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# A taxing proposition...



PATERSON Most difficult

Anxious Pickering taxpayers can do little but wait

By Marianne Takacs STALL REPORTER

PICKERING - Town director of finance Gil Paterson can provide little comfort to Pickering residents worried about their taxes this year in the wake of provincial downloading and other changes

"For all municipalities in Ontario, this is going to be the most difficult budget year they've faced in several decades," says Mr.

Pickering staff are trying to prepare a 1998 budget with the \$676,000 or 1.7 per cent cut in expenditures required to avoid an increase in taxes under the downloading changes imposed by Queen's Park.

"If we cut our budget by 1.7 per cent, by magic, it's revenue neutral." Mr. Paterson remarks. "That's like your boss telling you if he cuts your salary by 10 per cent in cut your spending by 15 per cents. a raise. This revenue neutrality is as

Reducing expenditures to make up for the additional costs being imposed by the Province, which would require a 4.3-per cent increase in Town taxes to finance, is quite likely to require some reduction in services. says Mr. Paterson. It will also mean some very difficult budget decisions for council-

"They're going to try their financeest it

everything we can to try to make sure they are successful. We're trying to do zero."

Planning for that zero tax increase goal. he notes, will be particularly difficult when so many issues affecting the Town budget and Pickering taxpayers remain up in the air. As well. Town staff have to work with financial impact fromes provided by the Province

· PICKERING Page 3

## Durham high school teachers want smooth move to new curriculum

BEV

FREEDMAN

More

**operational** 

changes

Teachers want more 'lead time' to implement changes

> By SUSAN O'NEILL STATE REPORTER

Ontario's secondary school teachers are demanding the Province ensure the implementation plan for high school reform is in place well before the 1999 school year to avoid the "pitfalls" experienced with the recent changes to the elementary curriculum.

Earl Manners, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), said Friday, "It is imperative that the new curriculum and implementation plan including resources, staff development, field testing and monitoring be in place well before September 1999 to avoid the pitfalls encountered with the release of the recent revised Grade 1 to 8 curriculum."

Education and Training Minister Dave Johnson last week announced high school reforms that include a requirement for students to complete 40

hours of volunteer work prior to grad-uation, the introduction of a literacy test for Grade 10 students and a greater emphasis on math and science

According to the ministry, the new high school curriculum will be written over the next eight months and will be implemented in schools in September

Pat Jermey, OSSTF Durham district

before implementing the changes to the curriculum than elementary teachers did.

She notes reforms to the Grade 1 through 8 curriculum were announced last June with the expectation that im-plementation would begin in Septem-ber. The fact that there was very little time to prepare for changes resulted in situations across the province where the new math curriculum was not available to all classes and instances where teachers had not been fully trained, she says.

However, Bill Butcher, turham president of the Onario Public School Teachers' Ecderation says there weren't any problems in implementing the elementary curricuum in the region.

"I just remember teachers going ahead and doing it," he

Officials from the region's two school boards say the tact that high school reforms will be phased in over four years means any problems that arise with the lead class will be ironed out as they're encountered.

"I'm somewhat comforted that it will be done over a four-year period," says Gerry Blake, superintendent of programmes for the Durham Catholic District School Board.

Mr. Blake notes secondary school reforms will be phased in over a longer period of time than was given to implement changes to the elementary

See EDUCATORS/Page 4



photo by Jason Liebregts

## **Tongue-tied?**

Dunbarton High School's Ryan Brown, on top, has a meet featuring wrestlers from Dunbarton, St. Mary good grip on Euan McKay, also of Dunbarton, in an and Pine Ridge schools at Dunbarton last Friday

open category wrestling match which was part of a Brown won out over McKay in this match.

## **Push for nuclear review:**

By Marianne Takacs

STAFF REPORTER
PICKERING — The Town should use upcoming relicensing hearings for the Pickering nuclear station to push for an environmental review of the plant, according to Ward I Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner.

Coun. Brenner made the suggestion at Monday night's meet-

tive committee. He was responding to recent remarks from provincial officials suggesting Queen's Park may not have the authority to order the environmental assessment (EA) of the station requested by the Town and supported by 87 per cent of voters in a referendum held during the November municipal

election.

relicensing as a "window of opportunity" for Pickering to makes its case for an EA. The Atomic Energy Control Board, which licenses nuclear facilities in Canada, will give initial consideration to an AECB staff report on the Pickering licence at its Feb. 19 meeting, and is expected to make a decision on the relicensing



**MAURICE** BRENNER 'Window of

### **INSIDE**

Housing help -- Non-profit homes in Durham Region are getting \$2.2 million for repairs, part of a larger package -- page 3.

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photo by Jason Liebregts Pickering resident Prof. Nick Eyles, in a lab at the University of Scarborough campus where he teaches, holds a core sample similar to the ones he'll be collecting next month during a stay on a research ship in the Antarctic

## Pickering geologist journeys to the bottom of the earth

PICKERING - A local man has been chosen as Canada's representative for an international research project in Antarctica.

North Pickering resident and University of Toronto Professor of Geology Dr. Nick Eyles will be heading south in February for a two-month stint on a specially-equipped research ship. The ship will collect core samples from deep beneath the ocean floor near the Antarctic Circle below Cape Horn, South America, just off the coast of Antarctica.

