

A focus on Durham students

Public school board expects mixed funding news



RON TRBOVICH
 'It's a very prescriptive funding model'

By Susan O'Neill
 Staff reporter

The release of the Province's education funding formula this month could bring some good news and some bad news for the Durham District School Board.

The student-focused funding model, due out March 25, will force school boards across Ontario to re-examine how education is delivered and how schools are staffed.

And while the public board is expected

to fare well under the new model, there are areas of concern.

Ron Trbovich, superintendent of business for the public board, told trustees during a special budget session Monday it's expected funds for transportation and the number of secondary school teachers employed by the board will likely be cut.

"It's a very prescriptive funding model," he said, explaining money will be earmarked for specific areas such as special

education and classroom instruction.

Mr. Trbovich noted the board spends significantly less per student than the average of boards across the province. So, if the per-pupil expenditure is set at approximately \$6,000, as is expected, "We would likely be looking at some significant improvements in funding."

He said the board is also expecting to receive money for the first time as a fund-

also qualify for a learning opportunities grant to "equalize the learning opportunities of disadvantaged students."

Mr. Trbovich noted Premier Mike Harris has said junior kindergarten will be funded for the coming year.

And, the director said the board expects to receive adequate funding for special-needs programmes.

"We need to spend more money in this

Atomic Energy officials grilled on nuclear plant licensing

THEY'RE IGNORING PICKERING RESIDENTS' CALL FOR PLANT ASSESSMENT: COUNCIL

By Marianne Takacs
 Staff reporter

PICKERING — Atomic Energy Control Board officials came under fire Monday as they updated Town Council on their recommendations for relicensing of the Pickering nuclear station.

The AECB representatives were raked over the coals by some councillors for not supporting the Town request for an environmental review of the station, and for recommending a two-year licence renewal for the nuclear plant when its current nine-month permit expires at month's end.

"Is there any reason we should trust you this time?" asked Ward 1 Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner, after noting AECB staff recommended a one-year licence renewal for the station in June of last year without making reference to Hydro's own review of its nuclear facilities, which led to the utility announcing in August it would indefinitely shut down four reactors at Pickering.



DOUG DICKERSON
 'Trying to shirk your duties'

maybe it should be with you," Coun. Brenner told Robert Leblanc, director of the AECB's power reactor operations division in its Directorate of Reactor Regulations.

There was no mercy either from Ward 2 Regional Councillor Doug Dickerson. "You folks quite frankly are trying to shirk your duties," said Coun. Dickerson. He accused AECB officials of trying to do "a complete dance away from the critical question" of why they weren't supporting residents' desire for an environmental review.

Coun. Dickerson added that by including a condition in the new licence for a review of the station under Canadian Environmental



photo by Jason Liebrechts

A song for the season

Members of Devi Mandir in Pickering took part in the Festival of Holi last weekend featuring traditional rituals and colourful attire. Here (from left) Laura Maharaj, Naema Parson and Tina Singh perform a traditional 'Chowtal' as part of the celebration. The Festival of Holi marks the arrival of spring.

Fate of Durham Region principals, VPs in limbo

By Susan O'Neill
 Staff reporter

The fate of principals and vice-principals declared redundant will not be known in Durham until the Province releases regulations governing administrators, report the directors of the public and separate school boards here.

"The regulation hasn't been issued yet. We don't know what's in it," Durham Catholic District School Board director Grant Andrews says of regulations reportedly read into court last week during hearings on the removal of administrators from the teachers' bargaining units.

As of April 1 principals and vice-principals won't be allowed to continue their federation memberships and, according to reports, school boards that declare administrators redundant after that will be forced to find them other positions. However, they'll be required to do so without bumping other teachers.

Grant Yeo, director of the Durham District School Board, notes redundancies usually occur when there is declining enrolment. While that's not the case in Durham, he says, if the funding formula expected March 25 is "specific to a number of dollars",

there could be an impact locally.

"We don't know what the Province will do,"

Mike O'Connor, president of the Durham elementary division of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), reports the "biggest problems" facing principals and vice-principals are the issues of seniority and redundancy rights.

He says OECTA favours the no-bumping rule, which protects its members, and adds school boards would have to carry surplus administrators as extra staff.

However, Pat Jermy, Durham district president of the Ontario

Secondary School Teachers' Federation, says the government could create a situation through the funding formula in which some school boards may have to declare principals and vice-principals surplus because they don't have the money.

"If that line item is reduced then we have these excess people who have to go somewhere," she says. Ms. Jermy adds, while school boards could use those people at board headquarters or as extras in schools, it's a question of finding the dollars to fund those positions.

See CHANGES/Page 2



GRANT ANDREWS
 'The regulation hasn't been issued. We don't know what's in it'



Saga of a shutdown

Employees at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station have been busy in recent months preparing the aging 'A' side for what Ontario Hydro officials call a 'lay up' of the four reactors.

The shutdown was ordered last August by Hydro's board of directors. See reporter Marianne Takacs' story on page 7 of today's News Advertiser regarding what's involved in shutting down the four reactors and what the future holds.

No financial report card fears among Durham educators

ECKER SAYS PROVINCE IS PUSHING FOR 'MORE TRANSPARENT' EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ONTARIO

By Susan O'Neill
 Staff reporter

The provincial government is seeking to make Ontario's school boards more "accountable" with the introduction of financial report cards expected to be unveiled in conjunction with the funding model this month.

After months of delays, Ministry of Education and Training officials confirmed Monday the funding formula will be released March 25.

The student-focused funding model, which is one of the key components of the government's education reforms, is being driven by the Province's desire to make the education system "a more transparent system," reports Durham West MPP Janet Ecker.



JANET ECKER
 'Provide better quality education with better use of available dollars'

"It has to be very clear where the money is going."

That's why every school board in Ontario will soon be required to complete a financial report card outlining how much money is spent in the classroom and how much is used for administrative costs.

While school boards are currently required to make their financial statements public, Ms. Ecker points out it's often next to impossible to decipher exactly where the money is being spent.

"We want to make it more consistent," she says, noting some school boards in Ontario manage their spending well while others don't.

"In the Durham board you don't hear the horror stories that some

regions have had," she says.

"One of the objectives (of reforms) is to provide better quality education with better use of available dollars...we want a system that's more accountable to the people who use it and pay for it."

Grant Andrews, director of the Durham Catholic District School Board, says the new financial report cards are essentially a "continuation of the same practice with different parameters."

"It's not new that school boards report and are accountable to the electorate," says Mr. Andrews.

While he expects the new system will be more detailed, "It's not an area of concern."

Meanwhile Grant Andrews, director of the Durham District School Board, says there are already several levels of accountability in place.

"The director's report (released in

January) is supposedly a level of accountability."

Mr. Andrews expects the new financial report cards will require boards to break expenditures down further than they do now and will facilitate spending comparisons among boards across the province.

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Funding model due March 25

FUNDING/From page 1

area. Our needs are growing. By our own admission we need to do more."

Funding for transportation is another critical area for Durham.

"We've heard this grant is likely to be cut back. It's been cut for the last two years," Mr. Trbovich said.

He fears boards that run efficient transportation for students

will find the cuts "difficult to absorb...we're very nervous about this particular grant."

The board also fears the Province's reduction of preparation time for high school teachers might force it to cut staff.

"I would anticipate we would have a reduced number of teachers in the secondary panel," he said.

On the other hand, due to class-size regulations, the Durham

board expects to be in a position to hire more elementary school teachers.

"We're building the budget from the ground up," Mr. Trbovich told trustees. "We're going to see a budget very different from the ones we've had historically."

A revised schedule for upcoming budget sessions is expected March 23 and meetings will likely continue through June.

Youth Centre targets stressed teenagers

Teenagers in Ajax and Pickering who are feeling a little stressed out could benefit from a programme offered by The Youth Centre.

Positive Forces: Stress Management for Youth will help teens aged 15 to 19 cope with the demands of life. During the free

three-session programme, participants will become aware of the many factors in life that can cause stress and ways they can physically, mentally and emotionally respond. Coping strategies will be taught, including communication and assertiveness skills, time manage-

ment, relaxation and guided imagery skills.

The programme is being offered Tuesdays from March 24 to April 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Youth Centre, 360 Bayly St. W. (between Westney Road and Finley Avenue) in Ajax.

Volunteers breathe new life into Lung Association

The Durham Region Lung Association could help breathe a little bit of excitement into your life here.

The Lung Association is looking for volunteers to help in the office or during special events.

An office support volunteer helps with programme support, public relations, donations and other office tasks, as required.

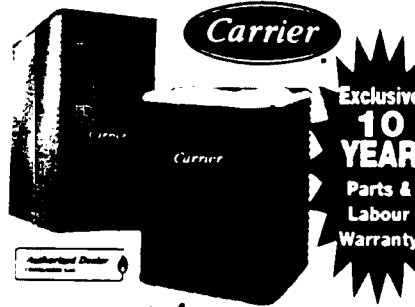
A number of individual volunteers are also needed to ensure the success of the Clean Air Connection, featuring the C.A.N. DO Fair and the C.A.N. DO Walk being held at Heber Down Conservation Area in Whitby on Sunday, June 7.

For more information on the foregoing events, or to help in other areas of need, call the Durham Region Lung Association call the office at 436-1046.

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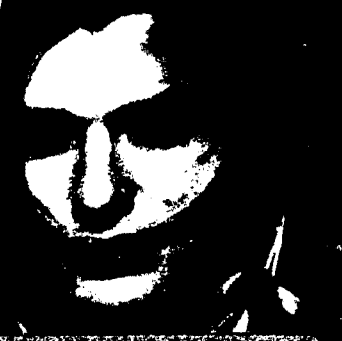
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Nuclear neighbours get less radiation than X-ray patients

Public exposure to radiation from the Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations remained extremely low during 1997, according to the latest calculations released by the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada.

The radiation dose is a measure of the quantity of radiation absorbed by the body.

For the three-month period from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1997, the radiation dose for the public was 3.4 microsieverts for Pickering and 1.2 microsieverts for Darlington.

This brings the total exposure for 1997 to 13.2 microsieverts for

Pickering and 4.7 for Darlington. In comparison, a typical chest x-ray produces a dose of approximately 70 microsieverts, while a return flight from Toronto to Vancouver would result in an increased dose from cosmic radiation of about 20 microsieverts.

