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July 2, 1997, Vol. 32, No. 27, Pressrun 42,500 24 pages

Tearful farewell for slain Pickering woman

Loved ones say goodbye in Ajax memorial service

BY LINDA WHITE
STAFF REPORTER

AJAX — A memorial service Sunday gave family and friends of Laurie White a chance to say goodbye with a better understanding of why her young life was cut short.

"Her friends wanted to have another service for her," sister Lisa White told the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, which was invited to attend the service at Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens in Ajax.

"When we had her funeral (after her death), people believed she had committed suicide. At the time, some of her friends were angry...they were confused about why she would have taken her own life."

Laurie, a 20-year-old Durham College graduate employed as a dental assistant, was found hanged in her bedroom Oct. 8, 1996 by her mother at the family's Marinet Crescent home in Pickering.

Her death, which Durham Regional Police say was caused by ligature strangulation, appeared to be suicide. But forensic tests of evidence taken from the bedroom led to charges of first-degree murder against Ms. White's former boyfriend after a lengthy investigation.

Pickering resident Jesse Andrew Watkins, 24, was arrested May 7. The furniture store delivery man had a one-year romance with Ms. White which ended two months before her death.

The pair saw each other periodically after that, according to police.

Ms. White's body had been exhumed the week prior to the arrest so a second autopsy could be performed. Family members, who have since moved to Whitby, were unconvinced from the start that Laurie had taken her own life.

At the memorial service, dozens of friends and relatives — many carrying long-stemmed red roses — broke down often as Rev. David Jones of Pickering Village United Church spoke of lives touched by laughter and friendship but also marred by "violence, injustice and pain".

Ms. White's parents, Brent and Shirley, followed by Lisa, 25, placed flowers on Laurie's grave as the song "Because You Love Me" by Celine Dion played quietly from a portable stereo.

Friends also placed flowers at the gravesite and tried to comfort one another as Lisa thanked them for attending the memorial service and for keeping the memory of her younger sister alive.

"I know that she would want us all to be happy because we loved her and she loved us," she said as birds chirped and a gentle breeze blew under sunny skies.

A friend read a poem which spoke of pain, but also recalled happier times. "You shouldn't have gone, You were just a youth. But at least now, We know the truth."

The poem also spoke of Laurie's "cheerful smile" and recalled "You never did say goodbye, But perhaps it's just as well, We never could have said goodbye, To a friend we love so well."

Friends and family were invited to sign a



Laurie White
Memorial service



Friends and family of slain Pickering resident Laurie White held a memorial service in Ajax Sunday to say goodbye. Many of Ms. White's friends, bearing long-

stemmed roses, placed flowers at her gravesite and shared poems remembering the Durham College graduate's "cheerful smile".

memorial plaque which read "With our love, forever, In our thoughts and in our prayers."

Ms. White, a Dunbarton High School graduate, worked at the Amberley Dental Clinic in Pickering at the time of her death.

Pickering changes investment rules for tax dollars



Confederation Life investment lost nearly \$1 million

BY MARIANNE TAKACS
STAFF REPORTER

PICKERING — Ten months after learning of a nearly \$1-million investment loss they only discovered through an audit committee review, Pickering councillors have approved a new investment policy for the Town.

Maurice Brenner
'Never again'

The new policy passed by Council last week deals with issues such as what type of institutions and companies the Town may invest in, the terms of those investments, and reporting to Council on the status of the Town's holdings. Until now, Pickering has had no written regulations for investment.

Last August, councillors learned the Town and taxpayers lost an investment of \$977,000 in the Confederation Life Insurance Company when it went into receivership in 1994. Councillors were not informed of the loss at the time and

Council's audit committee only discovered it while reviewing documents from the Town's internal auditors which hadn't been routinely shown to councillors before.

The loss was written off in the Town's books in three segments between the fall of 1994 and May 1995. Pickering had invested in Confederation Life between 1989 and 1994, a period during which, councillors were later told, the company's credit rating in the short-term money market had always been equal to or higher than that of most provinces and equal

to or only slightly lower than that of most banks.

Audit committee chairman and Ward 1 Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner says the new investment policy was drawn up after a review of literature on the issue and consultation with professionals in the field. The conclusion was the Town needed a policy that provided lower risk and increased liquidity.

"While we want to maximize return, we have to protect taxpayers' money," he explains, noting a loss like the one with

See NEW/page 4



photo by Ron Pietroniro

Brand new Canadian

Ajax resident William Clarke was among a handful of new Canadian citizens sworn in Saturday in Whitby at a citizenship ceremony. The ceremony, just in time for the

region's newest Canadian citizens to celebrate Canada Day, was held at Rotary Park in Whitby. Mr. Clarke is originally from Jamaica.

Reforms ready

Tories set with new welfare rules

BY SHAWN SIMPSON
DURHAM STAFF

The Ontario Progressive Conservatives are one step closer to their promise of reforming the welfare system in Ontario after recently announcing new legislation to help fully implement mandatory workfare.

But for some, like the Durham Region Coalition for Social Justice, "there's nothing progressive about it."

"Basically, workfare scapegoats the poor and the vulnerable," says Colleen Twomey, who sits on both the administrative and anti-workfare committees of the coalition. "It masks the real problems of structural unemployment and jobless recovery."

The coalition, now about a year old, is a non-partisan organization which has members from various interest groups including labor, community and the church.

According to the coalition, the proposed Bill 142 introduced by Community and Social Services Minister Janet Ecker will inevitably hurt the disabled, children and single parents.

The Social Assistance Reform Act, 1997 (SARA) would create two new statutes including the Ontario Works Act (OWA) and the Ontario Disability Support Program Act (ODSPA). SARA would essentially replace the General Welfare Assistance Act, the Family Benefits Act

and the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act.

"Previous governments have failed to undertake the necessary overhaul of Ontario's welfare system, despite the recognition that the system is

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Ecker says system desperately needs change

ECKER/From page 1

in desperate need of change," says Ms. Ecker, Durham West MPP. "We have a responsibility to people in need and to the taxpayers of this province to fix the system. It's time to provide people with the opportunities they need to become self-sufficient."

One of the coalition's concerns is that people may be thrust into welfare without the necessary support needed to help them survive.

Without the availability of worthwhile jobs, the program won't work, they say.

Ms. Ecker, however, is quick to point out that currently there is a net average of about 1,000 new jobs created daily in Ontario.

"The jobs are there," she says. "We need more, but our economic policies are encouraging economic growth."

Another concern for the coalition is that under the new legislation sole-support parents would be required to participate in the Ontario Works program to be eligible for financial assistance.

Ms. Twomey wonders where the children will go while the parent is at work.

"Inevitably, many children will be left in unlicensed, potentially dangerous situations because parents have to go off and do their workfare requirements. Children in poverty are already at risk."

According to Ms. Ecker,

none of the proposed changes will affect day care in the province. She notes the government has spent about \$620 million on child care, the largest amount ever allocated in Ontario.

Ms. Ecker says not having quality day care support defeats the purpose of the legislation.

"The system was deliberately designed to be quite flexible. So, we want to make sure people who need to work and want to work don't turn down a job because there isn't child care support."

Shelley Langstaff, a 28-year-old mother of two, recently went back to school to upgrade her education with the intention of going to university.

After completing her studies at Central Collegiate in Oshawa, she found out she had won the Governor's Award of Distinction and two scholarships, one of them York University's top scholarship.

She is also a member of the Durham Region Coalition for Social Justice and is concerned for those facing the imposition of low-end jobs or who are unable to adequately upgrade their academic skills under the new legislation.

"If they were to start a workfare program at that point where would I have been placed with a Grade 8 education and two young children?" asks Ms. Langstaff.

"Would that position really have provided me with the



Social advocates say changes to Ontario welfare system, including the addition of workfare requirements, punish the poor, but the Province claims it will get people back to work. Above, Durham Regional Social Services caseworkers Susan Nemeth and Roberta Jagoe sort through a day's work.

skills to go on to other paid employment and support my kids free from assistance? I'm sure that it would not."

