

Father's The Last Call
Free designated driver
for you and your car
(starts 11:30pm)

**MONDAY
NIGHT
FOOTBALL**

with Fan 590 Sports Radio

**Lots of giveaways including an
autographed football by John Elway
2 for 1 wings, best in town!**

Visit our Website:
fathersmarkham.com
Call for details
294-0134

**Book Your
New Year's Eve
Tickets Now**

Corner of Hwy. #7 and McCowan Rd. Since 1984

Housing deal brings little relief

**Federal-provincial
agreement a start,
advocates say**

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

The federal-provincial plan to kick start affordable housing has elicited a lukewarm response locally.

"I don't have very much faith in it," said Dale Yardley, co-ordinator at the Bethany Co-op housing complex in Keswick.

"I don't think the people who apply for my type of housing will see any benefits

from it."

While the agreement announced last week is not all affordable housing advocates were hoping for, they admit it is a start. Housing Minister Chris Hodgson has indicated the province will participate with the feds — who have pledged \$680 million nationally, with \$244.5 million earmarked for 27,000 units in Ontario — in a long-awaited co-operative effort.

But the province is not stepping up with new money. Instead, Queen's Park will use tax breaks or participation by non-profit agencies to entice builders to con-

struct affordable units.

That is troubling to Mitchell Cohen. The builder, whose Daniels Corp. has undertaken several projects in York Region and has pitched a plan to create new affordable units here, said a firm commitment of provincial funding would ensure the success of the national venture.

"I wish I were more hopeful," Cohen said. "The concern I have is it's pretty unclear where we go from here."

Cohen said the arrangement leaves the potential for disputes between the two levels of government and that's what has prevented affordable housing construction for years.

Cohen said he will continue to meet with York Region on a plan he pitched in early November. His proposal would see developers designating 25 per cent of the housing they build as affordable and leasing the units to local non-profit agencies. In exchange, the region would give builders breaks on development charges, permits and property taxes, Cohen said.

Peter Formica, co-ordinator of the non-profit Citizens For Affordable Housing group in Aurora, said he's encouraged the upper echelons of government are finally returning to the table.

But he'd like to see more emphasis on social housing, built and administered by

the government or non-profit agencies.

"I don't entirely agree the government should be paying it out to private landlords," Formica said. "In 20 years or 25 years that (non-profit) unit is paid for and it's still in public service."

"It's a benefit to the community."

Formica, whose group helps people find affordable accommodation, sees firsthand the extent of York Region's housing crisis. He said the cost of renting is prohibitive, even for those who are working full time.

York Region has taken the initiative, formally announcing plans to address housing issues by working with the private sector to find creative solutions. A recent forum on the issue in Newmarket attracted a cross-section of builders, politicians and agencies, who spent the day brainstorming on potential strategies.

Joann Simmons, commissioner of social services and housing with York Region, said the announcement of the co-operative effort between Ottawa and Queen's Park is good news because it brings more funding.

"Anything coming from the other levels of government is welcome — because they haven't been there for quite a while," Simmons said.

"We really want to position ourselves to take advantage of (funding) should it become available to us."

**Pro Shop
Clearance
Sale**

Sunday, Dec. 9th, 11am - 3pm

Sale Items Include:

Golf Clubs - 11 piece sets	from \$249.99
Carry Bags - Double strap w/stand	from \$49.95
Etonic Golf Shoes "1 Year Water proof"	from \$59.95
Mens & Ladies Sweaters/Sweatshirts	from \$29.95
Strata Golf Balls	from \$31.95/doz
Topflite XL 3000 Balls - New for 2002	from \$29.95/doz

BUSHWOOD GOLF CLUB
10905 Reesor Rd., Markham
(905) 640-1233

GEM
Learning Centre

Get Ready to Read

- for JK and SK children
- individualized instruction in small group setting
- using a variety of methods including phonics
- following Ontario curriculum
- mornings or afternoons
- next session January 2002

905-479-1110 and 905-479-0123

CLOWNS • CAMPS • SHOWS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Wonderful World of Circus

**DON'T MISS OUR CHRISTMAS SHOWS
DECEMBER 22 AT 12 & 2 PM!**

WITH CLOWNS, TRAINED BIRDS, DOG & MUCH MORE!

Produced by Tatiana Zoubirina
& Oleg Kantemirov, Cirque du Soleil
& Moscow Circus Performers

**REGISTER NOW FOR WINTER &
MARCH BREAK PROGRAMS**

Gymnastics • Acrobatics • Hoop • Trapeze • Trampoline & much more!

2600 John St., Unit 204, Markham
905-479-2411
www.wonderfulworldofcircus.com

"THE SHEPHERD'S STORY"

A Christmas Musical Drama by Choir, Cast and Live Animals

Markham Missionary Church
5438 Major Mackenzie Drive East, 905-294-5081

Friday, December 14, 2001 - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 16, 2001 - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 16, 2001 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 15, 2001 - 3:00 p.m.
(Reservations Only)

Nursery for ages 2 years and under only
No tickets required — freewill offering only
Supporting 3 Charities

Reading • Writing • Spelling • French • Math • Study Skills • Little Readers

A+
Good Work!

Success is addictive. Good grades create confidence and the motivation to keep reaching for the best. Oxford Learning Centres® has individual programs for organization, study skills, and homework support to give students the tools to succeed.

www.oxfordlearning.com
Highway 7 & Kennedy
905-513-8186

OXFORD
Beyond Tutoring

TOROMARK FURNITURE
Making a List & Checking it Twice

FLOOR MODELS
(delivered in time for Christmas)

- Quality Furniture at Affordable Prices
- Everyday low prices on Sklar-Peppler Superstyle & Trendline
- Bedrooms by Ideal, T&J, Generations
- NEW Beautiful accent pieces
- Specialists in reupholstering

PAY NO GST
Expires Dec. 24/01

Serving Markham Since 1950
5694 Hwy. #7 (at Galsworthy)
(905) 477-2055 • (905) 294-2581

**Venturer Electronics
Warehouse Sale**

CD/DVD/MP3/KARAOKE RADIO/MINI SYSTEM
Overstock, End of Lines & Samples
Bonus: Calculator with purchase over \$50

UP TO 60% OFF

Open - Sat.-Sun. ~ 10am-6pm
725 Denison Street, Markham
905-477-7878, ext. 287

VISA
M/C
DEBIT

HWY 404
Esna Park
Warden
Denison
Steeles
Pharmacy