

# School supplies needed for Iraqi children

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

An urgent appeal for school supplies for children in war-torn Iraq has been issued in York Region.

Individuals, families, service clubs, classrooms and churches are invited to take part in the drive to help return children to schools in Iraq. About 50,000 school kits are needed.

The drive is being co-ordinated by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Ontario, with the collection spot for York Region at Stouffville's Care and Share Shop at 6240 Main St.

Care and Share manager Annette Reesor said the local shop is always eager to act as a collector of components of health and relief kits.

"As well, we are always willing to help

raise awareness of the on-going global needs," Mrs. Reesor said.

As children in York Region returned to school Tuesday, so too did children in Iraq.

"But this year, because of war and economic hardship, school supplies are hard to find in Iraq," said Arli Klassen, MCC Ontario's executive director.

"Families in Iraq are not able to afford to provide their children with the basic school supplies," she said.

"Also, schools in Iraq can't open in September. Instead, school openings have been delayed until late October. What's the point of opening a school if there are no books, paper or pencils?"

An MCC school kit is made up of four notebooks or notebooks with perforations, measuring 21 cm by 27 cm or 8.5

inches by 10 inches and 70 to 80 sheets each; four unsharpened No. 2 pencils; one ruler (12 inch flexible plastic); one box of coloured pencils (12 to 24) and one large eraser.

Contents could be placed in a fabric double-drawstring bag.

"We have school classrooms, Sunday school classes and residents turning it into a neighbourhood project."

"Some collect the paper, others the pencils to make up the kits. It helps build a community locally as well as on a global scale," she said.

The Care and Share shop is open Monday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The school-kit project will run until mid September. For more information, go to [www.mcc.org/schoolkits](http://www.mcc.org/schoolkits).

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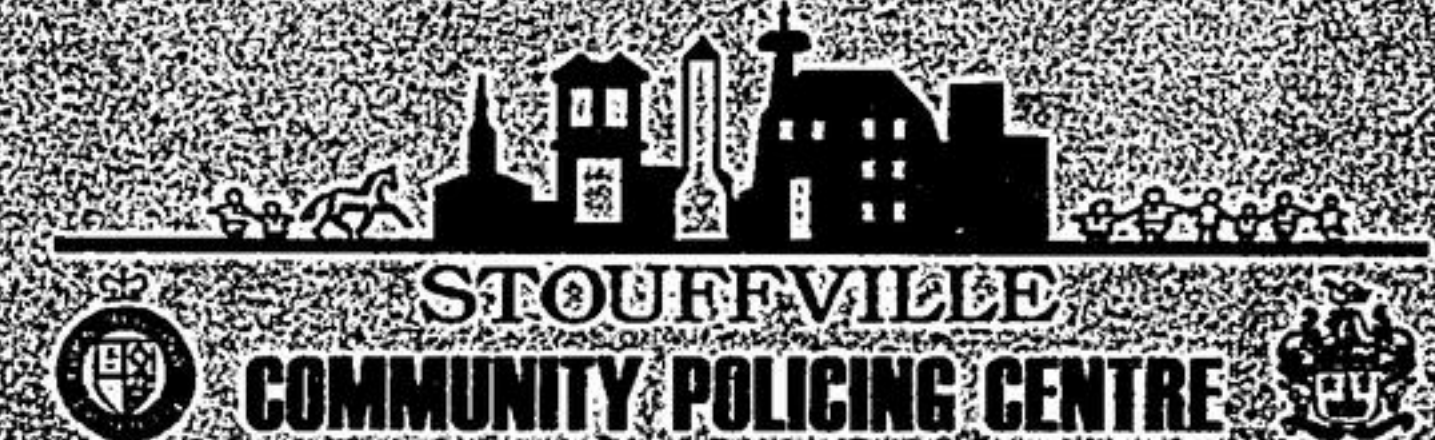
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### Community Safety Open House

Lebovic Leisure Centre  
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Wednesday, September 10, 2003  
7pm-9pm

Representatives from  
Stouffville Community Policing Centre  
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
York Regional Police  
York Region Public Health

