

# Talk to family members about organ, tissue donations

From page 1.

An online donor registry was launched at BeADonor.ca last month, making it easier than ever to register consent. In less than three minutes, one person has the potential to some day save up to eight lives and enhance 75 more.

I knew donating my father's organs meant we were honouring his wishes and I knew he would save lives. What I didn't know was the profound impact his decision would have on my own life.

In November, my three siblings and I were featured in the Toronto Star as part of a series on organ donation. We told my father's story: how he wanted to become an organ donor, how he carried a blank donor card "just in case" he met someone who wanted to consent on the spot and

about the child with leukemia he helped out so many years ago through blood donation.

Five months to the day my father passed away – Dec. 14, 2010 – I received an incredible gift: letters from his double-lung recipient and family members. The pieces spoke of the remarkable impact my father's donation had on their lives. After receiving the letters, I knew I had to continue sharing his story.

I became a volunteer with Trillium Gift of Life Network in February and had my first speaking engagement on Valentine's Day.

Since then, I have participated in several events and collaborated with Sunnybrook hospital to produce a video promoting organ and tissue donation. More recently, my father's story was entered in the Donate Life Hollywood Film Festival in

*Five months to the day my father passed away – Dec. 14, 2010 – I received an incredible gift: letters from his double-lung recipient and family members.*

California where it placed second.

Talking about organ and tissue donation is not an easy conversation to have with loved ones, but it's one I'm so thankful my father had with us. That brief talk inspired me to register my consent and changed my life. Most importantly, it saved three others.

My father always said his four kids would always be able to amount to greater things than he ever could.

I beg to differ.

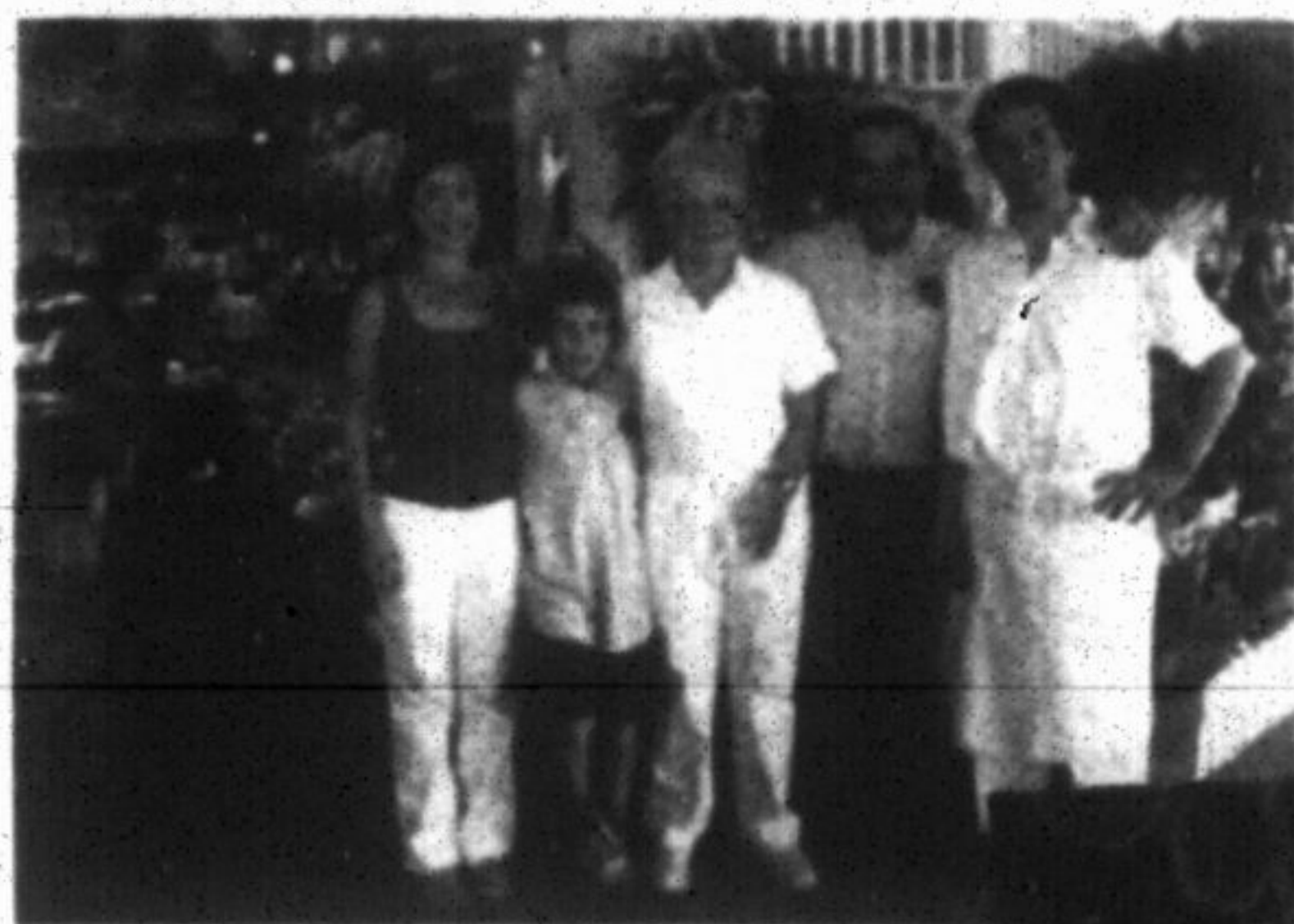
There is no greater gift you can give someone than life itself and he's done that three-fold.

