

# Diwali celebrates goodness and knowledge

As York Region residents prepare to celebrate Diwali, lighting lamps to draw good fortune into their homes, they are being urged to help victims of a disaster. Orissa state in India was devastated Oct. 29 by a cyclone that killed 10,000 people and left as many as 20 million without food or fresh water.

Members of the local Hindu community are raising funds for relief.

"We are celebrating prosperity but we are also appealing for people to think of those victims, the unfortunate people," said Amar Erry, president of the Vedic Aryan Cultural Society in Markham.

Donations can be made at any Royal Bank branch. Cheques marked Orissa relief fund can also be dropped off at the Vedic Cultural Centre on 14th Avenue, Erry said.

Gifts, sweet desserts and burning

butter, oil or wax in little clay lamps called diyas are traditional on Diwali (or Deepavali), one of the most popular Hindu festivals and a day also observed by Sikhs.

Lighting the lamps, as thousands in the region will do in their homes Sunday, celebrates the ultimate victory of goodness over evil, and of knowledge over ignorance.

One Richmond Hill temple, the Vishnu Mandir on Yonge Street at Hwy. 7, begins a Diwali fireworks display Sunday at 6 p.m.

The Cultural Centre, or Arya Samaj Mandir, holds its celebrations next Sunday, Nov. 14, with a cultural program of songs and dances to which the public is invited at 2 p.m.

## Wining and Dining the Arts

You can toast the millennium, cele-

brate great Canadian chefs and support the preservation of Canadian art Wednesday night at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

Wining and Dining the Arts is a fundraiser for the McMichael gallery. The black-tie event combines the great chefs of Canada and the great wines of the world.

The menu has been specially prepared by three of Canada's top chefs, Michael Stadlander, of Collingwood's Eigensinn Farm, Jamie Kennedy, JK, at the ROM and Ivan Brijeski, Tanglewood at McMichael.

The event starts with a cocktail hour with piano accompaniment at 6:30 p.m. at the gallery, located on Islington Avenue north of Major Mackenzie Drive in Kleinburg.

Tickets are \$750 each. For ticket reservations call 893-1121, ext. 212.

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## Win shopping spree at country decor show and sale

Your crafty ideas can get you in for free

Some people can make a use for any item around the house, and Christmas is the perfect time to transform ordinary things into wonderful holiday crafts.

We invite you to send us your favourite homemade holiday craft idea, with complete instructions so someone else can make your creation.

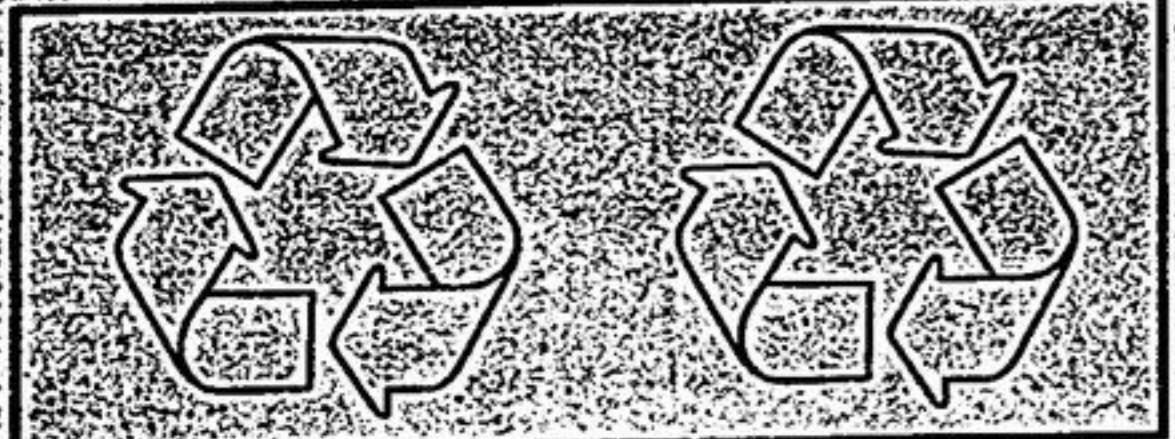
You could win one of two \$75 shopping sprees at the renowned Country Decorating and Collectibles Show and Sale at Markham Fairgrounds.

The three-day country decor exhibition begins Friday, Nov. 19, featuring candles, furniture, paintings, porcelain dolls, rugs, dried flowers, wreaths and a zillion ways to add a little bit of a country Christmas to your life.

We will also hold a random draw to give away 25 pairs of passes to the show.

Send your craft ideas to the editor of The Economist & Sun, 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, ON, L3P 1M3 or e-mail us at newsroom@econsun.com.

In Stouffville, send your ideas to the editor of the Stouffville Tribune at 37 Sandiford Dr., Suite 306, Stouffville, ON, L4A 7X5 or e-mail us at newsroom@stoufftrib.com.



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**Nutrition & Naturopathy**  
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**Information Night**  
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Families who are exploring the options available in private schooling are invited to drop by.

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