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 See the story on page 5



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Something for nothing... Hydro pays for Pickering's new disaster centre



TOM QUINN
 'You hope you never, ever have to use it'

By MARIANNE TAKACS
 STAFF REPORTER
PICKERING — A cheque from Ontario Hydro will finally let the Town move its emergency operations centre outside the disaster evacuation zone for the Pickering nuclear station.
 The move from the Civic Complex to the Claremont Community Centre has been planned for years but was cut out of the budget last year to reduce costs. The Civic Complex is within the 10-kilometre emergency evacuation zone around the Pickering station, so officials working out of the operations centre there could have had to relocate in an

emergency if an evacuation was ever required.
 Just before Christmas, Town general manager Tom Quinn says, he received a verbal commitment from Hydro to provide \$51,000 to pay the entire cost of the move.
 "I'm very pleased about it," says Mr. Quinn. "Finally, we're receiving co-operation that hasn't necessarily been there before."
 He says the money will be provided immediately so work can begin right away on the new operations centre. A space for it has already been constructed as part of the new community centre officially opened last year. The Town must now finish the room and in-

stall equipment currently housed in cupboards in the committee meeting room at the Civic Complex.
 Hydro is also providing about \$5,000 in used furniture to complete the centre, which both the Town and Hydro want in place for a major international nuclear emergency exercise scheduled to take place in Durham in April, based on an 'accident' at the Darlington nuclear station in Clarington.
 Hydro has appointed one of its own employees to act as a consultant to the Town to help revise Pickering's nuclear emergency plan, which needs to be brought into line with a new provincial nuclear emergency

plan. That has probably saved the Town the \$10,000 to \$20,000 it would have cost to hire a consultant, says Mr. Quinn.
 The general manager notes the new operations centre can serve the Town in all kinds of emergencies — such as a hurricane, tornado or flood — not just a nuclear accident.
 "We will have a complete ops centre ready to go with phones and maps. You hope you never, ever have to use it."
 While the term 'emergency operations centre' may conjure up Hollywood-induced visions of a fancy control room with all kinds

See DISASTER/Page 2

School board moves to avert hate crimes

By SUSAN O'NEILL
 STAFF REPORTER
 The Durham District School Board is planning a pre-emptive strike against hate-motivated incidents in its schools.
 The board's ethnocultural and race relations staff have developed a resource document for administrators which will serve as the basis for teacher training to ensure the safety of all students in the system.
 "We're being proactive," Doug Wilson, superintendent of operations, told the board's standing committee Monday. "We have not had hate-motivated incidents in this board."
 Mr. Wilson said the purpose of the resource guide is "to make educators aware of incidents that could happen in the future."
 "It's important administrators and teachers have the knowledge to deal with situations that might arise."
 The document, put together by a

committee of teachers, students, community members, police and board administrators, has been submitted to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Crown Attorney's office for review.
 The guide, which defines hate-motivated incidents as "a progression from seemingly minor but attitude-forming expressions of discrimination and bias to actions that require... police intervention," is designed to aid teachers in dealing with racism and discrimination within schools.
 The report emphasizes the need to recognize the early stages of hate and to implement preventive strategies.
 Gary Ranalli, ethnocultural and race relations facilitator for the public board, said its success in dealing with such incidents depends upon prevention. For example, he noted the curriculum can be helpful in building the self-esteem of students.



DOUG WILSON
 'We're being proactive'



photo by A J. Groen

Blaze damages area home

Ajax firefighters were busy with a fire in a second-floor storage closet of a house on Ontario Boulevard yesterday morning. Firefighters say an electrical failure caused the blaze and damage has been estimated

at about \$60,000. There was one person home when the fire broke out, but he escaped from the house safely. There were no injuries reported, according to firefighters.

Home invasion in Pickering

PICKERING — A 23-year-old man told police he was robbed in his Pickering apartment by two men who stormed in and ordered him to lie in a bed at gunpoint Monday afternoon.
 Durham Regional Police said the invaders forced their way inside the apartment at 1467 Whites Rd. around 2:30 p.m. and robbed him of clothing, jewellery, stereo and disc jockey equipment.

The attack wasn't reported to police until that night, seven hours later, Sergeant Jim Grimley said.
 One suspect was described as black, 5'9", 20 and with a thin mustache. He was reportedly wearing a black tuque and black down jacket. The second suspect was described as black, 145 pounds, in his mid-20s and about 5'7". He wore a blue fleece pullover.

INSIDE

Waste Not — Pickering takes waste reduction honours in competition. See Page 7.

Author, Author — Writers' Circle hosts breakfast meeting with Jean Sangwine. See Page 8.

Editorial Page 6
Entertainment 8
Sports 9
Classified 10

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Durham police probed 30% more sex assaults in 1997

Alleged child sex abuse cases also up in the last year

By STEPHEN SHAW
 DURHAM STAFF
 In a year in which the number of sexual assault reports to Durham Regional Police jumped by 30 per cent, several alleged cases of pedophilia involving people in positions of trust shocked the community.
 The headline-making allegations prompted parents, educators and volunteer organizations to closely review measures taken to protect children.
 In the first nine months of the year, police said, there were 382 cases of

sexual assault, up from 299 in the same period last year. Indeed, the dramatic rise in the numbers in 1997 may be attributed to the reassignment of eight additional detectives to the sexual assault unit, albeit temporarily, to investigate a backlog of cases.
 Uncovered in those investigations, police said, were secrets of alleged sexual assaults on dozens of children and adults, some buried in memories for decades.
 And as disturbing as the allegations themselves are, what stunned the community most was those charged with the horrific crimes:
 • The sports community and parents reeled in shock at the arrest of a coach for the Oshawa Turul Youth Soccer Club. He was charged after officers on

a routine patrol observed a man and 12-year-old boy in a car parked on an isolated road near the waterfront.
 Appearing in court wearing the Turul team jacket, Mark Dodsley, 28, was initially charged with sexual assault, sexual interference and possession of child pornography — the latter charge in connection with materials seized during a search of the man's Oshawa residence.
 Follow-up investigation resulted in a 13-year-old boy coming forward to police and four additional charges, a second count of possession of child pornography, making child pornography and two counts of invitation to sexual touching.
 Both youths were trying out for the



Mark Dodsley was charged in 1997 with numerous sex offences. He awaits trial.

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photo by A. ...

A Legion of donations

There are no boundaries when you're giving the gift of life. At least there isn't for Pickering resident Jerry Fallis, who offered a pint of blood at a clinic hosted at the Whitby branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Mr. Fallis is attended here by Tamara Jones, who checks her patient's blood pressure.

Disaster centre in Clarendon

DISASTER/From page 1

of gizmos. Pickering's new centre will consist mostly of a meeting room with dedicated emergency phone lines, some communications equipment, and lots of maps, according to Mr. Quinn.

Besides being outside the emergency evacuation zone for a nuclear accident, the new centre will also have the advantage of creating a single emergency facility for Pickering. Under the old arrangement, the Pickering Recreation Complex a block away from the Civic Complex operations centre would have been used to provide emergency services for residents. Now, the Town will be able to locate and co-ordinate everything at the single site in Clarendon.

"In case of emergency we can use the whole community centre," explains Mr. Quinn. "That is the ideal situation to have and that is what we now will have. All the amenities are in the building; that is the key point."