The doses calculated by the AECB are for the most exposed people, typically those living just outside the station boundary. Most people in the region would have received less, since radiation doses decrease significantly as distance from the stations increases.

United Way invites groups to apply for funding

The United Way of Ajax-Pickering is encouraging local groups to join forces with the organization in reaching out to the community.

Local groups are invited to apply to the United Way for funding under an initiative known as Community Projects Grants.

The grants, available to organizations and groups not currently members of the United Way, are designed to facilitate projects that will impact positively on the lives of Ajax and Pickering residents.

Last year alone the United Way was involved in adding value to the community through the funding of 10 community projects, including sponsoring a trip to Bolton Camp for 16 campers, providing the youth centre in Brougham with a much-needed face lift, offering workshops for parents on improving their parenting skills and distributing 50 turkeys to area families at Christmas.

Grants are available to all sectors of the community.

For more information call 686-0606.

Hearing on licensing brings sharp debate

HEARING/From page 1

Assessment Act, the AECB could achieve what Pickering and its citizens want "with the stroke of a pen".

Ward 2 local Councillor Mark Holland told the AECB representatives the issue of the nuclear station came up at every other home he visited during the municipal election.

"How do you respond to residents? How do you tell them their concerns are being addressed?"

Ward 3 local Councillor David Pickles maintained residents get little comfort from AECB assurances the Pickering station is being operated at an acceptable level of safety.

"Low risk would be acceptable when I bought a

pair of rollerblades or operated an electric toaster. Low risk just doesn't give me a warm, safe feeling." He's "discouraged" by the fact AECB staff haven't supported the environmental assessment and aren't willing to champion residents' concerns.

Mr. Leblanc told councillors the AECB board, which will make the final decision on the relicensing, is aware of the referendum result and will take it into consideration. He also said the AECB will "co-operate and collaborate" as much as it can with the provincial Ministry of the Environment on any decision the ministry makes on the environmental assessment requested by Pickering.

"Our position is the power station has been operated safely," said Mr. Leblanc, who expects that safe operation to continue. If it doesn't, he noted, AECB can pull the plug at any time and staff are prepared to recommend shutdown if warranted.

Mr. Leblanc also told councillors that under current nuclear regulatory provisions the AECB's environmental mandate is limited to looking at radioactive emissions, and that Hydro is complying with emission regulations as radioactive releases are below one per

cent of the allowable limits. But he added the new federal legislation expected to be in effect by the end of 1998 will give the AECB "clear control" of the environmental impact of nuclear activities for the first time, and the agency is currently preparing new environmental standards and criteria and developing an environmental protection policy.

The AECB board will make its final decision on the Pickering station relicensing after hearing final submissions at its March 24 meeting in Oshawa.

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The Parent-Teacher Interview: How to Ensure Success

By Dr. Gary Hunt, Chair, Faculty of Education, University of Toronto

Your child's education should be a partnership between the teachers at school and the family members at home. For this reason, it is important to establish a friendly and co-operative relationship with your child's teachers. In order to do the best job possible with your child, the teacher will require constant input and feedback from you. The parent-teacher interview is the most common occasion for this exchange to take place. Here are some ideas to make the interview session fruitful:

- Come prepared to the interview, by keeping track of your child's homework habits so that you will be aware of how he/she performs in specific subjects. Collect samples of your child's work so that you can ask specific questions on his/her learning experiences as reflected in the work.
- Keep a list of concerns or questions that you might have. The teacher will discuss them with you and help you to understand how your child is progressing.
- Whenever possible emphasize how delighted you are that your child becomes excited about some specific learning task. Discuss positive aspects of your child's work.
- Inform the teacher of your child's work habits and behavior at home. This will allow the teacher to understand your child's classroom behavior better.
- Listen carefully to what the teacher has to say. He or she spends a great deal of time with your child and thus knows a great deal about him or her.
- Inform the teacher if your child is participating in out-of-school activities. The teacher can use this information to better meet your child's needs.
- Before leaving the interview, indicate to the teacher that you would welcome constant feedback on your child's progress and behavior and indicate that you are willing to help in any way possible.
- Tell the teacher that you yourself will keep in regular contact with him or her.
- Above all, remember that the teacher is just as eager as you are to establish a collaborative relationship with you.

Dr. Gary Hunt is Senior Educational adviser to Grade Expectations Learning Centre.

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photo by A.J. Groen

These students talk the talk

The Royal Canadian Legion Ajax Branch 322 held a public speaking contest and the winners are, front row from left, David Morrison, Heather Senser and Samantha Hazel. There were 25 contestants and the winners compete in the area finals in Bowmanville. In the rear are Jim Moore, the Legion's Youth Education Officer, and branch President Agnes Heasley.

Home sales jump in Durham

By Shawn Simpson
Special to the News Advertiser

Durham Region's new home sales were significantly higher in January than a year ago and all signs indicate the trend may continue in this area for some time.

"I think we will continue to see new home sales rise," says Jamie MacInnis, president of the Durham Region Home Builders' Association. "People are a lot more comfortable with the economy. It's very positive."

New home sales, including single-detached, semi-detached and townhouses, were 16.4 per cent higher last month than January, 1997. The reasons for the increase, explains Mr. MacInnis, could include everything from a relatively mild month to strong auto sales at General Motors.

"In Durham Region we are more linked to the auto industry and when it's going strong as it has in the past few years, the building industry does well," says Mr. MacInnis. "I think that's where the job confidence is coming from."

Among some other possible explanations for the increase, Mr. MacInnis says the fact that more home builders are offering incentives, such as free appliances, to help first-time buyers on their way.

Outside the region however, GTA new homes sales didn't do quite as well as those in Durham. Although new homes and condominiums were up 26 per cent in January over December, compared to January, 1997 the numbers were down 21 per cent.

"In total, the demand in January was pretty solid," says Mary Lawson, president of the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association. "A year ago the market was blasting off as a wave of pent-up demand was unleashed. We're pleased to see some stability as we move forward into 1998."

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Page 16, Item 18512, Kenmore chest freezer. Sears incorrectly stated a savings of \$21. Should be \$1. Our Sears regular price is 299.99. Sale 298.00.
Page 26, Item 68842 Kenmore topmount. Sears incorrectly stated a savings of \$151. Should be \$101. Ours Sears reg. \$1099.99. Sale \$998.
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Ajax, Pickering ponder bus service merger

By Keith Gilligan
Staff reporter

AJAX — Public transit users in Ajax and Pickering may one day be travelling on one bus service.

The Towns have agreed to hire a consultant to prepare a business case for merging the transit systems in the two communities. Completing all the studies will take about a year, so a decision on amalgamating the two services wouldn't be made until mid-1999.

Ajax Council's general government committee agreed last week to split the cost of hiring a consultant with Pickering. During a special council meeting following the committee meeting, Ajax Council approved hiring a consultant.

Pickering Council agreed to the proposal at its meeting Monday.

"The working relationship between the two transit systems has reached a level of maturity which now calls for the serious review of consolidating the systems in whole or in part," an Ajax staff report to the general government committee noted.

Chief Administrative Officer Richard Parisotto said, "It's an excellent way to go. It's something

that's certainly timely. It's come to the point people are asking 'well, does this make sense?'"

Last year, Ajax Transit took over the day-to-day running of Pickering Transit's handi-trans operations.

Mr. Parisotto said if a business case can't be made to merge the two systems, more partnerships like that of the handi-trans service will be explored.

The consultant's business case will consider such issues as budgets, how service would be affected and the different labour situations, as Pickering Transit staff are unionized but Ajax staff aren't.

"Staff believes that levels of service can be maintained and improved, major cost savings achieved and overall customer service enhanced on the basis of information already known," the Ajax report states.

Ajax Transit director Terry

Barnett said the consultant's work will cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, which would be split between the two communities.

Wards 3 and 4 Regional Councillor Jim McMaster endorses the merging of transit services. "It's a great idea. It's the next step we have to deal with."

However, Wards 1 and 2 Regional Councillor Scott Crawford noted that, in 1990, the two communities stopped sharing handi-trans service.

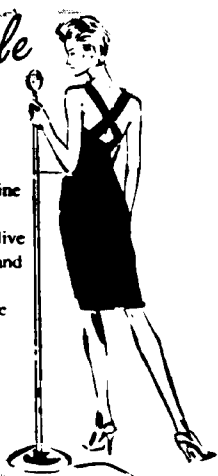
"The main object was to get out of the partnership because it was costly and ineffective," Coun. Crawford said. "I'm hoping this works out, but I'm a little standoffish at this point. I was there when it caused a divorce between us."

Mr. Barnett said in an interview that amalgamation of the transit services would be "very progressive. It's amazing we got the two councils to that point."

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Gagnon trial

Firearms expert testifies bullets from robbery match those at murder scene

By Stephen Shaw
Durham staff

Bullets found at the scene of two London robberies were fired from two semi-automatic handguns stolen during the murder of an Oshawa storeowner, a firearms expert says.

Sam Barbetta, head of the firearms section at the Centre of Forensic Sciences, testified yesterday he was able to conclusively match bullet fragments and casings recovered by police in London to the .45 calibre Colt and Ruger handguns taken from Gagnon Sports on Sept. 14, 1994.

During the robbery for guns, Roger Parry, 43, was shot and killed and three others were wounded by gunfire.

Pickering resident Ken Thomas, 55, was kidnapped and murdered earlier in the day because the robbers wanted to steal his car for the robbery, prosecutors Bryan Davies and Greg O'Driscoll contend.

Ronald Woodcock, 46, the alleged triggerman, and Roshan Nourozali, 34, have both pleaded not guilty to two charges of first-degree murder and four charges of attempted murder.

The jury trial has heard Mr. Woodcock, Mr. Nourozali and a third man, Deryck Thompson, were arrested six months after the Durham Region murders following a grocery store robbery near London, Ont., in which Mr. Woodcock shot a customer.

At the time of their arrest they had in their possession a .38 calibre revolver and two .45 calibre pistols, a Ruger and a Colt, both with their serial numbers ground off.

Court heard the weapons were sent last spring to the United States Treasury Department's bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms lab in Maryland.

Using a scientific restoration process known as "chemical etching," firearms and tool mark expert Gregory Klees told court he was able to partially identify five of the eight obliterated serial numbers on the Ruger.