"My job is to describe the rock types and to establish their origin," says Prof. Eyles, who is eagerly looking forward to the trip. "I guess it's a chance to totally immerse yourself in geological data collected with a group of like-minded people. It's being at the sharp end collecting prime data. No-

when the Antarctic ice sheet developed."

The international Ocean Drilling Program the project is part of started in the early 1960s. Back then the goal was to find out how old the ocean basins were, and some "fantastic discoveries" came out of those early research efforts, says Prof. Eyles. including the revelation that the continents are drifting. The current programme is being financed mostly by the governments of about 20 countries around the world, including Canada. These days, each of four voyages a year costs about \$50 million.

Prof. Eyles, who specializes in climate change and glaciation, will be one of 68 international scientists and 40 crew members making the trip on the 143-metre (469-foot) Resolution, named for the

See SCIENTIST/Page 2



## Scientist prepares for **Antarctic expedition**

SCIENTIST/From page 1

HMS Resolution commanded by Captain James Cook over 200 years ago when he explored the Pacific Ocean, its islands and the Antarctic

The ship is fitted with a derrick standing 61 metres (202 feet) above the waterline, which can be used to suspend as much as 9.1 km (30,000) feet) of drill pipe to an ocean depth as great as 8.2 km (27,000 feet).

The ship's 'drill string', to which pieces are added on deck, has pene-trated as far as 2.2 km (6,500 feet) below the ocean floor to collect core samples more than two kilometres

Prof. Eyles and the other scientists will be immediately examining the core samples in the ship's many labs, searching for clues about

Antarctica's past "One of the intriguing ques-tions is when in Earth's history did that ice first form?" notes Prof. Eyles, explaining that information may help answer questions about global climate change which currently arc

being debated. The professor and his shipmates will depart on what he likes to refer to their 'cruise", from Punta Arenas in southern Chile. the most southerly port and community on earth. Once on board, they will live in 180lation from the rest of the world for eight weeks

"There's a hospital board. You can't get anybody oft the boat be-CAUSC you're way down south."

The only Prof. contact Eyles will be able to maintain with his wife and children in Pickering will be through Email. But there won't be much time for chithome anyway, because everyone is expected to work 12-hour shifts seven days a week, so the research work continues 24 hours a day in two shifts.

The good news is it will be summer in the Southern Hemisphere, so daytime temperatures for the vo agers are expected to reach about 10 degrees Centigrade. There will be a lot of ice floating about though, and the Resolution will be accompanied by a U.S. icebreaker to keep it from getting stuck

Prof. Eyles has been on a similar trip before, spending three months on a trawler in the Norwegian Arctic

But he's still thrilled this time around.

"The only regret in going is missing the winter Olympics and hock-

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### **Notice of Liquor Licence** Application



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Application For A Sale Licence The Friendly Greek Restaurant

1450 Kingston Road, Unit 1

Pickering (including outdoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than February 14, 1998. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Board, please identify the designated contact person Note:

The LLBO gives the applicant details of any objections

Submissions to be sent to

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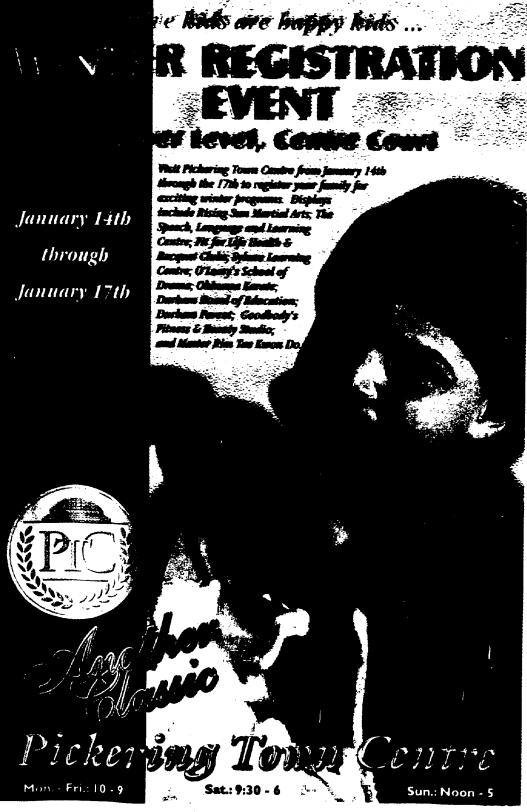


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# Non-profit housing in Durham gets \$2.2 million for repa

mance repairs to non-profit housing in Durham Re-"a good first step" but "it's certainly not enough," says the general manager of the Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

Michelle Rypstra says the money is replacing dollars placed under a moratorium by the Province

"It's important to know that capital replacement reserve funds across the province are underfunded and this contribution is only replacing the dollars which should have come into the funds when a moratorium was placed from 1992 to 1994," she says, adding "current contribution rates are only 60

While it's a good first step, it's certainly not enough," says Ms. Rypstra, in a prepared statement. The money will be used for ongoing repairs to the Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corpora-

tion's 18 buildings throughout the area including five each in Oshawa and

Whithy, two apiece in Bowmanville and Pickering and single sites in Uxbridge, Sunderland, Canning ton and Beaverton. The funding is part of a one-time grant of \$215 million to repair and upgrade social housing in Ontario.

## Pickering ponders budget riddle

PICKERING/From page 1

which they are unable to verify and which are also based on factors which could change.