The man whose selfless decision saved three lives and gave sight to another; the man whose selfless decision was featured in an international video competition and the man whose selfless decision inspired his four children and countless others was my father and for that, I couldn't be more proud.

Stouffville native Alyshia Higgins completed her high school and college journalism placements at The Sun-Tribune.

To register your consent online, visit [beadonor.ca](http://beadonor.ca). For more information on organ and tissue donation in Ontario visit [giftoflife.on.ca](http://giftoflife.on.ca).

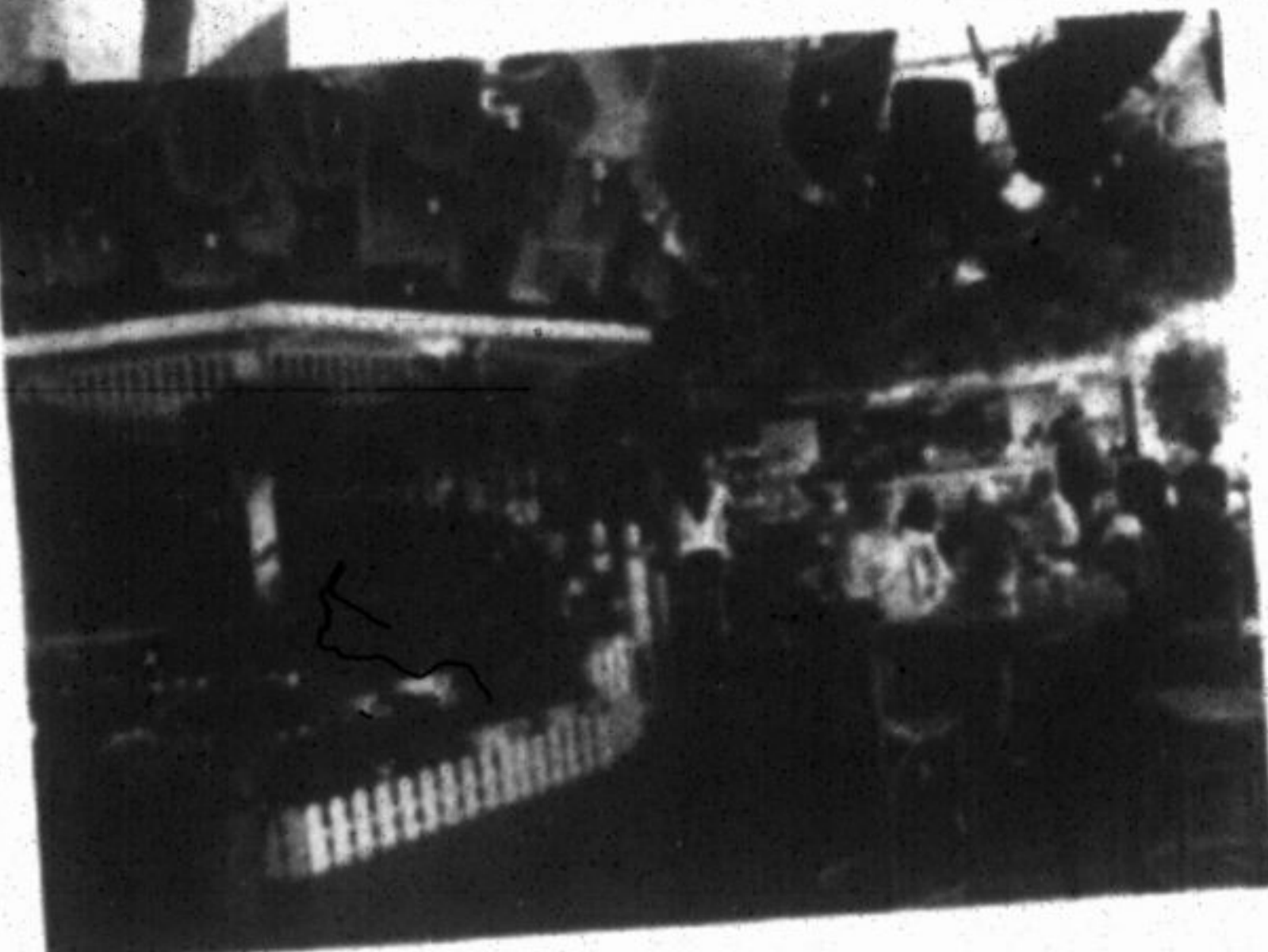
## In Our Community



L to R: Cathy, Dylan, Doreen, Evan (MacDonald), and Thomas

### CONGRATULATIONS

The Village Grocer opened in its new location at 4476 16th Avenue (just west of Kennedy Road) on Friday, July 15th.