Mr. Klees testified using a different method known as magnetic particle processing he was able to reveal the complete serial number on the Colt.

The Crown alleges Mr. Woodcock and Mr. Nourozali staged the Oshawa robbery solely for the purpose of getting guns, which they then used in a string of holdups in the London area.

Among those were heists in which gunshots were fired Nov. 24 at a Toronto Dominion branch and Nov. 11 at a Valdi's supermarket.

Mr. Barbetta testified his analysis showed without a doubt bullets found at both crime scenes had been fired from the stolen Ruger. He said bullets fired in the Valdi's robbery were discharged from the stolen Colt.

In each of the robberies, including a third in which shots were fired, reloaded .45 calibre ammunition was used, Mr. Barbetta said.

Mr. Thompson, who is serving an eight-year sentence for robbery and at one point was a suspect in the Durham Region murders, is an avid hunter and marksman and co-owned a Dillon reloader with his brothers.

Mr. Thompson, a childhood friend of Mr. Woodcock's, testified that on several occasions he gave reloaded ammunition to Mr. Woodcock and his common-law wife, which he claimed she used to make jewellery.

Mr. Barbetta testified analysis showed the .22 calibre long-rifle bullets which killed Mr. Parry and Mr. Thomas — shot four times in the head — were fired from the same weapon, likely a semi-automatic.

He said the bullets removed from Mr. Parry and the victims who survived the gun store heist had a "stretched" appearance.

"One thing that comes to mind most readily is some kind of sound suppressor was used... (such as) a silencer," Mr. Barbetta said.

Court heard yesterday Mr. Woodcock offered to pay the costs of a dead friend's funeral just hours after the Valdi's robbery at 9 p.m. on Nov. 11, 1994.

Mr. Thompson testified earlier he and Mr. Woodcock spent the entire evening at Victoria Hospital in London, however, the sister of the dead man said yesterday she couldn't say for sure Mr. Woodcock was at the hospital at all times during the night.

The hospital is a seven-minute drive from the grocery store which was robbed, jurors were told.

The sister, whose name prosecutors and police have asked not be published, said she approached a



distraught Mr. Woodcock following her brother's death just before midnight.

"He asked if we needed any help in arranging (her brother's funeral) and I indicated, "No," that me and my husband would take out a loan. I thought it was very nice of him," she testified.

"I thought it was very decent because he knew (her brother) didn't have any insurance," she said, adding Mr. Woodcock wept openly following his friend's death.

The Crown has now completed its evidence in the one-month-old trial, after calling 88 witnesses and entering 168 evidence exhibits.

The trial continues on Monday.



Police were able to determine the serial number on this Colt .45 (close-up, top photo) through a restoration process. The gun is alleged to have been stolen during the violent robbery at Gagnon Sports in Oshawa.

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Application For A Sale Licence
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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 April 11, 1998. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person.
Note:
The AGCO gives the applicant details of any objections.
Submissions to be sent to:
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Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
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E-mail at licensing@agco.on.ca.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

OUR VIEWS ON THE NEWS

Make crime pay for crime fight

Do the crime, do the time, pay the fine — and where appropriate — pay into a fund for police to catch future criminals.

The government of Ontario is instituting a new grant system to help police forces around the province institute expanded programmes to aid in the battle against Ontario's criminals.

The fund currently has more than \$700,000 set aside to help pay for new equipment, front-line law-enforcement projects and investigations by Ontario police departments.

To qualify for grants, forces must show their plans are beyond current budgets and that the projects would result in long-term benefits in the fight against crime.

Durham Regional Police Service is already attempting to obtain a piece of the crime proceeds money. According to Sergeant Jim Grimley, the Durham force is trying to get help to recoup costs associated with Operation Clean-Sweep, a project launched last December to help reduce noise, drunkenness and disorderly conduct in Oshawa's downtown core. It's also attempting to get money to cover the costs of stop sticks — at \$500 each — a device used to deflate a car's tires during police pursuits.

Money is already being doled out under the programmes dubbed Front-Line Policing Crime Prevention and Proceeds of Crime Law Enforcement Grants.

The Ontario Provincial Police will get \$277,840 for such policing tools as Eagle Radar Units, spike belts, Dreyer Roadside Devices to combat drinking and driving and Collision Investigation Units.

There's still hundreds of thousands of dollars left in the fund with the promise of more to come as wealthy criminals are brought to heel. As Sgt. Grimley says, "We've been saying for years that crime doesn't pay, but, finally it's going to pay dividends for the people of Ontario in the fight against crime."

Apart from compensation from criminals to their victims, we can't think of a better place for proceeds to go than to the police who must battle crime each day. Money is tighter than ever and forces are battling with regional governments and municipalities over how their money will be spent.

If police forces can convince the Ministry of the Solicitor General any money they get from these grant programmes will be well-spent on new initiatives to make communities safer, then good for them.



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YOU SAID IT

YOUR OPINION ON OUR VIEWS

In response to Steve Houston's Feb. 22 column headlined 'Farewell to a friend', one reader said,

"I'm Jimmy McLean's nephew. He was a very close uncle of mine and I can't tell you how much I appreciated your article."

WE ASKED

THE QUESTION IS: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PROCEEDS OF CRIMINALS' ACTIVITIES BEING TURNED OVER TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO IMPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT?



Herbert Amepill says, "If it is controlled properly, yes."



Joan Giles says, "I think it should be turned over to police because it will make them work hard."



Pauline Morrison says, "It sounds like a good idea. If it improves our law enforcement in Durham, it's a good idea."



LETTERS

OUR READERS' VIEWS ON THE NEWS

Getting our teenagers to butt out

To the editor:

Teen smoking is on the rise again. The latest survey indicates that 28 per cent of teenagers were smoking in 1997. This represents a six-per cent jump since a similar 1991 survey. Forty-four percent of 16 year olds are smoking right now. The numbers speak for themselves. Who speaks for the teens?

Elected politicians have withheld new legislation directed at the growing problem of youth smoking; public agencies fail to enforce the Retail Sales Act and the sale of tobacco to minors; and high school administrators watch helplessly as underage students continue to smoke on or near school property.

The trust placed in some officials has been squandered. Only a strong statement from concerned parents can turn the heads of those with the resources to wage the battle against manufacturers, advertisers and retailers and gain the much-needed assistance of educators.

At an early age a growing number of young teens are unable to exercise good judgment. They become the victims. Many don't know the facts. These teens require societal protection until they are able to make sound decisions for themselves, generally considered to be at 18 or 19 years of age.

The solutions to the teen smoking issues vary widely and are complex. Early education and self-image awareness can help. Teens with strong value systems may still become addicted smokers. Most teens succumb to peer pressure. Seventy-nine percent of a teen smoker's friends are smokers. Teens with one smoking parent have a higher incidence of smoking. Strong role models don't guarantee a non-smoking teen.

Help is available in the form of the information needed by teens to make a choice they can live with. The Canadian Cancer Society, the Lung Association and the local health departments can provide assistance. Check the phone book for the telephone numbers. Resources available include tobacco addiction information, smoking cessation programs and self-help kits. Internet websites can also be found that

can provide information and assistance. Interesting Internet starting points, try <http://www.hs-sc.gc.ca/main/hppb/tobaccoreduction/factsheets/> or <http://www.art.org/isd/info.html>. Some facts from these sites: * 85 per cent of those teens smoking before age 16 will be unable to quit the habit; * nicotine is an extremely powerful addictive agent; * 40,000 Canadians die each year from smoking related illnesses; many others suffer.

Keith Clarke,
Pickering

Firs offer to Donnes not so bad

To the editor:

This is addressed to all the people out there who always take an opposing position no matter what our government does.

The latest firs to be to accuse the Mike Harris government of being cruel and insensitive to the three surviving Dionne quintuplets by forcing them \$2,000 each per month for life. The same people seem to rejoice over the fact that the courts have now awarded the sisters and their lawyer from our orders a super cool \$4,000,000 cash settlement.

The way I see the three elderly women could have comfortably lived out their lives with an extra \$72,000 each year and that the Harris government did its best to save us an unnecessary extra tax burden, but lost.

Furthermore, I suspect that most of the complainers just be on the receiving end because it would be stupid for anyone working and paying taxes to support the streamlining of government spending.

Tino Amey,
Pickering

Sex ed. kit gets blessing of Reverend

To the editor:

I write to first commend the Durham District School Board for its courage in meeting the needs of special-needs students by using the Life Facts Sexuality programme.

I attended the board meeting recently and watched as a small group was hushed in from somewhere else to protest a package that group members had never viewed. After I had spoken, many people approached me to tell me they found the illustrations offensive, yet not one of the people who spoke to me had actually seen the graphics.

When I made the comment that I did not believe the illustrations went far enough, I did so from the position that I have seen every one of the graphics in the package, even the so-called explicit drawings. They are pencil outlines about the calibre (not content) you would find in a child's colouring book. My concern is that the students will find the pictures too boring to be realistic. If someone finds this material pornographic, I would question their self control and refer them to the Bible - Titus 1:15 (To the pure all things are pure; to the corrupt all things seem corrupt).

The reality is that these children — all our children — are confronted on a daily basis by TV, movies, videos, the Internet and magazines, all of which show much more explicit material in colour. They are also going to meet people who tell them what they should do with their bodies. I would much prefer that the people who inform these students about sexual conduct be qualified teachers, in a controlled educational setting. Teachers who are concerned about the safety of the students; not people concerned with gratifying their own desires. If, in the course of instruction to students who are over 16, the teachers find they need to use drawings that have been okayed by the parents to identify parts of the body, then so be it.

Thanks to the board for dealing honestly with the reality of the world in which we live.

Rev. Glen Eagle,
Ajax

LESLIE GOSSEN OPINION SHAPER



Ajax resident Leslie Gossen enjoys reading and writing but doesn't care much for arithmetic. She is important in the lives of four children and, therefore, is very rich indeed.

Get poor quick in Canada

Meet my friends, the Smiths. They're an average family living in a four-bedroom, two-bathroom, double-garage home with all the modern amenities and they have 2.3 children. OK, so they rounded it up to three, making diapering much easier. A few years ago, the Smiths had a combined income of \$67,000 with a mortgage to match. Middle class, right? Wrong.

