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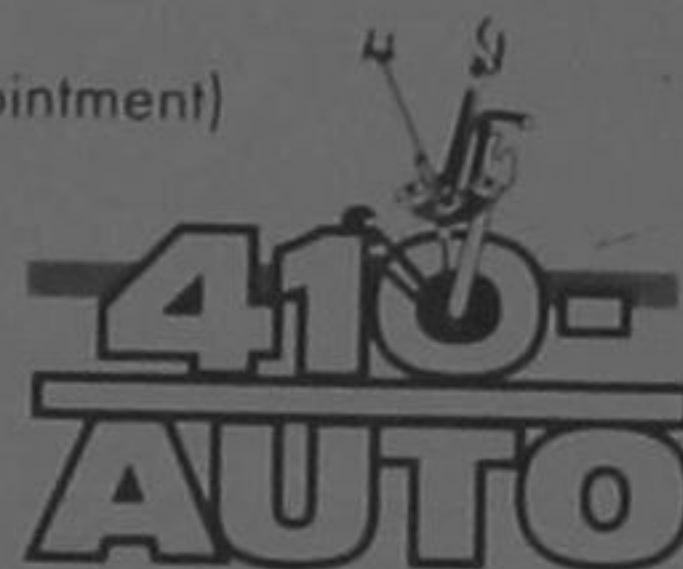


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Summer Science Camp Exercises Mind and Body