According to the provincial figures the new costs facing Pickering are:

\$\sumsymbol{\Sigma}\$ \$1.389 million in transit operating and capital costs to make up for transit

grants the Province will no longer sup-

ply. ☐ \$940,000 the Town will no longer receive as a general support grant from the Province

☐ \$800,000 to pay a new provincial agency to do property value assessments, which used to be provided by the Province to municipalities free of

3 5469,000 to make up for the loss of 'gross receipts taxes' from Bell Canada which used to go to municipalities as a type of property tax on transmission lines and other Bell infrastructure, and which Queen's Park has decided will now go to the Province.

\$33,000 no longer provided by the

Province to help pay the cost of man-aging local forests and conservation lands.

3 \$68,000 in farm tax rebates Pickering will no longer receive.

The new costs total \$3,699,000 while, according to the Province, Pick-

in 'tax room' it can now take over as the Province assumes 50 per cent of education costs and reduces education taxes by 50 per cent. That leaves a shortfall of \$676,000 for the Town.

However, the pain for Pickering taxpayers will not end with whatever tax increases or expenditure cuts take place at the Town. They will also have to shoulder more provincial downloading at the Regional level. Durham Region is facing a combination of grant losses and cost increases totalling approximately \$98.7 million in 1998, which will be offset by about \$88.3 million in tax room freed up by the 50 per cent reduction in education taxes, leaving a shortfall of \$10.4 million. It would take an overall Regional tax increase of 10 11 per cent to make up for the loss.

Depending on how the Regional cost increases are apportioned between Durham municipalities, says Mr. Paterson. Pickering residents' regional tax bill could go up by 4.6 to 15.1 per cent. so their total property tax increase as a result of municipal downloading could

be eight to 17 per cent.
Pickering's draft budget, which is usually out by the end of January, will not likely be completed until March.

"We're just going to have to wait and see," says Mr. Paterson.

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## Town must use AECB, says councillor

TOWN/From page 1

shortly after its March 24 meeting in Oshawa. The licence expires March 31

The councillor noted it's especially important to take the EA issue before the AECB if, as the Province is suggesting, only the federal government has the authority to order the assessment.

This buck passing has got to stop," he said. "I'm tired of the buck passing between the Province and the feds. Somebody is responsible. In a related matter, the Town has not received

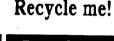
the response it expected to a request of Ontario Hydro to provide a detailed account of the environmental targets the utility has set for various emissions from the Pickering plant.

At a September meeting between councillors

and Hydro officials, and on two more occasions since then, Ward 1 local Councillor Dave Ryan asked Hydro nuclear chief Carl Andognini to provide the Town a detailed description of the environmental standards the Pickering station has to meet under government regulations and the environmental standards Hydro itself has set for the plant. He noted at the time that it's common for utilities such as Hydro and for industries in general to set emissions standards for themselves which better government requirements.

The Town finally got a response to its request in a Dec. 23 letter from Mr. Andognini, which Coun. Ryan said is little more than a list of the names of the various federal and provincial acts to which the station must adhere. If Hydro is incapable of providing the details of the environmental regulations it must meet, he suggested, maybe the Town should put together the information for the utility.

"I want to know whether he (Mr. Andognini) is just going to meet that or commit himself to something better," said Coun. Ryan.





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## Your input is being sought to help chart Durham public schools' future

BY SUSAN O'NEILL STALL REPORTER

The Durham District School Board wants to know what you think of its current performance and where it should be heading as the year 2000 approaches.

With the launch of the planning process for the board's new system plan Monday. Durham residents are getting an opportunity to voice opinions on everything from student courses to the knowledge of

teaching staff in the region Students, parents, teachers and business partners are also being asked, by way of a survey, to identify what they think the board's highest priorities should be over the next few years

"As resources diminish it's important to know what to focus on," board director Grant Yeo told a

## **Educators** want more time

EDUCATORS/From page 1

"In the elementary panel it was not (phased in)," he says, "The math and language curriculum came out and we were required just to do it.

Bey Freedman, superintendent of programmes for the Durham District School Board, says high school re-forms will also likely include "more operational changes" than the elementary schools shake-up.

There may not be as many curriculum changes as we anticipate.

tem plan becomes more important than the previous plans because we don't have the ability to address priorities through the tax base as we have in the past."

Surveys, which are available for pick-up at the education centre, will be circulated to schools, parent groups and teaching staff until the end of February.

The data will then be compiled in

March, with the draft plan to be written in April and sent out for public consultation in

The new system plan will be finalized and presented to the board in June.

For more information call the Durham District School Board at 905-666-5500



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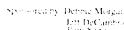
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### Teachers study early retirement

The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) has announced it's willing to negotiate an early retirement plan for instructors that would make room for young teachers seeking jobs and Save taxpayers mones

Eileen

Lennon, president of the union that represents 126,000 teachers across province. Monday the fedcepted the provincial government's offer to enter negotiations to provide an early re-

plan. "We are prepared to begin the process immediately so that teachers may be able to make retirement plans for this year," she

tirement incentive

Bill Butcher, Durham president of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation, says teachers want a plan that would allow those 55 years of age or older to retire without penalty. He adds they're looking for a permanent change to the pension plan.

We don't want it to be a window that's only available for усаг." Mr. Butcher says.

