

Chinese business groups forming

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

New Chinese business groups are forming in Vaughan and Newmarket to serve growing Chinese populations and help them reach the mainstream.

The new associations and an umbrella group for all of York Region were announced Thursday at a meeting of the Richmond Hill-Markham Chinese Business Association.

"This is exciting and we are happy this is coming together," said the association's president, Daisy Wai.

"With a different town, they need a different association to work with them, so we do this to be more focused for them."

C.S. Leung, founding president of the Richmond Hill and Markham group, is the first president of the York Region Chinese Business Association.

The Vaughan association's president will be Kit Wong, a Richmond Hill past president, while vice-president Benedict Leung is president of the Newmarket group.

Members of all groups will meet every fourth Tuesday evening at Times Dynasty restaurant in Richmond Hill for networking and mutual support.

The Chinese business associations want to help businesses reach beyond the Chinese market by working closer with groups such as the Markham Board of Trade, the Richmond Hill and

Vaughan chambers of commerce and the region's economic development office.

"This year, Chinese businesses will go mainstream," Ms Wai said.

Around 750 guests are expected at Markham's Hilton Suites Hotel as the Richmond Hill and Markham group hosts the annual Confederation Gala of Greater Toronto Chinese Business Associations on Feb. 19. Tickets are nearly sold out, Mr. Wong said.

Meanwhile, a Youth Career Forum with the YMCA at Markham Civic Centre is planned for June.

"Helping our next generation in career development is also our priority," Ms Wai said.

Mission to China wake-up call for Canadian business

BY PATRICK MANGION
Staff Writer

This month's York Region business mission to China will help Canada catch up to other nations that have partnered with the Asian powerhouse, Daisy Wai, president of the Richmond Hill-Markham Chinese business association, says

Smiles on the faces of local politicians and business leaders returning from an exhausting six-city, two-week trip through China last week told the story of what organizers called one of the most successful trips yet.

"Twenty-five years ago I came to Canada from Hong Kong. By then, the United States and Europe were already there (in China)," Ms Wai said.

While Canada has been slower in building a "trade bridge" with China, the business trips are bringing the message home.

Manufacturers who ignore the size and dynamic of China may regret it.

"We're waking up Canadian companies. We really should be there before it's too late," she added.

Several business deals were consummated during the trip, including partnerships with York-based organizations.

The Markham campus of Kingston College, a private college, will open its doors for a more free flowing Canada-China student exchange, said Ms Wai, who helped organize this month's trip.

She was joined by Richmond Hill Councillor David Cohen, Markham Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti and Markham MPP Tony Wong.

It was Mr. Cohen's second



DAVID COHEN: Trade with China a long process due to need for government approval, councillor says.

trip to China, but it continues to be an eye-opening experience, he said.

"Trade with China is different from anywhere else. You can't just go in, 'Here's my money, I want to do business here.' It requires government approval. It's a long process," Mr. Cohen said.

But organizers say the dividends will be well worth the effort.

The creation of a middle class in China, more than 500 million strong, can translate into new trade opportunities here, Mr. Cohen added.

"If not Canada, other countries are going to tap into that," he said. "Manufacturers who ignore the size and dynamic of China may regret it."

The York Region trip coincided with a federal government trade mission that was attended by Richmond Hill MP Bryon Wilfert.

Meanwhile, the conclusion of this month's trade mission comes on the heels of concerns raised by Prime Minister Paul Martin over Chinese ownership in Canada's non-renewable resources.

Chinese-owned companies have expressed interest in Alberta's oil sands and Canada's mining and energy sectors.

Province responds to police board concerns

Premier Dalton McGuinty has answered the police services board letter urging the government to pull violent video games off shelves.

The board began a letter-writing campaign after reading about ultra-violent video games in a feature in York Region Newspaper Group newspapers and viewing a few minutes of the game Grand Theft Auto San Andreas in November.

At the time, York Regional

Police Chief Armand La Barge called the game anti-social, anti-establishment and anti-order.

