

NEWS ADVERTISER

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Happy Holidays...

from the staff of
the News Advertiser



Students hit candidates with questions

Teenagers come to meeting ready to listen and learn

By Crystal Crimi
Staff Writer

AJAX — With questions about military aid, violence and post-secondary education, Ajax teenagers received answers firsthand this week from federal candidates.

The NDP's Kevin Modeste, Conservative Rondo Thomas and Liberal incumbent Mark Holland sat on an Ajax High School stage Dec. 20, fielding questions from new and future voters at a debate for Ajax-Pickering Riding candidates. The Green Party was invited, but unable to attend, said Jim Wiseman, a teacher and organizer of the event.

"I thought it was good we got the experience to listen to their



thoughts," said 15-year-old Steven Garner, after the debate.

"It's really important for young people to vote. We need to know their points of view and who we agree with."

Joining Steven in the audience were about 400 teenagers in Grade 10 and 12. Mr. Wiseman said students from the two grades were selected because they are either studying politics through civics or are close to or have reached voting age.

For the debate, candidates

♦ See Candidates, Page 5

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



PICKERING — Darla Leroux stopped by the Pickering Town Centre Wednesday to have a chat with Santa in advance of his visit tonight. Boys and girls across Pickering are looking forward to the big day tomorrow.

Jason Liebrechts/ News Advertiser photo

Santa Fund delivers Christmas to remember

Almost 600 Ajax and Pickering children receive gift boxes filled with presents

By Crystal Crimi
Staff Writer

DURHAM — For hundreds of Ajax and Pickering families in need this year, the Santa Claus Fund delivered.



Thanks to donations and volunteer time, 45,000 gift boxes were delivered to nearly 25,000 families across the Greater Toronto Area this month, including 582 boxes in Ajax and Pickering.

"In many cases, it's the only gift the child will get," said Barbara Mrozek, public relations executive

for the Toronto Star's Santa Claus Fund, adding some parents are reduced to tears when they receive a Santa Fund gift box.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the fund and the second consecutive year the Ajax and Pickering News Advertiser has participated.

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♦ See Helping, Page 8

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Drunk driving charges 'staggering', officer says

To date, 65 arrested in four weeks of RIDE

By Jeff Mitchell
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Every night they set up and wait for them.

And every night they come -- 65 of them so far.

That's the number of drivers charged with drinking and driving in the first four weeks of the Durham Regional Police annual Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program. And it's got cops scratching their heads.

Last year by this time, police in Durham had charged 45 drivers. This year in neighbouring York Region, 12 people had been charged with drinking and driving through three weeks of RIDE. In Toronto, where they'd stopped more than 55,000 vehicles in just under four weeks, 52 drunk driving-related charges were laid. Provincially, the OPP had arrested 164 drunk drivers in three weeks.

"It's staggering," said Sergeant Jeff Galipeau.

Last week alone, 21 people were arrested for drinking and driving in Durham, while another 30 had their licences suspended for

12 hours when roadside breath tests indicated a warning level.

The increase in charges has come despite the fact Durham police have checked fewer vehicles than in 2004, Sgt. Galipeau said. Using intelligence-based resource management, the 10-member RIDE team has been positioned in places where they're more likely to catch drinking drivers.

But that accounts for only a part of the spike in drunk driving being witnessed this year in Durham, Sgt. Galipeau said.

"It (strategic placement of RIDE checks) should not have made this big a difference," he said. "We've stopped a lot less cars this year, yet our charges are 20 per cent higher."

"Basically we're scratching our heads and saying, 'What's happening?'"

Sgt. Galipeau harkens back a decade and a half, when the campaign against drunk driving was most vigorously promoted. The public education campaign paid off in reduced numbers of impaired driving incidents, he said.

He wonders if it's not time to crank up the PR machine again.

"I think we have to go back to square one," Sgt. Galipeau. "We did a lot of media, a lot of advertising and we were winning the battle."

"What we're seeing (now) is not acceptable."

Sgt. Galipeau also hopes for more year-round RIDE details to reinforce the message -- and catch more drunk drivers. He said for every one caught, there are likely several more impaired drivers out there.

People caught driving with more than the legal blood-alcohol level in their systems will face serious criminal charges in the courts. And under the Highway Traffic Act, they'll also have their driver's licence suspended for 90 days immediately upon being

charged.

Durham officers will continue to conduct RIDE checks throughout the region until the end of the holiday season. Sgt. Galipeau credits an "energetic" and dedicated team for taking on the unenviable task.

"It's not a nice duty," he said. "You're out there in the cold, you're out there in the rain. You've got drunk drivers coming at you."

"It's hard to find people who want to do that."

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Candidates share views on election issues

◆ Candidates from page 1

were able to say a bit about themselves, answer questions collected from students and field a couple from the audience. Mr. Thomas was first to speak.

"I look at you and I look at your faces and my concern is because this country has been so good to me, I want it to be equally good to you," he said, adding he is concerned about jobs and future schooling for youth.

Mr. Modeste spoke next and said "it kind of rings hollow" when people say you're the future of tomorrow, but they aren't providing any opportunities.

"The future doesn't look as bright as it once did," he said.

When it was Mr. Holland's turn, he said Canada is better now than when he was growing up and referred to the country's current low unemployment rates. He also said one of the things he's been working on is trying to engage youth in politics and if the debate crowd represented the average, only one in four of them would vote.

To a question about violence, Mr. Modeste referred to Prime Minister Paul Martin's proposed handgun band and asked how Canada can be secure against illegal guns when some Canadian border crossings go unwatched at night. He said Canada can't keep making laws with no teeth.

Mr. Holland said we need to look at the root causes of violence, sentencing and other opportunities to deter violence.

"Crime is at its worst when hope is at its least," said Mr. Holland.

To the same question, Mr. Thomas said Canada already has a band on illegal guns and the country has to work with young people to deter crime. He asked what people expect when they label a group of youth Generation X and imply there's nothing out there for them.

"You're not the X Generation, you're the next generation," said Mr. Thomas.

On post-secondary education, Mr. Holland said the issue of accessibility needs to be examined, but lowering tuition for everybody, including for people who can afford it, doesn't make sense. Mr. Thomas talked about tax breaks for education books and tools and changing the loan structure and Mr. Modeste said the NDP will dedicate \$4 billion to post-secondary education.

