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14 Learning how to survive in the great outdoors — without even leaving the city.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library
ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Summer childrens programs
WHEN: July 22 to 24 and Aug. 19 to 21
WHERE: Stouffville museum • 727-8954



12 Putting a collar on the stray cats has the fur flying in some municipalities.

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BUSINESS: Officials talk with Chinese business community

Drumming up business in China

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Local business leaders want a slice of the international economic pie, and are hoping Mayor Wayne Emmerson can make the cut.

Business development talks between Stouffville and Xuzhou, China get under way tomorrow — a critical day for Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson and local economic development officer Eric Lismanis, representing Stouffville business leaders in China.

Emmerson and Lismanis, joined by Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert and other York Region mayors will sit down with officials of the Xuzhou municipal government and Jiahua Liming Co. to explore joint business development, according to an itinerary obtained by the Stouffville Tribune.

Lismanis' briefcase contains the names of 14 Stouffville businesses, including Stouffville Chrysler, CHOKO Designs, Novapharm Pharmaceuticals and LaFarge Industries. Each is interested in selling and marketing their products to the Chinese.

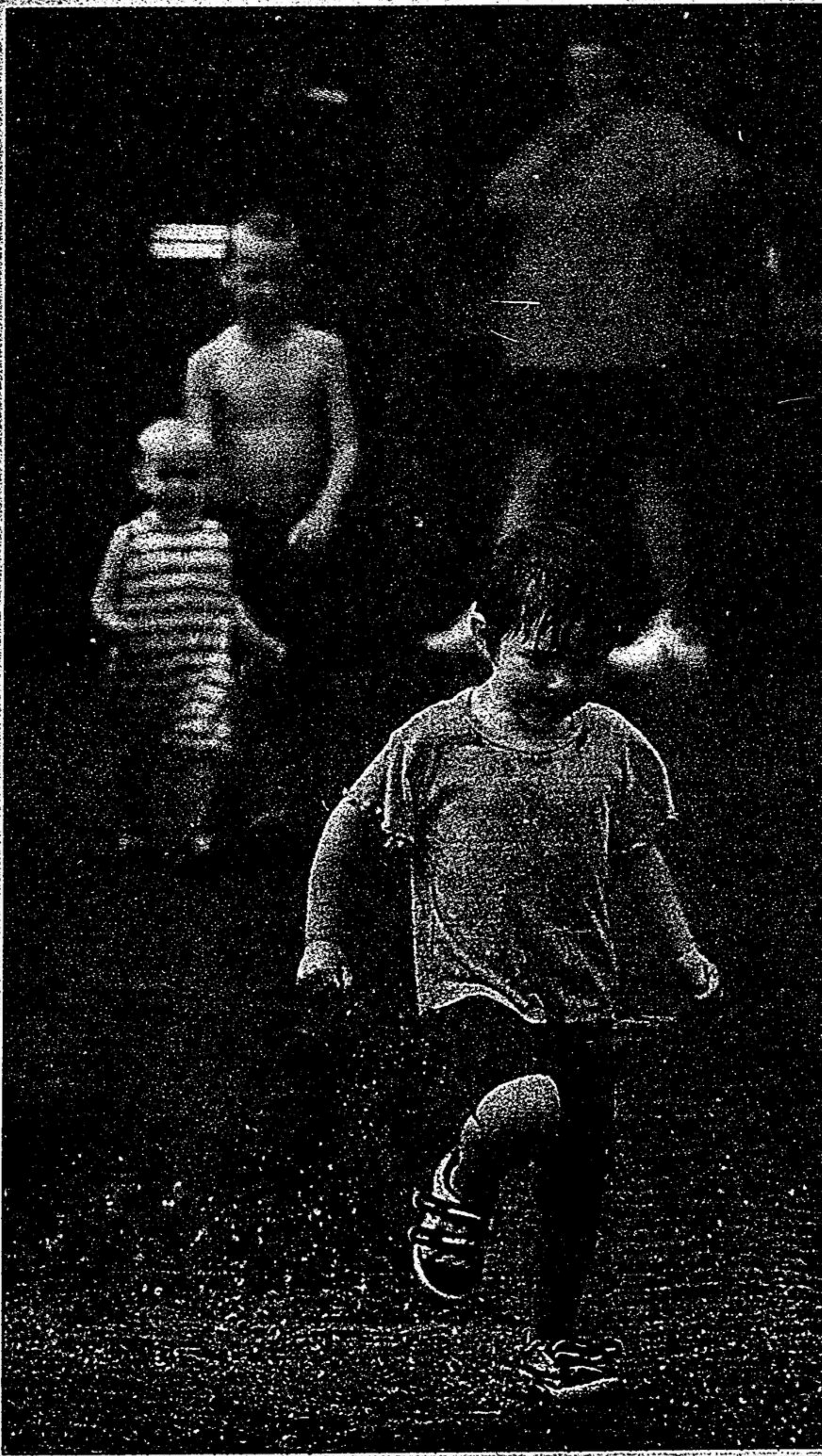
Today, Emmerson joined Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell in a meeting with Shijiazhuang dignitaries and discussed long-term cooperation and investment.

The talks between Richmond Hill and its twin community Shijiazhuang are all part of the mission, organized by Wilfert.

On the trip, the local MP is representing the Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and the Committee of Professional Exchange.

See TALKS, page 3.

PUDDLE MUDDLE



Sarah Bailey, 4, jumps in a puddle in front of the Stouffville public library during a sudden downpour on Thursday afternoon. Tyler Close leads his baby sister Vanessa, 18 months, to the same puddle while mom Kathi Close looks on.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Reward offered to curb vandalism

Town teams up with police force

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Stouffville taxpayers are fed up with vandalism and are starting to fight back — with cash.

A \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone charged with public vandalism is about to be law in Stouffville.

Town staff has drafted a bylaw offering the reward, while signs carrying anti-vandalism messages, will soon find a home in town parks.

Vandals destroy, cut, mark, break, dig, tear and burn. Nothing seems to escape the work of vandals. They damage pools, fountains, bridges, gateways, walls, garbage containers, sidewalks and any building in their paths. Vandals burn picnic tables and benches and they break trees and flower beds and shrubs.

'People are learning that it (vandalism) is unacceptable behavior'

John Crawley, parks and recreation director

In the beefed-up fight against vandalism, the town is teaming up with the York Regional Police force, said town clerk Michele Kennedy.

A police officer with York's CrimeStoppers program is being invited to meet with town staff to help develop a further course of action designed to curb destruction of taxpayers' property, said Kennedy.

While most municipalities keep track of vandalism by way of a financial loss report, this has not been the practice in Stouffville. And officials feel vandalism on the decline. Director of Parks and Recreation John Crawley, said there's been "less vandalism" in the past year.

Crawley attributes the decline to a "higher" public awareness. "People are learning that it's unacceptable behavior,"

See CEMETERY, page 3.

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