The general manager notes the resolution of the operations centre issue and progress on other matters of concern between the Town and Hydro have come with the arrival of the new managerial team of U.S. nuclear industry experts brought in by Hydro to turn around the poor performance of its nuclear stations at Pickering, Darlington and Bruce.

"There's much more co-operation now than ever before. What's taking place right now is communication and co-operation. It's far from perfect but it is certainly getting better."

Caesarean birth perils outlined

PICKERING — Choices Child-birth Education and Labour Support Services is holding a free seminar here to provide families information about the alternatives to having a caesarean birth.

The non-profit organization reports the caesarean birth rate in Ontario is higher than the World Health Organization's recommendation for caesarean births, which can result in a higher incidence of infection and maternal mortality than vaginal births.

Caesarean prevention and vaginal birth after caesarean are among the issues to be discussed at the meeting Thursday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the community room of the Durham Regional Police station at the corner of Hwy. 2 and Brock Road in Pickering. For more information call 420-0223.

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Sex crimes up in Durham

Police kept busy in 1997 probing numerous cases

SEX/From page 1

team Mr. Dodsley coached -- he was suspended by the club following his arrest -- and detectives said they believe there may be more alleged victims who were reluctant to come forward. The details in the case remain under a court-ordered publication ban until Mr. Dodsley's trial.

Residents of a Nonquon Road apartment complex were the least surprised at the May 30 arrest of a 59-year-old man who many expressed concerns about to police one year earlier.

Police said a neighbourhood baby-sitter known to residents as "Roy" used alcohol, money and cigarettes to lure children between the ages of 5 and 16 into his apartment, where they were allegedly attacked. A search of the man's apartment turned up videos, magazines and photographs of naked children, police said.

George David Farewell was initially charged with sexually assaulting three teenage girls aged 13 to 16.

News reports of his arrest resulted in three more alleged victims coming forward to police and further sex-related charges involving allegations dating back 20 years.

A long-time educator with the Durham Board of Education and former principal at four Oshawa public schools was arrested Dec. 4 and charged with indecently assaulting a student in the early 1980s.

Police launched an investigation after a 31-year-old Oshawa man said he was assaulted on several occasions while a Grade 7 student at T. R. McEwen in 1981. The incidents are alleged to have taken place at the principal's home at the time in Oshawa and his office at the Wilson Road South school.

In the wake of the 69-year-old man's arrest, several men who were former students at schools the man worked at have come forward to police to report abuse. Those complaints were still being looked into and no further charges had been laid at press time.

Percy Norman Beirness, now of Lindsay, currently faces one charge of indecent assault on a male.

On Dec. 8 a part-time foster parent, and former child-care worker with the Metropolitan Children's Aid Society, was charged with sexually assaulting a 12-year-old boy and possessing child pornography.

The 40-year-old man was arrested following an investigation by the sexual assault unit into allegations the boy was attacked during several outings with the man in September. The boy was not in the man's care as a foster child but met him previously through a family friend, police said.

Police also seized several sheets of negatives and still photographs of children in various stages of undress while executing a search warrant at the man's east-end apartment.

In the wake of the arrest, other alleged victims have come forward with complaints about the man and police are continuing to probe his past.

Gary Brian Sharrard of Cambridge Court is currently charged with sexual assault, sexual interference and possession of child pornography.

In addition to the cases mentioned -- all of which are still before the

courts -- police investigated and laid charges in dozens of "historical" cases of alleged child molestation committed by family members.

Police Sergeant Jim Grimley believes the rise in reported sex assaults may be the result of publicity given to several high profile cases during the year, such as the cases involving employees at Maple Leaf Gardens and junior hockey coach Graham James.

He believes the increase in numbers is not the result of a greater number of sexual assaults being committed, but rather a greater number of victims reporting sex offences.

"As more and more of these cases come to light it has an affect on victims and when they see it happening elsewhere it may give them the strength to deal with their own problems and finally come forward," said Sgt. Grimley.

He said the number of sexual assault cases, particularly those involving multiple victims, should be as much of a concern to the public as it is to the police.

"It should also be a concern for the citizens of the region. As more of these cases come to light it should send a warning signal to parents," Sgt. Grimley said.

He said children from single parent homes are those most often targeted by pedophiles who may attempt to exploit a child who is vulnerable.

Though unrelated, the cases in Durham Region appear to share that common thread, he said, noting the alleged molesters almost always spent time "befriending" the complainants.



JIM GRIMLEY
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Ajax, Pickering residents play Santa to Sally Ann's needy

Annual drive helped 385 area families have a happier Christmas

The Ajax-Pickering Salvation Army's annual Christmas food and toy drive was an overwhelming success thanks to the generosity of local residents.

Paul Carew, director of the Salvation Army's Family Services Centre in Ajax, says strong community support allowed Sally Ann to help 385

area families have a happier holiday season this year.

"I think this was probably our best year yet for the food and toy drive," he says, reporting 732 children received gifts from the centre at Christmas.

While the drive ended with a "phenomenal response" from the community, Mr. Carew notes just 10 days before Christmas the centre had to stop making up packages because it didn't have any food.

"I was quite worried we wouldn't have enough."

However, he says the drive turned around after an article appeared in

the News Advertiser.

"The community has been very supportive of us and what we do."

While the next big food drive doesn't take place until Easter, Mr. Carew says there's "always a heavy demand" on the food bank during the winter months.

During winter, donations can be dropped off in Ajax at the Salvation Army, 50 Commercial Ave.; at Loblaws at Harwood Avenue and Hwy. 2, the LOEB in the Baywood Centre at 105 Bayly St. W.; and Price Check, 250 Bayly St. W.

For more information call 427-7123.



Cashway in Ajax was just one of the local firms which helped make Christmas better for needy families this year. Donating to the Salvation Army's Paul Carew (centre) were (from left) Amanda Procevat, Susanne McKay, Sally Barrett and Stephanie Robinson.

EDUCATION UPDATE IN DURHAM... Durham school board aims to improve kids' math skills after Grade 3 results

BY SUSAN O'NEILL

The Durham District School Board is taking an aggressive approach to improve students' math skills in light of the board's Grade 3 test results.

Durham students scored above the provincial average in reading, near the Ontario writing standard and below the province's scores in mathematics in the Ontario-wide tests administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office last spring.

In the reading category, 82 per cent of public board students in Durham scored at levels two, three or four while the average across the province was 80 per cent.

In writing, 81 per cent of Durham students scored higher than a level two compared with an Ontario average of 82 per cent.

In mathematics, 73 per cent of Durham students scored a level two or higher while the provincial average was 76 per cent.

As a result, board staff have developed an action plan geared to improve mathematics instruction through the implementation of immediate, short-term and long-term strategies

to address students' deficiencies and to make the subject more exciting.

Anne Lloyd, the board's assessment and accountability officer, told the standing committee Monday. "As parents and educators we do a very good job about integrating the language of literature into our daily life. We're not as good at taking the language of mathematics and integrating it into our daily life. We must think about math a bit differently."

The results of the mathematics portion of the provincially-wide tests, which are broken down into five different strands — including number sense, geometry, measurement, patterning/algebra and data management — point to "a number of areas of concern," she said, one of which seems to be a problem in how measurement is taught to students.

She said scores in the measurement strand were the lowest in the mathematics portion of the test at 52 of the board's schools.