By Kinjal Dagli Shah
Stouffville Free Press

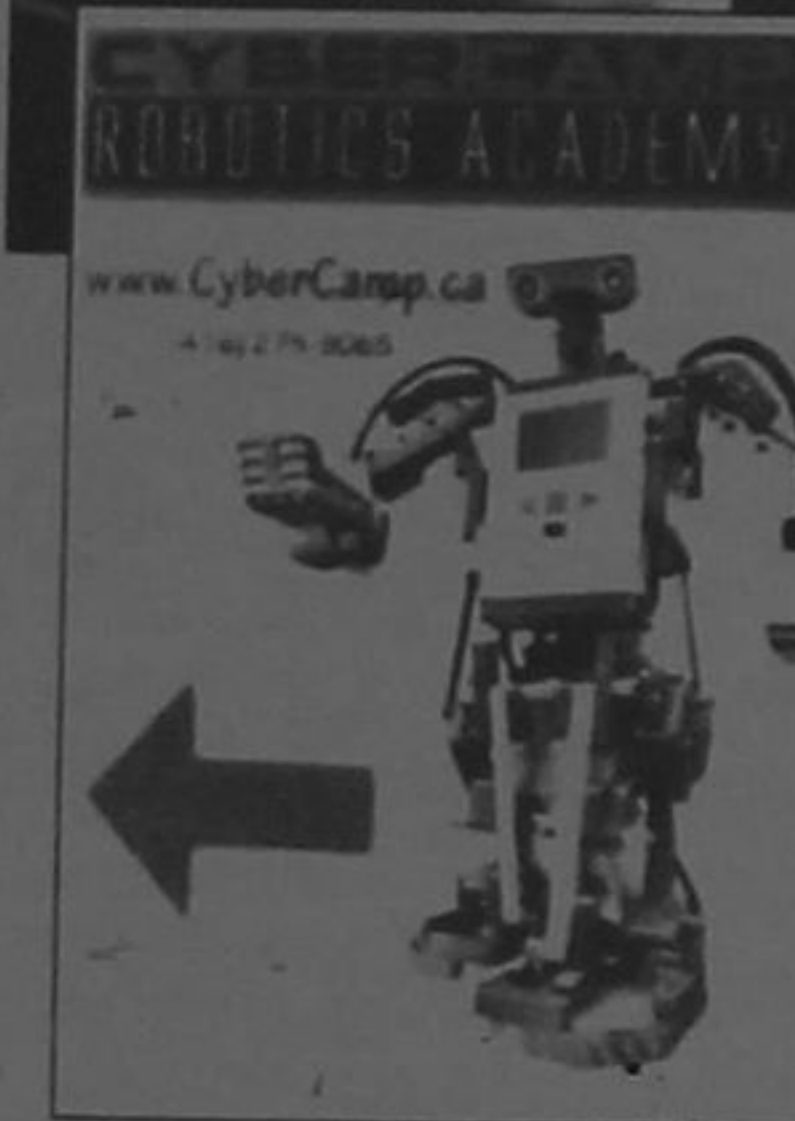
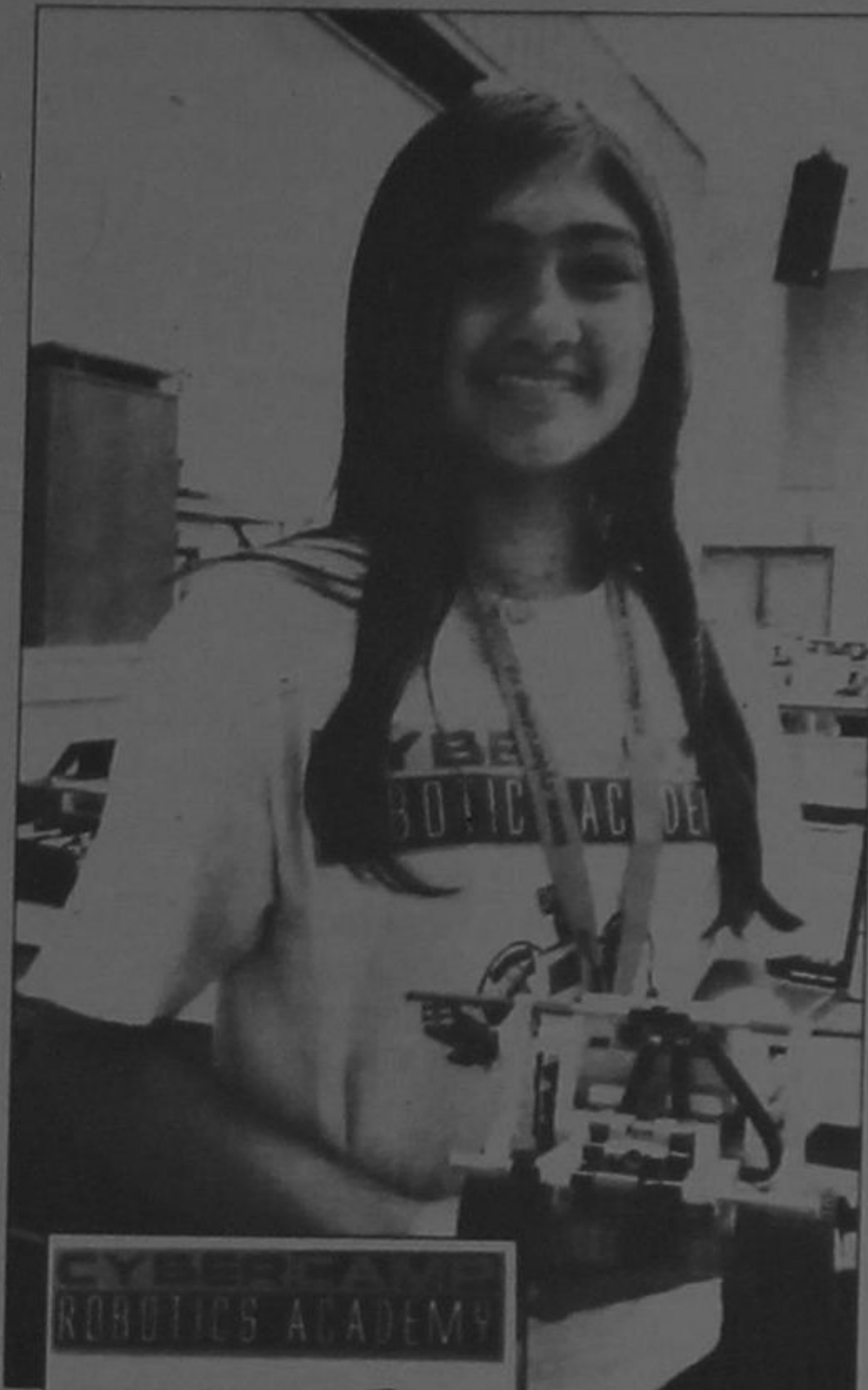
Jason Wilson believes Stouffville has many sports and nature camps but hardly any that deal with science and technology. "Stouffville is lucky - we have many summer camps to choose from but there was a void for kids who aren't necessarily into sports or nature. We wanted to create an opportunity for children to use their minds and work on engineering and science principles. The CyberCamp Robotics Academy in Stouffville aims to do just that," explained the Grade 8 teacher at Oscar Peterson Public School.

Through four theme weeks in the month of July that ranged from food fight to space explorers, the camp hoped to stimulate young minds to think and explore. "We had 36 students in the age group of 9 to 14 years for each week. As a teacher, I love science and technology and see it as Canada's future. We wanted to do something with the kids that could lead to a potential career. The kids would come in and use Lego to build motors and sensors to create autonomous robots and program them to do different things. We give them different challenges each week with the goal to learn the design cycle - come up with an idea, build it, program it and test it. They learn to constantly engage in the fine-tuning process, all the while using math, science and engineering principles," said Jason.

