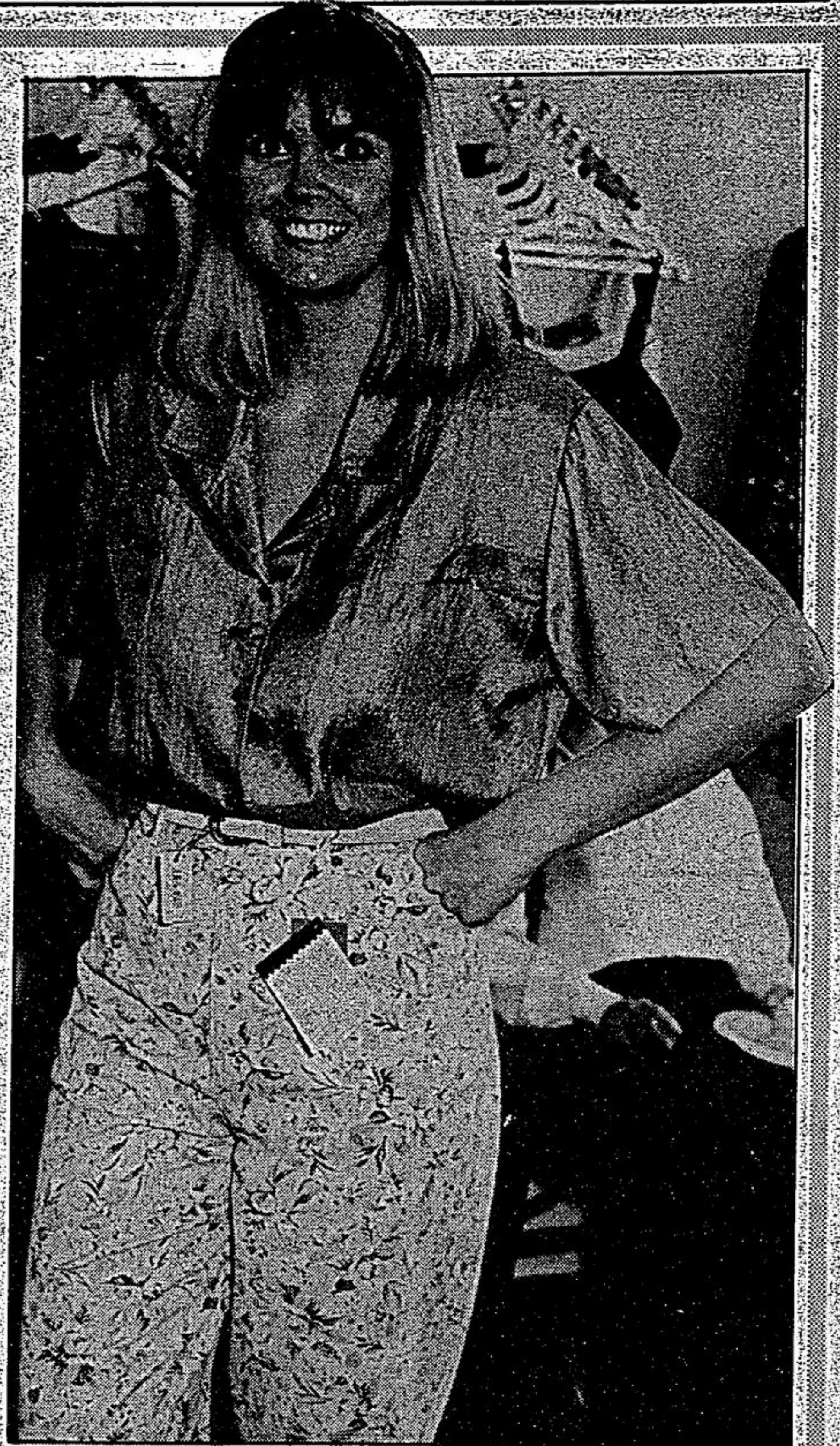
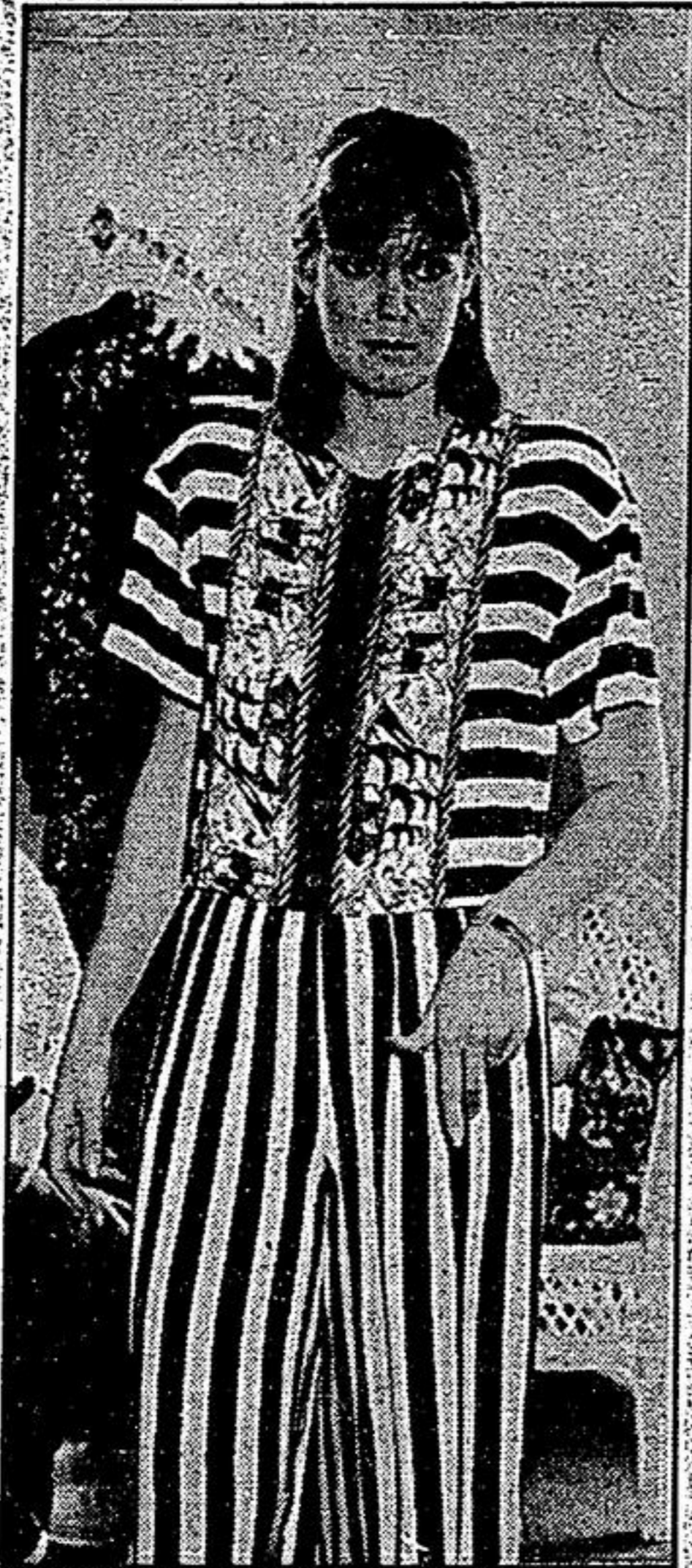