Under the current provisions of Ontario the Teachers' Pension Plan, which is funded by the OTF and the provincial government, a teacher must have years of service. be 65 years of age, or their age plus their years of service must add up to 90 to enable them to retire

without penalty. School boards would benefit from "many years of having reduced salary payments. savs Maret Sadem-Thompson, president of the Federat on of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario

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## A jump on spring

Recent warm weather gave duffers like Kim Sunhi a chance to swing away at the Annandale Golf and Curling Club in Ajax. The drop in temperatures Tuesday, however, means curling is the sport of choice these days at Annandale

## Ajax, Pickering teens learn to scale heights without drugs

Youth Centre hosts special event this weekend, all invited to take part

Some area teens will be Off the Wall this weekend.

As part of a Saturday workshop on drug awareness entitled Off the Wall, Ajax and Pickering youths aged 13 to 16 will try to scale a six-

metre (20-foot) rock climbing wall. The free event will also include workshops on drug awareness, deci-

sion making and team building It's being held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lincoln Alexander Public

School, 95 Church St. N., Ajax.

Prior registration is required. There's a limit of 60 participants, who will be broken up into two groups of 30.

The team-building session being run by Durham Regional Police Constable Brad Durst is designed to promote trust and self-esteem.

Off the Wall is presented by The Youth Centre, the Ajax Parks and Recreation Department, the Pickering Culture and Recreation Department, the Durham Region Health Department and the Durham Regional Police Service. It's sponsored by the Ajax Optimist Club.

Call the East Shore Community Centre at 420-6588 or The Youth Centre at 428-1212 for more information or to register.

### Region boss talks to Board of Trade

The Ajax Pickering Board of Trade is holding its 1998 President's Inaugural Dinner Tuesday, Jan. 27 in the HMS Ajax Room of the Ajax Community

Durham Region Chairman Roger Anderson will be guest speaker, making his first address to the region's business community since taking office

Doug Wilkinson of Deloitte and Touche. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a reception. Dinner, the guest speaker's talk and inaugural ceremonies begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$50 for members and

To register call the board at 837-6638, or fax 837-1629,

\$75 for non-members, plus GST.

## Durham College students head east to help Ottawa region

Several Fire and Emergency Services students from Durham College are offering aid to communities in eastern Ontario ravaged by ice storms.

Eighteen students in the second semester of the programme, which is offered at the Whitby campus, left Mon-day afternoon for the Brockville area to help the fire department in Rideau Lakes Township.

"Durham College is sanctioning the students' effort. This is what these students are being trained for," programme co-ordinator Don Murdock says in a news release

The students, who volunteered to help after hearing of the need from a fellow pupil who is a volunteer firefighter with the Rideau Lakes Township department, will be involved in setting up generators for those without heat and hydroand for clearing trees and snow from the streets. "Not only will (the students) he helping an area in desperate need, they will be gaining valuable experience in public assistance," Mr. Murdock says,
"It's a win-win situation for everyone."

The students, many of whom are volunteer firefighters, will be staying at the fire stations and with firefighters' famihes while in the area. The students will likely return next week

### Generators from Ajax, Pickering sought

Local businesses with generators are being asked to make them available if possible to help eastern Ontario deal with power failures resulting from recent ice storms.

The plea for the generators has gone out to its members from the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade. The board says Emergency Measures Ontario has asked for help in obtaining electrical generators with a capacity of five kilowatts or more.

Any generators made available will provide power to users such as nursing homes, shelters and dairy farms and for back-up power at water and sewage treatment plants. Anyone who can provide a generator is asked to call Ernergency Measures Ontario at 416-314-0538





Express your views and concerns regarding Canadian Unity

Janet Ecker MPP Durham West and Jim Flaherty MPP Durham Centre invite you to a non-partisan forum to consult the public on ways to strengthen Canada. The meeting will include a discussion on the framework developed by nine Canadian Premiers and the two territorial

> leaders in Calgary on Sept. 14. 1997.

Janet Ecker MPP **Durham West** 



Jim Flaherty MPP **Durham Centre** 

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Jim Flaherty MPP **Community Office** 114 Dundas St. E. Suite 101 Whitby, Ont. L1N 2H7

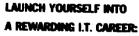
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### Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser

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## **▼** Editorial

## Residents deserve complete review of nuclear plant

If news from a provincial bureaucrat offers any indication. Pickering residents could well be ignored in their bid for an environmental assessment of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.

Barbara Brownlee, of the Ontario Environment ministry's Environmental Assessment Branch, said last week the Province may not have the authority to order an environmental assessment because nuclear power falls under federal jurisdiction.

Playing the jurisdictional card so early in the process - and in the face of an overwhelming demand from Pickering residents who voted 87 per cent in favour of an environmental assessment last November - simply doesn't bode well for having the review carried out.

And Ajax residents, many of whom live and work in the shadow of the Pickering nuclear station, have a stake in this as well.

Simply put, jurisdictional disputes don't measure up to the clear need in our communities to have the Pickering station assessed in detail.

It's important to note, too, that an environmental lawyer who was asked for a legal opinion on the proposed EA by Durham Nuclear Awareness says federal jurisdiction is not a barrier.

David Poch notes that in the early 1990s Ontario Hydro's demand supply plan, a 25-year expansion blueprint for the provincial utility, was subjected to an EA

They included nuclear and there was no suggestion that was an improper procedure because of it." Mr. Poch says.

So, on one hand we have a provincial bureaucrat suggesting the Province may have no jurisdiction in ordering an environmental assessment. On the other, we have a a lawyer claiming the Province has already ordered similar assessments despite federal jurisdiction

Residents in Ajax and Pickering who have lived through spills of heavy water, unscheduled reactor shutdowns and blistering Ontario Hydro-commissioned performance assessments about the management of the Pickering plant, deserve no less than a complete environmental assessment of the station.

