

Artist Pam Wright new owner of Stouffville Picture Framing Studio

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

It's business as usual at Stouffville Picture Framing Studio.

While original owner Gary Simmonds has left to establish a new studio in Bracebridge, his successor, Pam Wright, is well equipped to take over. "I'm a freelance artist and had been working out of my house," explained the Stouffville resident. "I would do small framing jobs myself and take bigger things in to Gary. Last fall he had so much work, he told me he was thinking of hiring somebody. I said if he was serious, I would be interested in applying."

She joined him at the beginning of November and in January, Simmonds told her he planned to sell the business and move north. "He said that if I wanted to take over, he would give me first refusal."

While she was excited by the challenge, she wasn't sure if she wanted to run her own retail business. "After about a month of sleepless nights and long discussions with my family, we decided to take it on," said Wright.

"Gary has been a great help - he helped me set up. This was his baby and he wanted it continue to be successful." She had originally planned to close the shop for two weeks in order to get organized, "but when Gary was moving there were so many phone calls and people knocking on the door I decided to keep the place open and see what happened."

A graphic artist by trade, Wright is a member of the Lemonville Group of Artists. She designs promotional materials, including pamphlets and business cards, and is an accomplished watercolor and pen and ink artist. One of her goals is to make her studio a showcase for local artwork.

"It's hard for new artists to get their work into the public eye and I'm offering them wall space on a commission basis." She will also continue to provide a complete framing service. With a flourishing

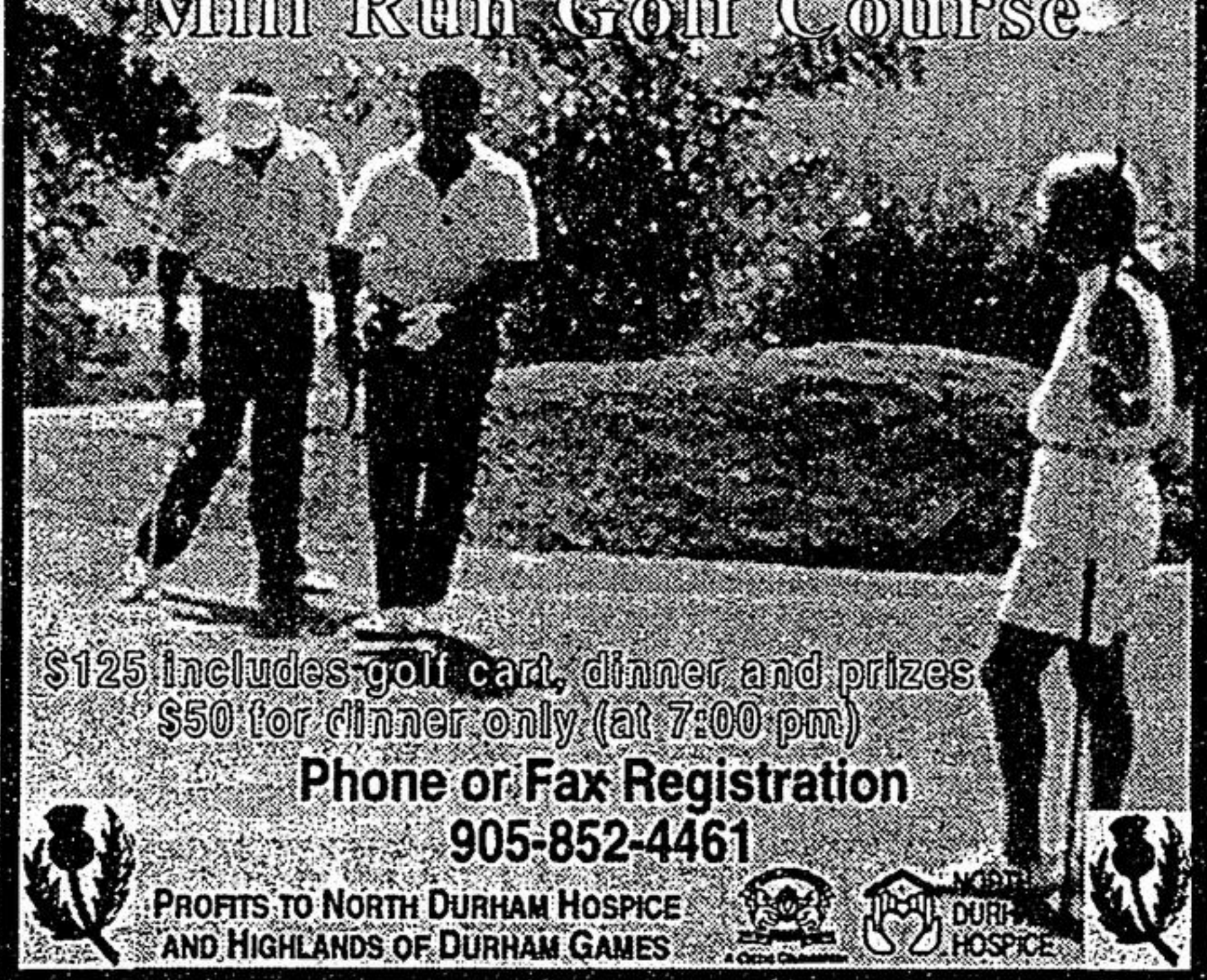
group of creative talent in the community, Wright is excited about her new venture.

Stouffville Picture Framing Studio is located on Library Lane and is open Tuesday to Saturday.

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55	\$498	\$925	\$1,780	\$1,185	\$2,300	\$4,530
60	\$780	\$1,490	\$2,910	\$1,798	\$3,465	\$6,725
65	\$1,435	\$2,690	\$5,115	\$2,555	\$4,775	\$9,035
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