

# SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE

## Youngest auctioneer enjoying her calling

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

For the Clarksons, auctioning is quickly becoming a family tradition.

The youngest member, Emily, is the newest addition to the bidding and selling world and she's taking it by storm.

"I think I caught on pretty quick," Ms Clarkson said. "There isn't anything too confusing about it."

The 15-year-old Stouffville District Secondary School student is the youngest auctioneer in Ontario. And it's all a piece of cake.

"I've got a pretty good lingo going and I think that makes it easier to do the auctioning," she said.

Ms. Clarkson has worked for the family business, Clarkson Auctions, since she was a youngster. It was only recently she moved from sign holder to full-fledged auctioneer. Her first gig was Jan. 5. Her father, Tom Clarkson, was auctioning and she asked if she could try.

"The audience heard (me ask) and they just started chanting my name," she said. "I thought 'I have to do it now' so I took the microphone and started doing it."

Her father was extremely proud.

"When she took the mike that first day, she said she was nervous, but she didn't look it," he said. "Her first time up, she

sounded better than somebody who just came home from auction school."

Mr. Clarkson started the business in 1989 after switching careers more than four times.

"It's a hard business. It takes a long time to make your mark," he said.

Mr. Clarkson's wife, Linda, and two sons, Andrew and Michael, also help out at auctions on weekends.

"It's just great when you have the kids follow along with things like this," said Mr. Clarkson. "It's so positive."

Emily's experience at auctions over the years have helped her develop her own style and technique.

While standing in front of a crowd of anxious buyers may not sound appealing to many, Ms Clarkson looks forward to the auctions and isn't nervous.

"I like being able to get up in front of the audience," she said. "I like the fact they (the audience) seems to like it, too."

As for her voice, all that yelling doesn't seem to affect her ability to speak afterwards, too much.

"You do get a little dried out, but it's not too bad," she said.

"I'm really planning on sticking with it," she said. "The more I do, the better I get."

For more, go to [clarksonauctions.com](http://clarksonauctions.com)

## FULL STEAM AHEAD



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Dorie Billich of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville 'helps' move a vintage steam engine to a new storage space Wednesday from Bethesda Park. The engine, which was at the Ontario Science Centre, will eventually be on display at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Schell Lumber, Barry Welding and Anderson Haulage assisted with the move and storage. Manufactured in 1888, it was used in a lumber mill in east Toronto until the 1940s. It was acquired by the museum in 2005 from the science centre where it had been on display since 1982. For more on the museum, go to [townofws.com/museum.asp](http://townofws.com/museum.asp)

## Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

Visit [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) for more on these and other stories

### Spirit, Huntsville hook up in North semifinals Sunday

The Stouffville Spirit and Huntsville Muskoka Otters meet in Game 2 of their Provincial Jr. A Hockey League North Conference semifinal tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

Huntsville finished first in the conference and earned a bye to semis. Meanwhile, the Spirit beat the Couchiching Terriers in three straight games.

Game 4 will also be played in Stouffville, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

For results of last night's first game, go to [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)

### Filmmaker shows his stuff

Several recent films by young Stouffville filmmaker Paul Plett are being shown at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Thursday.

Mr. Plett completed studies at the Toronto Film School last year and has produced nine short films which were shown at the For the Love of Jo coffee house in November. Since then, he has been working on several new films. Mr. Plett has directed, written and acted in his short films.

The movie night begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call 905-642-7323.