Too many discrepancies separate what residents have been told and what they have discovered about the nuclear plant in recent years

They don't care about turf disputes, nor should

Listen to the people. Get on with a proper assessment, and come clean about the future of the Pickering station.

More than 110,000 people in Ajax and Pickering await the decision

To respond to this editorial call Infosource at infosource 583-7040 and dial 5109

## **▼**We asked...

The question is: What do you think about the fact Durham's welfare spending is down 10 per cent?



Nelson Curtis don't it's good. With the economy down, there are too many people out of work. including me.



"It's down says. because welfare payments were cut by governments.



Paul Medd says "It's happening everywhere. It's good; people are finding jobs."

## 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

## Motorists, please yield to emergency vehicles

Re the Dec. 19 News Advertiser story about the Pickering firefighter charged after being involved in a collision with a car while responding to a fire

As a firefighter in Metro, I had to respond by giving my full support to the Pickering firefighter, and by giving fair warning to all other drivers who we share the road with: Yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle responding to a call. It is required by law

When an emergency vehicle approaches, all other vehicles are required to pull over to the right and stop. At an intersection controlled by traffic lights. all vehicles are required to stop. even if they have the green light, and allow the emergency vehicle to proceed through.

Pickering firefighter was charged. The other driver was the only motorist who apparently did not see or hear the fire truck approaching, she failed to buckle up her seathelt, and she reportedly failed to ensure the three children she was apparently responsible for were buckled in as well. The firefighter didn't make the mistakes leading up to this collision involving personal injuries

Emergency vehicle operators are trying their best to reach an emergency as quickly and safely as possible. The only warning equipment available today are flashing red/white lights, an air horn, and the loudest siren modern technology has provided us

Please, people, open your eyes and your ears when you hicle to proceed through.

I can't understand why the driver's window to allow you to

hear a siren sooner. When you hear a siren, take a good look in all directions, and be prepared to immediately pull over to the right and stop, or if approaching an intersection, slow down and he prepared to make a quick

Department policies differ. but when you cause an accident with an emergency vehicle involving personal injuries, they must stop and remain, thus putting the lives of those they were responding to at risk. Another emergency vehicle must be dispatched from a further distance to cover their missed run, all because you did not yield to an emergency vehicle.

Hopefully that person in distress was not a relation of

Gordon Tewnion,

## King Arthurs' court grabs from Pickering peasants

Hello, anybody out there? Who do Pickering Council members think they are? I suspect they must have the misconception they are royalty accountable only to God. You know, similar to king Arthur and his knights sitting around the round table scheming of ways to further grab from the peasants.

After voting on their income and expense accounts and following a deal with Ontario Hydro they must have had a think-tank on how to grab some more money from

one suggested, "let's grab some money from the poor working out of their homes. You know the single mom making and selling crafts or the retired person making bird houses. But how?" Well angested. "Let's call them entreprencurs and charge them an annual licence fee. For starters let's say \$50, which we can increase in the future.

And the king (Arthurs) and his knights, who seem to answer to God alone, have now drawn their sabers and decid-

ed to withhold property taxes from the Province. After all, no skin off their noses. If there should be any penalties or other consequences they could always grab from us, the peasants. Well fellow peasants before you start applauding and shouting bravo. contemplate what the consequences you would have to deal with if you also decided to withhold a portion of your much too high property taxes from the group.

> Tino Anerussis, Pickering

## Why are posties still on public payroll?

To the editor:

I learned through the media the employees of the Canada Post Corporation could not keep up with the self-inflicted extra workload due to their strike. So much so that they were letting through mail without the correct postage or no postage at all and some mail was either incorrectly directed

or badly hattered. If that was the case, then these employees through their own actions were unable to handle their jobs effectively and competently.

In the 'real' world if an employee is incapable of handling their job, especially when their incompetence is caused by their own direct actions, there is no recourse but to fire them.

No business person in their right mind would ever keep someone on staff who is unproductive, incompetent and damaging to the corporation's sur-

Why then are these people still on the public payroll?

> S.L. Thorne. Ajax

### GLORIA **PAPASTAVROS Opinion** Shapers

Pickering resident Gloria Papastayros is a visual artist, who loves to paint and garden. She's chairman of the School Community Council at her son's school and vol-unteers at the Pickering Museum

### Turning 40

I sit at my kitchen table contemplating this past year. A momentous vear, I am told, a marker, a checkpoint. A time to measure your accomplishments, and your regrets.

I swirl my favourite tea, in my avourite cup. The tea is now lukewarm, a dull nondescript beige. I sip the tea, reluctantly draining the cup. Time to take stock of the situation. To measure up. To look closely in the

With residue grease from cookie crumbs on my finger. I trace the number on the kitchen table. "Make a cross and close the door, now you've got the number four. Around a circle you go. Now you've made a round zero." As I write. I chant the rhyme I used to teach my children how to write numbers

On our kitchen table, superimposed over the marks and scratchings made from my family's daily activities, is the number traced in grease. Four, Zero. Forty. Say it out loud. For. Tee. You are forty.