Students also had questions on taxes, national debt, legalizing marijuana, the Pickering airport, health care and military aid.

Following the debate, teenager Mark Wetzel said he thinks the chance to hear directly from local politicians will encourage more students to vote.

"It was good; I enjoy it," said Mark. "Before I wasn't interested, but now I see how important it is to our community."

◆ Candidate Q and A, Page 10



Offering a hand of gratitude

PICKERING — Deanna Collier, left, and Stacey Ainsworth enjoy the entertainment at the recent Christmas Party hosted by Pickering Toyota for families that frequent food banks, Catholic Family Services and Girls Inc. The party was at the Pickering Recreation Complex.

Jason Liebrechts/
News Advertiser photo

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

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EDITORIAL

Optimism for 2006

It was the day before Christmas and all across Durham, not a creature was stirring; better yet, we can only hope no one was seeking your vote!

Yes, by the time you read this editorial it will indeed be Christmas and the holiday season will be in full swing. It's a time to be with family, raise a toast to your good fortune and, above all else, prepare for the World Junior Hockey tournament!

It's also a time to be responsible. It may be tempting to overindulge with that extra glass of wine or beer but remember, if you plan to drink, take a taxi home. Far too many people have been caught in Durham Regional Police's RIDE program this year and even one inebriated driver on the road is one too many.

In addition to spending time with family it's also a good week to say a farewell of sorts to Cullen Gardens Miniature Village. The popular Durham tourist attraction is set to close Jan. 1, so catch the final Festival of Lights this week because if you miss it, you won't get another chance. Cullen Gardens' departure will indeed be an economic and personal blow for many families in Durham, one of several disappointments this past year. Coupled with the GM announcement last month of the elimination of the third shift in Car Plant No. 1 in 2006 and the total elimination of Car Plant No. 2 by 2008 and we've had our share of bad news.

But all is not lost. In fact, as we sit down tomorrow for a Christmas feast politicians of all political stripes are working on plans to better our situation in Durham. They may not all agree on how to get things done but, there isn't anyone running for office who doesn't care about this community, its people, places and institutions. The winners will take our best interests with them to Ottawa and fight for what's right.

There's been a lot happen so far in 2005, and we've been privileged to report it to you every day. We thank you for allowing us into your homes and wish each and every one of our you a happy holiday season.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A reader's gridlock fix

To the editor:

The gridlock situation in Toronto has been a hot topic in the news lately as the government tries to find alternative ways to solve the problem. With 70 to 80 per cent of new immigrants settling into big cities every year, the problem is going to get worse. The politicians or planners are proposing to set up toll roads to generate more revenue to fix and widen the roads, however, the gas tax is supposed to pay for all necessary repairs.

Toronto councillor Howard Moscoe spent \$12,000 to go to Italy to study its transit system and yet no new solutions have been discovered. After watching a recent talk show I came to the following solution for solving the problem: if the government took some of the money to be used to build new highways and widen roads, a temporary solution, and dedicated it to improving its transit system, I feel congestion would decrease. Expanding the GO train system in all directions as well as putting more trains on route more frequently would be a possible solution.

I realize train fares can get quite costly, so therefore I propose the government subsidize the transit system by using the gas tax to reduce fares to half, which would make it more enticing and affordable. Hopefully, this solution would reduce the amount of cars travelling in and out of the city.

By building more condos and apartments within walking distance people would be more encouraged to take the train. Not only would they save themselves the frustrations of driving, but they would save money on gas and parking. With all of this said I wonder what the road contractors would think!

Robert Milligan
Ajax



Lighting a fire under property owners is good government policy

There's a saying that sometimes you have to light a fire under somebody in order to get his attention.

In the case of not having a smoke alarm, by the time the fire is lit under somebody it's too late — they're dead.

So last week's announcement by Ontario's minister of community safety and correctional services, making smoke alarms law in every single family, semi-detached and town home, whether owned or rented, is welcome news. Every house in Ontario will need to have a working smoke alarm on every floor as of March 1, 2006. The old regulations only required one alarm per dwelling unit.

But the question that came to my mind when I heard the announcement was, "What took so long?"

Smoke alarms have been a part of every home I've lived in since I was a boy. I remember the alarm going off many times during my youth whenever mom left something on the oven too long while chasing my brother and me around the house. Each time we all took a dish towel and waved it frantically at the smoke alarm until all was quiet again.

But that's how I was brought up and when I was young I figured smoke alarms were the law. I'm sure there are many people who never had fun waving a dish towel at a blaring smoke alarm. It may have been annoying for my parents when that thing went off but at least they had peace of mind that it would go off again if it was an emergency.

The Ontario Fire Marshal reports that 609 fatal fires occurred in Ontario be-



Ian McMillan
staff editor

tween 1995 and 2004. In 50 per cent of those cases there was no smoke alarm warning that would have alerted the homeowners to get out of the house.

Fire departments go out of their way across the province to stress the importance of having properly installed and working smoke detectors. But they can only do so much. That is why the government has had to step in.

Far too often the media reports of tragedies involving families and house fires. If someone has died it's usually because there were no working smoke alarms in the house.

Nobody likes to have the government tell them what to do or how to run their lives, but in this case I think they really had no choice. If even one death is prevented by this legislation it will be worth the aggravation of somebody having to install a smoke detector.

It's a small price to pay to save a life.
Ian McMillan is a Metroland Durham Region Media Group news editor. E-mail him at imcmillan@durhamregion.com.

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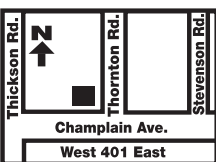


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NEWS ADVERTISER

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PORT PERRY STAR

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Metroland Durham Region Media Group

Helping Pickering and Ajax residents in need

◆ Helping from page 1

shared the same type of experience," said Tim Whittaker, publisher of the Metroland Durham Region Media Group, which includes the News Advertiser. "They were greeted by people genuinely appreciative of the gifts and the fact that so many people were giving up their time to make the deliveries and make it a Christmas to remember.

"The Santa Fund is a reminder that many of our neighbours, for a variety of different reasons, find themselves in need of a helping hand at this point as they work to get back on their feet. We'll work going forward to help it expand so children in east Durham communities can also benefit from this most worthwhile cause."