And, the results also indicated students seemed to either love or hate geometry.

That's why the board is looking at solutions such as increasing the amount of classroom time spent studying mathematics per day and

developing a guidebook of ideas to make math exciting and interesting for students.

Cloyce Weaver, curriculum officer for the board, told trustees the board is also planning to provide elementary teachers with instruction to improve their understanding of mathematics and to increase their comfort in teaching the subject so they can better communicate to students.

"We lack a knowledge base at the elementary level of a strong math background," he said. There are "very few" teachers who have a degree in mathematics teaching at the elementary level.

As for the board's long-term proposals, Mr. Weaver said it's planning a teacher training session for the summer, it will encourage events such as math Olympics and math days at elementary schools, and it will seek parental involvement in strengthening students' math skills through the establishment of family math nights.

"We have a responsibility to educate our parents on the five strands of mathematics" to enable them to help their children at home, he said.

School board seeks input on its future

BY SUSAN O'NEILL



GRANT YEO

An exercise in creating a future

Parents, students and other citizens will have an opportunity to take part in developing a new system plan for the Durham District School Board beginning next week.

The board will kick off the planning process Monday night with an information session highlighting the board's history, reviewing recent legislation and outlining the process to develop a direction for the future. The information meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at board headquarters, 400 Taunton Rd. E., Whitby.

"The system plan is a vision and from that vision comes a blueprint for decision making at the school and system level," board director Grant Yeo told trustees this past Monday. "It's an exercise in creating a future and determining the values of the board."

The board had intended to hold meetings in municipalities across the region last fall, but plans were thrown off by the two-week teachers' strike, Mr. Yeo said. So, he added, because of the shortened time frame a new process has been planned. For the next two months principals and school community council presidents will conduct a survey to gather

input from students, employee groups and community members.

The survey results will be then be released in April followed by community meetings in May to review the results.

The plan, which will guide the board into the new millennium, will come into effect in September.

"The planning process is extremely important," said Mr. Yeo, who hopes there will be widespread community involvement in creating the system plan.

"If you don't plan where you're going you may end up at any destination," Mr. Yeo said. "We're suggesting we need to plan the trip."

Educators plead for funding details from Province

The Province's education system will be crippled if the government delays releasing details of the new funding formula much longer, warn the local leaders of three teachers' federations.

Education Minister Dave Johnson's statement last week that Ontario's schools will receive \$7.9 billion for the transition period from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31 is being called a "non-announcement" by teachers.

They contend they need hard numbers now on how much money will be available for the next school year.

"We needed (the figures)

yesterday," says Mike O'Connor, president of the Durham elementary division of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

He adds school boards and federations cannot begin the staffing process for next year without knowing how much money they have to work with.

"All the planning is on hold. Nothing can be given the go-ahead."

Bill Butcher, Durham president of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation, agrees the transition funding is not as big an issue as the amount of

money boards will receive for the new school year.

"The question is what will the funding look like for September?"

Mr. Butcher says the federation is supposed to start discussions regarding staffing needs for the coming year with the Durham District School Board next month.

Ron Trbovich, superintendent of business for the public board, says he's "encouraged" by the minister's announcement, noting it "reflects some sense of funding for enrolment growth."

However, while he says it appears the government will take the board's needs into account, "You can't be sure until you see the numbers."



RON TRBOVICH

"You can't be sure"

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Ajax-Pickering United Way issues appeal

Mail strike hurts fund-raising effort

BY MARIANNE TAKACS
STAFF REPORTER

It appears the mail strike last fall has hurt fund-raising efforts for the United Way of Ajax-Pickering.

Donations coming directly from local households are down about 30 per cent, and the organization is urging residents to ensure the success of its 1997 campaign by making donations or pledges before the end of the drive, which has been extended to Jan. 15.

Last year, the United Way received around \$30,000 in donations from its residential mailing campaign.

"Right now, it's running at just over \$20,000," says Dennis Goulin, the organization's executive director. Cheques from residents are still coming in, but only a trickle.

The shortfall appears mostly to be a result of bad luck with the postal strike, which started in November, and the mailing of requests for donations to residents who gave the previous year.

"Letters to residents were sent out just before the strike," explains Mr. Goulin. "We put our stuff in the mail the day before."

The organization had delayed the mailing while negotiations between the postal workers and Canada Post had continued before the strike, for fear of the letters being caught in a mail stoppage. When there was no resolution but no strike, the United Way could wait no longer and finally decided to mail the letters.

Now residents who wish to help the United Way catch up can make donations by mailing them in the postage-paid return envelopes they received last fall, or make charge card donations by phone or fax. A confidential fax or voice mail message with complete credit card

and address information may be sent 24 hours a day by phone (686-0606) or fax (686-0609). Donations can also be dropped off at the United Way office, Suite 407, 95 Bayly St. W. Ajax, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

The United Way has also experienced a shortfall in donations from the education sector, likely because of the teachers' strike, says Mr. Goulin. Contributions are down 10 to 15 per cent.

However, the shortfalls have been offset to some extent by an increase in donations from the business sector, and contributions equal to or slightly greater than last year from public service work-

ers and the development and construction industry. Business sector contributions, which include corporate and employee donations from the industrial and commercial retail sectors, are expected to be seven to 10 per cent higher than for 1996, when they totalled \$320,000.

The goal for the United Way's 1997 campaign is \$1.03 million, a slight increase over the 1996 contribution total of \$973,000.

"We're still, overall, very hopeful," says Mr. Goulin. "We're going to end up with a good campaign; there's no question on that." Mr. Goulin says that though dona-

tions have been up in recent years as the economy has improved, the United Way is still falling behind in its ability to serve local residents. He notes the combined population of Ajax and Pickering has nearly doubled over the past 10 years, while United Way collections have remained static since the late 1980s at \$900,000 to \$1 million each year.

"We're not keeping up with the needs of the community."

The United Way of Ajax-Pickering provides funding to agencies such as the Association for Community Living, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Canadian National Institution for the Blind, the Red Cross and the Unemployed Help Centre. All the money raised locally is used to provide services locally.



DENNIS GOULIN
"Very hopeful"

RIDE numbers up 27% in holiday campaign

15-year-old among those charged

BY STEPHEN SHAW
DURHAM STAFF

A 15-year-old boy was among those charged for drinking and driving in the final week of this year's Durham Regional Police RIDE campaign - which resulted in the most charges in the programme's history, says the officer in charge.

"I'm concerned. The biggest surprise was that there was this many. With all the different programmes and warnings out there you would have hoped people would get the message," said Sergeant Rick Bates, head of the traffic management unit, reacting to the number of drivers charged, up 27 per cent from last year.

The police department on Sunday wrapped up its Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere programme having stopped 40,930 vehicles in total, an increase of 16 per cent from last year.

Sgt. Bates attributed the greater number of vehicles stopped at roadside spot-checks to an increase in the number of officers assigned to the RIDE programme this year.

Still, he noted, the increase in the number of drivers charged is "significantly" higher than the increase in the number of vehicles stopped.

But rather than there being more drunk drivers on the road than in past years, he credits key placement of RIDE units and "digging" by officers for the charges.

"We set up in 88 different locations, and that's a lot, compared to 70 last year. The problem of drunk driving has not increased, I believe, but neither has it gone away. I think some people thought the problem was solved but it is clearly not," Sgt. Bates said.