I immediately jump up and rush to the hall mirror. I peer intently into the reflection. Searching, hoping for some revealing epiphany, a word, an answer. I feel a bit like the wicked stepmother in Snow White, "Mirror, mirror on the wall." Instead of Snow White's willowy stepmother staring back at me, it is my familiar 40-year old face that I see. I now go through my new ritual. With my fingertips I gently touch the skin around my eyes. Any new lines? No. I trace the edge of my jawline.

Any signs of my mother's double chin? No. I emit a sigh of relief. Safe, for now at least

I retreat back to the kitchen to make another pot of tea. That always helps me to think better. The kettle whistles. I pour the scalding hot water into my blue china teapot. As I wait by the counter for the tea to steep. I touch the wilted dahlias in a vase on the window sill. They are dying. Their time is over. I touch the edges of the petals, and I feel myself start to smile. I feel the rumblings of a laugh start deep inside me. My laugh is full and joyous. Fat, wet tears spill from my eyes, and trickle down my face.

At last I experience the epiphany I sought. Received the small answer that I looked for. I now see that unlike the dahlias, I have a full life ahead of me. Turning 40 was just my life entering another phase. It has taken me this many years to learn to say no, without guilt. It has taken me this long to learn to ask for what I want. With my wrinkles I have received wisdom.

nappily pour the freshly made pot of tea down the drain, watching as the sink stains with the dark brown

In the dining room I open the china cabinet and remove my finest crystal wine glass. As I carry the glass into the kitchen, I hold it up to the light, marvelling at its fragile beauty. I find my husband's best bottle of Cabernet and pour the ruby red fluid into my wine glass. The glass shimmers like a rare jewel. I lift the glass to my lips and toast myself.

"Welcome 40. Yes, 40 is going to be wonderful."

The News Advertiser selected 13 readers for the 1998 roster of Opinion Shapers. They bring a wide variety of experience and opinions to our editorial page for your reading enjoyment.

### Ajax-Pickering ews Advertiser

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# Treasure Chest: New life for old things in the new year

As is our tradition, Recycler's Report and the News Advertiser bring you the Treasure Chest on a monthly basis.

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

ROULSTON This is the third year of Treasure Chest. Some residents use the Treasure Chest to pursue an enjoyable hobby such as the gentleman who loves to fix old clock boxes and the woman who collects records. If 1998 is the year you finally get to clean out those old

cupboards, keep the hobbyist in mind.

Recycler's

Report

To use the Treasure Chest, call 420-5625 during regular business hours. Requests must be in the last Wednesday of the month.

#### ITEMS NEEDED

1) Eight to 10 fence boards. 1" x 6" x

5' length; 839-5938 2) Good desk; 428-3581

3) Air tight woodstove, fax machine, and metal roofing and siding for Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary; 839-4310 or 831-2552 after 6:30 p.m. 4) Plastic or wooden barrel; 686-2917

5) Clothing and accessories, particularly for men and boys - new Big Sisters store; 428-8111

## Billboard

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14 SINGLE PARENTS: The Ajax-Pickering Chapter of the One Parent Fami-

lies Association for custodial and noncustodial parents holds its weekly meeting at 8:30 p.m. at the Annandale Golf and Curling Club, corner of Church and Bayly Sts., Ajax. New members welcome 839-9577.

WELLNESS: The Ajax-Pickering Women's Centre hosts a wellness work shop on self-esteem featuring public health nurse Catherine Walker at 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, corner of Randall Dr. and Hwy. 2. Pickering Village, Free, Register, 426-1064. SINGING: The County Town Singers

hold auditions for new members at 7:30 p.m. at the Whithy Seniors' Centre, 801 Brock St. S., Whithy, Openings for soprano, alto, tenor and bass. New tenor and bass singers especially need. The County Town Singers are a mixed adult community choir. 427-0201, 666-2822. BUSINESS SEMINAR: The Durham Contact Exchange hosts a seminar on how to cope with difficult people, fea-turing guest speaker Nick Boothman, from 9/30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Gallantry's Restaurant in the Pickering Town Centre. Registration is \$50, 837-1054 (Judy

Stacee or 427-6396 (Garth Riley). YOGA: The Hearth Place Cancer Sup-port Centre, 86 Colborne St. W. Oshawa, holds a Yoga for Bodies Under Stress from 10 to 11:15 a.m. It's for cancer patients or their caregivers. Loose clothing recommended. Take a blanket and small pillow. Register, 579-4833 BREAST CANCER: The Hearth

Place Cancer Support Centre, 86 Colborne St. W. Oshawa, holds a Breast Cancer Peer Support Group from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For women living with breast cancer, 579-4833.

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).

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

LIBRARY: Friends of the Ajax Public Library hold a general meeting at 7 p.m. and then tour the new Chapters Book Store, at the corner of Harwood Ave. and Hwy. 2, Ajax. 686-7188 (Monica

CANCER: The Canadian Cancer Society's Living with Breast Cancer peer support group meets at 7 p.m. at the Fortune Financial offices, 335 Bayly St. W., Ajax. It's for breast cancer patients, families and friends, 686-1516

CANCER: The Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre, 86 Colborne St. W., Oshawa, holds a relaxation and guided imagery techniques session from 1:30 to 3 p.m. for cancer patients or caregivers. 579-4833.

MODEL AIRPLANES: The Ajax Radio Controlled Model Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in Room G-17 (basement) of the Ajax-Pickering General Hospital, Harwood Rd. S. at Emperor St., Ajax. 831-1505.

