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**3** Local doctors open new world for hearing impaired patients with revolutionary device.

**ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR**

**EVENT:** Chinese New Year celebrations  
**WHEN:** Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Varley Art Gallery, Unionville



**12** Toting a backpack can be a real pain. Students learn the right way to carry their books.

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MARKHAM MAYOR DON COUSENS PROPOSES THE REGION PURCHASE THREATENED LAND

## Buy moraine with reserves

BY PATRICK CASEY  
 Staff Writer

Markham Mayor Don Cousens wants to use part of York Region's \$15-million capital reserve fund to purchase land on the Oak Ridges Moraine and save it from future development.

His suggestion garnered immediate support from Aurora Mayor

Tim Jones and Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor, who added council should consider using some of its \$23.7-million social assistance and housing reserves to help the 6,000 residents currently on the region's affordable housing waiting list.

While the finance committee has agreed to review the idea over the next two months, Cousens

couldn't convince councillors to take a second look at the entire \$814.2-million operating budget, which includes nearly \$16 million of new revenue because of growth and assessment, plus a savings of \$8.5 million in social pooling costs.

"We should take every possible dollar we can and put it into a new fund to purchase land for the Oak

Ridges Moraine," said Cousens, chairperson of the finance committee. "We could couple that with money from the province."

"This is one way to put money where our mouth is. The Oak Ridges Moraine is a salable thing and we would have something to

See SPENDING, page 10.

## Fleeing felon nabbed in York

Escaped con chased through Stouffville

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
 Staff Writer

An escaped convict is back in custody after a citizen and a rookie cop each acted on a hunch.

Lee Steven Chappelle, 32, described by police as a "dangerous" career criminal, was apprehended in the Leslie Street and 16th Avenue area Tuesday.



PC ENOCH FUNG: Hunch led to arrest.

Chappelle was arrested at gunpoint after surfacing from a wooded area near a Richmond Hill subdivision.

Chappelle is facing numerous charges, including possession of stolen goods.

He'd been wanted on an RCMP Canada-wide parole warrant after walking away from the Beaver Creek minimum security facility in Belleville, where he'd been serving 10 to 14 years for gun running.

Tuesday's drama began when a Markham resident, driving past a Ninth Line home, heard a house alarm going off.

The citizen spotted a suspicious vehicle driving away, said Sgt. John Sheldon.

The man followed the vehicle, a White Pontiac 6000, for a consider-



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

### A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIEND

Angela Wu, 8, pulls friend Andrea Vitopoulos, 7, along the ice as their Grade 2 class from Dickson Hill Public School learn to skate at the Stouffville rec centre Thursday.

See CHASE, page 8.

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