The Smiths are poor, as Mrs. Smith discovered by reading the newspaper. In it, a family is described as living in poverty if it spends more than 55 per cent of income on food, shelter and clothing. As the Smiths spend much more than this on the basics, they are very poor indeed. How did this happen?

First, Brian Mulroney brought in the GST, reducing the Smiths' income by \$2,000 per year. They cut back on spending accordingly.

Then, Bob Rae proceeded to spend his way out of the recession, raising the deficit and taxes. Mrs. Smith's company headed south, reducing the Smiths' income by \$27,000. The Smiths cut back accordingly.

Next, Mr. Rae froze Mr. Smith's wages. He hasn't had a raise in seven years. His union, under threat of outsourcing, gave away cost-of-living allowances and benefits. Two of the Smith children need glasses.

Then, Mike Harris downloaded costs onto the regions. The Smiths' property taxes, which have already doubled since they bought their house, will go up another \$100. Mrs. Smith got a minimum wage job to make ends meet. The government took their child tax credit because they now earn too much, meaning Mrs. Smith is effectively working for \$3.85 an hour. They cut back some more.

Next, Jean Chretien raised CPP and EI deductions. Now Mr. Smith's take-home pay is \$25,000 per year. They have been living on Dave Tsubouchi's macaroni and tuna diet for at least five years.

Then, Jim Witty said regional councillors need more than \$60,000 a year and John Crosbie said federal politicians need more than \$90,000 per annum.

The police and firefighters and all the administrators where Mr. Smith works have all had raises. (Mr. Smith's boss makes more than \$100,000).

The Smiths' combined take-home pay is \$36,000. They pay \$11,000 in income tax, \$3,000 in property tax and \$3,000 in sales tax. They keep food costs down to \$9,600. It costs \$12,000 to keep a roof over their heads and \$5,000 for transportation to work. After paying taxes and "basics", the Smiths have \$2,200 "disposable" dollars, which barely puts clothes on their backs. Their debt load is increasing.

Because they can't keep money in the bank, they are charged full service charges for withdrawing their own money.

Here are just a few of the things they can no longer afford: meat, fish, butter, ice cream, aluminum foil, garbage bags, make-up, nail polish, newspapers, magazines, vacations, second car, dry cleaning, barber, hair dresser, country drives, eating out, paint, house repairs, car repairs and lessons in skiing, ballet, music, swimming and tennis. Mrs. Smith wonders if Messieurs Chretien, Rae, Harris, Crosbie and Witty would be willing to forgo these things.

Mr. Politician, the average income per capita is \$27,000. Where will the Smiths and others like them get the money to pay for your raises? What was their crime? They've worked hard for 30 years. They've always paid their taxes.

How to become poor in Canada? It's easy. Just work hard. Pay your taxes. And don't forget to vote.

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Laid up, the nuclear way

Months of work lead to shutting down Pickering's aging 'A' side

By Marianne Takacs
staff reporter

PICKERING — Just imagine a car up on blocks in a driveway and you'll have a fairly good idea of the current state the 'A' side of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, according to plant director of support services John Coleby.

"If you take your car off the road for a year what do you do? — jack it up, take the tires off, drain the engine, take the battery out," explains Mr. Coleby. "We've had to do the same kind of thing. We're basically preserving the asset because we intend to restart it."

The 'A' side of the station has been shut down, or "laid up" as Hydro prefers to call it, since the end of December. The indefinite shutdown of the four 'A' reactors at Pickering and three more at the Bruce nuclear station was ordered last August by Hydro's board of directors in response to a scathing evaluation of its nuclear operations commissioned by the provincial utility itself. It's supposed to allow Hydro to concentrate its limited staff and resources on making improvements at the remaining 12 of its 19 reactors in Ontario, including the four on the 'B' side of Pickering.

Of course taking a nuclear station off line for a couple of years is not quite like putting your car away for a season. Station manager of lay-up

and recovery Rod Clarke spent four months planning and preparing for the shutdown. That included visits to other nuclear stations to share the experience staff there had acquired during their own shutdowns.

Over 150 reactor safety and production systems had to be reviewed to determine which would have to remain running and for how long, and which would no longer be required for the shutdown state and from when.

An extra crew of operators was brought in for the actual shutdown process, so that two crews were on duty at once instead of the usual one.

"Between Christmas and New Year's we shut down one unit at a



The laid up 'A' side of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station ordered last August by Ontario Hydro's board of directors means employees at the plant are undertaking a massive shutdown operation. Taking the 'A' units off-line took four days, but they won't be in their final 'lay-up' state until the end of this month.

time — very carefully and deliberately," says Mr. Clarke.

Actually taking all the 'A' units off line (only three had been in operation) took four days, and they won't be in their final 'lay-up' state until March 31.

Getting them there has included putting the reactors in a guaranteed shutdown state by draining the heavy water 'moderator' which regulates the fission process; circulating chemically-treated water through each reactor's boilers to prevent their deterioration; shutting down and drying the turbines and generator powered by each reactor; and draining and drying feedwater (regular water) and condenser systems.

Because Hydro plans to start up the reactors again the uranium fuel bundles that power them are being left inside. As a result, reactor cooling systems have to be kept running for now. However, by the time the lay-up is complete at the end of March, larger cooling units

blowing air over the reactor piping will be sufficient to keep the reactors cool.

By then, the reactors which normally operate at an average temperature of 275 degrees Celsius will be down to a temperature of about 40 degrees Celsius. Radiation in the reactor units will have decreased to the point where station staff will be able to work in them a full day wearing protective clothing. (When the reactors are operating workers can only go in, for special inspections, for four to five minutes at a time in full gear, including respirators.)

After the shutdown is complete at the end of March the 600 Hydro staff who usually operate the 'A' side of the Pickering station can be reduced to about 200, which will release approximately 400 people to join staff working on improving the performance of the 'B' side.

According to Mr. Coleby, changes on the 'B' side will consist mostly of

training enhancements and catching up on training backlogs; upgrading operating and maintenance procedures to a higher standard; and special maintenance in areas such as the reactors' crucial valve systems. The improvements on 'B' are expected to cost Hydro about \$70 million.

"There are no improvements on the 'A' side," says Mr. Coleby. "We're not spending any money aside from laying it up and preserving the assets."

Enhancements on the 'A' units will only be made after approval to restart them is obtained from Hydro's board of directors, he explains.

That approval is only expected to come when the 'B' units are demonstrated to be running at a world-class standard and when a business case can be made for restarting the 'A' side.

"The plan is to restart the first unit in June, 2000," says Mr. Clarke. "We're planning to start work on restart justification this summer."

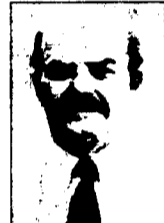
Approval from the board would have to be obtained by the end of 1998, he explains, because the work necessary for the restart would take about 18 months.

That would include the replacement of copper condenser tubes from which copper and other metals were eroding and being dumped into Lake Ontario, and the installment of shutdown system enhancement modifications the Atomic Energy Control Board had ordered to be in place by the end of this past December.

While the 'A' units are down, Hydro will be sorely missing the approximately 2000 megawatts of power it could generate if all four reactors were on-line. That's enough electricity to supply about two-thirds of the needs of a city like Metropolitan Toronto.

But Mr. Clarke is confident the 'A' reactors are not down forever.

"They are good, reliable units and they need to be used again. The reason we're shutting them down is to free up resources needed to make the improvements we want to make."



ROD CLARKE
Four months planning and preparing for shutdown



JOHN COLEBY
Training enhancement and catching up on backlog

Durham strives to have safest roads of all

By Shawn Simpson

Durham Regional Police Service aims to be number one this year in the Ontario Road Safety Challenge and is looking for a few committed volunteers to help make it happen.

The programme, sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, challenges over 20 communities in the province to improve local traffic safety and reduce the number of motor vehicle collisions over a one-week period, in this case, the first week of June.

"It's a friendly competition between Oshawa and 22 other municipalities," says Sergeant Rick Bates of the Durham Region traffic management unit. "The ultimate goal is to reduce collisions and subsequently the number of injuries. Nobody's a loser in these competitions."

So far, this year's committee has representatives from the police, injury prevention groups, the health department, fire department, ambulance service, driver's education, senior citizens' groups, and the local media to name a few. But, there's room for more.

"We're bringing together people who share a common concern for traffic and injury prevention," says Sgt. Bates. "It's an opportunity for them to

have input in traffic safety initiatives."

Last year, the number of collisions dropped by 21 per cent from the same period the previous year. Specifically, 59 collisions occurred during the road safety challenge week, 16 fewer than in 1996. According to Ministry of Transportation figures, notes Sgt. Bates, this amounts to a savings of \$50,000 in collision repair and medical costs, not to mention priceless savings in human pain and suffering.

Like last year, this year's organizers have scheduled everything from truck safety blitzes and anti-drinking and driving crash demonstrations geared toward students to senior safety days where volunteers demonstrate safe street-crossing practices.

"This year we're going to try and beat out everybody," says Sgt. Bates. "But if the safety programmes developed over the week carry on and we increase year-long safety traffic practices in all the communities then it will definitely be a huge success."

Anyone interested in improving road safety in their community and who would like to become a member of the Road Safety Challenge committee can call Frank Murphy at the Head Injury Association of Durham Region at 905-723-2732 or Sgt. Rick Bates at 905-579-1520 ext. 5254.

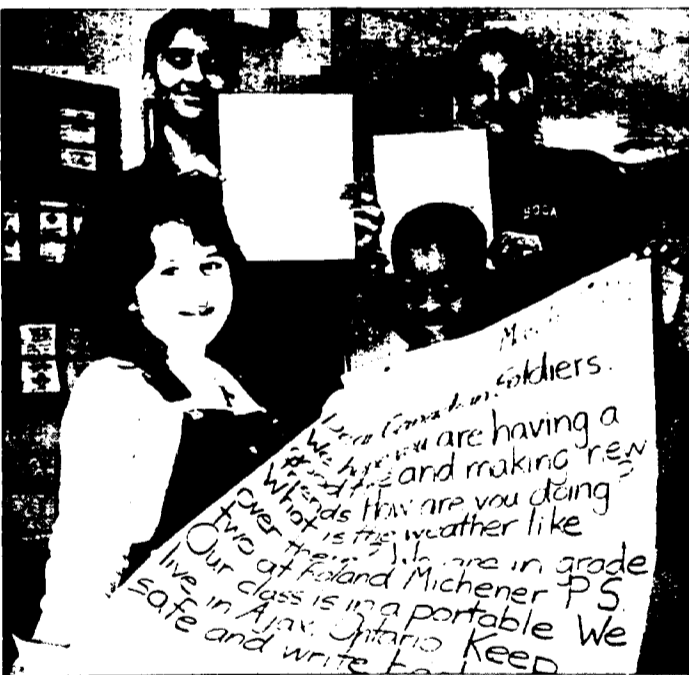


photo by Ron Pietromiro

Thinking of you

Students at Roland Michener Public School in Ajax are busy preparing letters of support for Canadian soldiers stationed in the Middle East. Best wishes from Grade 2 students Rebecca Petch, whose uncle is stationed in the area, and Justin Moncrieffe, along with those from Grade 8 students Naman Chopra and Anjali Handa will be among the letters sent to the Gulf prior to the March Break.