stouffville up front

Stouffville springs into fashions



Stouffville's Graylane Boutique hosted a fashion show Sunday afternoon of some of the latest styles for spring. Models included Cathy Kloefer, upper right, Rebecca Kubica, third photo from left, and store owner/manager Irene Kubica, holding belt. Other models at the show were Sam Kewen and Jackie Kubica.

Photos by
Annette Buchkowski



Stouffville volunteer Bonnie Morrison, right, and others like her are the keys to the success of the Speech and Stroke Centre, York-Durham branch. The centre helps stroke victims with asphasia. Claremont's Wyn Chamberlain, seated, is one of the many to be aided by the centre. She works on her writing skills while husband Allan looks on.

Volunteers key for stroke support centre

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

The good news just keeps getting better at the Speech and Stroke Centre, York-Durham Branch.

It was in May of 1989 that the seed was planted for the Stouffville based support program for adult stroke survivors with asphasia, a condition involving difficulties in speaking, understanding, reading and writing. Now, almost two years later, the centre is flourishing, thanks to the work of 30 volunteers who back up the full time efforts of a trio of speech therapists.

The centre initially set up operations at Parkview Village with 18 months of start up funding from the New Horizons Project Money for Seniors, and additional financial assistance from the Ministry of Health, Community, and Health Programs. It was finally recognized as a corporation last August, and held its first Annual General Meeting this past November.

Now, 28 clients, along with supportive family members, attend the centre's twice weekly speech therapy sessions. With two volunteers heading up tables of four or so clients, each group takes the common topic for the day, such as the changing seasons, newspapers, feet, etc. The table works through a number of discussion points relating to the topic, with everyone encouraged to join in.

Bonnie Morrison, who is in her first year as a centre volunteer, feels the process is one of positivism. "This is a good news place, it's a growth experience for everyone involved."

Morrison is no stranger to volunteer work, having served the Canadian Cancer Society and the Markham-Stouffville Hospice in the past. A career nurse, she said her work with the centre has been a total about face from the type of work she was used to doing as a health care professional. "I'm not part of the acute stage of an illness here. We're into lifestyle. And I've learned more about asphasia in my one year here than I learned in 20 years as a nurse."

Morrison and her fellow volunteers help fill the void left in patient care once centre clients have been discharged from traditional rehabilitation programs. The volunteers are charged with the task of maintaining the communication levels achieved during previous therapy, helping in the realization of goals set for each client, and helping clients improve their self esteem through the learning of effective communication.

Photo/BRUCE STAPLEY