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**4** Inquest jury makes recommendations in baby seat infant death - mother shares her views

**FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
**EVENT:** Strawberry Festival opening & fireworks  
**WHEN:** Today, starting at 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Memorial Park



**10** Everyone in the family - from beginner to expert - can enjoy a day of fishing fun.

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THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1999

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## Carpet cleaner evidence destroyed

BY RICK VANDERLINDE  
 Staff Writer

Police suspect the lone suspect in Tammy Lamondin-Gagnon's disappearance, rented an industrial-strength carpet cleaner hours after the 20-year-old woman was inside his sister's Stouffville house.

Claassen rented the Easy-Way steam cleaner at a 24-hour A&P store, a few blocks from the Millard Street home, where police seized several items, including a large carpet.

York Regional Police Det. Sgt. Denis Mulholland said any forensic evidence inside the carpet cleaner would have been badly contaminated since police learned about Claassen's rental after several other customers had used the same machine.

The machine had been rented about 30 times after he rented it, Mulholland said.

Homicide detectives uncovered the 6:53 a.m. May 29 rental after Claassen hanged himself in his family's Vandorf business June 7.

Mulholland said after investigators discovered Claassen had withdrawn \$100 from a Royal Bank ATM machine in the store, they quickly learned one of the nearby carpet cleaners had been rented by the 27-year-old Goodwood-area man.

Easy-Way vice-president Wally Kopko said Claassen would have been required to show two pieces of identification and sign his name before he could leave with one of the machines.

Police seized a May 29 rental sheet from the A&P store, the

See POLICE, page 5.

## A bright tomorrow



Clockwise from top: Regional Chairperson Bill Fisch, artist Dorothy Clark-McClure, award-winning writer Robert Sawyer, high-tech executive K.Y. Ho, school board chairperson and Olympic champion Bill Crothers share their views about Canada in the future.

## York Region residents think about our nation's future

BY ROY GREEN  
 Staff Writer

There are as many views about the future of Canada as there are Canadians.

Here in York Region, we asked a few Canadians for their Canada Day thoughts on where we might be headed on the eve of the

millennium.

The region's first citizen, Bill Fisch, is in a very positive frame of mind about Canada.

"I think what makes Canada great is our cultural diversity and our ability to work, live and play together in safe communities and healthy environments," says the

York Region chairperson.

"In York Region, our future, like that of Canada's, is very bright.

Bob Sherwood, a former Markham councillor and a member of Canadians for a United Canada, tempers his own optimism with concern for the unresolved issue of Quebec separation.

"Canada's got a great future.

The economy is good and things are going well and even Quebec is doing better than it was two or three years ago," says Sherwood, who now lives in Aurora.

"I'm proud to be a Canadian

See GLOBAL, page 3.

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