Lights, camera, action for conservation

If your school's students have ideas about making the world a better place, why not have fun putting it on video? The Consumers Glass 6th Annual Conservation Video Contest asks our youth to ask themselves "What will I do now that will make a difference for people in 2020?" It is an opportunity for students across the country to display their imaginations and creative ideas as they relate to the environment.

Since the contest began in 1992, more than 1,500 students from more than 300 schools have participated. According to Consumers Glass, the ideas which these bright innovative young minds have created have been transformed into videos that are thoughtful, impressive and provocative.

The student who creates the best five-minute video for the Consumers

LARRAINE ROULSTON
RECYCLER'S REPORT



Glass contest will help Canadians understand issues like recycling, natural resource conservation, and sustainable development.

If you are unfamiliar with the term sustainable development, the Brundtland Commission defined it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The full catch-phrase

is 'environmentally sustainable economic development which takes into account the long-term impact of current practices on the natural environment, natural resources, and the quality of life of all living creatures'. It is the belief that sustainable development requires us to use resources wisely, and one way to do that is to practise the three Rs. The aim of the Consumers video contest is to make you think how we can become sustainable...how we can make the world work.

To receive an information package to participate, fax 905-873-3054. The contest deadline is April 6.

The following facts indicate ways that Consumers Glass is helping reduce waste going to landfill:

— In 1988, glass made by Consumers contained just seven per cent recycled

glass. Over the past five years, recycled content has averaged about 30 per cent. — Fully 62 per cent less container glass went to landfill in 1996 than in 1988.

— A multi-million-dollar investment has been made by Consumers Glass to adapt its furnaces to use more recycled glass and to handle and store post-consumer glass.

□□□
The Pickering Central Library has several videos on recycling that can be borrowed for one week. They are to be found on the same shelves as the books on waste management and the environment. Recently, the Pickering Waste Reduction Committee added the video Garbage...Going...Going...Gone.

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

ERIC DOWD
AT QUEEN'S PARK



Premier battles confidence problem

TORONTO — Premier Mike Harris and his Progressive Conservatives are a party unsure of themselves as they are off and stumbling toward an election.

The Tories have lost poise after a series of indications they are vulnerable.

The most deflating is that despite appearing on track to keep key promises to cut income tax and balance the budget, they still have dropped in the polls to 33 per cent, the lowest level since winning the 1995 election.

Mr. Harris has responded with musings about possible new policies, among them that he will run on stamping out a mythical crime wave, promising to "let Ontarians take back the streets" and assuring "the right of all Ontarians to feel physically safe in their homes and on the streets."

One problem with this is while there is justified concern about crime, it is not a dominating issue except in a few limited areas and there are no signs the Tories could use it with great success in an election.

Other Tories are tossing around the idea of strengthening consumer protection, particularly in car collision repairs, but the trouble here is they have developed a reputation for dismantling consumer protection and allowing business owners, mostly Tories, to clean up their own acts.

Mr. Harris, so jumpy he cannot sit still, has set off on a tour of what he calls community round tables around the province to collect views, but packed them so only his own supporters can ask questions, suggesting he is nervous about meeting the public.

The premier has conceded several times that he needs to change his image, which has been one of slashing services and jobs to save money, and look more humane.

But he blew his first major opportunity by offering meagre compensation to the three surviving Dionne quintuplets, saying it was final, then quickly retreated when criticized, admitting "this hasn't been our finest hour."

One obstacle for Mr. Harris is that he does not fit naturally into the role of gracious benefactor and he knows it.

When reporters asked whether he will change his image for the election, he could not resist replying sarcastically: "Yep. The real kind, gentle, concerned Mike Harris, the one you've grown to know and love, will be there before the people."

Mr. Harris will try to recoup by bringing in a law, not mentioned in his 1995 Common Sense Revolution platform, requiring government to hold a referendum before it can increase a tax, which will appeal to the many concerned with financial prudence, but his bigger need is to show that he has heart.

The premier in the latest poll lost support particularly among senior citizens, yet he has since cut the number of visits doctors can make to nursing homes and chronic-care hospitals, which cater to the elderly.

Mr. Harris and leading Tories keep leaving endless strategy sessions, repeating that their problem is merely a failure to communicate, but while they insist their policies are blameless, they miss chances to remedy defects.

The Tories have said they will put more priority on criticizing Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty, who soared to 46 per cent in the latest poll, but they should appreciate Mr. McGuinty is high in polls not because of anything he has done, which is negligible, but because their own actions have been found wanting.

Mr. Harris also is now saying that, although governments traditionally call elections every four years, he may hold off until the year 2000.

The premier seems worried that he will be unable to fulfill all his election promises in four years, and he has said many times he will resign if he fails to keep any, or if he keeps them he will still be too low in polls to risk an election.

All this is a turnaround from the last election, when Mr. Harris won not only because he had policies that appealed, but also because he exuded confidence about them. Now he has less to be confident about.

Aches and pains

Migraine sufferers face 'constant experiment' to find a cure

By Stephen Lategan

Special to the news advertiser

Comparing a headache to a migraine is like comparing a bruise to a compound fracture.

So says Patricia McLellan, an Ajax mother of two who has suffered migraines since she was a teenager.

"Sometimes I can hardly move" during a migraine. "Sometimes I just want to die."

Symptoms of a migraine include intense, throbbing pain, nausea, lethargy, weakness, dizziness, aphasia, and sometimes short-term memory loss. Even when treated, a migraine can last for three days straight.

"I don't have normal headaches anymore," reports Mrs. McLellan. "Sometimes you want to cry, but you can't because when you cry it hurts more."

Some people who suffer migraine attacks have "never had headaches in their lives," says Dr. Douglas Waller, a Durham neurologist who has practised since 1975.

The complex and highly hereditary disorder has several influences. A long list of foods and beverages such as chocolate and red wine are potential triggers.

Even the smell of coffee can cause attacks. Rapidly falling barometric pressure, extreme cold, glaring sun, and dramatic swings in weather conditions are also common triggers.

A person's first attack will coincide with hormonal changes in the body. Typically, young boys who

suffer from migraines will be free of them once they reach puberty. Conversely, a girl will not endure such attacks until menstruation occurs. As a result, twice as many adult women suffer than men.

Different ways of coping with migraines include pain killers, taken at the time of an attack. Others are daily preventive drugs, and migraine-specific medication in the

'People think migraine sufferers are just screwing the system. There's a tremendous fight with insurance companies'

-- Dr. Douglas Waller

form of tablets, injections and nasal sprays.

"It's like a constant experiment," says Tara Godfrey, co-facilitator of the Durham Migraine Self-Help Group. "You have to be open to every new medication and hope that it works."

Unfortunately, migraine attacks can only be stopped in 10 per cent of the cases.

And for many people, nothing works. Migraine medication has "done nothing for as many people as it's helped," says Ms. Godfrey, of Courtyce. "It can be a little bit upsetting."

Ms. Godfrey, 25, a migraine sufferer since she was 11, helped start the group last January.

"We support ourselves and we support each other."

The regional organization has also endeavoured to inform the community about the condition, often misunderstood by employers and co-workers.

"Sometimes we're seen as poor copers," says Ms. Godfrey, pointing to the myth that sufferers are people who worry too much. "There are no migraine personalities."

"People can't understand that a sickness can (appear and) disappear so quickly," says Dr. Waller. "People think (migraine sufferers) are just screwing the system. (There's a) tremendous fight with insurance companies."

A nation-wide study revealed that absenteeism for the country's 3.2 million migraine sufferers amounts to 5.4 million days and \$500 million in lost productivity each year.

The fear of an attack can render sufferers afraid to accept invitations, and they may eventually become socially isolated. For many, it has meant the loss of businesses and marriages.

"I'm working on less (income) than an average person," says Mrs. McLellan. "I don't think I could hold down a full-time job. It scares me."

To contact the Durham Migraine Self-Help Group, call Tara at 433-8964 or Patricia at 683-9331.



photo by Jason Liebrechts

Pickering youngster Graham Johnston was all smiles when he received a new computer from Golden Griddle manager Rajh Egambaram as part of their children's charity events.

Dream comes true for Graham

PICKERING — Little Graham Johnston's dream of having a computer to play his favourite games has come true.

The youngster received a new computer from Golden Griddle in Pickering, which raised the money to purchase it through its Breakfast for Charity programme.

Though Graham had received a computer donated at a fund-raiser several months ago, organizers of the

Golden Griddle charity agreed the computer could be updated.

Graham has cerebral palsy and underwent an operation last summer that will give him a 90-per cent chance of being able to walk — possibly with the assistance of a cane or braces, at least temporarily.

During his rehabilitation, Durham Family Respite Network began raising money in hopes of buying a computer for Graham.



photo by A.J. Green

Mikey gets a lift

A happy Mikey Ferraz and his mother Gillian Hadley meet Winston Gandow of the Ajax Lions Club, which donated a hydraulic patient lift worth \$1,500 to the family. The Pickering youngster was born with hydrocephalus, a condition commonly referred to as 'water on the brain'. A fundraiser was held earlier this year to help the family purchase much-needed items like a special car seat. The family says it is grateful for all the help Mikey has received from the community.

Mouth guard clinic March 18 at Durham College

The dental division of the Durham Region Health Department is hosting a mouth-guard clinic for students in Grades 7 through OAC March 18 and 21 at Durham College.

