

## Police auxiliary hires Chinese-speaking recruits

Six Chinese-speaking candidates are York Regional Police's newest auxiliary officers.

The four men and two women are professionals with careers, but have an interest in devoting some of their time to the community, said Asian Response Office director Const. Ben Eng.

Their recruitment was part of the ARO's outreach program and looked specifically for candidates who could speak Chinese. While the force currently has 65 citizens who serve as auxiliary officers, none are Chinese-speaking.

"Of course their service for the force will be to the entire community, not just the Chinese residents," Eng pointed out. "But we hope to use them as part of our community outreach through the ARO."

Auxiliary officers accompany regular officers on patrol, work community events like parades and festivals and contribute to crowd control duties and missing person searches.

"We are very excited to have them on board and we're excited about their commitment," Eng said.

The recruits begin a 12-week training program next month and are expected to graduate and begin duty by Christmas, he added.

— Kathleen Griffin

### Red Cross seeks help for China

Ontario residents answered a Red Cross appeal to send flood relief to China, but more donations are needed, says the international group's regional president.

China's Red Cross needs more aid because the situation in China, where floods have killed thousands and destroyed millions of homes, was more severe than first thought, said Kai Tao, a Markham man who is Ontario zone president and a board member of the Canadian Red Cross.

Tao said people in flooded areas will soon need water purification tablets, emergency food and blankets.

"Northern China is getting cold and snow is coming," he said recently.

The Canadian government and Ontario's Chinese community have already raised \$1.3 million.

Residents can write a cheque for the Red Cross Relief Fund and send it to the York Region Red Cross at 16700 Bayview Avenue, Suite 214, Newmarket, Ontario, L3X 1W1. Credit card donations can be made by calling the branch office at 1-800-361-9448.

### Markham Fair hosts teen talents

Dancers, singers, jugglers and those who can make them laugh are encouraged to take the stage at Markham Fair's teen talent contest.

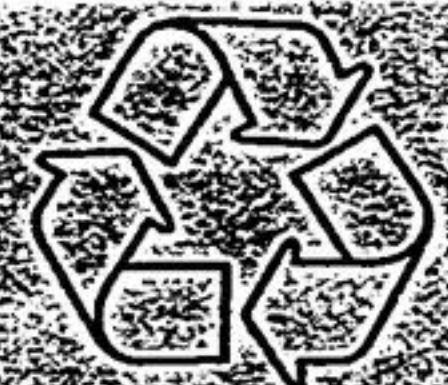
"Our mission is to give kids a chance to showcase their talent," said the fair's Cathy Lee. "If they sing or dance, they've probably been doing it for 10 years. Who's seen them? Mom and dad maybe their aunt or their grandma."

The contest consists of three cate-

## NEWS DIGEST

gories: solo dance, any style, group dance, any style, and variety. There are prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 in each of the three categories.

The show takes place Friday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. Pre-register by Sept. 26 by calling Lee at 294-3179.



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