Presents were delivered locally from Dec. 10 to 18 by Ajax and Pickering Scouts, their parents, as well as News Advertiser employee volunteers.

Ms. Mrozek noted that up to 10,000 volunteers participated across the GTA, playing an integral role in delivering gifts. By being a part of the children's charity, people are able to turn away from the commercial aspect of the holiday and lend a helping hand, she said.

Ms. Mrozek says the charity feels a lot of pride in its readers who have stepped up to the plate and made donations. This year's goal of \$1.35 million was exceeded this week.

"Amount doesn't matter as long as everyone pitches in," she said.

More than \$10,000 was raised in Ajax and Pickering for the Santa Fund, twice as much as last year.

Of the money raised, 100 per cent goes toward the gift boxes, which include clothing, candy and toys. Recipients are chosen through an application process completed by community agencies registered with the charity.

Ms. Mrozek said for some families, even having to replace hats and mitts for their children is tough.

"I don't think people want to be on that side of life, but sometimes circumstances are beyond their control," Ms. Mrozek added.

In some cases, Santa Fund recipients grow up to become volunteers or donors as well.

"They sort of return a bit of happiness, it comes full circle," said Ms. Mrozek.

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Pickering-Scarborough East Riding votes Jan. 23

Q & A

NEWS ADVERTISER

with the candidates



We've asked the Pickering-Scarborough East Riding candidates a number of questions submitted by readers. Today we print the third question and the candidate answers. Watch upcoming editions for more questions and answers.

Assuming there will be a referendum in Quebec in 2008 or shortly thereafter, how would you ensure Quebec voters vote 'no' to separation?

Brownridge says loss of trust has been key factor

I do not feel that a referendum in 2008 is a foregone conclusion. Quebecers, like all Canadians, want to have their voice heard by their elected representatives in Ottawa. The loss of trust toward the old-line parties is a major factor in the rise of the Bloc Quebecois and perceived rise of the separatist movement in Quebec. We need to sit down with community and social groups across Quebec, and the rest of Canada for that matter, and discuss how we can include their viewpoints to create a more just, equal and free Canada.



JEFF BROWNRIDGE
Green Party

Accountability act will offer alternative, says Dobson

Just a couple of years ago, support for the separatist cause in Quebec was at a low ebb. The rise of renewed separatist sentiment has been a direct result of the systemic corruption proven to exist within the Liberal government and the Liberal Party for many years, reported earlier this year in the Gomery Report. Quebec voters want an alternative to a corrupt government and a separatist party. The first legislation passed by a new Conservative government will be the Accountability Act, designed to restore confidence in the federal government. Prosecutions of those involved in government corruption will follow.



TIM DOBSON
Conservative



The economy

From the Liberal Party website at www.liberal.ca:

Canada's strong economic performance means real benefits for individual Canadians. Between January 2003 and today, the Canadian economy has produced 500,000 new jobs, almost all of them full-time. Over 200,000 new jobs were created in 2005 alone, and the unemployment rate has reached its lowest level in three decades.

These higher employment rates have led to an extra 14 per cent in overall disposable income in Canadian wallets since 1996, resulting in increased consumer confidence, higher consumer spending and, ultimately, higher business confidence.

All this, combined with low and steady interest rates, rising incomes, and a greatly reduced tax burden, translates into a bright future for Canadian businesses and families.

With each Question and Answer with candidates we'll print a different party's take on a key issue of the election campaign.

Provinces need more say in services, believes Dale



GARY DALE
NDP

We need to make Canada the kind of country that people want to belong to. The federal government has to engage the provinces in providing the services everyone wants instead of competing on a downward spiral of cuts. And we need to follow the provinces when they have programs that work. For example, Quebec had the best child-care program in Canada. The federal government could have exported that model to the other provinces instead of conducting useless studies on how to funnel taxpayers' money to the private sector.

Liberals know how to fight separatists: McTeague



DAN McTEAGUE
Liberal

To fight the separatists, Quebec must be represented in Parliament. The Conservatives and NDP are unlikely to win a single seat in Quebec. Liberals know how the separatists operate. That's why we passed the Clarity Act to ensure Quebecers will face a clear referendum question. I campaigned in the last referendum and I would do so again. As a bilingual Canadian, I know the benefits we all share living in a strong and united Canada. Conservative leader Stephen Harper's cosy relationship with the Bloc to bring down the government would not be as cordial when the country's fate is in the balance.

We asked Pickering students: If there's a referendum in 2008, how can the federal government ensure Quebec voters vote 'no' to separation?

Asked at Dunbarton High School



Justin Khan

'The government has had no problem taking money away from very important things before so they'd have no problem dumping more money in Quebec... I think Quebec would like to see a more French influence in the rest of Canada, it would please them.'



Meaghan Edwards

'Let the French language and culture be throughout the whole country, not just in little parts.'



Laila Elkalza

'I guess money would work, but I don't know if you should be swaying them to get them to do what they don't want to do.'



Andrew Murray

'I don't think we should try to persuade them to vote no (if they don't want to).'

Q & A

NEWS ADVERTISER

with the candidates

We've asked the Ajax-Pickering Riding candidates a number of questions submitted by readers. Today we print the third question and the candidate answers. Watch upcoming editions for more questions and answers.



Korus wonders what other candidates think



RUSSELL KORUS
Green Party

Let me know if any of the other candidates comes up with a good answer to this one, because if I knew a way to ensure that voters voted a certain way then I'd already be prime minister.

A truly national party, Liberals are the best hope: Holland

I don't think it's merely partisan to suggest that national unity depends on a truly national party that represents all regions of Canada. The Liberals are the only party represented in every province, and the only federalist party represented in Quebec. We need people in Ottawa who can communicate with Quebecers in their own language and who understand them. That's why I've made mastering French a personal priority. Ultimately, Quebecers will want to remain in Canada if our economy remains strong. The double-digit unemployment and interest rates of the Mulroney Conservatives contributed to the unity crisis of the early 1990s.