Since the Mike Harris government was elected, about 190,000 people across the province have stopped relying on social assistance.

The new legislation is awaiting a second reading in the legislature, but according to Ms. Ecker the government wants to take it slow.

SEARS CORRECTION NOTICE

Sears Today - Warehouse Sale
on sale June 30 - July 6, 1997

Page 6
Women's Selected Dress and Casual Shoes
Copy reads 9.99, 19.99, 24.99
Prices should read 9.99, 19.99, 29.99

Sears regrets any inconvenience that this may have caused

Sears Canada Inc.

Skin care tips served up at beach volleyball tourney Youth Centre hosts lakefront event

Teens can have some fun, get some exercise and learn how to protect their skin from the sun during a beach volleyball tournament on Friday, July 4.

The Youth Centre is holding the Sun Sense Beach Volleyball Tournament at which participants can learn the importance of protecting skin from harmful ultraviolet rays. In addition to volleyball, there will be other games and refreshments.

All activities are free.

The event from 4 to 8 p.m. at the beach at the south end of Westshore Boulevard in Pickering is for Ajax and Pickering teenagers.

Youths interested in playing beach volleyball may register a team of four or sign up individually and be placed on a squad.

The Youth Centre is organizing the event in conjunction with the Town of Pickering and the Canadian Cancer Society.

In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.

Call The Youth Centre at 428-1212 for more information or to register a team.

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GO bus driver fined \$800 in woman's death

BY STEPHEN SHAW
DURHAM STAFF

The family of a young Pickering woman crushed to death when she was struck by a GO bus last year expressed anger yesterday after the driver was fined \$800.

"Eight hundred dollars for taking someone's life. It's sad, but it's the law. There has got to be something very wrong (with the justice system) when somebody takes a life away and is fined \$800," a bitter Shant Ohannessian said outside of the provincial traffic court in Whitby.

His wife, Shirley-Anne, 26, was walking her dog Cain in the early morning of Oct. 23, 1996 when she was struck by the bus while using the crosswalk at Kingston and Glenanna roads.

The driver, Walter McCall, 65, of Oshawa, was found guilty yesterday of careless driving and fined.

Judge Brenna Brown, who spared Mr. McCall from a jail sentence and license suspension, found there was "clear evidence" to show the 35-year bus driver "did not pay due care and attention" to the roadway, causing the tragedy.

Several passengers on the bus testified during a two-day trial in the spring they noticed Mrs. Ohannessian standing on the sidewalk. "One even noted the wind blowing her hair into her face," Judge Brown noted.

One passenger, seated two seats behind the driver's seat, said he observed the budding magazine editor crossing from the south side of Kingston Road to the north side as the bus made a left turn from Glenanna Road onto Kingston Road.

Numerous passengers testified they heard a "bump" at which time Mr. McCall said he saw the woman, through his rear view mir-

ror, stumbling back onto the road. Other witnesses - including two who said the crosswalk signal indicated "Walk" at the time - saw Mrs. Ohannessian become trapped in the wheels of the bus and heard her scream twice as she struggled to free herself.

Mr. McCall, who was four months away from retirement and had an "unblemished" driving record, maintained he looked both ways at the crosswalk and intersection before making the turn. However, "he did not provide any evidence to explain the collision," Judge Brown said.

Judge Brown found Mr. McCall "cut the corner" during his turn, possibly to position the bus for a passenger pick-up at what she called a poorly-placed shelter. Regardless, she said, the cause of the crash rests on the shoulders of the driver.

"The driver did not give consideration to other people using the roadway," Mrs. Ohannessian was described in court by prosecutor Stephen McGuire as a bright, happy, talented and cheerful person who was "full of life."

A courtroom filled with Mrs. Ohannessian's family members and friends, many wiping tears from their eyes, sat silently as the Crown read out excerpts of emotional victim impact statements written by her sister, mother, brother and husband.

"The penalty that your worship imposes will never satisfy me,"

back anyone," Mr. McGuire said, asking for a stiff fine and 30-day license suspension, the latter of which was rejected by the judge. "The penalty has to be a message to this gentleman that he has wronged society" and to other operators of large vehicles, he said.

Outside the court, family members expressed disappointment at the sentence.

"We all lost something and all he loses is \$800. Eight hundred dollars is the value of someone's life? That is not a deterrent," said Mr. Ohannessian.

In the months before her death, he and Shirley-Anne had

begun planning to start a family. "We wanted three kids for sure, we were planning on starting after New Year's"

Words of Wisdom
Poor Jim. In order to get the job, they made him shave off his mustache, side-burns, and beard. And when they saw his face, they wouldn't hire him.

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photo by Jason Liebrechts

Red and white on green

Len Mills of Ajax continued his tradition this year of painting a maple leaf flag on the lawn of his Gates Crescent home. Celebrating this Canada Day paint job with Mr. Mills is daughter Carly.

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New tax revenue investment policy on the books in Pickering

NEW/From page 1

Confederation Life "should never happen again".

Coun. Brenner explains that in the past the Town has taken "a very aggressive approach to investing money" that will not be continued.

However, the new low-risk approach may mean lower investment profits for the Town's coffers.

"Our return is less (now). We're not going to be making the kind of money we did in the old days."

Pickering's new investment policy stipulates the Town may only invest in securities issued by the Government of Canada and any province, municipality or school board or similar entity in Canada, or by a Schedule A bank.

The investment guidelines include requirements for a maximum term-to-maturity of five years and for a minimum of 30 per cent of the Town's portfolio to be investments having a term under 90 days.

As well, investments may only be in a security that is expressed or payable in Canadian dollars and may only be made

through qualified brokerage houses.

The new policy also requires the Town treasurer or a designate to provide an investment report to Council each half-year at least and more frequently if required.

Coun. Brenner says the new investment rules are only the beginning of the development of a more comprehensive investment policy to be drawn up for Pickering. A detailed review of the issue will be undertaken after a short-staffing problem in the treasury department is dealt with, which the councillor expects to be resolved in the near future.

Help for cancer patients, families

Hearth Place is offering a series of programs for people with cancer and their families in July.

On July 7, the Cancer Info Series continues with an overview of palliative care and supportive therapy, presented by Catharine Plue, clinical co-ordinator of palliative care at Oshawa General Hospital.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at Hearth Place, 86 Colborne St. W., Oshawa.

Speak What's On Your Mind is the first session in a free, four-week interactive workshop on communication skills for patients and families. The session will be held July 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hearth Place. Susan Blacker will examine barriers to assertiveness in personal, work and health care situations.

A commitment to attend all four sessions is required.

On July 22, Feeling Your Best During Cancer Therapy, an information workshop for people newly diagnosed with cancer or about to begin treatment and their caregivers, is being held at 7:30 p.m. Cancer staging, treatment, management of side effects and effective communication with family, friends and health care team will be discussed. A cancer

patient who has experienced treatments will be at the meeting to share experiences.

The workshop is free but space is limited.

Pre-registration is required for all programs by calling 579-4833.

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Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission / Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes

Mutual fund investing seminar topic

You can get advice on investing in mutual funds during a free seminar Thursday, July 3.

Other topics to be discussed include how to manage a severance package and avoiding capital gains taxes. Azza Abdallah of the financial firm of Edward Jones and Tom Caswell of C.I. Mutual Fund will lead the seminar at 7 p.m. Seating is limited so people interested in taking part should reserve a spot. Edward Jones is in the Rouge-mount Square plaza at Rouge-mount Drive and Hwy. 2 in Pickering. Call 509-7763.

Teen reading club at Pickering library

The "Grim Readers II" summer reading club for teens runs again this summer at the Pickering Central Library.

The club operates from July 7 to Aug. 2 and is open to teens aged 11 to 18.

An opening party and movie will be featured July 8.