"I am convinced there is a significant number of people who are just not afraid of being caught, who are not deterred by the punishments."

The RIDE unit charged 75 drivers with alcohol-related offences, compared to 59 last year, and two drivers for refusing roadside breath tests. During the six weeks, officers on routine patrols charged another 46 motorists for drunk driving.

Perhaps most disturbing, Sgt. Bates said, was the average alcohol level of those charged: 140 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood.

"That's almost double" the legal limit of 80 mgs of alcohol, noted the sergeant. "These were not borderline people. The average reading tells me these people knew they were well over the legal limit."

He added the highest alcohol reading by a driver was 270 mgs, more than three times the limit.

Other notable break-downs of the numbers show two-thirds of the drivers charged were men and the average age was 33, although the ages ranged from 15 to 53.

The 15-year-old driver, said Sgt. Bates, was stopped in Pickering Saturday night while at the wheel of a relative's car, which had been loaned to his 17-year-old cousin who was sitting in the passenger seat.

The majority of the charges, 53 per cent, were laid at spot-checks in Oshawa, Sgt. Bates said. The break-down of the remaining charges is as follows: Whitby 21 per cent; Ajax and Pickering 16; Clarington 6; Scugog, Brock and Uxbridge 4.

Ontario Provincial Police's Whitby Detachment charged six motorists during its RIDE campaign, however, the detachment did not have the resources for a full-time unit and the arrests were made by regular patrol officers.

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Charter schools fuel grade debate

The current debate over the future of Ontario's education system has raised the question as to whether charter schools will soon begin appearing across the province.

Supporters say the schools, which began emerging in Alberta just over two years ago, provide parents and students with an educational alternative that creates healthy competition with the public system.

But, opponents of the system claim the establishment of charter schools in Ontario would create a two-tiered system, ultimately leading to the destruction of public education.

According to Alberta's education ministry, a charter school is a public school that provides a basic education in a "different or enhanced way" to improve student learning. The schools are typically run by a parent group rather than a school board and the teachers employed in the system are generally not members of a teachers' federation.



RUTH ANN SCHEDLICH
Not the way to go

Ruth Ann Schedlich, chairman of the Durham District School Board, says introducing charter schools is not the way to go in Ontario.

"I think we need a very strong public education system. Public education serves every student. It accepts all students."

So, she's glad the Education Improvement Commission (EIC) came out against charter schools in its Dec. 19 report entitled *The Road Ahead II: A Report on the Role of School*

Boards and Trustees.

"We have stated clearly that we do not support the funding of charter schools, as such a move would undermine the strength of Ontario's public education system," the commissioners concluded in the 28-page report.

The report emphasized the importance of the role played by school boards within the education system, noting "Current reforms in education governance should not be seen as a step towards the elimination of school boards."

The EIC's report "a good move," says Mrs. Schedlich, who believes creating another school system funded from the public purse would place too much strain on the Province's education dollars and result in less money for public education.

"I see it as bleeding resources from the public education system," says Pat Jerney, Durham district president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. "My concern would be that charter



Charter schools differ from public school systems and have enjoyed success in Alberta. However, the Ontario government says charter schools aren't an option here at home.

schools provide the opportunity for small groups of parents to be able to provide private education from public funds."

But, Sandra Shepitka-Boyle, charter school coordinator in Alberta, says that province's charter school system is "a choice-driven system" that's had "all sorts of benefits" for education.

Ms. Shepitka-Boyle, whose daughter attends a charter school, says the introduction of the system was "not driven by a decaying public system but by a desire for more choice."

She says the expectation for charter schools is that they offer an educational alternative to what is locally available in the public system and that the programmes provided vary between schools.

The charter itself is an agreement between a school board or provincial education ministry and an individual or group regarding the creation and administration of a school. Essentially it describes the "unique" service the school will provide, how it will operate and the

student outcomes it intends to achieve.

As for funding, Ms. Shepitka-Boyle says the amount of money allocated per student is the same whether they're enrolled in the public or charter school system.



Susan O'NEILL
Analysis

Sheila Davidson, chairman of the nine-member parent group which oversees the operation of the Suzuki Charter School in Edmonton, says the system offers "a real opportunity for parents to feel their own sense of contribution, they're empowered."

Ms. Davidson, whose children make up two of the school's 96 students, says, "The theme of music education is threaded through the whole academic experience" at the school.

She adds the charter system "recognizes individual learning styles and individual family values."

Dennis Owens, a senior policy analyst with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, an independent research organization based in Manitoba, says Alberta's charter school system has had "tremendous suc-

cess."

He reports the introduction of charter schools in Alberta has not created an "elitist" education system, but has been a "positive" experience.

"We think that competition automatically sharpens up the system," he says, as it "forces the public system to increase the quality of its product."

Ms. Shepitka-Boyle agrees it's been "great" for the public system and has led to the introduction of greater educational alternatives within the public school system.

She reports charter schools have flexibility and considerable autonomy to implement innovative services which broaden the range of educational opportunities and enhance student learning through programmes for gifted children, for disadvantaged students and for English-as-a-second-language pupils.

However, Mrs. Schedlich points to public schools in Durham which have responded to community needs over the years. She cites Whitby's C. E. Broughton Public School, which offers year-round schooling and a traditional September-to-June timetable, and Pickering's Frenchman's Bay Public School, which offers French immersion, gifted and special education classes, as examples of schools which have diversified in order to meet student needs.

Mike O'Connor, president of the Durham elementary division of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, says while charter schools are "ideally a good concept," specialized programs can already be found within the education system in Ontario.

"I can't think of anything that is not being offered through the publicly funded education system at this time," he says.

Mrs. Schedlich, meanwhile, says she believes the provincial government is paving the way for charter schools in Ontario.

But, Durham East MPP John O'Toole says charter schools "are not one of the options" to improving education in Ontario. He says current reforms such as those in Bill 160 "will provide the changes needed in education to make it more responsive to the needs of today."

But, he adds if the public system is "inflexible" in its response to those needs, "Then charter schools will come. People will demand it."



JOHN O'TOOLE
Not one of the options

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Durham District School Board (formerly Durham Board of Education)

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten and Grade One French Immersion Program



Junior and Senior Kindergarten Registration for September 1998

Telephone pre-registration for Durham District School Board Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs for September 1998 will begin Tuesday, January 13, 1998, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Children eligible for Junior Kindergarten programs must be four (4) years of age by December 31, 1998. Children eligible for Senior Kindergarten programs must be five (5) years of age by December 31, 1998. If the number of children pre-registered for Junior or Senior Kindergarten exceeds the accepted class limit, some students may be bused to another school.