Premier McGuinty said the issue was a vital one in a letter dated Jan. 21.

"As a responsible government, we have taken steps to ensure that video game manufacturers and distributors develop games that are appropriate for our children," he said.

The provincial government has passed reforms ensuring video games for sale or rent contain information on age-appropriate viewing.

FREE
\$500 WORTH OF GAS*

don't miss our **BIGGEST** Ever

Blowout Sale

We Must Blowout Our Entire Pre-Owned Inventory This Week and Receive \$500 WORTH OF GAS FREE with every purchase. We're motivated...make us an offer.

1999 GRAND CARAVAN LE



FULLY LOADED with leather, quad seats, rear heat and air conditioning.

Cash Purchase
\$9,900* or **\$235³³****/mth

2000 CONCORDE



FULLY LOADED with leather, ABS brakes, aluminum wheels

Cash Purchase
\$9,900* or **\$192⁹⁵****/mth

2001 CADILLAC STS



FULLY LOADED with leather, V8, sunroof, chrome wheels.

Cash Purchase
\$19,900* or **\$424⁵⁸****/mth

2000 CARAVAN



FULLY LOADED with keyless entry, automatic, air, low low kms.

Cash Purchase
\$10,900* or **\$216⁶⁰****/mth

2003 SX.20



5 spd, air conditioning, alloy wheels, balance of warranty.

Cash Purchase
\$11,300* or **\$226****/mth

2002 TJ SPORT



5 spd, hard top, alloy wheels, plus much more.

Cash Purchase
\$16,900* or **\$352⁶⁰****/mth

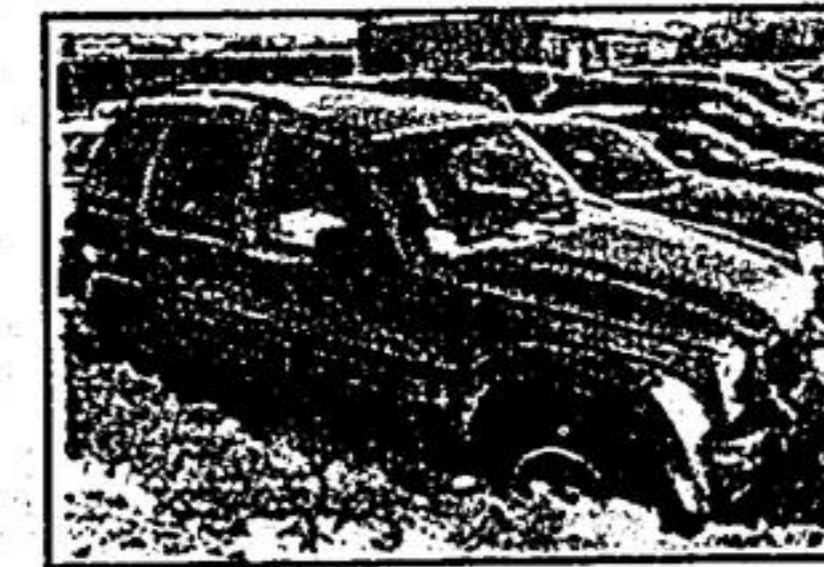
2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD



FULLY LOADED with V8, leather, power sunroof, plus much more.

Cash Purchase
\$19,900* or **\$422³⁷****/mth

2004 LIBERTY SPORT



FULLY LOADED with ABS, tow package, plus much much more.

Cash Purchase
\$22,900* or **\$492¹⁵****/mth

2001 CARAVAN SE



Air conditioning, power windows, power locks CD, 7 passenger.

Cash Purchase
\$12,900* or **\$289⁵⁷****/mth

plus taxes, admin. lic. OAC. All

1999-48 mths: 9.4% Must

based on \$2,000 down. Terms 2000-2004-60

February 5, 2005 to qualify for FREE GAS.

905-471-1500

5426 Hwy #7, East,

Markham (Hwy #7 and Laidlaw)

www.markhamdodge.com



LONGM

MARKHAM

JEOP