Club membership is free and members are eligible for prizes.

Those who want to participate in the club must be registered at the library, which is at One The Esplanade.

For more information call 831-6265, ext. 243.

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Area man charged in crime spree, faces charges in seven heists

BY STEPHEN SHAW
DURHAM STAFF

A convicted bandit who was absent without leave from a halfway house when arrested last week following a knife-point robbery has now been charged with six more heists in the Oshawa, Whitby and Courtice areas.

The 30-year-old former Pickering man was released from prison in January after serving time for robbery, aggravated assault and drug trafficking offences. Durham Regional Police said.

Robbery squad Detective Stan Pinkney said the suspect was named on an arrest warrant after he disappeared from a federal halfway house a day before his arrest.

Initially charged with the robbery last week of the Silver Variety in Whitby, the suspect was arrested at an Oshawa motel after a sharp-eyed clerk managed to get the licence plate of the fleeing bandit's getaway car, police said.

Police now accuse him of being responsible for a string of coffee shop and convenience

store holdups in the past two weeks. In several of the robberies, said police, a bandit wielding a hammer threatened victims and demanded cash after appearing to make a purchase. In some cases, the victims were pushed aside as the robber emptied the till.

Four of the heists occurred during a 19-hour crime spree on June 8. The businesses hit were the Conductors Cafe, Coffee Time Donuts on King Street East and Country Style

Donuts on Simcoe Street North, all in Oshawa, and the Market Basket in Whitby.

The accused is also charged with robberies May 29 at Courtice Pharmacy and June 18 at I. & G. Variety on Harmony Road in Oshawa.

Charleston Wayne Peart faces numerous charges of robbery and use of a weapon while committing an indictable offence.

He remains in custody and appears in court July 9.

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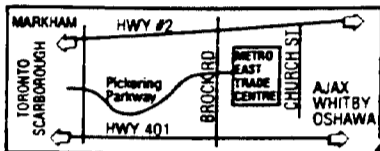


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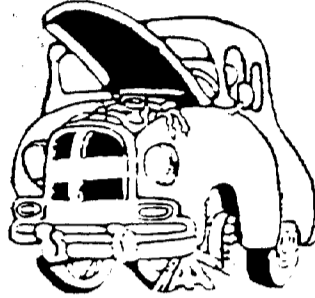
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▼ Editorials and Letters

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Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser
 A Metroland Community Newspaper
 published Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
 130 Commercial Ave., Ajax, Ont. L1S 2H5
 Publisher: Tim Whittaker

▼ Editorial

Give us a day to celebrate our home town

Out of the mouths of babes... Well, the babe in question is eight years old, but his idea is one which Durham's municipal leaders should take seriously.

Given the chance to be mayor for a day in Clarington, Reed Collis, 8, said he would declare a Clarington Day. The Grade 3 student has come up with a great idea each of our local mayors could run with and use to the benefit of their own municipalities.

Reed's idea would be to have one day where citizens could celebrate and learn more about the heritage and history of their municipality.

His idea is so bright, we thought other municipalities in Durham should get in on the act. Since we already have a recognized Civic Holiday (the first Monday in August) that few people currently celebrate, why not make it into a civic pride day where each municipality boasts of its own achievements, history and tradition?

The day could be co-ordinated by the local boards of trade, chambers of commerce, the tourism board, the economic development office and municipal governments. Each municipality could have a downtown mall for a day, emphasize fun and games, keep museums and galleries open for free, among other ideas. Since the day is on a holiday Monday, we'd even agree the whole weekend could be set up as a lead-in to the big day.

Celebrated halfway between Canada Day and Labor Day, Civic Day could be a hit in places across the region. It would take political will, co-ordination, organization, and yes, even a little money. Let's face it: it would also take a few years to really get going, but it would be worth the effort.

The key element of the 'Day' would involve education coupled with entertainment and family events to celebrate traditions and changes in the town or city over the years.

Each town or city in Durham region has a lot to be proud of. A Civic Day celebration would give the citizens a reason to stand up and cheer for their hometown.

To respond to this editorial call Infosource at 683-7040 and dial 5109

▼ You said it...

We continue to get response to the June 24 News Advertiser editorial headlined 'Manning, the sell-out'. Some samples:

"I'm calling to protest your sickening editorial. It's a diatribe against the leader of the Official Opposition and obviously you people in your Liberal, sickening manner can't get over the fact that this party is now the Official Opposition. When are you going to quit? When are you going to stop offending all the voters of Canada who voted for a fine Canadian party? Give it up, now."

"You can almost believe that almost everything he has said, he's going to change his mind on, for one reason or another because he did talk with a forked tongue. It isn't something I didn't foresee -- the fact is he's going to do everything the opposite of what he said."

▼ We asked...

The question is: What do you think of the Province's plans to get tougher with drunk drivers and operators of unsafe trucks?



John Kehoe says, "I'm in favor of any legislation to make our roads safer."



Lorri McInnall says, "I like the three strikes and lose your licence rule with drinking and driving. But, I don't think the crackdown on unsafe trucks is helping that much."



John McWha says, "There should be no second chances."



▼ Letters to the editor

Don't build homes on site designated for Pickering school

To the editor:

I have been viewing out my front window a very serious concern to me -- the levelling of a parcel of land on Westcreek Drive. I am glad to see the hill of soil and rubble disappear, but I am appalled at the proposed replacement with more houses in my neighborhood.

When I moved to the area in 1994, the park and school were major factors in choosing the site we did. We took this into account as we planned for our family, to live and retire here for a number of years. The peaceful, quaint neighborhood with its park and future school were a definite attraction to the town of Pickering after living recently in Toronto and Scarborough.

It is my understanding, and please correct me if I am wrong, that the Durham Board of Education had decided not to purchase the site and the current educational restructuring by the provincial government is the main factor in this.

I understand that cutbacks by the federal and provincial governments have severely hurt the community that I live in and support, and the current Harris/Thatcher style cuts to education make the school site a financial problem, but if the concern is the building costs, I strongly urge Pickering Mayor Wayne Arthurs and other members of Town Council to consider acquiring the site for other civic use, park land, community centre, etc.

If things change in the future, as they always do, and a school is built in the area, the opportunity to have it beside this park will be gone and a different site will be needed. At that point, the school board would have to acquire another park property for the school to have the same opportunities for the children, or have a school without adjacent open space.

Members of Council and school board trustees have a unique opportunity to preserve a lot adjacent to an existing park that receives strong community support and use. It

should be used for a school as planned, not for more houses. More homes will distract from the existing community.

I have the unique opportunity to view from my den window the daily activities of the park out of my front windows, and see the constant use of the park and the school site, rain or shine, summer in a heat wave, or winter in a cold snap.

I love where I live, and it is one of the few pleasures in life, in this world we live in. Pickering Council, please help preserve the small community feel of my area.

I strongly urge Council members to consider acquiring the site for other civic use, park land, community centre, etc. I strongly urge them to review the zoning of the sites and not change it to residential from school.

Mike Duquette, Pickering

Ajax Web site contract should stay in Ajax

To the editor:

In a recent article in the News Advertiser, you reported on the granting of a contract to a Scarborough company to produce a Web site for the Town of Ajax. You failed to mention, however, that this Web site could have been just as easily awarded to an Ajax company as there are many around which could have done this job just as well and possibly cheaper.

It would appear that the tendering process is weighted against small companies by rejecting those without municipal experience regardless of their other experience.

Another point is that taxes paid by we taxpayers to the Town of Ajax would be better spent in Ajax. The Town motto

is 'None Can Overcome Ajax But Ajax Itself'.

B.C. Palmer, Ajax

Cyclists, watch out for Brittle Bone Brigade

To the editor:

How about giving us a break

not giving us a break? I am referring to the wonderful waterfront walkway in Ajax. Being a member of the BBB (Brittle Bone Brigade) as most seniors are, I am asking for a little consideration from those on bicycles who also enjoy the walkway. You can hear the in-line skaters coming from behind and see them from the front. But you cannot hear the bikes approaching from behind.