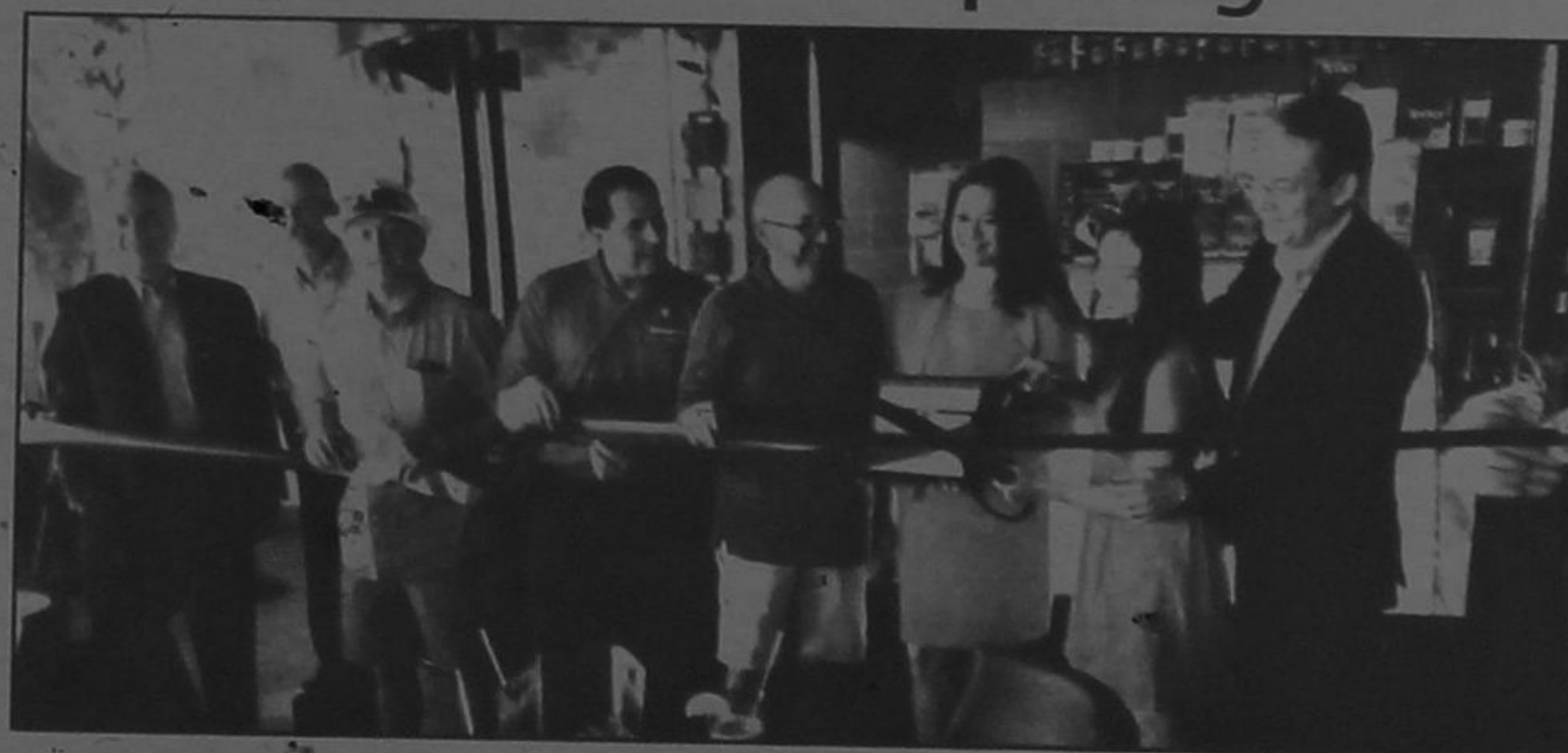
For a bunch of high-energy boys, the camp seemed an ideal playground to keep their minds active. Jason admits that they get more boys than girls for the camp. "A part of the reason is the Lego aspect since it is marketed towards boys. Social conditioning and personal interest also play a role in the gender skew. It's not an ability issue - the girls are just as strong in math and sciences."

Proving him right was 12-year-old Serena Wray, who received a free week at the camp as part of her Science Award at Harry Bowes Public School. She not only enjoyed the camp but also placed third out of 15 teams at the week end's competition at the camp. "Serena winning the Science Award and a spot at CyberCamp is a fantastic opportunity for her to further her knowledge about robotics (specifically programming) outside the classroom in a lower student-teacher ratio. This particular camp exercises both the mind and the body; it's the best of both worlds."

Write to Kinjal at kinjal.dagli@gmail.com



Record Sales Greet New Restaurant Opening



Mariana Cardenas cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the Symposium Café Restaurant and Lounge June 26. Her parents, franchise owners Itzia and Sergio Cardenas, stand at her side while Town CAQ Marc Pourvahidi (far left), councillors Hugo Kroon, Rob Hargrave, Rick Upton (fifth from left) and Mayor Justin Altmann look on. The restaurant, located on the site

of the former East Side Mario's, enjoyed the most successful opening sales figures of all 22 Symposium outlets in Ontario according to Director of Franchising Ron Ansett. The fare includes breakfast till 4 pm daily, crepes, burgers, flatbreads, pastas, wraps, steak, seafood and salads. Carole Nelles photo

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