MARK HOLLAND
Liberal

NDP will deliver the results Quebec wants: Modeste

Canada's best defence against the separatist vote is the presence of a true social-democratic alternative in Ottawa. Although the Bloc continues to ride public contempt to record success in the polls, they have actually done very little to protect the interests of Quebec. Defending the true interests of Quebecers -- and Canada -- will come by continuing the progress of the last Parliament's NDP budget. Like the rest of the country, Quebec wants a government that gets results -- leadership that invests in our people and defends our common interests -- not one that simply talks about them.



KEVIN MODESTE
NDP

Quebec wants responsible government, says Thomas

Liberals have been the dividing force in Quebec. Removing them from office is a good first step. All provinces want less federal interference in provincial issues and we will do that. Finally, by providing a responsible and accountable government, Quebecers will feel more inclined to vote 'no'. We will not defraud the taxpayers and line the pockets of our friends with some phoney advertising scheme and send out free flags.



RONDO THOMAS
Conservative

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 • DEC 30 9AM-9PM
 • DEC 31 9AM-6PM
 • JAN 01 9AM-9PM



Hold off for now on delivering your water samples for testing

Services suspended from Dec. 22 to Jan. 3

DURHAM — Durham Region is putting its water testing services on hold for the holidays.

Water sample service is now suspended until Jan. 3, at 8:30 a.m.


For a list of sample drop-off locations, visit www.region.durham.on.ca

on.ca or call the Durham health department's environmental help line at 905-668-7711 ext. 3232 for it or other water quality issues throughout the holiday.

The help line is available Dec. 23 until noon, Dec. 28 and Dec. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dec. 30 to noon.

It's regular 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. hours resume Jan. 3.

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Seaton site named in honour of First Nations

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING — The significance of First Nations sites in Seaton was recognized recently with the Ontario Realty Corporation's naming of a village in honour of the Huron Wendat Nation.

The ORC named a 700-year-old Huron Wendat village site after the family of Heather Bastien (Sebastien), a member of the council of the Huron Wendat Nation in Quebec. ORC consulted with the Grand Chief and Council of the Huron Wendat Nation, which requested it be named after Ms. Bastien's family to acknowledge her work in preserving aboriginal cultural heritage sites in Ontario.

The ORC manages the provincially-owned Seaton lands in Pickering on behalf of the government.

Chief Kris Nahrgang of the Kawartha Nishnawbe Nation worked as a liaison between ORC and the Huron Wendat. He explained why Ms. Bastien was selected. "She's a strong advocate for the Huron Wendat Nation and just a lovely woman," he said.

She was presented with a plaque and documentation at an official ceremony in downtown Toronto Dec. 7. Ms. Bastien declined to be interviewed about the honour, choosing to remain low-key.

ORC spokesman Jim Buttici said this was the first time they'd done anything like this before and it is significant in showing the ORC wants to work co-operatively with First Nations people as the Seaton project moves along. (The ORC is currently conducting an environmental assessment as it prepares to swap land with developers for land in Richmond Hill, which will subsequently see Seaton developed into a community ranging from 40,000 to 60,000 people).

"We feel this was an important event in the ongoing relationship ORC is building with the First Nations community," he said.

The relationship will continue once development begins and artifacts are found. Mr. Buttici wasn't sure if anything would be placed on the site to commemorate the naming, but said the site's significance will be documented and included in the environmental study report. He couldn't provide details on where exactly the site is.

"The very fact we named it is very significant," he said.

Mr. Nahrgang agreed the action was a first.

"The Ontario Realty Corp., by doing this action, has shown more respect for First Nations (people) than any other (organization)," he said.

This naming was not only the beginning of a new relationship between the First Nations people and the government, but the Seaton discussions have also seen a new found co-operation between different aboriginal groups, Mr. Nahrgang said. "This is one of the first times the Huron, Iroquois and Ojibwa are speaking with one voice," he said, adding it was exciting to share this experience "with the people who had walked on this land with us."

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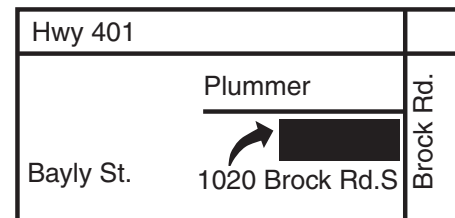
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TUESDAY, DEC. 27
TAI CHI: The Ajax Seniors' Friendship Club meets every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. for tai chi. Sessions are in the St. Andrew's Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd., in Ajax. Call Sylvia at 905-683-6219.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
ONE-PARENT SUPPORT GROUP: The Ajax-Pickering Chapter of the One Parent Families Association meets every Wednesday at KMW Health Care Services, 314 Harwood Ave. S., Unit 22 in Ajax. Meetings are at 8 p.m. except for the first Wednesday of each month when they start at 8:30 p.m. Call 905-683-1082.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
LINE DANCING: The Ajax Seniors Friendship Club dances every Thursday at 1 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd. Call Jack at 905-683-9696.
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS: The 12-step program meets every Thursday at LaStorta, at the north end of Liverpool Road next to Manresa Retreat House in Pickering. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. in the basement or library. Call Lorraine during the day at 905-619-1419 or Mary in the evening, 905-428-8660.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30
CRAFTS: The Ajax Seniors Friendship Club meets Fridays at 10 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd. Seniors crochet, knit or do their favourite craft and also take part in a social time. Call Peggy at 905-686-1573.



Monday, December 26th, all stores are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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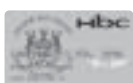
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Surprise, Pickering couple has 7 million reasons to give thanks

Keep lottery win quiet

PICKERING — A Pickering couple kept a \$7.3-million secret from their friends and family, but revealed it just in time for the holidays.

Jose and Antoneta Dias found out they were the winners of a \$7,359,178 jackpot when they took their Lotto 6/49 ticket to the store to check it following the Thanksgiving weekend.

"I was so excited," Mr. Dias said when he and his wife claimed their Oct. 8 prize the week before Christmas.

The couple kept the win a secret so they could have time to

think about what they'd do with the money.

They've been playing the same number, which consists of family birthdays, for approximately three years.

"I always told him that we wouldn't win playing the same numbers, I guess I was very wrong," said Ms. Dias.

Mr. Dias, 51, is a self-employed consultant and Ms. Dias, 42, is a co-ordinator. The couple has two children.

With their windfall they plan to take a trip to Europe, do some home renovations and share with their family.