I would say that most of those on bikes are very courteous and respect the sharing of the limited space on the walk. But when some riders are side by side and approaching from behind and also not using a bell (they probably don't have one), the space is diminished to the point of danger to both the walker and the rider.

Just a touch of the handlebar on an elbow would flip the rider and possibly cause a broken arm, shoulder or hip for the walker.

Now the younger ones in the spill would have many advantages in that they are stronger, heal faster and have many years to do so. However, for the members of the BBB, it would spell the end for them. We all know of older people whose active lives have been seriously curtailed (if not finished) by a broken hip with the resultant long recovery period.

This is just a plea to those few riders: please ride in tandem when passing the walkers, get a bell on your bike and use it when approaching from behind. Parents, here is an excellent opportunity to teach "bike manners" to your young ones by your example.

Using the walkway is a great pleasure to us and we use it regularly. Let's all enjoy the walk without concern for our well-being.

John and Julia Larke, Pickering

MARK BELL Guest Column



Ajax resident Mark Bell feels a special kinship with police because he also puts his life on the line every work day as a firefighter.

Give police raise they want

With respect to the News Advertiser editorial of June 18 headlined 'Police want too much' and the 'You said it...' responses to that editorial on June 20 and 22, this newspaper is wrong, and the readers are right.

Ever since the regime of Bob Rae and his band of kindergarten dropouts introduced the Social Contract back in 1992, those who risk their lives every day for the safety of our communities have not had a wage increase at all. For five years, these men and women have more than likely faced an increase in crime, partly due to a federal government that thinks today's youth are just misunderstood and that the Young Offenders Act works just fine, partly because there are more people living here than there were five years ago, and also because the politicians in Durham Region keep playing the soundtrack to the only recording they have, entitled 'We don't have anymore money'.

Local politicians really don't care about your police force: they only care about keeping their own jobs. Unfortunately, they do this at the expense of the communities' safety that they are supposed to care about. Sure they pay lip service to the concerns of citizens and the officers who do the job, but if they had to take money away from one of their pet projects and actually give somebody a decent, overdue wage increase, they would probably be fired for doing the right thing.

Local politicians have been singing this same tune for years ad nauseum. These men and women are professionally trained to do just that. That's how they come to be in those positions.

Now take a look around at all the new construction going on, and think of the money coming in from building permits, and the taxes these businesses are paying and will be paying, the people they'll be hiring, and look at all the new homes being built, and think of all these new property tax-paying individuals and their families spending money in the local economy. Do you get the picture?

And now the provincial government is coming down with another bill that will change the way arbitration cases are to be dealt with. "Why?" you ask. Simple. The municipalities and the Region want them to change it, because they're trying to stick it to those who risk their lives for your safety. If you could go to arbitration and already have the arbitrator on your side, wouldn't you do everything you could to make sure you go to arbitration?

Every police officer in the region deserves the wage increase that their association is asking for. I'd much rather have my tax dollars go to the men and women who risk their lives to protect my family, than to cover the untold thousands of dollars it's costing for Towns in Durham Region to become ISO 9001 approved. If you're wondering what ISO 9001 is, just ask any senior executive of a multi-million-dollar company, and you'll be told it's worth it for a company that produces goods and services and competes with others for customers, and then they'll laugh when you tell them a Town in Durham Region is trying to become certified. It makes no sense whatsoever.

Either the people who run Durham Region and its municipalities are so stupid when it comes to spending tax dollars that they have to constantly whine about not having enough, or they have enough and they are simply lying. Frankly, I think they're lying.

The News Advertiser invites readers to submit columns for Be Our Guest on current issues facing our Durham Region communities. Submissions should be 600 words or less, must be signed and include a daytime telephone number. Unpublished columns may run in condensed form as a letter to the editor.

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 Publisher: Tim Whittaker
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Catholic trustees fear reforms will affect representation

BY LINDA WHITE
STAFF REPORTER

A separate school board trustee is afraid Oshawa residents won't be fairly represented after the next municipal election if a proposal on trustee distribution is approved.

Wards 3 and 4 trustee Stan Karwowski's fear that "the allocation of trustees will not be based on the principle of representation by population" if it's instead based on a proposal from the Durham Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board's Local Education Improvement Committee (LEIC).

That proposal follows direction from the Province under Bill 104 — the Fewer School Boards Act — to reduce the number of trustees.

According to the LEIC's proposal, Oshawa would have two trustees — down from five — following November's election. Whitby and Pickering would also have two trustees, down from three, while Ajax would be represented by just one trustee, though it's now represented by three.

Meanwhile, the northern community of Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock would continue to have one trustee.

Mr. Karwowski believes that's unfair because each Oshawa trustee would represent almost 13,900 ratepayers, each Whitby trustee would speak for almost 8,500 people, the Ajax trustee would serve 15,150 board supporters and each Pickering trustee would represent 9,200 Catholics, while the trustee representing the north would serve 4,000 ratepayers.

"The northern area is large, but the ratepayers are mainly clustered around the cities of that area," argues Mr. Karwowski.

"Parents' major concerns are with the quality of education, such as curriculum and special needs resources, which are common for parents in both rural and urban areas...It is ratepayers who generate phone calls, not distance or area."

Mr. Karwowski would like to see three trustees in Oshawa and wants the board to ask the Province for an additional trustee to represent the north.

But such a request wouldn't guarantee an additional trustee, notes LEIC chairman and Pickering trustee Kevin Ashe. He says the proposal is based on recommendations from clerks in Durham's three largest municipalities — Oshawa, Whitby and Pickering.

had its own trustee since 1988. (According to that criteria, the north is entitled to 0.4 of a trustee.)

The LEIC will examine representation in the north at a meeting Thursday, July 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the south board room of the Catholic Education Centre at 650 Rossland Rd. W., Oshawa.

The LEIC will then meet with the above-mentioned clerks, who will put together a report for the board.

The board will be invited to comment on that report before the clerks determine how trustees will be distributed.

Mr. Ashe says the clerks may make such recommendations as dividing municipalities like Ajax into wards — several of which could be represented by a Pickering trustee.

Mr. Ashe believes the north is entitled to its own trustee and says two trustees should adequately represent Oshawa ratepayers.

He points to the Durham Board of Education, which has reportedly designated two trustees for that city "though it has two-and-a-half times the number of students" as the separate board.



KEVIN ASHE
Clerks may make recommendations

You may find a recycled gem when you look inside the Treasure Chest

During the first week of every month, Recycler's Report and the News Advertiser bring you The Treasure Chest.

This space allows residents to give away items they no longer use and list articles they need.

A non-profit group that helps women and children in a time of crisis has received many donations, thanks to generous readers who responded to a recent Treasure Chest.

To use The Treasure Chest each month, call 420-5625 during business hours.

Requests must be made by the last Wednesday of the month to appear.

ITEMS NEEDED

- 1) Fax machine for Oshawa District Humane Society, 839-2679.
- 2) Fish tank and equipment (pumps and filters), 831-0404.
- 3) Used computers and parts to begin a community access computer library, 831-3586.
- 4) Rabbit hutch or large guinea pig cage, 839-3621.
- 5) 486 computer system, 686-9676.
- 6) Clocks and old clock boxes in need of repair, 683-4912.
- 7) Computer with color monitor, four or five filing cabinets, paper folder, envelope sealer, paper shredder, label maker, basic collator, paper cutter and other general office

LARRAINE ROULSTON
Recycler's Report



machine, assorted household furniture and necessities (dishes, etc.) — to help a man get re-established. 420-1877.

ITEMS TO GIVE AWAY

- 1) Binders, anti-static wipers for cleaning computer and TV screens, 3/4" small round ring printed binders, Rosemarie at 428-8842.
- 2) Two hanging lamps — one brown, one Tiffany-style, need minor repair — 831-0404.



