

People

Stouffville artist writing her own ticket

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

After seven years of 'playing' with calligraphy, Kathie McIlvrde Kimball decided it was time to get serious.

"I started doing it out of a desire to do something a little different," explained the Stouffville resident, who decided to use her skills to create her own wedding invitations.

"People at work would ask me to do cards and it developed that way. I had seven years of playing with it and the last three years, since coming back from Vancouver, I've been a part of the Toronto Calligraphic Guild."

During that time she has been taught by a number of experts in the field, and that experience convinced her to get more involved in this graceful and timeless art.

While family is very much a top priority for McIlvrde Kimball, who has a 7-year-old daughter, Vanessa, and who is expecting a baby in the fall, she finds calligraphy fits in well with

her schedule at home.

"I've put framed pieces together and I've sent some of my designs to a card company," she noted. "Things are starting to evolve at a good pace for me now." She is hoping to place some of her framed work in retail stores and will also be demonstrating her skills in the mini-studios at this year's Uxbridge Celebration of the Arts. Her work will also be on sale later this year at the Latcham Gallery's annual fund-raiser, Beyond Crafts. "Right now I'm doing predominantly framed work, but there's a new Canadian card company and I sent them my portfolio. They liked my work and I imagine they'll ask for specimens for particular cards."

In August, McIlvrde Kimball will be teaching some of the basic calligraphic skills to children from 6 years old and up at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library. She first taught just after she moved into town, when the librarian at Vanessa's school asked her if she would be willing to give a class.

"She got such a response she had to

turn people away." While public interest in the art seems to be growing, supplies are getting harder to come by, observed McIlvrde Kimball.

"Art stores aren't carrying the specialized supplies any more, so you have to order them from England or the States."

There are schools for calligraphy in both countries, and a conference is held in a different North American location every year. "It's the Mecca for calligraphers," McIlvrde Kimball explained.

"I've never been to it yet, but if they hold it in Toronto one year, I'd really like to go." Courses in calligraphy are also offered at a number of community centres, she added.

Her classes at Whitchurch-Stouffville Library will give students the opportunity to experiment with different writing tools and color, while learning the basics of the italic calligraphic alphabet.

Dates are August 17, 18, 19 and 20. There will be two sessions: 9.30 to 11 a.m. for 6 to 10-year-olds and 12.30 to 2.30 p.m. for those 10 and older. The

\$40 fee includes materials and pre-registration is required. For more information, call 640-2395.



Kathie McIlvrde Kimball and daughter Vanessa.

Horticultural contest to pick best local garden

If you want to show off your garden, the Stouffville Horticultural Society would like to hear from you.