### Clipper teams flying high

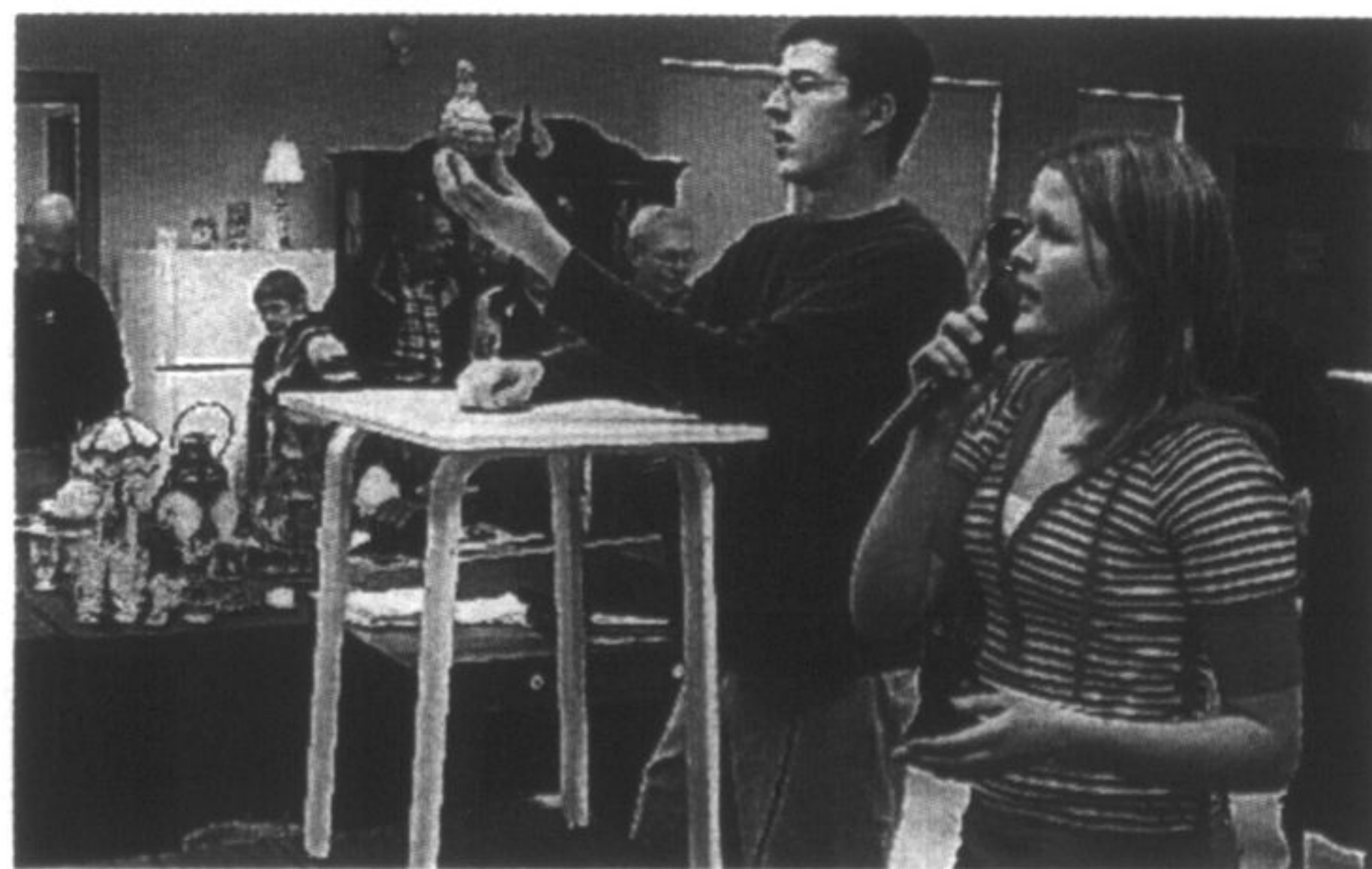
There could be five Stouffville Clipper teams in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association A semifinals after this weekend.

For more, see story on page 18 or go to [omha.net](http://omha.net)

## SOUND OFF

Have something to say about these or other stories?

E-mail us at [jmason@ymg.com](mailto:jmason@ymg.com)



Emily Clarkson, 15, is travelling in family footsteps by working auctions. She's believed to be the youngest auctioneer in Ontario.



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