Durham Environmental Network (DEN) is updating its 'Household Guide to Waste Reduction in Durham Region'.

If you know a non-profit organization that would like to be listed to receive articles, can DEN at 509-8390.



GREEN TIP: A reader suggests that, since Durham's Blue Box only takes plastic pop bottles and plastic with the number 1 inside the recycling logo, you can save your plastic number 2 items, which at present have good market value, and take them to friends' homes in other municipalities when you visit.

Lorraine Roulston's column exploring environmental issues regularly appears on Wednesday.

Read the Recycler's Report online at www.durhamnews.net



PICKERING

Town of Pickering (905) 420-2222 (905) 683-2760

Kids' Day
Sunday, July 13
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pickering Museum Village

Town/Public Meetings

- June 25 Committee of Adjustment
- June 30 Management Meeting
- JULY TOWN COUNCIL
- SUMMER RECESS
- July 16 Committee of Adjustment
- July 17 Site Plan Advisory Committee
- August 5 Town Council Meeting
- August 7 Statutory Public Information Meeting
- August 14 Site Plan Advisory Committee



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We thank all those individuals who apply; however, only those applicants granted an interview will be acknowledged.

to undertake horticultural duties including planning and coordinating flower bed and seeding preparation on Town parkland; assist in planning, developing and maintaining trees, shrubs, plants and flower beds; prune, plant and transplant trees and shrubs; spray for weeds as required; operate small power tools and light and heavy machinery.

Applicants must possess a Post Secondary School diploma from a recognized school of horticulture or secondary school completion with a combination of job related training & experience in horticulture, arboriculture, forestry or related fields; valid Class "G" driver's licence with ability to operate light & heavy machinery; Provincial pesticide spraying licence (Class 1, 111 Land Exterminations); ability to perform the physical demands required of the position; ability to work under minimal supervision.

Please submit your detailed resume before July 9, 1997 to:

Valerie Jones,
Employment Services
Coordinator

Building Partnerships

In response to Pickering's Healthy Community Initiative, the Community Page project has been developed to provide Healthy Community Partners with the opportunity to highlight their programs and services that contribute to Pickering's well-being.

The Durham Board of Education

The Durham Board of Education is pleased to be one of the partners involved in Pickering's Healthy Community Initiative. The Board is committed to developing and maintaining safe learning environments. In an era of collaboration, we pledge our continued commitment to working jointly to promote safe schools - safe communities. Personal and community wellness deserves quality management.

Initiatives:

- * Durham Board's Security and Safety Committee
- * Durham Region Safe Schools Committee

Better together - in honouring the past, managing the present and planning for the future

Contributing to Pickering's Well-being

LOOK FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF CHATELAINE MAGAZINE... AND READ HOW THE PICKERING RECREATION COMPLEX IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE!

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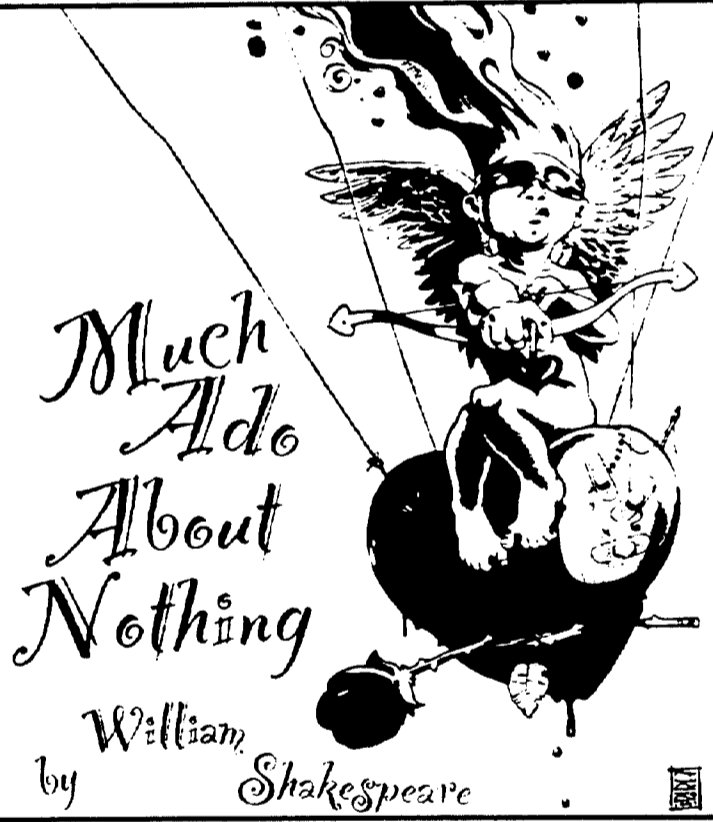
SUMMER SESSIONS

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\$70.00 for 3 weeks (plus GST)
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Session Two:
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ESPLANADE PARK GAZEBO
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8:00 P.M.**

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(905) 420-4620



PICKERING Museum Village

Mule cart rides
tide entertainment
BBQ & treats
clowns
face painting
olds time games
pioneer crafts

kids' day

ADMISSION - for this event children under 12 free, adults \$5, students & seniors \$3 and families \$15.
PICKERING MUSEUM VILLAGE is located in Greenwood, on Hwy #7, between Brock and Westney Road.
For more information, please call (905) 683-8401 or 420-4620 and visit our web site <<http://www.freenet.durham.org/oldstuff/>>

Heritage Workshops
Discover Your Community Through Architecture!

presented with the Ontario Historical Society

Saturday, July 12th
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pre-registration request by July 5

Registration Fees: \$25 or if you already have a copy of DISCOVERING YOUR COMMUNITY, Fee is \$10. Lunch available \$5.

Pickering Museum Village is on Hwy. 7, 3 km east of Brock Rd.
Please call (905) 683-8401 or (416) 225-9011

Herb Identification & Cooking or Blacksmith Techniques
Saturday, July 12th

PICKERING Museum Village

Tour colorful Durham gardens to help MS patients

Garden tour covers homes from Ajax to Whitby

You're invited to sneak a peek at some of the most beautiful gardens from the Ajax lakelands to historic Whitby and help people with Multiple Sclerosis at the same time.

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society of Canada, Durham regional

chapter, is hosting a Garden Tour of 15 gardens — ranging from cottage gardens to manicured estates — on Saturday, July 19 from noon to 5 p.m.

Cost is \$15 per person, which includes door prizes and afternoon tea in a country garden.

Money raised will be used to provide equipment, services and outings for local patients.

Tickets can be purchased at the MS Society office at 375 Finley

Ave., Ajax (686-2581), Carlson Wagonlit Travel at 135 Harwood Ave. S., Ajax (683-8411), Pickering Village Pharmacy at 59 Old Kingston Rd., Ajax (683-9271), Lafontaine Trading Post at 106 Dundas St. W., Whitby (430-3774), Carlson Wagonlit Travel at 3050 Garden St., Whitby (686-8266), or Saywell's Book Store at 14 Simcoe St. S., Oshawa (728-8821).

For more information, call the MS Society.

French public school named after author

OSHAWA — The public school board's new French first language elementary school will be named after a noted Acadian author.

Ecole élémentaire Antonine-Maillet will open this September and will be located in and partnered with T.R. McEwen Senior Public School on Wilson Road South in Oshawa.

Antonine Maillet's most famous books include Pelagie-la-charette and la Sagouine. She has a doctorate from Laval University and has written and produced programs for the French Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Moncton and Montreal.

No other schools have been named after Mme. Maillet.

The name was selected by the Durham Board of Education's French Language Advisory Committee. Its members believed the author would be an inspiration to the students at the new school because of her dedication to francophone literature and culture.

The school's first principal will be Pauline Albert, who comes from the Simcoe County Board of Education. The new school will begin with students from kindergarten to Grade 6.

CPR classes offered this summer

Does the summer bring with it thoughts of taking your family to the beach or relaxing around a backyard pool? Are those thoughts ever mixed with concerns about what you would do if something went wrong?