The department is encouraging youth who participate in contact sports or other activities, such as rollerblading, that place their teeth at risk to use a mouth guard.

Clinics will be held on March 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. and March 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Durham College, 2000 Simcoe St. N. Mouth guards are \$20 each and are custom made to maximize comfort and safety. Students are asked to call the Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729 for information.

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photo by Andrew Iwanowski

Pastries for programs

Students Chris Hrebicek and Patricia Boetto of Exeter High school prepare some tasty treats for fellow students as part of the school's weekly food and bake sale. The treats are produced by the students for the students and proceeds from the Thursday afternoon sales go back into the program to help purchase ingredients and equipment.

BILLBOARD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
WELLNESS: The Ajax-Pickering Women's Centre hosts a free workshop on Natural Remedies for Pregnancy and Birth from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, Portable #2, Randall Dr. and Hwy. 2, Pickering Village. Register, 426-1064.
TOASTMASTERS: The Ajax-Pickering Toastmasters Club meets Wednesdays 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. Call 619-0647 or 683-4439.
CANCER: Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre holds a session on relaxation and guided imagery techniques for cancer patients and their caregivers from 7 to 8 p.m., if there is sufficient registration, at Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre 86

Colborne St. W., Oshawa. 579-4833.
CANCER: The Breast Cancer Peer Support Group holds meetings with no registration required for women living with breast cancer at Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre 86 Colborne St. W. Oshawa. 579-4833.
THURSDAY, MARCH 12
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).
CHORAL CONCERT: Pickering Christian School choir presents I Will Not Be Shaken, an evening of celebration and praise, at the school, 1030 Ravenscroft Rd., Ajax, at 7 p.m. International Christian musician Hiram Joseph will also perform. No admission charge; offering accepted. Refreshments. 427-3120 (school),

428-3796 (Susan Kay).
BREAST-FEEDING: La Leche League Pickering holds its monthly information and support meeting for pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers at 7:30 p.m. Babies welcome. For location, call 427-8063 or (416)282-6462.
CANCER: Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre holds a session on relaxation and guided imagery techniques for cancer patients and their caregivers from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre 86 Colborne St. W., Oshawa. 579-4833.
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. Presentation on Kinetic U.S. Robotics modems and scanners. 655-8013 (Anne Keeler), 623-2787 (Linda Netten).

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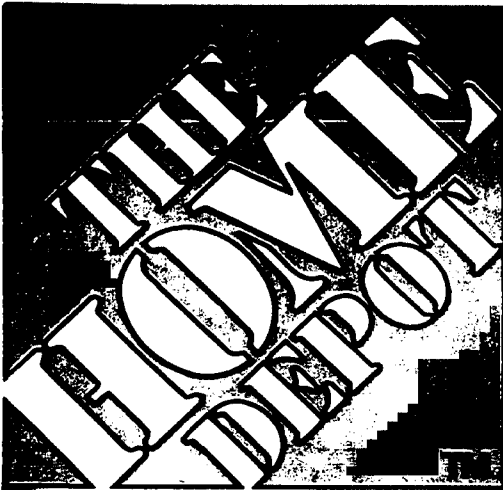
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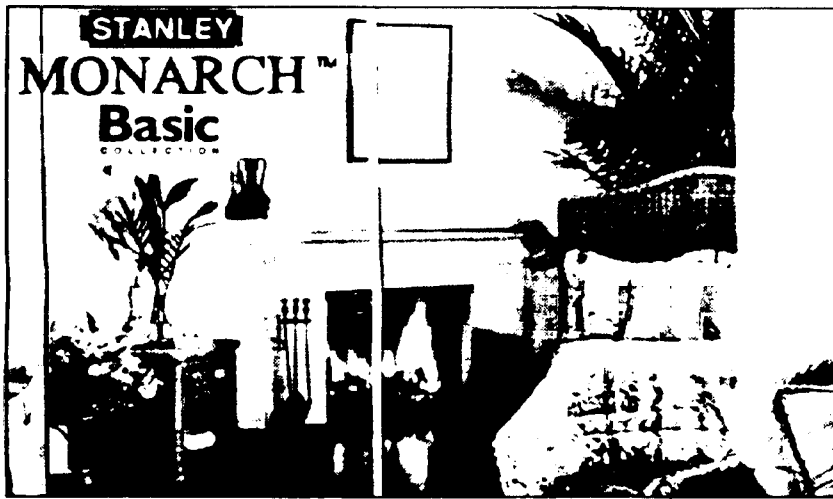
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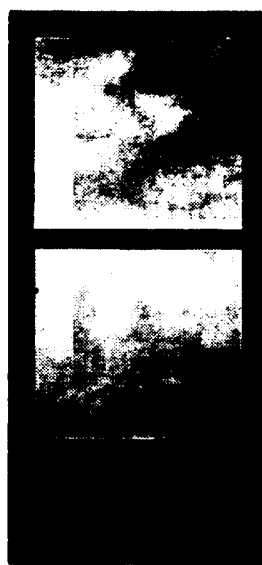


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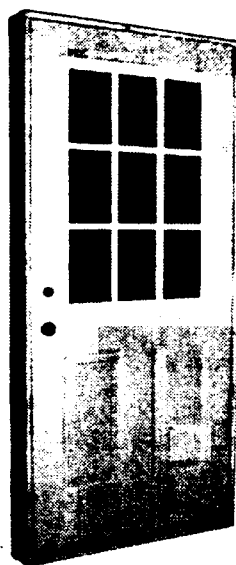


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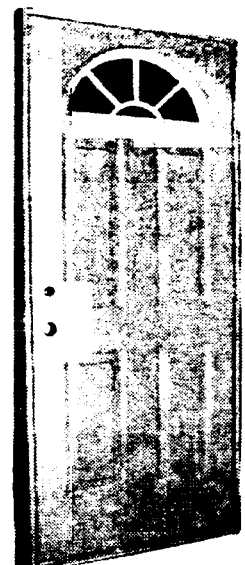
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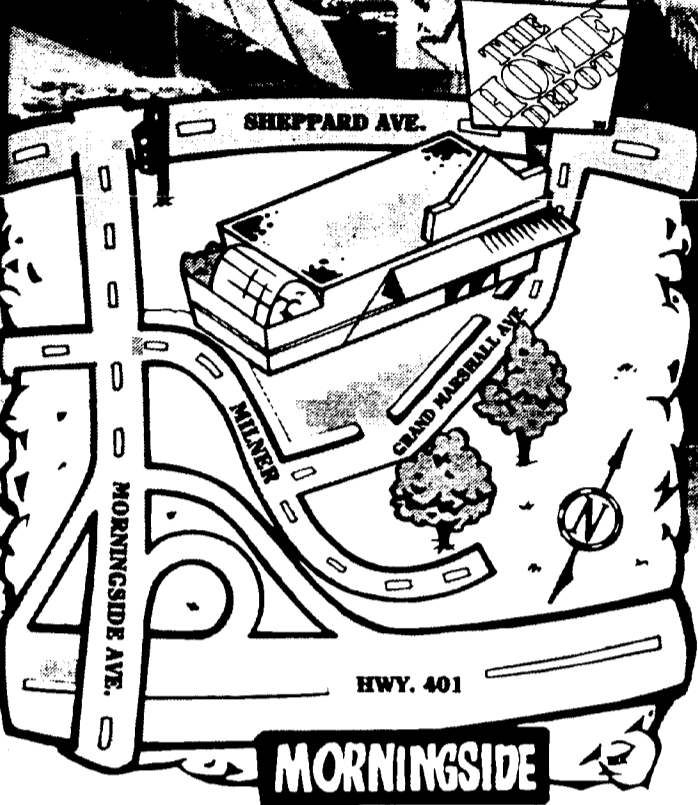
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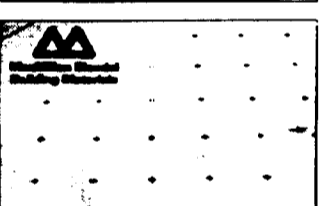
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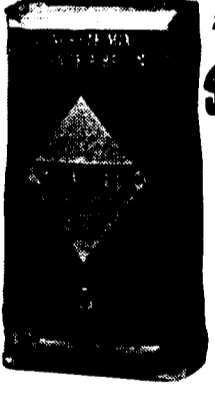
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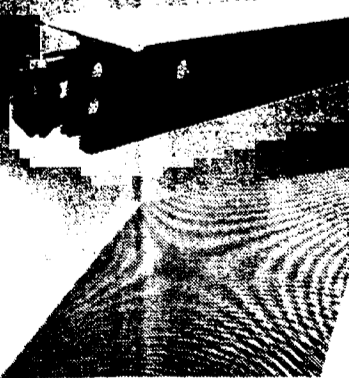


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SPORTS

RECREATION IN AJAX AND PICKERING



photo by Jason Liebrogts

Dunbarton High School's Jenny Burgess and Iain Meredith posted top results at the recent Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations Swimming

Championships in Etobicoke. Burgess won two gold medals in freestyle events while Meredith had a top-10 finish in the 100-metre backstroke.

Dunbarton swimmer

Ontario's best in two races

PICKERING — Two Dunbarton High School swimmers made a big splash against some of their best pool peers in the province last week.

Jenny Burgess and Iain Meredith turned in solid performances at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations Swimming Championships at the Etobicoke Olympium pool. Fourteen swimmers from Dunbarton competed at OFSAA.

Burgess earned a pair of gold medals at the Ontario high school championships, winning the senior girls' 100-metre freestyle and the 200-metre freestyle. She swam the 200m free in a time of 2:11.39, a mere 17/100th of a second off the OFSAA record. She also beat the second-place finisher by a wide 6.5 second margin.

"If she had someone in the race to push her, she would have broken the record," says Dunbarton swim coach Al

Johnston. Meanwhile, Meredith finished a respectable ninth in the senior boys' 100-metre backstroke.

The senior girls' 200-metre medley relay team finished 11th.

The Spartans' junior boys' 200-metre medley relay team finished 17th and was 20th in the 200m freestyle relay. Both results were respectable, considering there were 184 schools represented in the event.

High school teams begin title hunts today

PICKERING HIGH, DUNBARTON VIE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The hunt for the holy grail of high school sports begins for two local teams today.

The Pickering High School Trojans' senior boys' basketball team of Ajax and the Dunbarton High School Spartans' senior girls' volleyball team from Pickering start play Wednesday in their respective Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships.