AJAX SCHOOLS:

Applexrott P.S.	428-2775
Cadaraque P.S.	428-2347
Claremont P.S.	619-2000
Dr. Roberta Bondar P.S.	686-1081
Dullin's Bay P.S.	683-6023
Lakeside P.S.	686-3014
Lester B. Pearson P.S.	427-4658
Lincoln Avenue P.S.	683-4941
Lincoln Alexander P.S.	619-0357
Lord Durham P.S.	683-6210
Lord Elgin P.S.	683-3581
Parkside P.S.	683-0921
Roland Michener P.S.	686-5437
Southwood Park P.S.	683-5230
Valley View P.S.	683-6208
Westney Heights P.S.	427-7819

PICKERING SCHOOLS:

Bayview Heights P.S.	839-1146
E.B. Phin P.S.	509-2277
Fairport Beach P.S.	839-1451
Frenchman's Bay P.S.	839-1131
Gandatschagon P.S.	831-1868
Glen Grove P.S.	839-1771
Highbush P.S.	839-0475
Maple Ridge P.S.	420-4103
Rosebank Road P.S.	509-2274
Sir John A. Macdonald P.S.	839-1159
Valley Farm P.S.	428-6337
Vaughan Willard P.S.	839-1931
William Dunbar P.S.	420-5745
Woodlands Centennial P.S.	839-5800

Grade One French Immersion Registration for September 1998

The Durham District School Board offers at no additional charge to parents a French Immersion program for non-Francophone students, beginning in grade one. Information meetings will be held as follows in schools which offer the program:

AJAX SCHOOLS:

Cadaraque P.S.	428-2347
Southwood Park P.S.	683-5230

PICKERING SCHOOLS:

Frenchman's Bay P.S.	839-1131
Sir John A. Macdonald P.S.	839-1159

All French Immersion program information meetings will be held Wednesday, January 28, 1998 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

▼ Editorials and Letters

PHONE: 683-5110 FAX: 683-7363

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

▼ Editorial

Charter schools not needed

At a time when the public education system in Ontario is in great flux, the last thing needed is a new wrinkle — charter schools.

While critics of public education want improvements made to the system, we shouldn't forget there is an awful lot that's right about Ontario's schools. The Durham Board of Education, for example, received a prestigious international award for its work. Ontario students fare decently, though not at the top, in tests to determine literacy and mathematical skills. And, with reforms brought forward by the Province, the education system can become more efficient in its delivery of knowledge to our young people.

The newly-named Durham District School Board, in the wake of Grade 3 testing which showed its students below the provincial average in math, has already begun the process of improving its math curricula to show improvement in the future. Public educators can and do respond to calls for changes.

The idea of charter schools is to give parents a firm and direct say in how public schools operate. The charter is an agreement between the local board of education and parents to deliver special programmes in a publicly-funded school. Such programmes could include intensified music instruction, special religious or 'family-values' courses or an extra emphasis on literature or mathematics.

But there are schools in the public system right now which, at the secondary level, have a reputation for special emphasis in different programmes such as science and math or the arts. Students who wish more teaching to become more proficient in the academic discipline of their choice can usually find what they're looking for somewhere in their town.

For those who want to leave the public education system entirely there are always private schools, though the cost is prohibitive for most parents. Finally, there is home schooling but the time commitment and expertise involved is difficult for most parents to take on.

If parents seek more involvement in the public education system, they should take part in parent councils at their schools or simply interact more with their child's teacher. Charter schools aren't necessary to ensure a good education for children, but parental involvement in each stage of a child's learning process is.

There is no need or call to divert public money into charter schools. The money is needed now more than ever to improve our public education system to ensure all children have an equal chance to excel.

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

▼ We asked...

The question is: How are you doing at keeping your New Year's resolutions?



Chris Chapell says, "Pretty good."



Tammy Wheeler says, "Not that great. I'm working on it."



Susan White says, "I haven't made any."

▼ Write on!

The News Advertiser accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be typed or neatly hand-written, 150 words. Each letter must be signed with a first and last name or two initials and a last name. Please include a phone number for verification. The editor reserves the right to edit copy for style, length and content. Opinions expressed in letters are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the News Advertiser.



▼ Letters to the editor Landlord burned by welfare cheats

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Larry Seens' letter to the editor in the Dec. 28 News Advertiser. I would be interested in learning if he is one of the hard-working Ontarians or is he on the other side of the fence? It is my guess that it is not a hard-working Ontarian who would complain about the welfare cheat snitch line.

Unfortunately, I did not read the original editorial on welfare reform, however Mr. Seens' response gave me a fair idea of what it contained. From Mr. Seens' response, I am of the understanding that the Ministry of Community and Social Services received 26,000 calls and only 2,075 revealed cases of abuse and benefits were reduced or stopped. Only 20 people were charged. In my opinion, if benefits were cut to even 100 of the 26,000, it was worthwhile. Getting the message out that this fraud will not be accepted is another important factor. In my opinion it should be tighter. There is no such thing as a fruitless call.

I know first-hand about the

abuse and fraud that goes on constantly within the system. As a landlord, we have many tenants who receive government assistance in one form or another, be it mother's allowance, welfare, disability, etc. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to collect rent from these people when it is due. When you knock on their door at noon, they stagger to the door half asleep and you get an earful for having the nerve to wake them up. In many instances a table in the background has beer bottles and cigarette butts on it. By the end of the month, they claim their cheque will be arriving in a couple of days and the rent will be paid. But that's the rent from last month that they are still behind on. Where did the money go? Is it my business? Yes it is.

The cheque he/she gets is comprised of my tax dollars as a hard-working Ontarian. When I attempt to collect the rent that is supposed to be paid from the money I have given him/her, it is gone. In most instances, the government requires a letter from the land-

lord confirming that the person will be living at the address and also the amount of the rent. It is the legal responsibility of the tenant to turn that rental money over to the landlord when due. If not, that constitutes fraud.

We have been more than patient with tenants when they tell us how someone stole their money, they needed something extra this month for the kids, etc. But, you know what happens in the end? After the tenant is two months behind in rent, you finally realize you are being taken and you must now start the long eviction process while the tenant lives rent-free another couple of months. When you are finally successful in having the tenant removed, the next task is to clean out the apartment of the food and belongings that are left behind — the stuff that was bought with my tax dollars as a hard-working Ontarian. If I can stop one from defrauding me, it's worth the call.

Peggy Gerditschke, Pickering

Under-educated adults will be grim fallout of Bill 160

To the editor:

We find it baffling that you could really endorse Bill 160.

The Tories have not articulated a consistent and convincing rationale for education reform in Ontario. If Premier Mike Harris had been more forthcoming with his vision we would have wholeheartedly supported Bill 160. After all, the time has come for the system to be updated.

Bill 160 was constructed through subterfuge and confrontation. Instead of having a dialogue, the government hammered the reputation of teachers and negotiated in bad faith. The Tories' unflagging bottom line: More dollars and bodies must be taken out of the system! Little concern was devoted to the consequences

of such a dramatic step. Further, Premier Harris ignored the advice of Dave Cooke who stated quite eloquently that all savings should be reinvested in the system.

Veronica Lacey's contract to cut \$667 million from the education budget revealed the final deception of the Harris government. If not for the skillful political spin, the premier would have been caught in an outright lie! It is increasingly clear that Premier Harris is fixated on financing his 30-per cent tax cuts by compromising the education of our students.

Ultimately the low-middle and low level students are going to suffer most from the reckless cuts. They will simply be discouraged, lost and

bewildered when class size increases and adult supports are sharply curtailed. And all Ontarians will have to deal with the grim fallout of under-educated adults sometime in the future.

Bill 160 allows the Harris regime to govern through edicts issued by a select few. There is little input from the wider community. Sadly, we have moved away from the consultation and consensus tradition we once had in Ontario. The way the Tories are governing is not much different from the way they govern in North Korea or China.