St. John Ambulance is offering several cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses this summer, and reminds you that most infant and child emergencies occur in the presence of a primary caregiver. The following courses are being offered:

- Heartsaver CPR/Level A: This course teaches CPR procedures for adult rescue — defined as anyone aged eight years or older. It's five to six hours in length and costs \$35 a person. In Ajax, a class will be held Thursday, July 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- Basic Rescuer CPR/Level C: This course offers CPR procedures for adult, infant and child rescue. The course is eight to 10 hours in length and costs \$60 a person. In Ajax, classes will also be held July 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Child and Infant CPR/Level D: CPR procedures for infants and children aged under eight years will be taught in the course, which is six to eight hours in length and costs \$35 a person. In Ajax, classes will be held July 25 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and July 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Classes will also be held this summer in Whitby and Oshawa.

For more information, or to register, call St. John Ambulance at 434-7800.

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Support offered for head injured

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Bad air days

Hospital hasn't seen increase in admissions

Lung association offers tips for coping
 Ajax-Pickering General Hospital hasn't seen an increase in people with breathing problems requiring care in the past few hot and hazy days.

That could be because the hospital is taking a more proactive approach in teaching individuals with respiratory difficulties how to avoid problems like those created by high humidity and air pollution.

Hospital director of respiratory services Kim Parr reports, "We haven't seen an increase in the amount of patients being seen in the emergency department with breathing problems in the past week, even though the humidity has been extremely high."

"This may be due in part to the fact we're educating patients on how to avoid triggers which can increase their breathing difficulties," Ms. Parr says.

For example, respiratory therapists provide individual counselling on asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to all patients in hospital for breathing problems prior to their discharge.

The hospital will increase its educational efforts in the fall when it provides individual one-hour counselling to respiratory patients referred by their doctors.

And, it will provide literature to those patients and encourage them to take outreach programs offered by the Lung Association of Durham Region.

Meanwhile, the Lung Association is warning area residents to remain active but to stay indoors on days when the air pollution is high this summer.

Poor air quality can aggravate asthma and chronic lung and heart disease, the Lung Association reminds. When

exposed to air pollution, people who are sensitive may experience such symptoms as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Even healthy individuals should be careful not to over-exert themselves during periods of high pollution, the association adds.

Instead, it encourages people to:

- avoid extended periods outdoors, especially if breathing is negatively affected;
- keep hydrated by drinking lots of fluids;

- avoid over-exertion and stay rested;
- keep the indoor environment cool;
- follow the directions of your physician if taking medication for respiratory illness. If breathing becomes more difficult, see your physician or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

As well, the association reminds you not to exercise outdoors, particularly in high traffic areas.

The Ministry of the Environment reports on the Air Quality Index hourly. You can get this information by calling 1-800-387-7768.



photo by Andrew Iwanowski

Chopstick challenge

The Mandarin Restaurant in Pickering recently treated some Woodlands Centennial School students to a lunch to reward their efforts at recognizing the cultural diversity of their community. Here, restaurant owner-manager Dolores Wu gives student Saira Masood a hand with the chopsticks.

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Post Office Inadvertently Creates Hot New Collectible

Grenada — Even though Pete Rose may never be elected into the Hall of Fame, he has been accidentally honored with other baseball legends on a small number of Limited Edition postage stamps. This blunder by Major League Baseball and the Postal Service has sent collectors scrambling to obtain one of the few *Legends of Baseball* sets that mistakenly include the stamp of Rose.

Postal officials are trying, with little success, to recall the sets with the controversial All-Star.

"We won't be sending them back to the Post Office," stated John Van Ernden of ICS, who has the only known supply of the recalled stamps. "We'd rather see them in the hands of collectors."

Experts say the *Legends of Baseball* set would have sold out anyway because of the huge popularity of the other All-Stars featured such as Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken.

"Our phones are ringing off the hook! Collectors know this is something that's seldom seen, even in the world of rare collectibles," he added.

"Over 800 million celebrity stamps have been released. Compare that to this Pete Rose error, where just a few thousand sets exist, and you can see the irresistible appeal this set has for baseball fans and collectors," pointed out Van Ernden.

Each of the nine colorful stamps is about four times the size of a regular postage stamp. They're legal for postage in Grenada and are accepted by every postal authority worldwide.

Gotta have 'em? They're available while supplies last at \$9.95 U.S. (plus \$3.00 p&h) for the set of nine colorful stamps. You'll also receive an additional set of nine revised stamps where Pete Rose has been removed, and two Certificates of Authenticity. The most you can buy is six sets. Send your cheque or money order to ICS, 450 Tapscott Road, Suite 1MTPM, Scarborough, ONTARIO M1B 5W1. To order by credit card, call toll free 1-800-641-0020.

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Billboard

FRIDAY, JULY 4

ADDICTION: The Serenity Group holds a 12-step recovery meeting at 8 p.m. at Bayfair Baptist Church, 817 Kingston Rd., Pickering. This group meets every week and deal with addictions of all types, including co-dependency.

Children's program available during meeting. All welcome. 428-9431 (Jim, evenings).

SATURDAY, JULY 5

PARA BBQ: The Pickering Auxiliary Rescue Association hosts a fund-raising barbecue from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at LOEB store on Bayly Street and Monarch Avenue in Ajax. Hamburgers, hot dogs, pop. The event is being organized to raise money for the local marine rescue unit.

Call Wayne Langfeld at 905-683-3424 for more information (leave a message if necessary).

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Social Development Council of Ajax-Pickering is inviting everybody interested to come and learn about our friendship program which matches volunteers with new immigrants to Canada. It's a perfect chance to make new friends and learn about a different culture while you show a new immigrant how to be a part of your community.

Information session on July 7, 1997, at 7:00 pm at the Ajax Public Library. For further information and to confirm attendance call **Mahmood (Host Coordinator) at 686-2661**

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Arts & Entertainment

Newsroom 683-5110

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Big band, big sound Swingshift does Durham

BY MICHELE YOUNG
DURHAM STAFF

Oshawa resident Fred Mildon doesn't like to blow his own horn much. But the modest and gracious trumpet player has some great stories about the people he's worked with — and he's worked with some of the very best.

Mildon played with some of the most outstanding big band leaders in the '50s and '60s, including Harry James, Buddy Rich, Ray Anthony and Lionel Hampton. The musical director for Durham big band Swingshift speaks warmly, and articulately about those amazing years and the musicians he toured with. Mildon says Lionel Hampton, for one, was a very extroverted character.

"What you saw up on stage was the real thing, not a show. He was also a very warm character. He would make room for musicians who really wanted to play or would help them get into another band," he says, adding, "I was saddened to hear about his sickness recently; I hope he's recovered."

Other band leaders were more business-like he says, while Ray Anthony was a bit of a playboy and Harry James was a taskmaster. "Everything had to be precise. He wanted everything to be just right when he went out there."

But the most remarkable character he performed with was Buddy Rich, who Mildon played with during a six-week tour through northern New York.

"Working with (Rich) was a fun time. It was always interesting. He was very flamboyant, but very short-tempered where the music was concerned. He would fire and hire the band four times a day. But for all that he was very likable. And talent!! It's impossible to describe. He was an absolute genius. He had no formal training; he couldn't read music, but he'd play something once and he'd know it."

Mildon says the whole band would pause when Rich decided to launch into an improvised drum solo. The band leader would throw himself into the solo, "and break a drum stick or two in the process — which he would just throw into the audience before picking up another," Mildon says.

"We would sit as long as 20 minutes, with no idea how long it was going to be — four bars, 12 bars or 84 bars. Then he would just count the band back in, and we would just have to be ready."

He says another benefit to playing with Buddy Rich was you had the benefit of being around all the characters he attracted, as well as all the beautiful women. He was the moviemakers' godsend — him and the other big drummer, Gene Krupa. In fact Hollywood took so much of the stereotype

of 'the bandleader' that you see on screen, from those two," he says.