The Trojans, who defeated St. Mary Catholic High School Monarchs in the Lake

Ontario Secondary School Athletics final last Thursday, enter the 16-team OFSAA 'AAA' championships as the number-nine seed in the province. Pickering High, which sports a record of 30-2 including a perfect league mark, plays its first-round game against the Eastern Commerce Saints from the Toronto Secondary School Athletic Association at Laurier Collegiate in Scarborough at 2 p.m. Eastern Commerce is the number-

three seed at the provincial tournament.

Meanwhile, the Dunbarton Spartans, who defeated arch-rival Anderson Collegiate for the LOSSA volleyball title, enter the 16-team OFSAA championship in Thornhill as the number-five seed in the province. The Spartans will compete in pool 'D' against number-four Brennan from Windsor, number-12 Loyalist from Belleville and number-13 A.N. Myer from Niagara Falls.

Pickering curling fan at 30th Brier

By Jim Easson

Special to the news advertiser

PICKERING — A Pickering resident has never missed a Labatt Brier Canadian Men's Curling Championship and this year is no exception.

Jack Rauch is attending his 30th Canadian Men's Curling Championship in Winnipeg this week. He has been to all of the Labatt Briers and 11 of the previous MacDonald's Briers.

In celebration of his love affair with the pinnacle of

Canadian men's curling, Rauch had a custom pin designed which he will pass out to friends and acquaintances.

Wife Tish is also keeping pace, as the Winnipeg Brier counts as number 27 for her.

Pickering Aerials flying high at big meet

PICKERING — Pickering Aerials Gymnastics Club members won plenty of medals at the recent St. Catharines Invitational Meet.

In the level 1 nine-year-old division, Jessica Man finished second overall with a third on balance beam, fourth on vault, fifth on floor exercises and sixth on uneven bars.

Danyelle Sora was third overall with a first on vault, second on floor, third on bars and 13th on beam.

Bridget Primrose placed fourth with a second on vault, fourth on floor, fifth on bars and 11th on beam.

In the level 2 nine-year-old bracket, Alicia Calderone won gold with first-place efforts on vault and floor and fourth on bars and beam.

In the level 1 11-year-old age group, Jessica Lamarre finished second all-round with a second on floor and vault, third on bars and fourth on beam.

Talyn Andrews placed third overall with a first on floor, second on beam, third on bars and ninth on vault.

Alicia Wald finished fifth all-round with a fifth on floor, vault

and beam and sixth on bars.

Brittany Lloyd was ninth with a fifth on bars and floor, sixth on vault and 13th on beam.

Briann Cassidy won the level 1 12-year-old category after placing first on vault, bars and beam and third on floor.

Kendall Patterson won the overall title in the level 2 10-year-old division. She placed first on vault, bars and floor and seventh on beam.

Alicia Mokedanz was third overall with a second on bars, third on vault and beam and fourth on floor.

Elyse Mikhelson finished 12th in the level 2 11-year-old bracket, placing second on bars, third on beam, 10th on floor and 11th on vault.

Joey Cretney captured the overall crown in the level 2 12-year-old division. She placed first on vault and floor and second on bars and beam.

Alanna Weston finished in top spot in the level 3 15-and-over category. She was first on

bars and beam, second on floor and third on vault.

In the elite 9 12-year-old age group, Vanessa Robinson won the overall title, placing first on bars and beam and fourth on vault and floor.

Julieann Passy finished close behind in second spot with a first on floor, second on bars, third on beam and fifth on vault.

In the elite 13-and-over division, Kathryn Newton placed seventh overall with a fourth on bars, seventh on floor, eighth on beam and ninth on vault.

Brooke Primrose was eighth overall with a fifth on bars, sixth on vault, seventh on beam and ninth on floor.

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AJAX MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting and Elections
Sunday, March 15, 1998
6:00 p.m.

Located in the Ajax Community Centre
Commodore Room

Positions for election:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 3rd Vice President
- Houseleague director
- Business Manager
- Ladies Aux. (Bingo)
- Secretary

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P205/70R14	190.99	94.99
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P205/70R15	203.99	101.99
P215/70R15	208.99	103.99
P 75/65R14	172.99	85.99
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SPORTS

RECREATION IN AJAX AND PICKERING

Pickering bantams can't repeat as Ontario 'AA' champions

PICKERING — The Pickering Panthers Golden Griddle minor bantam 'AA' rep hockey team won't repeat as all-Ontario champs this year as it dropped its quarter-final playoff series to the Peterborough Nationals.

The 1997 provincial champs were defeated three games to one by Peterborough in the best-of-five playoff series.

In the fourth game of the series at Don Beer Arena here, the Panthers lost a heartbreaking 4-3 overtime decision to the Nationals to eliminate Pickering from further play. Pickering led 3-2 with less than a minute to play in regulation time. But, with Peterborough's goalie on the bench, the Nationals were able to score the equalizer and send the contest into overtime. Pickering came

out strong in the extra frame, hitting the post once and just failing to convert a two-on-one break. Peterborough scored at 8:15 of the 10-minute overtime period.

Mitch Grigoriadis, Mark Rogers and Jonathan Walsh scored for Pickering. Michael Dawson, Evan Georgievski, David Hughes, Mark Rogers and Scott Vahey drew assists.

In the first game of the series at the Evinrude Arena in Peterborough, the Nationals scored early and held on for a 2-1 victory over Pickering.

Ryan Pelan scored the lone Panthers' goal. Andrew Hopkins and Vahey drew assists. Garrett McKinnon played well in net after a nervous start. Defencemen James Judges and Brandon Saker stopped several Peterborough threats.

Captain Scott Billing returned from a recent concussion to lead his Panther teammates to a 3-1 victory at home to tie up the series. Hopkins, Pelan and Walsh scored. Assisting were Grigoriadis, Hopkins, Hughes, Pelan and Vahey with one apiece. A strong physical performance by Rocky Ruta slowed down the opposition.

Pickering came out flat in the first period of game three, allowing Peterborough to take a two-goal lead. The Nats buried another before Walsh scored in the last minute of play to break the Peterborough netminder's shutout bid in a 3-1 loss. Adam Moyer and Kevin Rogers drew assists.

Pickering now drops into league playoffs to face either Ajax or Belleville for the Eastern Division championship.

SCOREBOARD

FAX GAME RESULTS TO 683-7363

PICKERING MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

PLAYOFFS - MARCH 2 - MASTERS - GAME ONE

Melane Pringles 63 vs. Gallantry's Eatery 51

TOP SCORERS

Melane Pringles, Randy Finski 20, Bruce Beard 15, Kevin Walker 10, Gallantry's Ray Fox 17, Bob Nickleford 14, Steve Leahy 9, Brad Hewitt 8

GAME TWO

Van Kempen Insurance 45 vs. Envoy Business Systems 37

TOP SCORERS

Van Kempen Don Leahy 16, Dave Bayless 10, Ralph Vandewell 8, Envoy Business Systems Roger Young 13, James Williamson 8, Ron Faragher 8

GAME THREE

Mud Hen's 40 vs. Club Link 27

TOP SCORERS

Mud Hen's John Esposito 15, Jean Lariveste 10, Club Link Bill Green 6, Mike Jovanov 6, Glenn Scott 6

NON-MASTERS - WK 2 PLAYOFFS GAME ONE

Gallantry's Eatery 66 vs. Melane Pringles 49

TOP SCORERS

Gallantry's Carl Lyle 19, Denver Daley 17, Vascoe Yarde 15, Melane Pringles Elman McLean 11, Grallon Hope 9, Pat Brown 8

GAME TWO

Mud Hen's 80 vs. Insurance Portfolo 56

TOP SCORERS

Mud Hen's Conrad Davis 19, Roy Cousins 16, Donovan Smith 11, Insurance Portfolo Mike Stanley 15, Nor Walker 12, William Daniel 9, Brent Sullivan 8

GAME THREE

Penny's Auto Service 66 vs. El-Rod Holdings 40

TOP SCORERS

Penny's Neal Tynell 18, Junior Clayton 17, Mike Sinclair 10, El-Rod Holdings Clem Forde 14, Don Dugley 9, Devon Stanton 8

PLAYOFFS - WK 1 - FEB. 23 - MASTERS - GAME ONE

Gallantry's Eatery 60 vs. Van Kempen Insurance 46

TOP SCORERS

Gallantry's Ray Fox 22, Steve Leahy 14, Bob Nickleford 9, Van Kempen Pat Roach 14, Al Sakata 12, Don Leahy 11

GAME TWO

Melane Pringles 52 vs. Mud Hen's 42

TOP SCORERS

Randy Finski 18, Bruce Beard 15, Bill Elliott 8, Mud Hen's Randy Jones 10, John Esposito 10, Bill Boston 8

GAME THREE

Club Link 58 vs. Envoy Business Systems 40

TOP SCORERS

Club Link Frank Gato 17, Reuben DeFrance 14, Glenn Scott 14, Envoy Jim Wilkinson 10, Ron Faragher 7, James Williamson 6

PLAYOFFS - WK 1 - FEB. 23 - NON-MASTERS - GAME ONE

El-Rod Holdings 65 vs. Insurance Portfolo 53

TOP SCORERS

El-Rod Devon Stanton 27, Dwight Calley 15, George Cameron 9, Insurance Blake Stewer 17, Nor Walker 16, Brent Sullivan 13

Rare tie in women's basketball

AJAX — Glenn's Auto Service and Dakota Bob's were fit to be tied in Ajax Ladies' Recreational Basketball League play recently.

In a tough defensive contest, Glenn's tied the game with less than a minute to go and the teams ended in a 22-22 deadlock.

Anne Whitehead netted 10 points for Glenn's. Mary Jane Allen scored six points for Dakota Bob's.

In the second game of the night, East Side Mario's took a half-time lead despite good shooting by the Bank of Montreal and hung on to post a 31-23 victory.

Joanna Reardon scored 20 points for East Side Mario's. Cheryl Jedemann had six for the Bank of Montreal.

