

CRIME: Wallis Simpson did time for role in Ponzi scheme

Former Stouffville broker violated parole: York police

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
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A former real estate broker from Whitchurch-Stouffville has been charged after police were told about a woman violating her parole conditions.

High risk offender unit officers had received information that a woman on parole, who had been prohibited from visiting a home during the week, had often gone there, York Regional Police Det. Jim Killby said Monday.

IN COURT TOMORROW

Officers watched a woman get picked up at the Lincolnville GO station near Tenth Line and Bethesda Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville April 14. She was then taken to a home, police said.

The woman's parole officer and the staff of the home at which the woman resides had been told she was going to visit an approved address, police said.

After spotting a woman leaving a home in a vehicle at about 2:30 p.m., officers stopped the vehicle and made an arrest using a Canada-wide parole warrant, police said.

Courtney Wallis Simpson, 44, of Whitchurch-Stouffville is charged with obstructing a peace officer.

She is scheduled to appear at the Newmarket courthouse tomorrow.

Ms Wallis Simpson has been on full parole since November 2008, according to National Parole Board documents.

She was handed a five-year sentence in 2007 and ordered to pay \$4.5 million in restitution to the victims of a mortgage fraud after she was found guilty of fraud exceeding \$5,000 and 22 offences under the Provincial Real Estate and Business Brokers Act.

She appealed the sentence but last year the Ontario Court of Appeal dismissed that appeal.

Ms Wallis Simpson defrauded more than 60 investors during her time at York Region Realty on Main Street in Whitchurch-Stouffville between June 2003 and October 2005, according to police.

60-PLUS INVESTORS DEFRAUDED

Investigators referred to the case as "an elaborate Ponzi scheme" which involved the defrauding of would-be purchasers of commercial real estate in Whitchurch-Stouffville by misappropriating deposit money held in a trust account. Investigators determined more than two dozen bank accounts were being used to run the scheme, police said.

Investigators also pegged the total loss to investors and would-be real estate buyers at \$15 million, of which \$6 million was recovered, police said.

New rules for election signs

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Although the municipal election is gearing up with seven people officially registered to run and one verbally declaring her intent, there will not be any visible sign the election is taking place until Sept. 30.

Unless the candidate has a campaign office.

"Candidates are permitted to erect election signs on their campaign offices once the candidate has filed his or her nomination papers and paid the nomination filing fee," wrote town clerk Michele Kennedy in her April 6 report to council recommending the changes.

Sept. 30, or 25 days before the Oct. 25 election, is when candidates can start erecting their election signs on front lawns and other approved locations.

There are a few new rules for this year's election including word and symbol usage on the signs, primarily in the name of pedestrian and driver safety.

"Election signs cannot simulate any traffic signage, traffic signals, signage that directs the movement of traffic or any official sign," Ms Kennedy wrote. "The use of words such as 'stop', 'look', 'one-way', 'danger', 'yield', or any similar phrase, symbol, lights or characters which might mislead or confuse traffic are prohibited."

Another restriction is that signs cannot have flashing lights, rotating parts or illuminate or display the town's logo, crest or seal in whole or part.

Signs cannot obstruct the visibility of railway crossings, warning devices, traffic signs or signals, fire hydrants, fire escapes, doors or

windows.

Election signs are also prohibited from being erected on centre medians/boulevards or traffic islands, in any park or other open space owned/operated/controlled by the town or on the adjacent highway, or on buildings/structures owned or operated by the municipality or on the adjacent highway. Signs can't be erected on the sidewalk or piece of land between the sidewalk and road.

Signs are allowed on private property, provided the owner or resident has given permission to the candidate.

Another change is the size of election signs. There is no longer a minimum, but there is a cap on how large they can be - 21.53 square feet, which would equal five by four feet, six by 3.5 feet or seven by three feet.

In doing this, the town also stipulated there must be a 10 m separation between election signs for the same candidate.

Candidates will also be required to track where every election sign of theirs is erected, complete with type and size of sign.

A deposit of \$230 is required before any signs are erected on public property.