"I always said that if we won we wouldn't be the only happy

people... I plan to make a lot of people happy with this," Mr. Dias

said.

The winning ticket was pur-

chased at Nachchi Dollar Dome on Bayly Street in Pickering.



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The lighter side of the federal election

Which Pickering-Scarborough East candidate wants popcorn and beer for Christmas?

The candidates share their holiday wish lists on Danielle Milley's election blog at www.drinfo.ca/pickscarb.html

Super new position for Suzanne Roche

Former principal moves on up at Catholic board

and vice-principal positions over the years, and was principal at St. Marguerite d'Youville, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys and Brother Andre Catholic Elementary School. She's also served as co-chair of the behavioural review steering committee as a member of the board's early math team and junior literacy team.

Ms. Roche has a master and bachelor of education, a bachelor of arts in sociology, concentration in criminology and corrections, and a supervisory officer qualification.

DURHAM — There's a new super at the Durham Catholic District School Board.

After serving as a principal at various Durham schools, Suzanne Roche has been appointed a Catholic board superintendent of education, effective Jan. 1.

An employee of the board since 1986, Ms. Roche has held teaching



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8 Victor Shim <i>Easy Listening</i> 5-9	9 Dez & Danny <i>Acoustic Duet</i> 8-12	10 Greg Godovitz <i>Open Jam</i> 8-12	11	12 John Dickie Band <i>Rock n' Roll</i> 9:30 to 1:30	13	14 Groove Monsters <i>Rock n' Roll</i> 9:30 to 1:30
15 Victor Shim <i>Easy Listening</i> 5-9	16 Dez & Danny <i>Acoustic Duet</i> 8-12	17 Greg Godovitz <i>Open Jam</i> 8-12	18	19 Loading Zone <i>Rock n' Roll</i> 9:30 to 1:30	20	21 Ya Babies <i>Rock n' Roll</i> 9:30 to 1:30
22 Victor Shim <i>Easy Listening</i> 5-9	23 Dez & Danny <i>Acoustic Duet</i> 8-12	24 Greg Godovitz <i>Open Jam</i> 8-12	25	26 Road House <i>Rock n' Roll</i> 9:30 to 1:30	27	28 Loading Zone <i>Rock n' Roll</i> 9:30 to 1:30
29 Victor Shim <i>Easy Listening</i> 5-9	30 Dez & Danny <i>Acoustic Duet</i> 8-12	31 Greg Godovitz <i>Open Jam</i> 8-12			<i>Thursday</i> <i>December</i> 22 Detour	<i>Thursday</i> <i>Dec 29</i> Groove Monsters

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Leaders of tomorrow rallying Durham students to issues of today

By Jillian Follert
Staff Writer

DURHAM — It's just before dinner hour on a cold Monday night, and a council meeting is in full swing at Oshawa City Hall.

Just down the hall, another political meeting is getting underway, as high school students filter into the mayor's boardroom.

Dressed in jeans or school uniforms they take their seats around the table looking over agendas and chatting. It looks like any other after school club, but if you ask MacKenzie Moreau, this is Canada's future in the making.

"We are the leaders of tomorrow," the 15-year-old Oshawa resident says seriously. "We have to prepare our generation so the next leaders will actually get things done."

Mr. Moreau is the founder and leader of the National Youth Council of Canada (NYCC), a fledgling organization that he hopes will eventually function as a youth version of parliament. So far, they have secured 15 ministers and more than 150 members from Toronto and surrounding regions. The next step is to send delegations across the country to recruit members from other provinces -- anyone between the ages of 15 and 18 is eligible.

Mr. Moreau says he was inspired to pull the group together after

watching the federal government in action.

"All they do is bicker and squabble, nothing gets accomplished and it's frustrating to watch," he says. "They also completely neglect the nation's youth. We think we can do a better job."

The NYCC is non-partisan, which members say eliminates most heated debate and keeps the focus squarely

on youth, instead of party platforms. While the members have different political leanings and backgrounds, they are bonded by the belief that youth issues need a spotlight and their common concern about the country's current government.

John Elsigue, the 15-year-old Minister of Budget and Finance, says he doesn't believe a government that is so divided can govern

the country effectively, and Chantal Meloche, said she worries about corruption.

Over the next four months, the council plans to appeal to municipal, provincial and federal leaders for funding to send members across Canada to spread their message. In the meantime, they are planning elections for January and reaching out to organizations they hope to

support, like the Eating Disorders Education Network.

They recognize that rallying youth from across the nation and garnering recognition from older politicians will be difficult, but they are up to the challenge.

"Even if people don't believe in us at first because we're young, we'll make them believe that we can do it," said Vanessa Costigan-Cripps.

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Hard work, determination needed for women in skilled trades

Divas program to highlight local workers

By Carly Foster
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Kimberley Metcalf almost gave up.

Frustrated after two unsuccessful years of trying to sell her skills as a mechanic to start her apprenticeship, she was ready to abandon her dream and go back to school.

"It was a very difficult time, a big fight for me," said the 24-year-old. "Because I'm female, it makes a huge difference. I'd take my resume in in person, and they'd look at me like I had two heads."

But Ms. Metcalf refused to stop trying after coming so far. She finally landed in a garage, but the fight was long from over.

The guys in the shop would look over her shoulder, questioning her work. They'd tighten the wheels when she was done a job to make sure they were secure.

Now, eight months after starting at JKL Vehicle Repair in south Oshawa, she has found a home. With just under a year until she can write the exams for her mechanic's licence, she spends her days fixing fuel pumps, starters, charging systems, doing tune ups -- all without someone judging her abilities.

"They respect me," she said of her colleagues. She hopes to one day open a joint car garage-hair salon where women can get both tasks done by female tradesworkers.

Ms. Metcalf is a Diva of the Trades, one of 12 local women profiled as part of a project by the Durham Region Local Training Board (DRLTB). The goal is to showcase the trades -- jobs such as construction worker, chef, welder, carpenter -- as a career path.

"Women have historically been under-represented in the trades," said Monique Howat, women's director for the board, who struggled to find 12 Durham women to profile. "We would like them to realize this is a viable career option for them."

Only around 10 per cent of registered

apprentices in Ontario are female, says Tradeability.ca, a Web site for skilled trades workers in Durham. The demand for skilled tradespeople is expected to hit 1 million by 2020, said the National Women's Reference Group.

