m. at Latcham Hall.

## Ashley Taws missed four years of track time due to highway collision

# Injured racer's comeback in the pink

BY JIM MASON  
Staff Writer

Barbie's back on track in the pink. Ashley Taws, who made headlines racing the pink Be Anything With Barbie race car as a teenager, returns to competition this year following a four-year hiatus caused by an off-track crash.

Now 23, the Whitchurch-Stouffville resident announced her new race program and unveiled her cars at Toronto City Centre Airport today. Mattel returns as sponsor of the pair of Barbie at Wal-Mart cars. More pink.

"I missed racing so much," said Ms Taws, who started racing go-karts in 1993. "It was always a part of my life."

Ms Taws was a rising star who established a new benchmark for female racers in Canada, before tragedy struck.

She claimed a pole position at the Toronto Indy, took three podium finishes, tied for third in championship points and was rookie of the year in the 2002 Canadian Formula Ford Championship.

But a traffic accident during the off-season in Holland Landing left her severely injured and derailed plans for a run at the

2003 title. A passenger in a car in a head-on highway collision, she suffered a broken spine, crushed aortal artery and abdominal injuries.

A comeback just six months later was initially successful but short-lived, as limited endurance and nagging health problems forced her to retire.

She studied marketing at Fanshawe and Seneca colleges and now works for other drivers, arranging travel and other off-track details.

See TORONTO, page 8.

## PEACE, FREEDOM BROUGHT FAMILY TO STOUFFVILLE

# Newest citizens sing praises of Canada

BY HANNELORE VOLPPE  
Staff Writer

They waved Canadian flags, held red carnations and heartily sang Canada's national anthem.

Pride in their new country was palpable for the 43 people who became Canadian citizens Thursday at St. Mark Catholic School in Stouffville.

Two of the families are from Stouffville with the rest coming from other area municipalities.

Giving their children more opportunity than they could have in their home country of Zimbabwe is why the Mina/Lingham family came to Canada in 2003. Canada was their first choice.

The family moved to Stouffville last August.

Three daughters, Carmelle, 14, Sharnae, 12, and eight-year-old Michailah Lingham, all attend St. Mark.

Their little brother, Zachary Mina, slept through the whole ceremony. Almost a month old, Zachary was the only member of the family who came into the citizenship ceremony already a Canadian citizen.

In Canada, "We are talking about peace and freedom and freedom of choice," Mr. Mina said.

After leaving a country that often experiences political turmoil, coming to Canada was a relief.

"It was so different," Mr. Mina said. "It was like going from night to day."

The family was delighted the first time they saw snow and the children

See SHE, page 9.

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