Café Seating Area

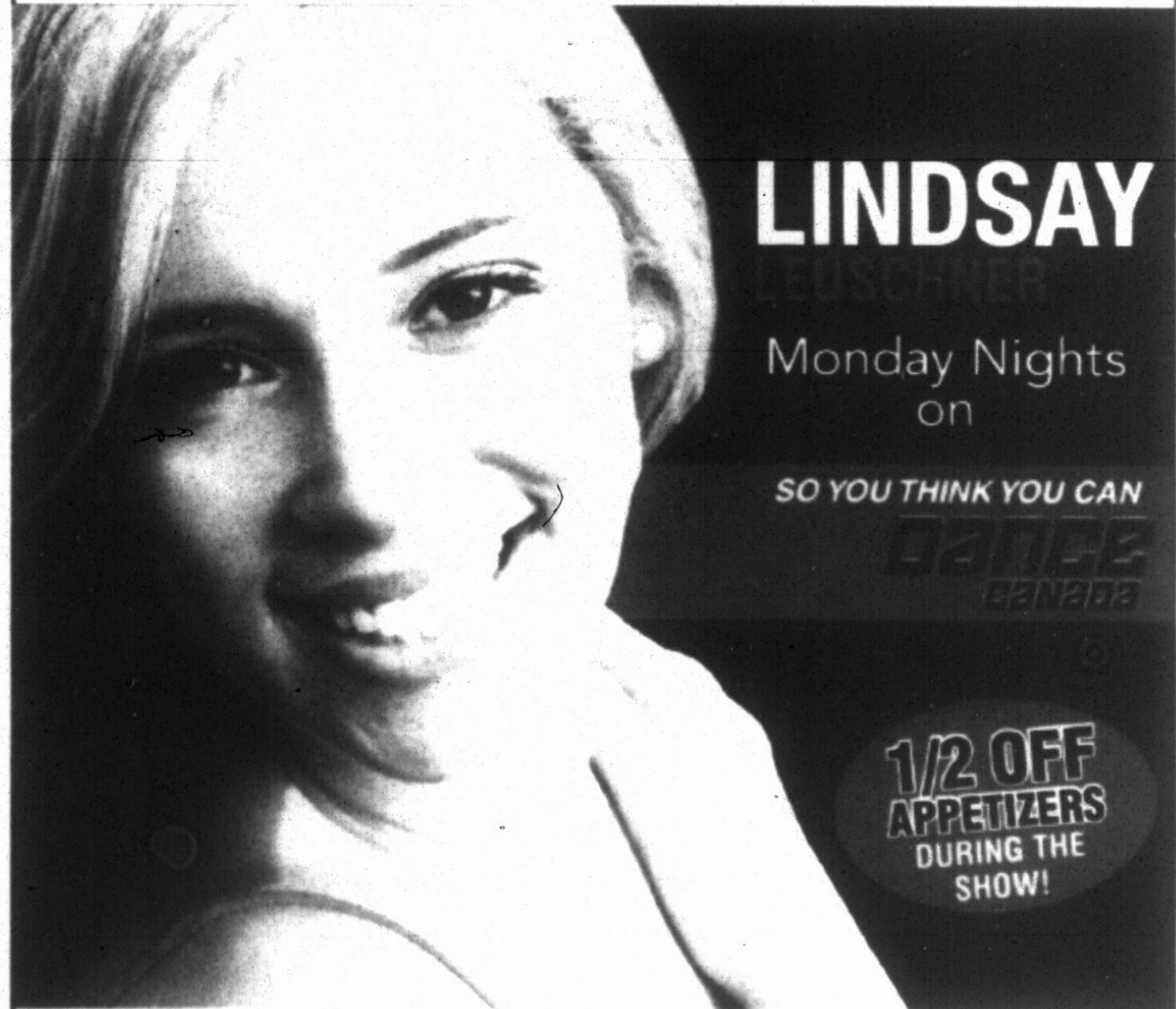
The new store has much more space and features a beautiful cheese counter, magnificent bakery, delectable meat counter, fresh produce and an amazing new Café & seating area ... and so much more.



L to R: Cathy, Doreen, Evan

Your Community Newspaper • 905-943-6100

Come to  
**Boston Pizza**  
to cheer on our local talent



## LINDSAY

Monday Nights  
on

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN

**1/2 OFF  
APPETIZERS  
DURING THE  
SHOW!**

**Boston Pizza** 1060 Hoover Park Drive  
905.640.2869

## Attend Our Free and Important Seminar!



Learn Valuable Information About Your CPP Benefits and the Many Advantages to Planning Your Final Wishes in Advance of Need

Topics include: Changes to CPP Benefits, Rules to Collecting CPP While Working, Funeral Planning Tax Advantages, Keeping Funeral Costs Low, And Much, Much More

Sponsored By

*No Final Wishes*  
FUNERAL PLANNERS

Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Lebovic Leisure Centre  
30 Burkholder St.

RSVP to  
647-219-0525

refreshments will served

Guest Speakers



Louisa Lam  
Citizen Service Specialist  
Service Canada



Sheila Zister  
Funeral Director  
Pre-Planning Expert