Vincent Chan, Ajax
David Melville, Toronto

Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser

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

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DONALD YOUNG
Opinion Shapers



Do more funds equal better education?

Education Minister Dave Johnson is giving Ontario schools \$8 billion. This is eight months of operating expenses. New construction and improvements will get additional funding grants.

These are generous gifts from the Ministry of Education and Training, an Orwellian sounding institute committed to the control and improvement of education in Ontario. However, pause to consider this: it is our money.

What effect will it have on local education? How will our children benefit from this expense? How will the average taxpayer benefit, especially those who don't have children in school? Is it a waste of precious assets or a wise investment in the future?

The Education Improvement Commission said in its fine report, The Road Ahead, "For too long, we've been paying more attention to the resources we put into education than to the results we're getting out of it." This may be true, but what of this \$1 billion being spent every month to get these results? Is \$1 billion per month not important? Would our present quality of education be acceptable if it only cost \$100 million per month? Is a better system of education one that costs \$2 billion per month?

Does a relationship exist between cost and effect of education? In 1848, Pickering's 18 schools received grants of about \$5,000. Was education any better or worse than today? Was a \$10 per year education as good in that time as a \$6,000 one is today? Could a teacher provide a good education for \$5,000 per student instead of \$6,000?

Is this the time for change? What would happen if we reduced the budget to \$800 million per month (\$5,000 per student per year)? What if we provided additional grants to satisfy unique requirements such as English as a Second Language classes in Toronto or transportation costs in rural areas?

Inefficient and incompetent people in the school system may complain. But, the truly good educators will get on with the job of providing first-class education. These people always consider good education as the priority.

At the end of the school year, give a standard set of province-wide tests for the main subjects. Assess each student and average their results to provide assessment of the teacher. Combine the results of each teacher to rate the principal of each school. Combine the average of all schools to rate each school board and its administrators. This would clearly show the best teachers and administrators.

Then, give those people the project of improving the school system in Ontario. Their mandate would be to increase the quality and efficiency of education. Overhaul the content and methods of teaching delivery. Make real improvement and save billions of dollars.

A billion dollars per month. Perhaps I speak too quickly. Give me one per cent of that and I will bring in a group of thoughtful people to create a clear vision of what low-cost, high-quality education may be in Ontario. It may only take a few years, maybe as long as a decade. We would be very cost-effective. You can decide: it is your money, too.

Provincial education minister says future is now

Bill 160 battles over, Dave Johnson declares

BY BRIAN LEGREE
DREAMSTIME

OSHAWA -- The government came out "second best" in the communication war with teachers' unions during the two week teachers' strike, says Education Minister Dave Johnson. But now it's time for both sides in the dispute over Bill 160 to move on, Mr. Johnson told an Oshawa Rotary Club luncheon Monday. "We need to look to the future, the past has been difficult, but I'm still a firm believer that

we're all there for the children," says Mr. Johnson.

Since 1950, numerous studies, royal commissions and reports have called for reform to the education system, but Ontario hasn't had the "decisive action" until the government implemented Bill 160, which prompted a two-week walkout by 126,000 teachers last fall, he says.

"For years educators and parents have been telling the government the system needed reform. Everybody supports change and everybody supports progress, but it's the 'change' in the progress that sometimes people have the concern with," suggests Mr. Johnson, adding,

"and in actual fact some people say the only people who likes or supports change is a wet baby - maybe we've seen some aspects of that - it has been difficult but changes are necessary."

Although polls indicated teachers had the support of a majority of the public during their walkout, the teachers' unions have the advantage of "a natural communications network through the schools," says Mr. Johnson, who reiterated his government's position on Bill 160.

"I don't disagree that the government came out second best in terms of the communication," he says, adding it was critical for the government to bring "an end to the status quo."

Critics of Bill 160 maintain money was the impetus behind the legislation, pointing to the government's plan to trim \$670 million in education funding, but Mr. Johnson says the Province is seeking to introduce "value" into the education system.

"Education reform is about quality," he says, adding "reform is also about value. Value is a word I'm not the least bit shy about because I think taxpayers do deserve value. You want the money to be wisely spent and focused on the classroom."

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7

TOASTMASTERS: The Ajax Pickering Toastmasters Club meets each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Fortune Financial offices, corner of Bayly St. and Finley Ave., Ajax. Help with public speaking and leadership skills. 619-0647 (Peter Dowse), 683-4439 (John Johnstone).

TOPS: The weight-loss support group TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, Liverpool Rd. south of Bayly St., Pickering. \$25 annual membership fee and \$1.50 per week. 427-9619.

SINGLE PARENTS: The Ajax-Pickering Chapter of the One Parent Families Association for custodial and non-custodial parents holds its weekly meeting at 8 p.m. at the Annandale Golf and Curling Club, corner of Church and Bayly sts., Ajax. New members welcome. 839-9577.

SINGING: The County Town Singers hold auditions for new members at 7:30 p.m. at

the Whitby Seniors' Centre, 801 Brock St. S., Whitby. Openings for soprano, alto, tenor and bass. New tenor and bass singers especially need. The County Town Singers are a mixed adult community choir. Auditions also on Jan. 14. 427-0201, 666-2822.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

NEWCOMERS: The Ajax-Pickering Newcomers Club meets at 8 p.m. at Pickering Village United Church, 300 Church St. N., Ajax. It's for women living in the area three years or less. The club meets the second Thursday of each month. 427-9510 (Doreen).

FRENCHMAN'S BAY FESTIVAL: The annual general meeting for the Frenchman's Bay Festival is held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Durham Regional Police station at Brock and Kingston Rds. All welcome to help plan next festival. Call 839-8809 (Eileen Higdon).

BRAIN TUMOUR: The Adult Brain Tumor Support Group meets from 7 to 8:30

p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, 65 Kings Cres., Ajax. 1-800-265-5106.

NATURALISTS: The Pickering Naturalists meet at 8 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School, 490 Strouds Lane, Pickering. James Kamstra discusses Coastal Amazon and Peru. 831-5418.

BILL 160 UPDATE: Ajax High School's community council hosts an information meeting on Bill 160 at 7 p.m. at the school, 105 Bayly St. Grant Yeo, director of the Durham District School Board, Durham West MPP Janet Ecker and a representative from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation will share their perspectives on the impact of the bill. Call 683-1610 for information.

COMPUTERS: The Durham PC Users' Club meets from 7 to 10 p.m. at the main branch of the Oshawa Public Library, 65 Bagot St. A presentation on New Approaches to E-mail by David Rostoker of Davrol Integration Technologies. 655-8013 (Anne Keeler), 623-2787 (Linda Netten).

Pickering takes waste reduction honours in annual competition

But more trash hits curbs in Waste Reduction Week than in previous years

During Waste Reduction Week (WRW) Nov. 4 to 10, the Mayors' Challenge between Ajax and Pickering determines which community sends the least residential trash per capita to landfill.

Judging by the weigh scale figures just released for all of November, congratulations are in order for the residents of Pickering who, on average, sent less trash to Keele Valley and the U.S. than did the people of Ajax throughout the month.

Prior to WRW, Pickering sent 18.2 kilograms per person per week to Ajax's 19.6; during WRW 21.5 to 22.4; and after 17.9 to 19.3 respectively.

