

Rotarians ship aid to Haiti

Rotary members from across the province are digging deep into their pockets to help support the victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti earlier this week.

Donations will go toward Shelter Box, a Canadian Rotary project that supplies immediate relief to victims of natural and other disasters.

Each box includes a 10-person tent to pro-

vide emergency accommodation, thermal blankets, waterproof ponchos, a multi-fuel stove, cooking pans and utensils, collapsible water containers and purification tablets, a basic tool kit and items for children.

More than 700 Shelter Boxes have been shipped to Haiti, but more boxes are required.

To donate to Shelter Box, e-mail info@shelterbox.ca or you can donate online by visiting www.canadahelps.org



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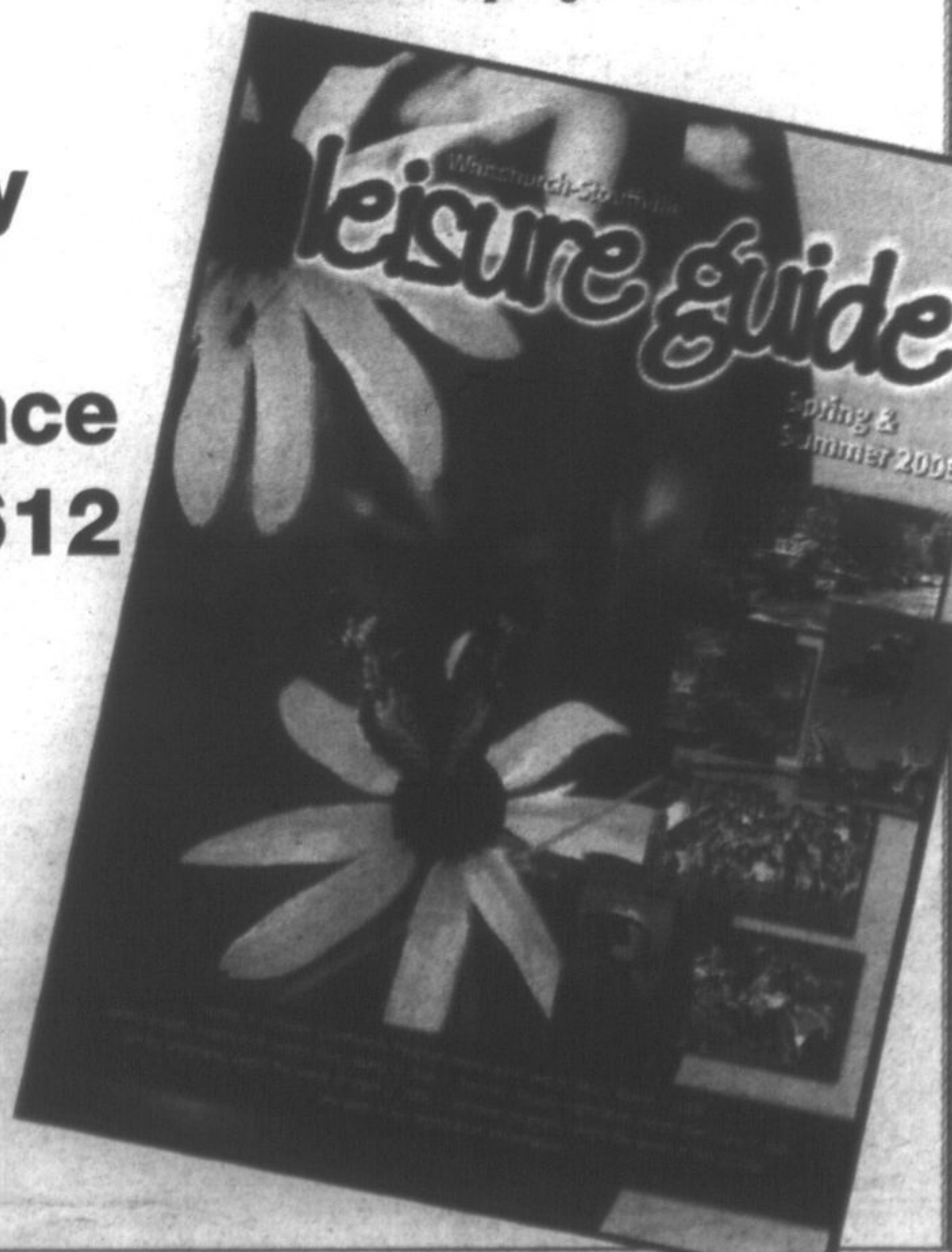
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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

A bundled-up resident walks a dog on the trail at the Stouffville Conservation Area on Millard Street last Saturday.

RELIEF: Stouffville's CBM has worked in Haiti since 1976

Mission helping earthquake victims

Whitchurch-Stouffville-based Christian development organization CBM has two emergency aid relief specialists in Haiti following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that killed thousands this week.

The Stouffville Road mission, which has been in Haiti since 1976, will also work on establishing immediate and long-term responses.

The presidential palace in Haiti's capital of Port-Au-Prince, along with the cathedral, hospitals, schools, main prison and thousands of homes were destroyed on Tuesday. It was the strongest earthquake to rock this country since 1770.

Most Haitians are poor and following years of political instability, the country has no real construction standards.

"Our hearts go out to those affected by this devastating earthquake in Haiti," said Ed Epp, executive director of CBM Canada. "Due to

the magnitude of this disaster, the number of people with permanent injuries, resulting in disability, is expected to increase dramatically. These are the most vulnerable people in a disaster. CBM is there to meet immediate medical needs and we'll be there in the long term, ensuring human rights for those with disabilities."

The news is not improving.

"The updates we're receiving almost hourly are grave," he said in an appeal to supporters Thursday morning. "Fears of a staggering death toll are growing. The most urgent need is to get people, especially those who are injured, out from under the rubble. Survivors need food, water and medical care."

Donations to CBM's Haitian fund can be made at cbmcanada.org or by calling 1-800-567-2264.

with files from TorStar News Service

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