Jobs in the trades can be rewarding and very lucrative, but they're also dirty, physically demanding and dominated by men: not exactly strong selling points for many women, said Angelia Kelly, a Diva and in her fifth apprentice year as an electrician.

"It's not a glamorous job," she said. If you go to a site all dressed up and in low rider jeans, the foreman will send you home because you're not there to work. "It's not the ideal conditions of what we think women are going to want to be working in."

But Ms. Kelly loves it. She goes to a no-pressure job where no one cares what she looks like, feels accomplished by the end of the day, leaves it all and goes home to her family. But like Ms. Metcalf, she admits it can be hard to be one of the only women on a job site.

"It is not all the time easy to be a woman in a man's trade," she said. "Sometimes you're the only woman. Sexual harassment comes into play."

"The odd time you're going to get the person who doesn't think women belong there. That mentality, unfortunately, is still out there. I make sure I pull my weight."

At the garage, some men will walk right past Ms. Metcalf and want to speak to a man. Someone will call the shop and ask to speak to a mechanic when they hear her voice. They're often surprised when she says, "Speaking."

"It's something I'm always going to have problems with and accept," she said. "I'll always have to prove myself."

You need determination, know-how to handle situations with customers, be patient and look to the future and beyond individuals, she said.

And pick a trade because you're really interested and are willing to do the work, said Cathy Corrigan, a registered industrial, commercial, institutional plumber.

"I wouldn't want women there just

to have more numbers," she said. "If you think you like that (trade), whether you're a man or woman, sure get into it."

"But just to prove a point? Just because you're a female, I wouldn't want you to do it."

Ms. Corrigan, since becoming licensed in 1997, has worked at Dupont, St. Mary's Cement, schools and General Motors. She's currently working on the cancer centre at Lakeridge Health Oshawa.

Becoming a skilled trades worker usually means college courses mixed with a few years of paid apprenticeship before being eligible to write an exam to become a registered worker.

"It's not prestigious to go into the trades," Ms. Kelly said of the stereotypes surrounding the industry. "It's the parents that you have to change, that their son or daughter has failed because they want to go into the trades. That you only go into the trades because you're a dummy, can't do university, are stupid if you go to college."

"You can't be a dummy to be in a trade."

Ms. Howat, of the training board, hopes to entice more women into the trades by highlighting the Divas at public and high schools, libraries, employment centres, women's shelters and arenas.

For more information on the Divas of the Trades, visit www.drltb.com.



Walter Passarella/ News Advertiser photo
Angie Kelly is an apprentice electrician, one of the few women in a trade dominated by men.

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Apprenticeship program nails down more money for school board

Public system in line to receive \$45,080

By Crystal Grimi
Staff Writer

DURHAM — More high school students can try their hands at the skilled trades, following the announcement of more money for apprenticeship programs.

The Durham District School Board is getting \$45,080 of the additional \$1.25 million the Province is providing for the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). The goal of the program is to increase student and employer participation.

"We're thrilled," said Rose Retsinas, the Durham District School Board's employability skills and OYAP co-ordinator.

"It's further support for the apprenticeship program in Ontario."

The recent announcement will enable the board to expand the OYAP and increase awareness of lesser-known trades, she said. She added there are more than 130 opportunities for apprenticeships, such as electricians, hairstylists, early childhood educators and chefs.

"It is an excellent opportunity for students to begin apprenticeship programs before they leave high school," said Ms. Retsinas.

Through OYAP, students get paid with high school credits and the hours they work also count toward the time required for their apprenticeship, which for some trades can add up to 9,000 hours or several years to obtain.

Students complete 90 per cent of the program on the job and 10 per cent in class, she said.

"It's a significant investment in their future plans," she said. She added many OYAP students carry on with their chosen career path.

Ms. Retsinas said lots of employers are also interested in the program because it allows them to try out and train students.

"They're our future workforce," she said.

The board has more than 1,000 people involved in its apprenticeship program. The new money increases funding for the current year by about half.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities estimates the \$1.25 million will create up to 1,500 new apprenticeship opportunities.

Of the money, \$1 million is going to Ontario's 22 largest school boards and \$250,000 will be devoted to a Continuous Improvement Development Fund to create performance measures for boards. Almost 19,000 students currently participate in OYAP.

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"Now open in Pickering"

Keep e-waste, batteries out of landfill after Christmas

By Carly Foster
Staff Writer

DURHAM — New gadgets and electronics will be given as Christmas gifts soon, but the old ones also need a home -- and it shouldn't be a landfill.

Items such as used computers, cellphones, photocopiers, stereos and printers -- commonly called e-waste -- and alkaline and rechargeable batteries can be harmful if just dumped in the trash, said Michelle Whitbread,

an operations technician for the Region of Durham's works department.

"The different chemicals... obviously (they) start to leak and we don't want that leeching in the landfills," she said. "When disposed of properly, it's not an issue."

Batteries are especially harmful as they leak toxic mercury and carcinogenic cadmium into the ground and water, the Recycling Council of Ontario says.

Batteries are considered a hazardous waste,

and there is no charge to drop them off at any of the Region's transfer stations as long as it is not accompanied by other garbage, Ms. Whitbread said. There is a small fee for e-waste, but the material is sent to a special industrial facility where it is shredded and materials are recovered for re-use.

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), a non-profit organization, offers free drop-off locations for rechargeable batteries and cellphones. Rechargeable bat-

teries include nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH), lithium ion (Li-ion) and small sealed lead (Pb). These are commonly found in cordless power tools, cell and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, and remote control toys.

Drop-off locations in Durham include participating Future Shop, Home Depot, The Source by Circuit City, Home Hardware and Zellers stores. Visit www.call2recycle.org for a complete list.

