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10 Tune up, clean up or turn off: The smog patrol is cruising for vehicular smoke signals.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Ride the heritage train with Santa
WHEN: Saturday - 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: Stouffville GO Train station



27 Hats off to paper artist Sara Fradkin, who turns yesterday's news into wearable art.

SERVING WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SINCE 1888

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TO REACH US: (905) 640-2100

SAFETY: U.S. experts share life-saving techniques for water and ice.

Firefighters trained for water rescues

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 STAFF WRITER

A rescue crew from Ohio is in the area to teach firefighters from Stouffville, Markham and Ajax how to carry out water rescues.

Yesterday morning, six Markham, three Whitchurch-Stouffville and two Ajax firefighters spent the first of two days at Stouffville's Lazy Lake taking part in a water-rescue training course.

The training for the three municipalities also involves a one-day classroom session. It was carried out at the Stouffville fire hall on Tuesday.

Two rescue specialists from the United States are teaching. In January, the American crew will return to give the local firefighters ice-rescue training, Markham's chief training officer Wayne Stevens explained.

Markham doesn't have lakes like Stouffville's Musselman's Lake, but we do have a number of large ponds," said Stevens.

The need for such training became apparent when accidents involving ice or water take place in the local area. One accident involved a drowning in a pond at a Stouffville golf course. A man retrieving golf balls drowned at Spring Lakes golf course on June 10, 1997. On July 24, 1997, an employee at another golf course in Vaughan drowned while retrieving golf balls.

And this year, on Feb. 16, Markham firefighters faced a difficult situation involving an elderly

See LAKE, page 3.

Whitchurch-Stouffville representatives treated like royalty on China trade mission



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Mayor Wayne Emerson proves adept with the chopsticks in picking up a few yen as he shows off some of the souvenirs and gifts he brought back from a trade mission to China. Emmerson returned late last week, and said he formed many alliances that will help Whitchurch-Stouffville and its businesses compete internationally.

Friends made on China mission

Mayor returns with good news

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 STAFF WRITER

Whitchurch-Stouffville's first trip away from home will not be the last.

At a Tuesday press conference, Mayor Mayor Wayne Emmerson and economic development officer Eric Lismanis gave an overview of their two-week business trip to China. The bottom line is, Whitchurch-Stouffville not only got its money's worth in China, it returned home with a bonus.

Emmerson has a plan. He'll take a global approach when guiding Stouffville into the next century. More international trade missions are, hopefully, in the cards, said Emmerson.

Designed to promote Whitchurch-Stouffville in the Chinese community, the trip cost local taxpayers \$2,200 for Emmerson, while the Stouffer Vision Fund paid an equal amount for Lismanis. The tab for most of the trip was picked up by the Chinese government, while Emmerson's and Lismanis' wives paid their own way.

Whitchurch-Stouffville now has a friend in China. Since the Chinese culture dictates a friends-first, business-second approach, Emmerson and Lismanis took note when they made the front page of a major Beijing newspaper, when they were featured on television three times, and when they were greeted by the same dignitaries who rub shoulders with international leaders, including United States President Bill Clinton.

It was a very worthwhile trip. Never before has Whitchurch-Stouffville been promoted outside of Ontario," said Emmerson.

Emmerson and Lismanis were greeted by the mayor of Beijing, the mayor of Xuzhou, a leader of the Chinese central

See LOCAL, page 3.

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