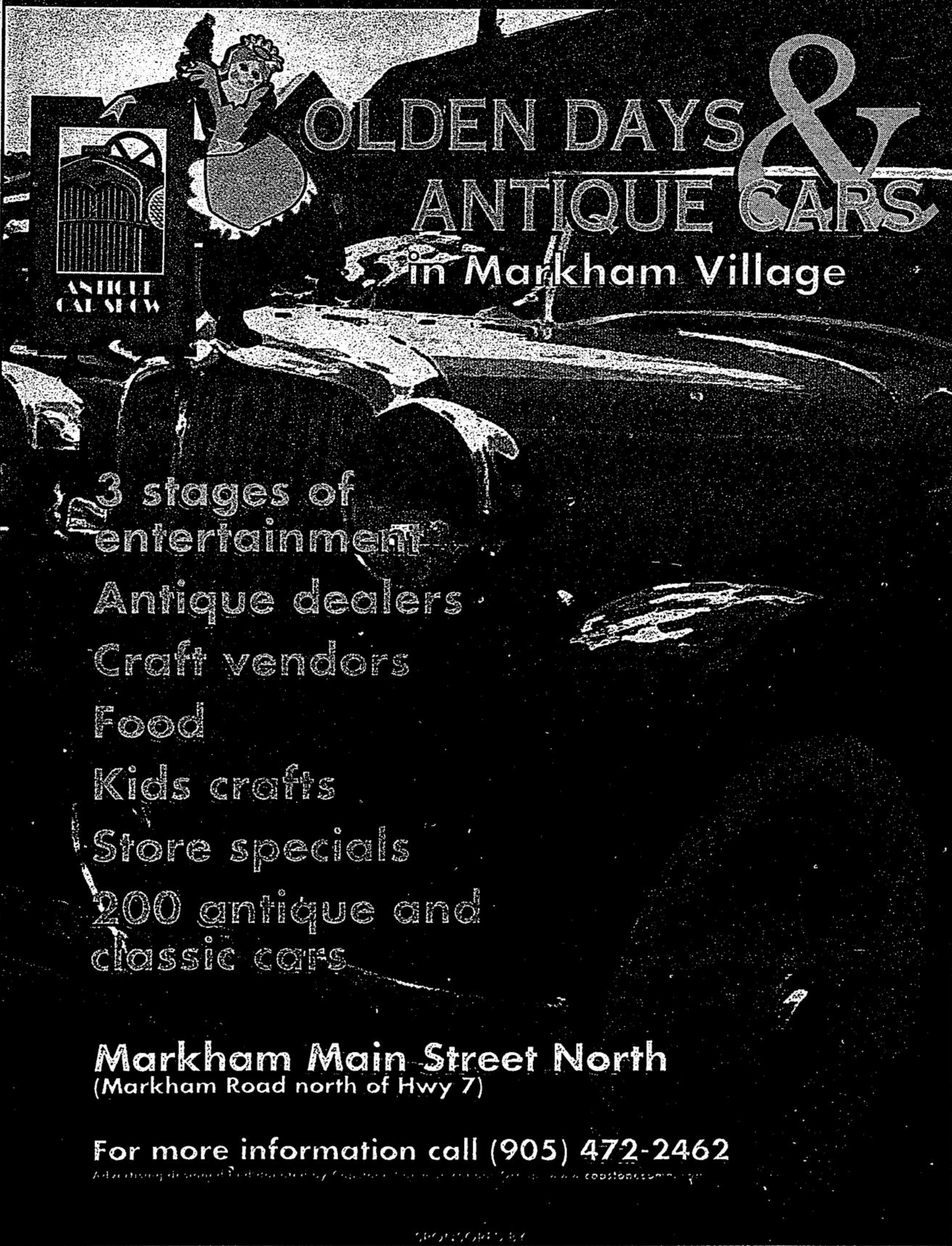
#### DISPLAYS AND INFORMATION INCLUDE:

- Kid's Ident Kit (fingerprint identification)
- Stouffville Community Policing Centre Volunteers
- Bicycle Registration Forms
- Car Seat Information
- Healthy Lifestyles
- York Regional Police Recruiting
- York Regional Police Auxiliary
- Victim Services of York Region
- Drugs & Vice (Grow Houses)
- Major Frauds (Internet Fraud)
- Speed Measuring
- Alcohol Detection Devices
- Traffic Services
- By-law Enforcement

For more information please call  
The SCPC office at 905-640-4248

## This Sunday

September 7, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm don't miss the



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