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**12** 'Untouchables' nabbed in mob sting - kingpin among nine arrested in York Region

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Bach to Blues Christmas concert  
**WHEN:** Tonight, 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. James Presbyterian Church



**14** No matter the price, always think twice before buying a pet as a Christmas gift.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 11, 1999

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## Mid-stream change for water plan proposed

*Georgian Bay the new lake of choice*

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

York Region is once again considering piping water in from Georgian Bay, a potential victory for residents battling plans to tap into the more polluted Lake Ontario.

Markham Mayor Don Cousens proposed the surprise move at Thursday's regional council meeting, after hearing York's long-term water team may abandon plans to build a water pipe through Durham Region to Lake Ontario.

The level of pollution (in Georgian Bay) is considerably less than it is in Lake Ontario, Cousens said.

Three years ago, after an extensive study to investigate how best to supply the growing region with water, York made a historic decision to build a \$911-million pipe through Durham.

The water, which would be collected from the lake between the Pickering nuclear station and a Toronto sewage treatment plant, would supply Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket.

Under the plan, consumers were promised lower water bills. But it enraged many Aurora and Newmarket residents, who now get their water from deep aquifers.

The Durham solution was

See LAKE, page 8.

*It's a wrap!*



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Dulcie Clark and Gladys Rech, of the Order of the Eastern Star, Markham chapter, were on hand at Markville Shopping Centre to wrap Christmas gifts for patrons. Money collected goes to several area charities, including the York Region Children's Aid Society.

## Death threats rock school

*Nine firearms seized from home of Markham youth*

BY RICK VANDERLINDE  
Staff Writer

It could have been worse... much worse. York Regional Police may have averted another school shooting tragedy Wednesday when they arrested a 17-year-old Markham youth and found nine rifles in his home.

The youth, who cannot be identified under the Young Offenders Act, had threatened to shoot Markham District High School students and burn down one student's house.

Det. Sgt. Wayne Kalinski said police learned on Dec. 2 that a former student began making "general" threats against students, which escalated into death threats earlier this week.

Police said he threatened to be at the school at lunch time and start shooting.

Parents and students of the Church Street school were disturbed to learn the former student may have had access to his father's firearms.

"I'm a little upset to find that out," a parent of a Grade 11 student said. "That certainly is a little unnerving."

Kalinski said the youth's parents turned over the rifles to police after their son was arrested Wednesday.

"It was a little scary to know guns were there," Kalinski said.

Police are unsure exactly why the youth threatened students at the school, which is not considered a trouble spot for police.

"All we know is he was disturbed and he

See PSYCHIATRIC, page 4.

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