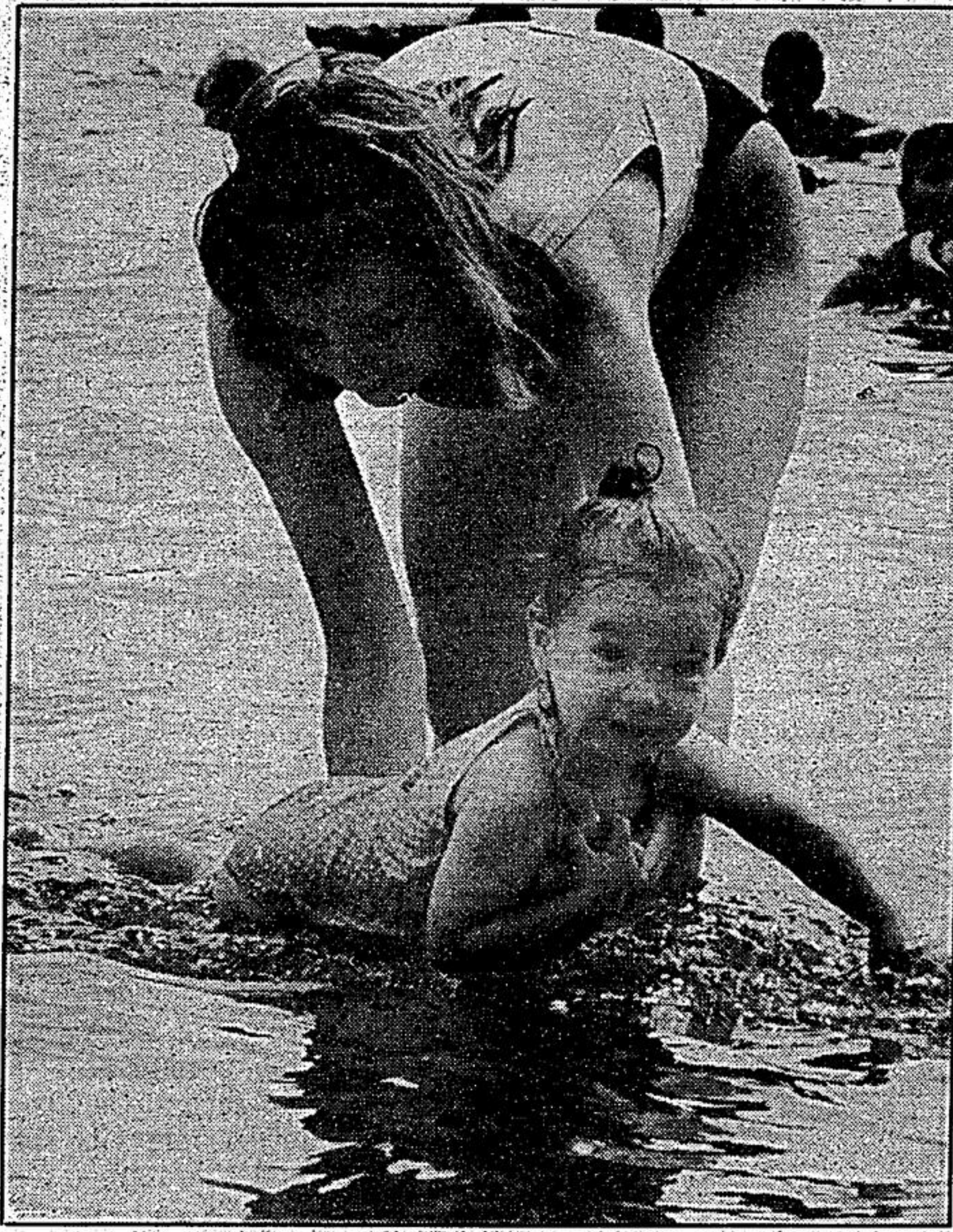
The society is currently holding its first Home Garden Contest, which is open to all residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Categories include front yard welcome garden; back yard retreat; special garden feature - for example a water garden; perennial garden; rose garden and container garden. Entries will be judged on overall design; use of color; use of landscaping materials such as rock; harmony of plants and use of textures. The contest runs until Labor Day. To enter, drop off one or more 5x7 inch photographs of your garden with your name, address and phone number on the back, to a society meeting or to Something In Common book store at 34 Civic Ave. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the lower level of the United Church. All entries will be judged by a panel of local horticultural experts and winners in each category will receive a special plaque. They will also be honored at the society's annual general meeting and banquet in November. The society regrets that photographs cannot be returned. There is no entry fee for members; all other residents will be charged \$3.

Train still running here

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muters can pick up Rapid Transit into the downtown area. "There will be five buses going to Scarborough Town Centre through the day, not just during morning rush hour," explained GO senior information officer Ed

Shea. "There will be six trips coming back." As well, he said, commuters will still have the option of taking the GO Train from Stouffville. "What we're cutting in the fall is what's called the Uxbridge to downtown Toronto bus service."



First lesson

Victoria Milosevski (22 months) gets her first swimming lesson from mom, Diana Sunday at Musselman Lake.

Photo/LORI EMMERSON

Sirens caused confusion for some sleepy Stouffvillites

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director of public works, Paul Whitehouse.

"The equipment they use is like a big vacuum which cleans out the silt or dirt."

While the water runs off, heavier material builds up "and it's a matter of cleaning this out," he said.

This year, the work has been contracted out because crews from the works depart-



ment are busy with road repairs. Some residents complained they were woken by the noise. "Sometimes contractors begin work early to get a start on the day, so they can

get as much done as possible," said Whitehouse.

"Hopefully residents were not inconvenienced too much."

Because of cutbacks, the clean-up is carried out just once a year, although ideally it should be done more often, he added.

"We've done it by hand in the past, but it's quicker this way. It should take a couple

of days at the most."

The fire department reported that although they

received calls about the noise from residents, no firefighters were fooled by the 'sirens.'

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Crime

Riding mower swiped from home

Lawn care equipment was reported stolen from a St. John's Sideroad home.

Between noon Friday and noon Saturday a riding lawn tractor and a grass trimmer were removed from the Stouffville home.

The value of the items is set at \$5,750.

Business robbed

A Woodbine Ave. business lost \$7,000 worth of computer equipment to thieves last week.

Between midnight and 9 a.m. Wednesday the culprits broke into Adventureway causing \$200 damage.