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11 York Region's Chinese community set to light up the night at Mid-Autumn Festival.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENT: Family Fun Day
WHEN: Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Magic Hill Tree Farm. Call 640-



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WATER: Vandorf residents pack community meeting

Deeper wells must be drilled

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Half of Vandorf's 115 private wells are running the risk of going dry, a standing-room-only crowd was told Monday.

Concerned Vandorf residents packed the local community hall to find out where their water has gone and where it will come from.

York Region water and waste water department officials tried to explain why seven wells on upscale Marjorie Drive are bone dry, why an estimated 55 private wells are at risk and what's to be done to remedy the problem.

Existing wells will have to be drilled deeper, while some new wells will be put in place, regional staff stated.

"These people can't go into the winter without a water supply," said John Sibbald, superintendent for the region's water and waste water department.

The region will intervene and retain a driller. We'll put the wells in," he said.

Deepening the average well costs about \$3,500, while a new well costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The residents should be expected to pay part of the bill, said Councillor Steve Pliakes.

"That's only fair, but we have to go after the culprits. They can't get away with not paying their part."

A cost-sharing plan between

See WATER, page 3.

CLEAN SWEEP



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

It was a case of 'like grandfather, like son' for Bob Bengay and his grandson Brett Thomson, 4, as they cleaned up leaves from the front yard of their home on Ninth Line in Stouffville.

Scrap copter, hire cops union says

Union boss calls for more officers on the ground

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
Staff Writer

York Region politicians should forget about a crime-fighting helicopter and put more cops on the ground, police union president Dave Kingston says.

"We're starving for more front-line officers right now," Kingston said yesterday. "A helicopter would be a nice luxury, but there's a need for more cops."

York Region's six-month pilot project has yet to prove the patrolling police copter is worth the \$1-million annual cost, Kingston said.

While the helicopter has assisted police in the past three months, there hasn't been anything major they've used it for, he said.

"Most of the calls could have been done just as effectively by ground units. For instance, while the helicopter has assisted in 22 missing persons cases, it has never actually found anyone."

Kingston made his com-



JULIAN FANTINO: York Regional Police chief says helicopter plays important role in fighting crime.

ments shortly before members of York Region's police services board lauded the helicopter program, known as Air One.

Regional chairperson Bill Fisch said he was impressed with the copter's crime-fighting capabilities when he went along on a night patrol.

"In an industrial area, it could review six to eight buildings (for possible break-ins) in a matter of moments," Fisch said. "There's a lot of value gained in time saved to allow other officers to do other duties."

A three-month report

See CHIEF, page 4.

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