BREASTFEEDING: La Leche League Pickering invites pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers to their monthly meeting at 7:30 p.in. for information and support. Babies welcome. For details call 427-8063 or 416-



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St. Martin's New to You sales; 9) Single bed and mattress;

10) Small car-size fold-up wheelchair for senior citizen; call after 10 a.m. Pickering

#### ITEMS TO GIVE AWAY

area only; 839-1407

1) Metal door with large windows, sky lights with inside blinds. I full length window to fit into a sliding door, inside smaller windows of various

2) 21 inch black and white TV, VCR in fair condition, 2 deficate decorative chairs, 2-piece couch; 416-282 5680



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3) King-size pine, cannonball waterbed with 6-drawer pedestal; 839-7696 after 5 p.m.

Following are some "green" solutions to re-

move any stains from the festive season.

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Coffee Stains: Use club soda to remove cof-

fee stains.
Fruit Stains: Pour boiling water through

strain from several feet up. Gravy: Pre-soak in cold water. Rub spot with

a good liquid soap Heel and Crayon Marks: Scrub off with

Larraine Roulston's column exploring environmental issues regularly appears on Wednesday

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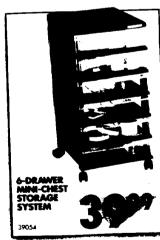
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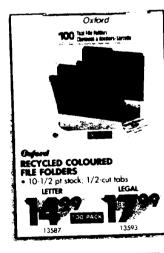






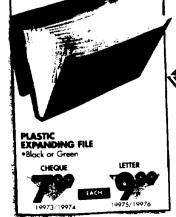














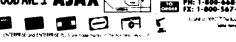












Al Rivett, sports writer

683-5110 Fax: 683-7363

**News Advertiser** 



photo by Andrew Iwanowski

Pickering Panthers' Joel Johnston, right, attempts to tie up Thornhill Rattlers George Nistas during Metro Junior A' Hockey League action at the Pickering Recreation night.

Complex last Friday, Pickering lost 3-1. The Panthers, however, defeated the Huntsville Wildcats 5-2 in Huntsville on Saturday

Meanwhile, the Spartans defeated both Pine

The Spartans beat Vanier 62-41. Akil Alonzo

Ridge and Vanier, while losing only to Winston

netted 16 to lead Dunbarton, while Welcome had 14 and Tobin chipped in with 11. Dunbarton lost to Winston Churchill 60-40.

Fabian Reid had 10 for the Spartans, while Ken

Awards for the event were provided by

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replied with 13 for Pine Ridge.

Stevens netted eight.

Frozen Images in Ajax

## Bulldog boys' basketball's best

SPORTS REPORTER

PICKERING — There were no medals for the host Pine Ridge Secondary School Pumas junior boys' baskethall team, but the Pumas did score a moral victory at their own tournament Monday

The big winners during the four-game roundrobin Puma Cage Classic - sponsored by the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser — were the Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute Bulldogs from Scarborough who posted a 2-1 record to claim the gold medal.

Next in line for a medal was the Dunbarton High School Spartans who earned silver with an identical 2-1 record. (Churchill grabbed the gold after beating Dunbarton in head-tohead play at the tourney)

The Pine Ridge Pumas finished with a 1-2 mark in the tournament. but their lone win came against Churchill by a close 47-46 score, despite trailing the Bulldogs through most of the second half and overcoming a three-point deficit in the last 55 seconds

"I was extremely impressed with the way we played Winston Churchill," says Pumas' coach Domenic Cirone, "They were the team to beat and we gave it all we

Duriell Bernard had 10 points for the Pumas against Winston Churchill. followed by Renaldo Best and Aide Ovbingelle with eight each.

Immediately after their emotionally draining victory over Churchill. the Pumas took to the court against the Georges Vanier Vikings, also from Scarborough. Pine Ridge trailed the entire game, but would not give up despite being down by as much as 18 points in the fourth quarter. In the end, Vanier won 66-59 Mike Veira led Pine Ridge with 17 points, followed by Best with 12.

The Pumas opened the tourney by losing 38-33 to league and Pickering rival Dunbartor, High School Spartans. Richard Welcome led the Spartans with 12 points, followed by Pat Tobin with eight. Duriell Bernard





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## **Depleted Panthers** earn weekend split

By At. RIVETT

SPORTS REPORTER
PICKERING --- Pick - Pickering Panthers' coach Rod McGillis might have looked into this last weekend as a lost weekend. After all, he was going into it with only 16 skaters at his disposal to face two teams with better records.

But, when it was all over, the depleted Panthers had earned two of a possible four points against the Thornhill Rat-tlers (25-12-2, second place in Central Division) and the Huntsville Wildcats (16-21-2, second place in the Western Division) in Metro Junior 'A' regularseason action

"We had a short bench and the guys played extremely well," says McGillis, who was missing six veteran players, including defencemen Doug Carr (neck). Toza Crnilovic (shoulder), Matt Jenkins (concussion) and Bill Duncan (suspension), and forwards Stu Vandergeest (suspension) and Rob Dancey (suspen-

In Huntsville Saturday night, the Panthers' one-two combination of centreman Joel Johnston and left winger Jeff Milroy continued to wreak havoe on the opposition as they accounted for four goals in a 5-2 victory.

Milroy netted a hat trick, while Johnston added a single goal. Tyler Middlebrook had the other Pickering marker.