Which of the two drummers did Mildon consider the more talented? "Well, I thought Buddy Rich was much more talented. But then that's one of the classic debates in the jazz world: Who was the better drummer, Gene Krupa or Buddy Rich? Though of course they each had no doubts about who was the better."

That Mildon worked with so many great, talented band leaders, and for so long, is testament to his own talents. It's also an indication of the standards he holds for his own band.

People will have the chance to hear this exceptional band this Sunday in the first of a series of Oshawa Lion's Club summer concerts at the Lakeview Park gazebo.

Mildon promises audiences some superior renditions of classics made famous by the great big-band leaders, including Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and Artie Shaw among others.

"People are going to hear two very good hours of music on Sunday," he says.

Jim John, business manager for the band, says the band's reputation has been spreading and as a result they are becoming busier all the time. Among their upcoming gigs is a stint at the prestigious Beaches International Jazz Festival. The band also plays at Fitzrichard's Pub the first Tuesday of every month and has been asked by the Lion's Club to come back and play at the Jubilee Pavilion once a month beginning again in September.

If you listen to a recording of the band made a year ago and compare it to their sound today, Mildon says there's a big difference.

"We've really grown. We're becoming very tight in musical terms."

He adds that Swingshift has seen very few changes in personnel which is good for consistency in their sound, but also is an indication of the band members' dedication to, and satisfaction with, the group. "Other than two people, the same musicians have stayed with us. The guys are very happy," says John.

You can hear Swingshift at Lakeview Park this Sunday, July 6. The show runs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the big gazebo.

Learn to set fire to your poems

AJAX — A workshop here Saturday, July 5 will teach you how to write pleasing poetry.

The Writers' Circle of Durham Region hosts a poetry seminar entitled *Playing With Matches: Setting Fire to your Poems*, under the leadership of Oshawa poet Steven Laird.

Guaranteed to be fun and informative, this workshop is geared to poetry composition, focussing on methods of creativity which can be applied to any form of writing.

Cost is \$20 for members, \$15 for non-members.

The poetry workshop's being held downstairs at the Fortune Financial Building, 335 Bayly St. (at Finley Avenue) in Ajax.

The Writers' Circle of Durham Region's a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting writing and budding, local writers.

For more information, call Laird at 432-2536.

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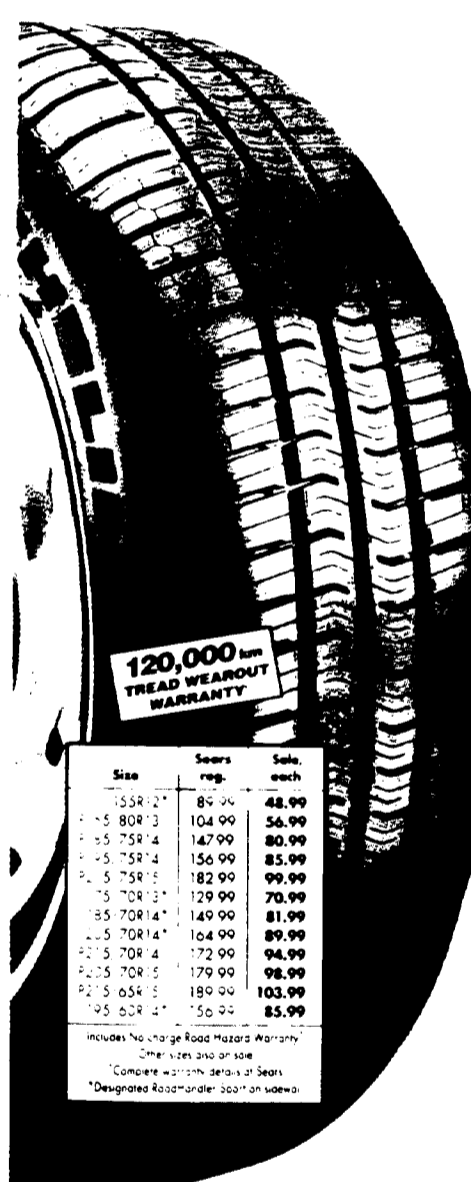
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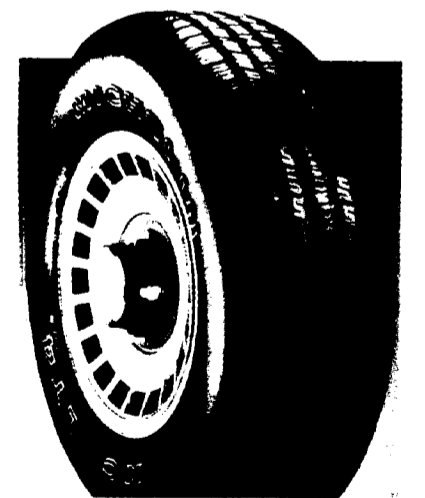
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News Advertiser

That's no sticky wicket...

Pickering pair compete in Bermuda cricket tourney

BY AL RIVETT
SPORTS REPORTER

PICKERING — Two teenage cricket players will take their bats to Bermuda for an international youth tournament this month.

Aditya Dhekney, 17, and Mark Moosaie, 18, of Pickering, will represent Canada at the International Youth Cricket Tournament in Warwick, Bermuda July 6 to 13. The 13-member Canadian squad will play several of the top cricket nations in the tournament. Under-19 teams from England, Denmark, Holland, Ireland, Scotland and Bermuda will also compete at the event.

The Pine Ridge Secondary School students entering their OAC year are excited about suiting up for the international event. And they're hoping to help Canada do well at the competition.

"Canada hasn't really done well in the past, but we hope to change all that," says Mark, who notes Canada's youth teams have beaten Bermuda before. "Some of these teams play year-round while we only get the summer to play."

"We're very excited to go to Bermuda," adds Aditya. "It's been three years of hard work for this."

Aditya and Mark play pivotal roles on the Canadian squad as the opening batsmen, holding down the first two spots in the order. Both have

played the sport throughout their childhood, including the past four years in Canada where Aditya has been a member of the Toronto Cricket Club and Mark has toiled for the Vikings Cricket Club, also of Toronto.

The two teens were chosen for the

'Canada hasn't really done well in the past, but we hope to change all that...'

-- Mark Moosaie

under-19 national squad after team officials watched their play with the Eastern Canadian entry at the Canada Cup Cricket Tournament at Ross Lord Park in Toronto last August. Squads from western Canada, Denmark and the Canadian under-15 cricket team also played at the event.

They received confirmation they were chosen for the Canadian squad earlier this year.

They joined a large contingent of

players from Ontario, with other team members from Alberta, Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba.

In preparation for the international event, the Canadian under-19 team has worked out at the Action Cricket facility in north Scarborough since last winter, taking batting practice and improving physical fitness.

Although cricket has its pockets of popularity in Canada, it hasn't achieved the status it enjoys in other parts of the world. Aditya and Mark are unabashed boosters of the sport, each liking cricket for different reasons.

"For me, I enjoy it because of the club I play for," explains Mark. "It's a family club that I play for, so it's a lot of fun."

Aditya says, "I like batting. Unlike baseball, you can bat for more than five seconds in cricket."

The Pickering teens will leave for Bermuda on Friday. Before leaving, the Canadian under-19 team will play several exhibition matches. Today, Wednesday, July 2, the national team takes on a Toronto Cricket Club squad.

On Thursday, the national squad faces the Toronto and District Colts consisting of former members of the Canadian youth team. The Canadian team played in Ajax against the Ajax Cricket Club on Canada Day.



photo by A.J. Groen

Pickering cricket athletes Aditya Dhekney (left) and Mark Moosaie have already proven themselves good enough to represent the Canadian under-19 team in Bermuda this weekend. Now they'll test themselves against teams from around the world. The local athletes play on different cricket squads in Toronto and were chosen for the Canadian team after officials watched their play in a tournament last summer.