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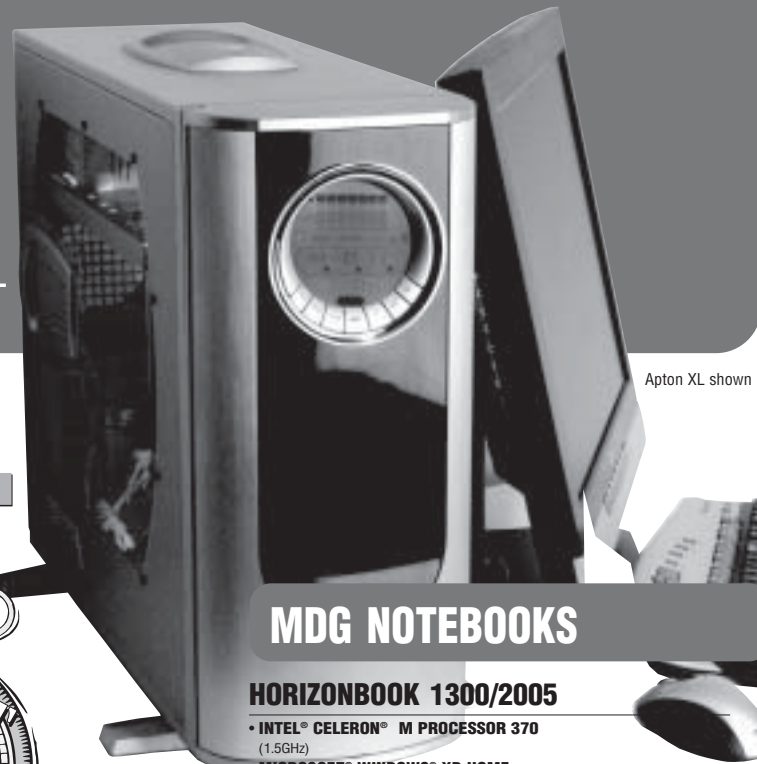
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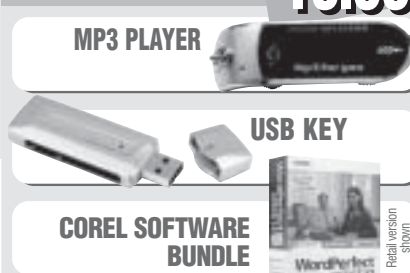


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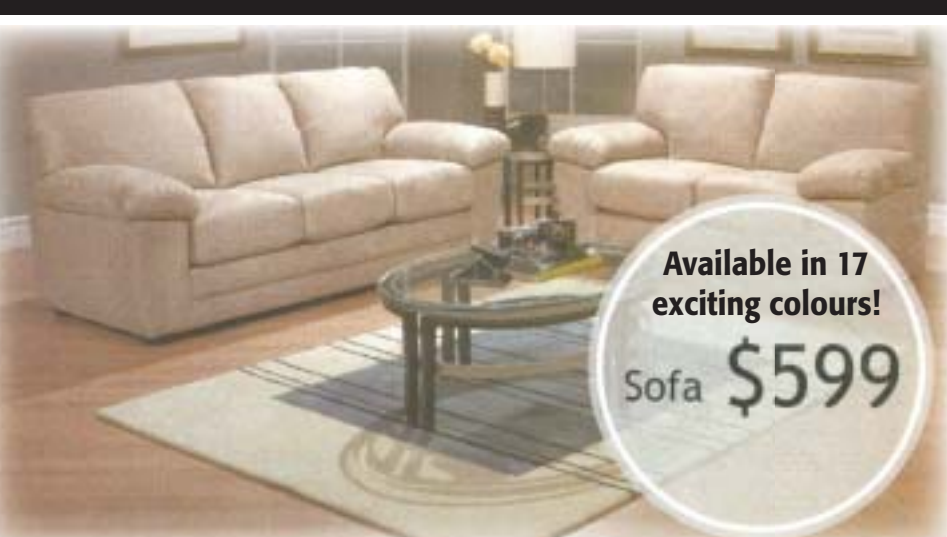
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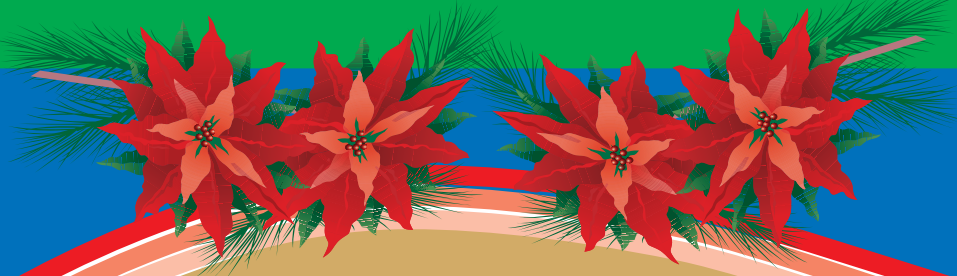
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
The Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser sports department wishes our readers the best of the season.

Carroll skates on to world stage

Owen Sound Attack rookie on ice for Ontario at under-17 championships

By Al Rivett
 Sports Editor

AJAX — After enduring a lengthy tryout process, Ajax's Marcus Carroll will now line up against the best players in the world in his age group.

The 16-year-old centre, in his rookie season with the Ontario Hockey League's Owen Sound Attack, will skate with Team Ontario at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Regina, Sask. from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4. The Ontarians are part of the 10-team tournament, which includes squads from western Canada, Quebec, Pacific Canada, Atlantic Canada, along with international entries from the U.S., Slovakia, Finland, Czech Republic and Germany.

Team Ontario competes in "Group A" with the U.S., Slovakia, Quebec and western Canada.

The Ontario squad plays an exhibition game against Germany Wednesday, Dec. 28 before starting round-robin play the next day against Quebec.

Carroll got the nod two weeks ago, joining a team that's loaded with other OHL talent, including Oshawa Generals' rookie phenom, 15-year-old John Tavares. Carroll won't be the only Owen Sound player on the roster, with forward Joshua Bailey of Bowmanville joining him on the squad.

Suffice it to say, Carroll's ecstatic.

"I was really happy, really honoured to get this experience," says the 5-foot-8, 182-pound forward, who played with the Ajax-Pickering Raiders minor midget 'AAA' team last year. "I was really happy to get on the team. I don't know what to expect but, hopefully, I'll contribute and do well."

Members of Team Ontario got together in Toronto on Monday to practise together and prepare for the tournament under head coach Marty Williamson, head coach of the OHL's Barrie Colts.

Carroll's confident the practise time before winging it to Regina will be more than enough to establish some cohesiveness among the players.

