

Town wins award

The Town of Markham has won an industry award for the best internet application dubbed Explore Markham Investor Tool.

The site allows potential investors to access the town's extensive real estate and economic databases.

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) chose Markham's entry over 12 others from across Canada, submitted by all levels of government and private industry.

"This is an invaluable tool for attracting new business to Markham," said Mayor Don Cousens. "With just a few

clicks of a mouse, you can search through extensive data, access aerial photographs and display the results in map form — an effort that not long ago would have taken weeks of work and contact with municipal departments to accomplish."

Volunteers honoured

Mayor Don Cousens and members of council honoured the efforts of the town's 600 volunteers earlier this month.

"We are extremely fortunate and proud to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of individuals residing in our midst," said Cousens.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

The Squelch Program for developmentally challenged adults is looking for a new home on Main Street in Markham. From left (front) are members Laura Madeira, Vanessa Anderson and Michelle Ford. In the back is Jasmin Bryan and co-ordinator Jean Phinnemore.

Special needs club needs new home

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A Markham club, serving six mentally challenged adults, is searching for a new meeting spot.

The special needs adults have been going to Squelch Club five days a week for arts and crafts, sports and socializing.

But club officials were recent-

ly told their Main Street meeting place is no longer available, putting the private club into an emergency situation.

"We're been forced to vacate. So, we're seeking a donated space," said Eileen Ford, mother of a 27-year old club member. "Going to the club means the world to the members. Without it, they'd sit at home alone. We're

doing everything we can to keep it going."

A small room in a church, plaza or private dwelling would fit the bill. "We have our own furniture. All we need is the room," said Ford.

Anyone interesting in helping the Squelch Club find a new home, call 479-1234 or 416-683-0751.

United Way raises \$200,000

Members of the construction and banking industries in York Region raised more than \$260,000 for the United Way's 2000 campaign.

The 18th annual building industry luncheon in support of the United Way of York Region was co-hosted by Mayor Don Cousens and sponsored by Metrus Development president Fred De Gasperis on May 25.

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Al Palladini spoke to the more than 700 people attending.

The final total raised was \$262,400, surpassing last year's effort by 10 per cent.

The United Way of York Region funds 38 social service agencies, providing more than 200 programs and services to one in every three people in the region.

Anniversary party

Community Home Assistance to Seniors marks its 20th anniversary Saturday with a carnival at Fleury Park in Aurora.

It runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features face painting, a giant slide, ride, clowns, games, a dunk tank, bingo and refreshments.

Call CHATS at 713-3373, ext. 6092 for details.

Entertainment in Aurora

The Trinity Youth Choir presents Music Brings Us Together Again on Saturday in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at Howard Johnson Hotel Aurora. The evening of coffee-house style entertainment gets under way at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the choir's camp fund. J32

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