However, Ajax recorded the least increase in waste during WRW from the previous week. In all Durham municipalities that have reported their figures for the month, it was odd to note that during WRW itself, trash that hit curbside actually went up! Perhaps to the average person, the terms waste reduction and waste management mean a clean house and garage and, to that end, everything is placed in green garbage bags!

It has been 10 years since the first Blue Boxes were introduced and we are doing well with our recycling -- not as well as I would

have hoped, but OK.

Social studies reveal that it takes approximately 20 years to change a society's habits.

In all municipal offices in Durham, there are recycling bins, but the next challenge is to recycle organic food waste from employees' lunches and coffee breaks and print double-sided agendas.

My 1998 challenge to all mayors, politicians and civic employees in Durham is to lead the way for the recycling of organic waste by

following the example set in Victoria, B.C. Several institutions across North America, including Metro Hall, have incorporated large vermi-tech systems. However, the employees in the Ontario Legislative building have chosen to place several vermibins in their offices. Later this month, I will outline the success of the B.C. program and then I will write a column about the first business office that decides to give it a try.

GREEN TIP: Did you know that only one-tenth of light from a light bulb is light? The rest is turned to heat.

You can turn out lights when you're not using them; use daylight; purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs; and dust light bulbs because dusty bulbs use more energy than clean ones.

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

LARRAINE ROULSTON
Recycler's Report



Following the example set in Victoria, B.C. Several institutions across North America, including Metro Hall, have incorporated large vermi-tech systems. However, the employees in the Ontario Legislative building have chosen to place several vermibins in their offices. Later this month, I will outline the success of the B.C. program and then I will write a column about the first business office that decides to give it a try.

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photo by Ron Pietroniro

In memory of Mother Teresa

Marni Bachuk's Grade 12 art class at Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School in Ajax turned their brushes to a re-creation of Raul's famous portrait of Mother Teresa recently and came away with an impressive finished product. The students' portrait was

created out of separate square panels, each containing a portion of the overall image. When all were done, the panels were joined to create Mother Teresa's likeness. Here, the students gather in the school foyer with their finished mural.

Prose tips from a pro offered at Durham Writers' Circle breakfast

A group for writers in Durham will host an accomplished local author at its monthly writers' and editors' dialogue in Whitby Saturday, Jan. 10.

The Writers' Circle of Durham Region welcomes Oshawa resident and author Jean Sangwine as the featured guest for the meeting. Sangwine's accomplishments include broadcast work with CBC radio and television, articles in a variety of magazines and journals and, most recently, the publication of a delightful children's book, *A Turtle Called Friendly*. Sangwine will read from her latest work in progress and discuss the process of writing.

The meeting is at Jackson's Touch of Class, 104 Consumers Dr., Whitby. Continental breakfast will be served

from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. Everyone's welcome. Meetings are informal and informative. For more information call Ruth Walker at 728-7823. This month, the Writers' Circle also hosts Open Stage Poetry Nights at the Different Drum Café, Celina and Bruce streets, Oshawa, on Monday, Jan. 12 and Monday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. Poets wishing to read or songwriters eager to perform can contact Kay Finner at 579-6613.

The Writers' Circle is a non-profit umbrella organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing, fostering literacy and providing moral support to writers through education and networking.

You're invited to Al Capone's birthday bash

PICKERING — You can get up close and personal with an infamous gangster this month. Well, maybe you better not get too close and personal.

Herongate Barn Theatre invites you to Al Capone's Surprise Birthday Bash Friday and Saturday, Jan. 30 and 31. The two shows are selling out fast.

Patrons are urged to dress in 1920s-

style Chicago gangster attire. Those with the best costumes could win tickets to the theatre's upcoming production of *Shirley Valentine*.

Tickets for Al Capone's Surprise Birthday Bash are \$45 per person, which covers dinner, show and all taxes.

For reservations or more information call 472-3085.

Spelling Bee organizers seek contestants in Ajax and Pickering

Annual contest gets under way in spring

Area students are invited to test their skills in the Spelling Bee of Canada's 9th Annual Spelling Bee Contest.

Students are invited to enter one of the following categories: primary (ages six to seven), junior (ages eight to nine), intermediate (ages 10 to 12) or senior (ages 13 to 15).

You're invited to register and meet the contest's area representative on Monday, Jan. 12 and Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pickering Central Library, One The Esplanade.

In Ajax, you can register and meet the contest representative on Monday, Jan. 19 and Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ajax Library, McLean Branch, at the corner of Westney Road North and Magill Drive.

Registration will continue until Feb. 28 at the Pickering Public Library, main branch, children's services, and at the Ajax Public Library's main branch at Harwood Avenue and Kings Crescent, at the Village Branch at 58 Church St. N. and at the McLean Branch.

Proof of age and parent signature are required at time of registration. The fee is \$11.

Area quarter-finals and area semi-finals will be held in April, while the finals will be held in May. Volunteers are also needed.

For more information, call Marlene at 686-4883 or Cathy at 831-3212.

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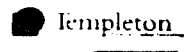
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Pickering Sports

Al Rivett, sports writer

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News Advertiser

U.S. college star makes his pitch for pro soccer career

BY AL RIVETT
SPORTS REPORTER
PICKERING — A Pickering resident and graduate of Pickering High School in Ajax finished off a brilliant U.S. collegiate soccer career on a high note.

Jason Baker, 23, completed his senior season by leading the University of Illinois at Chicago Flames men's soccer team to its best season.



Jason Baker of Pickering helped the University of Illinois at Chicago men's soccer team to its best season in the school's history.

had a lot of new players with only three seniors in the starting line-up, so to do that well made the season extremely satisfying," Baker tells the News Ad-

vertiser in an interview while he was home during the Christmas holidays.

Jason Baker of Pickering helped the University of Illinois at Chicago men's soccer team to its best season in the school's history.

he suited up for the North York Cosmos of the National Soccer League. This year with the Flames, Baker scored four goals from his defensive position, the most he's tallied in his four years at UIC. Baker says the calibre of soccer played in U.S. colleges has become "more competitive since I first got there." It "is improving every year and you have to keep improving your own skills to keep up."

Baker also received some recognition from the university's newspaper in a feature article at the end of the soccer season. It predicted his leadership skills will be missed and noted his quickness on defence has caused opponents trouble during the season.

While his university soccer career may be over, Baker is checking out his options to turn pro with a major indoor league soccer team in the U.S. He'll attend a try-out with the Chicago Fire next month and he may also go to Europe to try out with a team there.

After finishing a degree in kinesiology at UIC this year, Baker says he would eventually like to teach physical education in high school.

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photo by A.J. Groen

Hooking from behind

An Oshawa O'Neill Collegiate Redmen hockey team hooked Dunbarton High School Spartans during Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics senior boys' hockey action at the Pickering Recreation Complex Monday. Dunbarton won 6-4.

In his fourth and final year on an athletic scholarship, right fullback Baker paced the Flames to a 12-5-1 regular-season mark in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Midwestern Collegiate Conference.

In addition, the Flames also made it to the conference semi-final game — the best playoff run in the school's history. UIC dropped a 2-0 decision to the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee) in the semi-final after first edging the University of Wisconsin (Green Bay) 1-0 in the conference quarter-final match.

Baker notes everything finally came together for the team in his final season at UIC.

"I feel this past season was one of the best we've had. We

Area martial artists win kudos in kata

Ajax-Pickering-Whitby Wado Kai Karate Club members fared well at the recent Oshawa tournament.