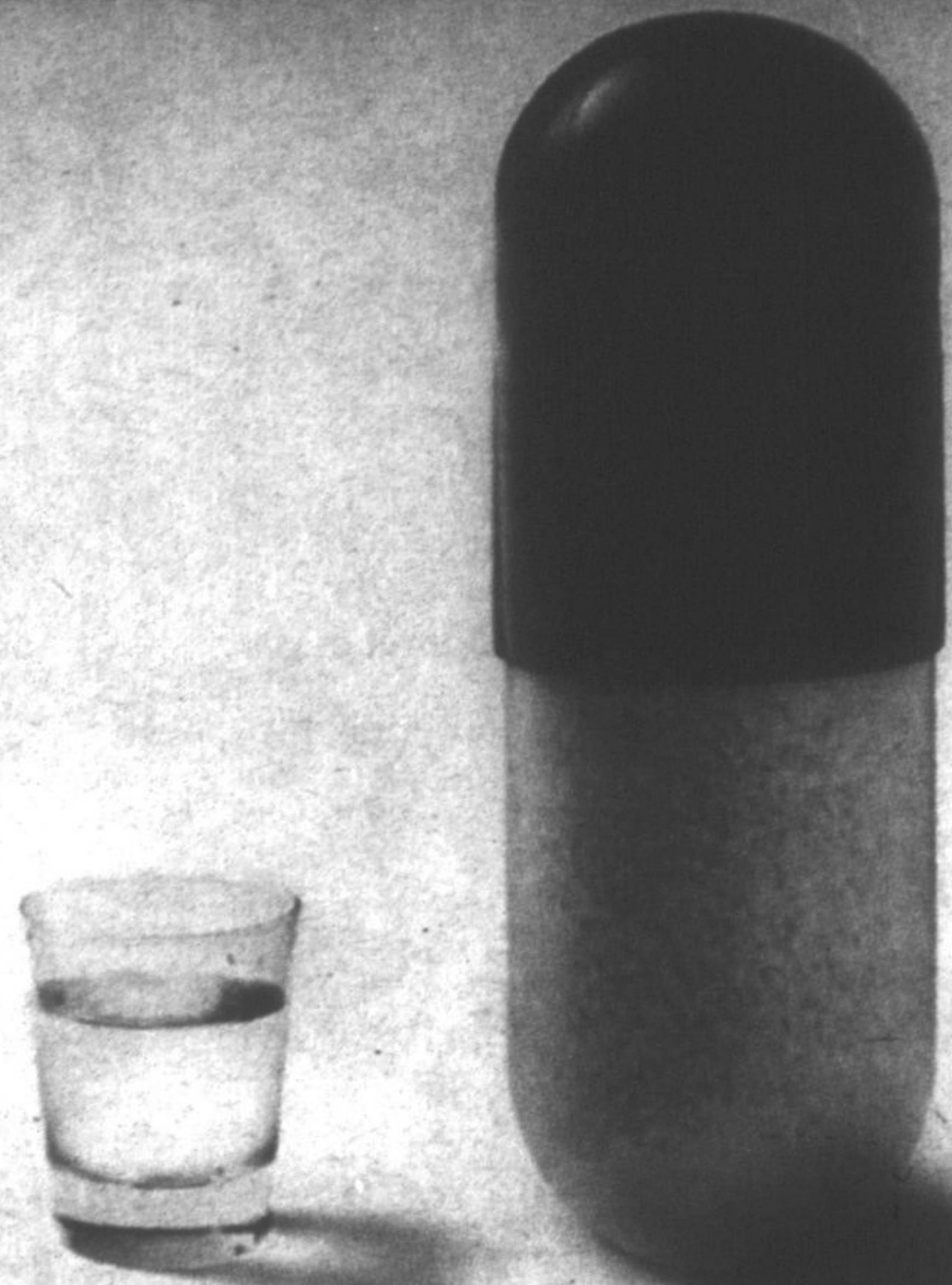
Any election signs in violation of the bylaw will be removed, under direction of the clerk, and a \$10 fee will be deducted from the refundable portion of the deposit.

"If the cost to remove a candidate's election signs exceeds the deposit, the candidate shall be liable for payment of the associated costs," Ms Kennedy wrote.

Once the election is over, candidates are responsible for the removal of their signs, which must be done no later than three days following election day.

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STOUFFVILLE



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