Pine Ridge Pumas paddlers dragon boat champs

Pickering high school crew takes top honors in its class

PICKERING — Pickering's Pine Ridge Secondary School Pumas paddlers had all their oars in the water at the International Dragon Boat Festival held recently at Toronto's Centre Island.

The 24-member Pine Ridge crew paddled its way to first place in the mixed high school class during the first day of competition at the two-day dragon boat festival, beating 16 other high school squads on the 640-metre course. The Pumas also laid claim to the Canada Cup title on the second day of competition, beating the Dunbarton Splashing Spartans in a race between the two boats.

It was the second appearance for Pine Ridge at the international dragon boat race. Last year the Pumas finished third.

Pine Ridge teacher Dorothy DeGray notes the team of 14 males and 10 females worked hard throughout the season, which included pool practices in April and training sessions through May and June, two on weekdays which began at 6:40 a.m. as well as one during the weekends.

"It was really refreshing as a teacher to see the work those 24 kids put into it," says DeGray.

She also praises the help of the West Rouge Canoe Club which provided the Pine Ridge entry with the boat as well as coaching from

Olympic paddler Liam Jewell who was instrumental in taking the team to new heights of success.

Meanwhile, the Dunbarton Splashing Spartans won their first two heats in the mixed high school class. However, in the final, the Dunbarton 'A' crew appeared to have won the final, but was disqualified after a collision with another boat.

Dunbarton coach Michael Lalla says the Spartans protested the disqualification and a further appeal is planned.

The school's 'B' dragon boat crew raced Pine Ridge in the Canada Cup final, but was defeated by the Pumas.

Members of the Pine Ridge dragon boat crew are Joe Kelman, Paul Shwowiec, Pat Finson, Darryl Schofield, Jamie Bruce, Ryan Sutherland, Colin Ogle, Liz Armstrong, Kristen Nicol, Amber Caruana, Tracee Nemeth, Heather Grinton, Courtney Mitchell, Kevin Menezes, Emma Johnstone, Erin Wheeler, Lenka Martinek, Mike Gilman, David Tucker, Tanya Foote, Dan Evelyn, Brendan O'Hanley, Wilson Westbrook, Jamey Trewartha and Kyra Loftus.

Members of the Dunbarton Splashing Spartans team are Sheila Keber, Sierra Keber, Cheryl Kukash, Stephanie Murray, Ahmaud Jaqu, Derek Byres, Tim Mair, Paul Van Huss, James Kuzyk, Sean Humphries, Mark Baldwin, Brendan Greenbury, Trevor McMullen, Graham Wright, Janet McNeil, Oliver Williams, Jessica Hayward, Stacey Fitzsimmons, Julie Russell, Kim Neumayer, Carol Yuen, Jasmine Halsband, Laura Wells and Nawal Hindi.

Durham real estate board hits links

Members of the Durham Region Real Estate Board hit the links recently for fellowship with friends and peers.

The board held its annual golf tournament at Kedron Dells Golf Club in Oshawa June 19.

About 170 board members and associates took part in the tourney.

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OPP officers sport new look with 'state trooper' hats

BY SHAWN SIMPSON
DURHAM STAFF

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police are brimming with pride these days as they sport a new look. The OPP are abandoning their traditional head gear for a new wide brim hat designed to help protect officers from overexposure to the sun and its subsequent health risks.

"The health and safety of our officers is paramount and we have no hesitation in taking decisive action to pro-

tect our members," says OPP Commissioner Thomas O'Grady. "The wide brim hat will provide better protection for our officers and will be a recognizable symbol of authority and public safety."

According to the Canadian Dermatology Association, more than 60,000 Canadians will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year, more than the number of lung, breast and prostate cancer cases combined. The association

also notes that two of every three skin cancers occur in the neck and face areas, a problem location for most police officers.

"It's long overdue," says Staff Sergeant Peter Scandlan, commander of the Whitby OPP detachment. "I used to work out at Wasaga Beach in the '70s and early '80s and I can tell you I've definitely had my share of sunburned necks, ears and noses. The broad brim hat would've been a plus."

Staff Sgt. Scandlan says although everyone on the force will benefit from the new hats, they're actually targeting the younger officers who consistently work outside. Because skin damage occurs over a lifetime, damage is already done to older officers like those in their 40s and 50s, he says. With the wide brim, younger officers now have an opportunity to protect their skin.

The OPP predict by the end of July about 5,000 officers across the province

will be wearing the new wide brim hat which resembles those worn by State Troopers in the United States.

In addition to the hats, the OPP are slowly phasing in a totally new uniform, which includes everything from new shirts, boots and coats to a two-belt utility system. The hat is just the beginning.

"They're a sharp looking hat," says Staff Sgt. Scandlan. "They're very dressy. It's a great idea."

Hats protect us all from sun's rays: OPP

BY SHAWN SIMPSON
DURHAM STAFF

The Ontario Provincial Police have just been issued new wide brim hats to help prevent damage from the ultraviolet rays of the sun. Along with the new hats officers received an information package from the Canadian Dermatology Association containing some startling facts about skin cancer and a sun sensitivity test giving them an idea of how vulnerable their skin is to cancer.

How vulnerable are you? Answer yes or no to each of the following questions:

- I have red or blonde hair.
- I have light-colored eyes - blue, green or gray.
- I always burn before I tan.
- I freckle easily.
- I have many moles.
- I had two or more blistering sunburns before I turned 18.
- I lived or had long vacations in a tropical climate as a child.
- There is a family history of skin cancer.
- I work outdoors.
- I spend a lot of time in outdoor activities.
- I am an indoor worker but like to get out in the sun as much as possible when I am able.

- Score yourself 10 points for each "Yes."

- Add an additional 10 points if you use tanning devices, tanning booths or sun lamps.

- (80-100) You are in the high-risk zone. Take all precautions possible and examine your lifestyle to see what changes you can make.
- (40-70) You are at increased risk. Take all precautions possible.
- (10-30) You're still at risk. Carry on being careful.

Pickering residents win townhouse fight but have to face OMB

BY MARIANNE TAKACS
STAFF REPORTER

PICKERING — A group of residents have won Town Council's support in their fight against a rezoning in their neighborhood to allow the development of townhouses on land currently designated for single-family homes.

Councillors voted last week to approve a draft plan of subdivision application for a western extension of Amaretto Avenue, just north of Finch Avenue between Rosebank and Whites roads, that would allow 21 detached homes to be built there with minimum lot frontages of 12 metres. Town staff have been directed to argue for that plan before the Ontario Municipal Board, which will hear an application from the developer (704858 Ontario Ltd.) Aug. 26 and 27 for 35 townhouse and semi-detached units on the Amaretto extension.

"The residents overwhelmingly prefer single-family units," White Grove Homeowners Association representative Annie Burtney told councillors. She said most residents preferred the original plan for the property approved in 1987 which allowed single-family homes with 13.5-metre frontages, but were willing to accept the 21 detached houses with 12-metre frontages.









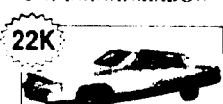


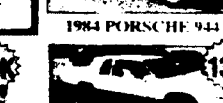
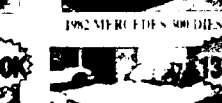



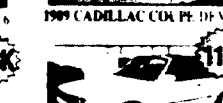

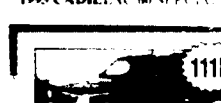


Residents are opposed to the developer's plan for townhouses and semis because they believe it would not be in character with the existing neighborhood, would generate too much traffic and thereby create safety problems, and would decrease the values of their own homes. Ms. Burtney noted the residents don't accept the developer's argument that single-family homes backing on to a hydro corridor don't sell because other developers have successfully sold them.

Though Town planning staff also offered them the option of approving 34 semi-detached units at the site, councillors chose to endorse the plan for 21 single-family homes.

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