Players in the league live in Ajax and Pickering.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM
IN THE MATTER OF,
THE MUNICIPAL ACT

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham may pass by-laws authorizing construction of the following projects

ROAD NO.	ROAD NAME	MUNICIPALITY	DESCRIPTION
2	Simcoe St @ Highway 7	Brook	Intersection improvements
28	Rossland Rd @ Gerrard Rd	Whitby	Intersection improvements including signalization
37	Finch Ave @ Fairport Rd	Pickering	Intersection improvements including signalization
54	Park Rd from Bloor St to General Motors Gate 5	Oshawa	Road widening and reconstruction including widening of the C.M.R. bridge
Hwy 2	Kingston Rd. from Harwood Ave to Pickering Beach Rd	Ajax	Road urbanization
Hwy 2	Kingston Rd @ Rosebank Rd	Pickering	Intersection improvements including signalization

Plans showing the details of the projects and the lands affected may be seen at the offices of the Durham Works Department, 100 Consumers Drive, Whitby, Ontario. Telephone (905) 868-7721 or 1-800-372-1103

Dated at Whitby this 27th day of February, 1998

T. PREVEDEL, P. ENG.
 DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Works Committee being delegated by Regional Council as the hearing body shall hear in person or by his or her counsel, solicitor or agent, any person prejudicially affected by the by-laws and who applies on or before April 3rd, 1998, to the undersigned to be heard at a meeting of the Works Committee on April 14th, 1998

Y.A. SILGAILIS, P. ENG.
 COMMISSIONER OF WORKS

HEY DURHAM!
 We want to know the

101 Great Things About DURHAM REGION

Fax or write us your favorite activities in Durham Region. The results will be published in our upcoming "Your Community Guide" that will be available in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington and Port Perry.

One of the entries will receive a **19" color TV** as a special draw

Deadline for entries is **Friday April 17th**

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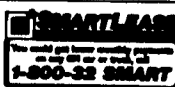


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ENTERTAINMENT

THE NIGHT LIFE IN AJAX & PICKERING

Trio has Ajax talent, special sound for Bandwarz

By Tony Doyle
Durham staff

Authorization for reuse is unlikely — the back cover of the debut compact disc from Magic Box couldn't sum the group up any better.

The three locals are out to make a difference when they're on stage — as in a different sound, different look and different instruments.

Featuring Oshawa's Darrel Davies, Johnny Pollard of Whitby and Ajax resident Frederick Squire, the group will be at Bandwarz March 13 for the Durham College Pub-based weekly lineup of music talent that runs Fridays until April 17, and they have plenty planned.

First they are using the night as a compact disc release party for their nine-number compilation 'It's Not Tomorrow,' a recording they earned after winning a contest at a Toronto bar, but more importantly they will be out to improve upon last year's 'warz where they finished in the top 10.

Together for two years now, the three mostly self-taught musicians won't ever be confused with the majority of acts found in and around Durham, or even the province and country for that matter. Incorporating a bit of a Japanese sound, along with East Indian, Austrian, and African, the three have made an effort to make their own mark.

"We use different instruments that we think will become less tiresome instead of the same things over and over again," says

the 19-year-old Pollard.

"I guess you could say it could be the novelty of the band, finally something different. We hope (audiences) like the sound as well. There's been good response so far."

Among their collection is hand drums — the djembe, dumbek, tabla — electric and acoustic guitar, the sitar, a friend's creation

"I guess you could say it could be the novelty of the band, finally something different. We hope audiences like the sound as well. There's been good response so far."

— Johnny Pollard

from an old organ called the magic box (hence the name), alto and soprano saxes and the piece that generates the most discussion, the didgeridoo.

"Where's your snake?" is just one of the comments Davies, 18, recalls hearing about the instrument.

"Some people think it's a big rain stick and some people think it's a big pipe," added Squire. "They're really shocked when they hear some of the stuff."

He added, "It's kind of like a music and information hour. Sometimes people come up and say 'What was that?'"

However, Pollard's quick to warn, "There's nothing too outrageous that any-

one can't listen to it."

In fact, the three proudly note their sound offers such a unique twist at times they find themselves playing to a somewhat passive audience.

"We'll play a concert and if the floor is clean everybody sits down and enjoys the mood, the quiet," says Pollard.

Added Davies, "If one person is talking, you can actually hear what he is saying."

And if truth be told, they don't mind it a bit.

"I'd rather see people standing there or sitting there than throwing themselves in the air," said the 18-year-old Squire.

Up for grabs when they arrive at Bandwarz is \$1,000 cash to the winning group, along with 12 hours of recording studio time valued at \$900 from Q107 SkyLab Recording Studio and \$500 towards compact disc manufacturing provided by Music Manufacturing Services. More than 55 bands are taking part over the eight weeks.

Whether they grab top spot or not, the three admit they're looking to increase their work outside Durham Region, are aiming for air time on college and university radio stations and are looking for a manager to help them obtain more work. They'll also have copies of their CD available at the college for \$15 each.

"I think we have a good chance again (at winning) just because we've had more practice and a chance to refine our skills on individual instruments and keep getting better," said Squires.



Magic Box features the talents of Oshawa's Darrel Davies, Whitby resident Johnny Pollard and Ajax's Frederick Squire. The trio is currently competing in the Bandwarz competition featuring Durham bands and bring their eclectic mix of sounds to the stage.

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 Probate and Family Court Department
 Norfolk Division
 Docket No. 98A0012-AC1
 CITATION
 M.G.L. c. 210, § 6

In the Matter of Jessica Elizabeth Lee Lawrence, minor

To any unknown or unnamed father, and all persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child.

A petition has been presented to said court by The Adoption Program of Parents' and Children's Services, of Newton, MA praying for leave to adopt said child.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Dedham/649 High St., P.O. Box 269, Dedham, MA 02027-0269 before ten o'clock in the forenoon (10:00 A.M.) on March 25, 1998.

Witness: David H. Kopelman, Esquire, First Justice of said Court.
 Date: February 11, 1998.

Thomas Patrick Hughes,
 Register of Probate

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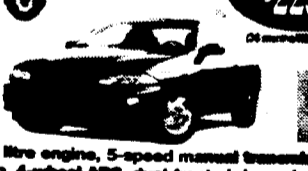


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SPORTS

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Durham West Lightning tykes strike for tourney title

The Durham West Lightning Original Professional Car Phone Equipment tyke select girls' hockey team went undefeated en route to the championship at the fourth annual Durham West Girls' Hockey Association Invitational Tournament recently.

In the championship game, the Lightning nipped the Scarborough Sharks 5-4 in a closely contested match. After trailing through much of the game, the Lightning took the lead with just 4:02 remaining. Kathleen Masaki and Natalie Spooner scored two goals apiece. Kaitlyn Hill netted a single. Assisting were Lee-Ann Murphy, Kimberly Caggiula, Spooner, Jessica Thain, Masaki, Brooke Sawyer and Laura Waters, with one apiece. Goalie Christina Paterson came up with a big effort to preserve the victory.

The tyke Lightning won all three of its round-robin contests, defeating the Scarborough Sharks 4-2, Mississauga Mini-Chiefs 2-0 and Barrie Sharks 9-0.

In the first game against Scarborough, the Lightning got goals from Spooner with two, Murphy and Masaki with one each. Caggiula drew two assists, Paterson, Masaki, Hill and Spooner had one apiece.

Against the Mini-Chiefs, Spooner's goal at the 7:46 mark of the third period proved to be the game winner. Waters and Masaki drew assists. Waters scored an insurance marker to put the game out of reach.

The Lightning put an exclamation point on round-robin play by blitzing the Barrie Sharks 9-0. Masaki netted a

hat trick. Spooner scored twice. Sawyer, Alyson Ware, Jessica Vella and Murphy tallied once each.

Assisting were Spooner with four, Hill with three, Waters with two, Alannah Wakefield, Thain, Deanna Parry,

Stephanie Fraser, Lynsey Nakamura, Murphy, Ware and Masaki with one apiece.

The team is coached by Dean Parry, Alan Paterson, Mark Vella and Scott Hill. The practice coach is Jim English.

Swimmers in synch at elite meet

Durham Synchronized Swim Club members were in synch at the recent Waterloo Regional Routine Meet at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Durham's 12-to-14-year-old team, coached by Michele Loper, finished sixth out of more than 20 routines performed before a panel of five judges who scored swim teams on technical and artistic impression.

Team members are Stephanie Bonnar, Jennifer Guy, Lara Goldsmith, Rebecca Jasper, Krista Legault, Jillian Rorabeck, Lauren Souch, Tina St. John and Michelle Wever.

Durham's 12-14 provincial team, coached by Rochelle Fernandez, finished in 12th place in its first year of competitive swimming.

Team members are Hailey Agnew, Melanie Charlebois, Trista Guerrieri, Larissa Hawryluk, Severn Nelson, Lindsay Parfitt, Jenilee Keslering and Stephanie Turner.

Members of the Durham Synchronized Swim Club reside in Ajax and Pickering.

Annandale team bows out at curling playdowns

By Jim Esson

Special to the News Advertiser

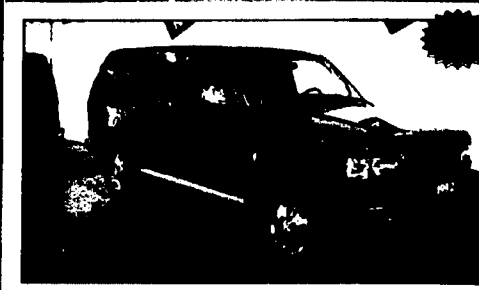
AJAX — An Annandale team was left on the sidelines after competing at the Comfort & Quality Hotels Intermediate men's Regional Playdowns at Omemee last weekend.

After earning a berth at the zone level at Annandale on Feb. 9, the Annandale rink of skip Gerry Pinkney, vice John Thain, second Doug Lawson and lead Rick Moak fell short of moving on to the Ontario finals in St. Catharines later this month.

Meanwhile, a mixed rink from Annandale won the Heritage Bonsel at the Scarborough Country Club recently. Skip Carl Prince entered his team of Sharon Leung, Raymond Prince and Susan Prince in the event for the first time and ended up winning on overall points.

Ajax residents Bob and Kristen Turcotte were winners at the Labatt Mixed 2 Zone 7 Playdown at the Thornhill Country Club. The Scarborough Country Club team was skipped by Bob Turcotte, with wife Kristen at vice, Roy Weigand at second and Andrea Lawes at the lead position. The Turcotte rink will now advance to the regional event at the Granite Club in April.

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