Johnston and Milroy have really played well together and form the basis of a solid forward line," says McGillis, who usually plays Vandergeest on the right side of the line, but the veteran winger was serving a two-game suspen-

Meanwhile, Panthers' defensive mistakes came back to haunt them in a 3-1 loss to the Thornhill Rattlers at the Pickering Recreation Complex Friday.

We had two defensive breakdowns and both went in our net. We definitely had the chances to finish them off, but we didn't get the big goal when we needed it," says McGillis. After the two teams emerged from

scored two third-period goals for the Joel Johnston scored a second-period marker for the Panthers, assisted by

the second stanza ned 1-1. Thornhill

wingers Jeff Milroy and Mike Hanna. The Panthers trail the six-team Eastern Division with a mark of 12-20-6 for 30 points, two points behind fifth-place

Port Hope Buzzards.
The Panthers travel to Wellington to meet the Dukes Friday night, then return home to the complex for a Sunday night game against the Markham Waxers at 7:30.

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## Pickering Sports

# Pickering tweens tourney champs

PICKERING - The Pickering tween 'C' ringette team repeated as champs at the recent Markham tournament, carning the gold medal with a 6-1 victory over rival Ajax.

The gold-medal performance at Markham followed on the high

followed on the heels of a silver medal at the recent Scarborough tourney.

In the championship final at Markham, Pickering opened up a quick two-goal lead on markers by Anne Lawrence and Lauren Bran-don, with The Jamieson assistd. Pickering took nd period to put ering were econd of the coman Lauren Jovette McDonald, Goldsmith,

## Atom Lightning take tourney consolation title

The Durham West Lightning Honeywell atom 'BB' girls' rep hockey team captured the consolation title at the recent Mississauga tournament.

In the championship game, the Lightning edged Brampton 2-1 in an exciting



contest which required two overtime periods to desecond extra trame,

ide. In the Teryn Emslie scored to give

Durham West the title, Mists MacKinnon tallied in regulation time, assisted by Brittany Chandler and Mary T. Faux.

In round-robin play, the Lightning posted victories over Brampton I-0. Barrie 5-0, and played to a 1-1 tie with London Goal scorers were Emslie and Chandler with two each, MacKinnon, Katelyn Sears and Katie Dale with singles. Assisting were Nicole Ruta, Emslie and Chandler with two each, Sears, MacKinnon, Meghan Yeo, Karen Wiltshire and Ashleigh Lacquaniti with one apiece

Strong defensive play was turned in by rearguards Caley Hulme, Lisa Lillie and Lyndsey Ryan during the tourney.

Goaltender Quinn Caggiula was outstanding in net.

In recent regular-season league action, the Lightning atoms defeated Mississauga 2-1. Chandler and Ryan scored, assisted by MacKin-

The team is coached by Dino Caggiula, Rick Sears and Dave Hulme. The trainer is Elaine Emslie and the manager is Carolyn Yeo

## Hot goalies lead Pickering peewees to tourney title

PICKERING - The Pickering Harvey's Restaurant peewee select hockey team brought home the championship from the recent Uxbridge tournament played in Cannington

In the title game, Pickering dou-bled a tough Jordan Jaguars team from the St. Catharines area 6-3. Pickering found itself down 2-1 en-tering the final period, but got a big boost from Chad Tkachuk who tied the score and sparked the offence. Also scoring were Chris Visconti. David Kenny, John Veitch, Eric Ranta and another player not report-

The Panthers began the tourney with a 2-1 win over Keswick. Tkachuk and Ryan Donnan scored, with Visconti assisting on both goals.

In the second game, the Panthers earned a narrow 3-2 win over the host Uxbridge Bruins to advance to the championship game. Pickering jumped out to a 2-0 lead on goals by Pickering Mark Cruse and Kenny before the host Bruins stormed back to tie the match. Tkachuk scored the game winner with 1:52 remaining in the contest.

Scott Campbell and Greg Urbas shared the goaltending duties and were outstanding in all games, allowing only seven goals throughout the tournament.

The Panthers didn't take a single penalty throughout the entire tourna-

Team members are Scott Campbell. Mark Cruse. Ryan Donnan. Ainsley Eyitene, Matt Glavin, Chris Grafos, David Kenny, Robert Lakies, Chris MacIlwain, Sean McAteer, Ryan Payne, Eric Ranta, Jesse Seward, Chad Tkachuk, Greg Urbas, John Veitch and Chris Visconti.

The coaches are Steve Morgan and Arthur Donnan. The trainer is Matt Seward.

Lindsay Vine and Amanda Wallace.

The Pickering tweens got exceptional de-tensive efforts in the final contest from Holly Sheldon, Jamieson, Goldsmith and Lawrence, Goaltender Amanda Dart shut down Ajax

The Ajax forwards were neutralized by the fierce forechecking of Pickering's Kelly Dunn. Lisa Murison, McDonald and Kate Whithead.

In the semi-final contest, Pickering cruised to an 11-3 win over host Markham. No scoring

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Ajax 5-3, Markham 7-3 and Newmarket 12-0 to move into the playoff round.

The team is coached and managed by Herb Goldsmith, Brian Jamieson, Rob Cater, Bob Murison and Steve Dunn.

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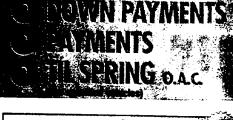
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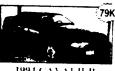




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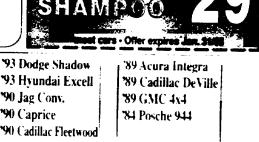
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