Approximately 120 competitors aged 15 and under represented clubs from across Durham at the meet.

Crissy Bergman won the kata in the white belt division.

Simon Utkala finished first in kata in the orange belt category.

Manjit Kochhar was second in kata in the blue belt bracket. Jamie Buchanan finished

third in sparring in the white-yellow belt division.

Erik Heitz placed third in sparring in the blue belt division.

Jacob Broder finished third in kata in the green belt category.

Annandale little rockers rock on at bonspiel

BY JIM EASSON
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS ADVERTISER

AJAX — Annandale Curling Club rinks fared well at their own annual youth bonspiel at the club this past Saturday.

The event featured a full draw of Little Rockers and Youth division rinks from across the Toronto area. All told, 128 youngsters took part in the bonspiel.

In the youth event, Annandale entered seven teams and took the first five places at the event. Each team played three six-end games. First-place honors went to the team of Graham Hill, Darryl Hill, Chris Alexander and Matthew Helferty. Taking the next four placings were teams skipped by Jason March, Andrew Roegele, Paul Hart and Kade Bolger.

Little Rockers, featuring players up to age 12, use half-size rocks on a full sheet of ice. Sixteen teams played two six-end games. First up to the prize table was the winning Avonlea rink skipped by Tim Jones. The best Annandale showing out of six teams entered was the rink of Cayla Bianchi, Kelly Moylan, Lisa Jones and Sandra Bianchi which placed fifth.

Bonspiel co-sponsor Wayne Ferreira says the event was fun for the youngsters and everyone carried home a prize for their participation. The annual Toronto Curling

Association Youth Bonspiel was played in area clubs this past weekend with several Annandale teams competing. The Annandale bantam boys' team of Jason March, Graham Hill, Kade Bolger and Jason Ferreira finished fourth out of 12 teams. Annandale had two junior men's teams in the 32-team fray, but neither of the rinks skipped by Wayne Warren and Andrew Roegele

made it through the playoff round.

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Pickering Sports

Raiders minor bantams champs at St. Catharines tourney

The Ajax-Pickering Ryder Integrated Logistics minor bantam 'AAA' rep hockey team came home winners from the prestigious Vic Teal Tournament in St. Catharines over the Christmas holidays.

In the tournament final, Ajax-Pickering met league rival Central Ontario Wolves for the title and the Raiders edged out a 2-1 win.

Rob Convery and Tyler McGregor, who were named the Raiders' MVPs for the final game, scored one goal apiece. Assists went to Colin Jennings, Brennan Taylor and Jeff Tobin. Mike Snetsinger was strong in goal to preserve the win.

The Raiders gained entrance to the final after posting a 5-4 overtime victory over a strong host St. Catharines squad. Tobin sparked the Raiders' attack with two goals, including the game winner.

Sean Koska, Scott Robinson and Convery notched singles. McGregor earned three assists. Taylor and Jennings each with two. Robinson, Koska and Kyle Aitken added one apiece. Strong goaltending was key to the win and Scott Gray was outstanding in the cage.

In the quarter-final contest, the Raiders hooked up with league rival Oshawa. The Ajax-Pickering bantams held on for a 4-3 win. McGregor scored a pair of goals, Brad O'Neil and Robinson chipped in with single markers. Taylor, Darryn Dubeau, Convery, James Cummins, Tobin, Koska, Aitken and Aaron Calder all had single assists. Snetsinger was called upon for 16 stops in the game.

The Raiders opened the tourney with a 3-2 win over Stoney Creek. Tobin notched a goal and an assist. Taylor and O'Neil scored one goal apiece. Alex Greig, Peter Gaylor and McGregor chipped in with assists. Gray stopped 27 of 29 shots on goal.

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Novice 'AAA' Raiders robbed by Bandits at Wayne Gretzky tournament

The Ajax-Pickering Raiders IBEW Local 353 minor novice 'AAA' rep hockey team was eliminated in the first round of the Wayne Gretzky Tournament in Brantford, with its lone loss coming to a strong hometown squad.

The Raiders opened the tourney with a 4-2 victory over Halton. Alexander Cyr and Marcus Carroll each scored a pair of goals. Mike McCusker registered two assists. Daniel Pineau and John Harrington added one apiece. Johnny Paterson played a strong game at forward, while Meghan Edwards was a force on the blue line. Cyr got the nod as the game's most valuable player.

In the second game, the IBEW Raiders emerged victorious over the Burlington Eagles 4-1.

Cyr posted a two-goal effort. McCusker and Brendan Hann chipped in with one apiece. Derek Gregorack and Garrett Trainer recorded two assists apiece. Michael Carey, Carroll and Kevin Watts added singles. John Rozentals provided his team with stellar goaltending. Defenceman James Jarvis was the game's MVP.

In an exciting third game, the Raiders came up short in a 3-1 loss to the Brantford Bandits.

Prior to the contest, the Raiders were given a few words of encouragement from Wayne Gretzky's dad, Walter Gretzky.

Cyr scored the lone goal, assisted by Shaun Adams and Watts. Goalie Jeremy Eckford was named the game's MVP for his valiant effort between the pipes.

The IBEW minor novices remain in first place in the Eastern Ontario 'AAA' league with a record of 14-3-2.

The Raiders are coached by Jim Gatens, assisted by Randy Johnson. The trainer is Ed McCusker and the manager is Blanche Carey.

Scoreboard

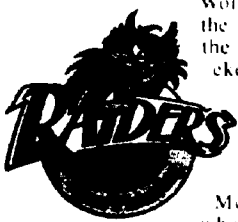
CENTRAL ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Standings as of Dec. 30
INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	T	F	A	PTS
Waterloo Intern AA	11	10	0	1	92	24
Cambridge	14	9	3	2	76	20
Pickering Intern AA	9	7	1	1	77	32
Waterloo Intern A	10	7	2	1	70	34
Scarborough Deb AA	11	6	3	2	61	43
Oshawa	11	8	4	1	70	64
Hamilton	12	5	6	1	70	76
Aurora	9	5	6	1	63	44
Brimley	8	2	5	1	53	59
Waterloo Deb AA	6	1	4	1	31	36
Markham	9	1	8	0	35	68
Scarborough Intern A	10	1	9	0	26	59
Scarborough Deb B	10	0	10	0	18	123

The Ajax-Pickering bantams doubled the score on Niagara Falls 4-2 in the second game. The forward line of Tobin, McGregor and Taylor led the way, with Tobin scoring twice and adding two helpers. McGregor scored once with three assists and Taylor had a goal and an assist. Snetsinger stopped 24 of 26 shots on net.

The Raiders completed round-robin play with a 4-2 win over West Seneca, New York. O'Neil and McGregor scored one apiece, while Robinson scored a pair into the empty net. Dubeau, Robinson, Taylor, Tobin, O'Neil, Convery and Cummins had one assist apiece.

Gray was strong in goal, making 28 saves. Team members are Scott Gray, Rob Convery, Aaron Calder, Peter Gaylor, Brad O'Neil, Scott Robinson, Alex Greig, Jeff Tobin, Darryn Dubeau, James Cummins, Colin Jennings, Sean Koska, Tyler McGregor, Brennan Taylor, Kyle Aitken and Mike Snetsinger.



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