"We've got a great bunch of guys. Once we get on the ice (at worlds) we should be able to click pretty fast," he said.

The tryout process for Team Ontario began with an evaluation camp in Peterborough. A second

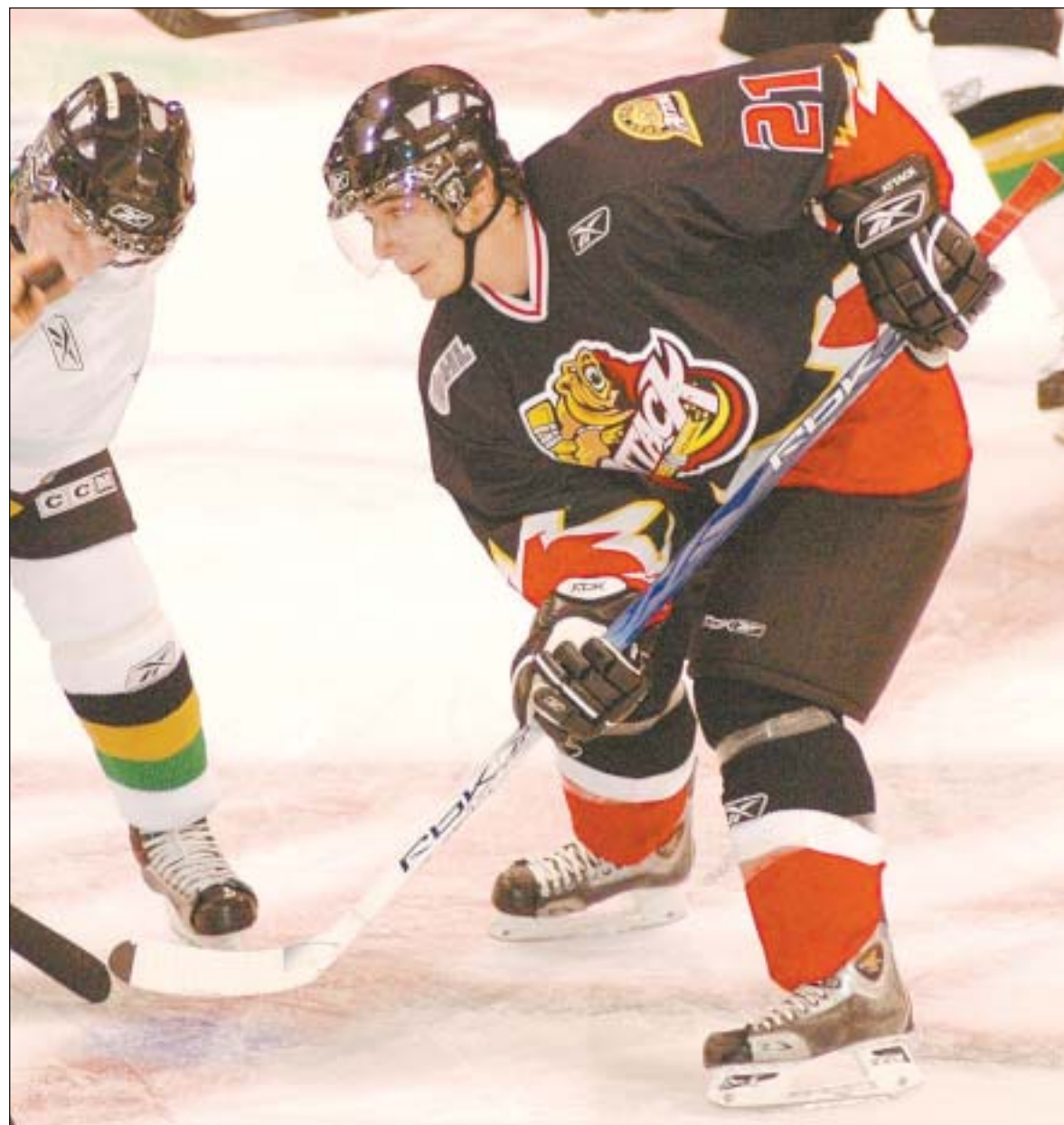


Photo courtesy of Larissa Blue/Owen Sound Attack Hockey Club
 Owen Sound Attack's Marcus Carroll prepares to take a draw in recent Ontario Hockey League action. The 16-year-old forward will represent Ontario at the upcoming World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Regina, Sask. Dec. 28 to Jan. 4.

camp was held in Guelph during the summer, followed by the final session in Ottawa. Only 40 players remained in the hunt at the Ottawa camp. The final cuts for the 22-man roster were carried out after players were scouted with their OHL teams.

The OHL, says Carroll, was a big stretch from playing with the Raiders last season. But, he feels he's made the adjustments needed.

"It was a bit tough at the start but, once you get going, it gets easier and easier each game," says Carroll, who's scored two goals and eight assists with Owen Sound.

So far, his OHL experience has been above expectations.

"I've been getting plenty of ice time. They're treating me really well there," says Carroll. "Hopefully, I'll continue to improve and stay in the lineup."

Carroll comes by his hockey-playing pedigree honestly as the

son of Billy Carroll, a former New York Islander and Edmonton Oiler who won four Stanley Cups during his eight-year National Hockey League career. Carroll says his dad is proud he earned his way to the world championships.

"Yeah, he's really happy for me. He went through it when he was

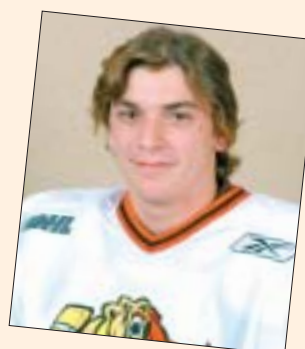
younger. He's really happy, I'd say," notes Carroll.

As for a prediction of how Ontario will do at the tournament, Carroll is confident a medal, maybe even gold, could be in the offing.

"It's going to be really fun. Hopefully, we'll come home with some hardware, gold hopefully," he says.

The Carroll File

- Played with the Ajax-Pickering Raiders minor midget 'AAA' squad last season. With the Raiders he scored 28 goals and 23 assists;
- Was drafted by the Owen Sound Attack in the third round of the 2005 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection draft, 59th overall;
- Scored first OHL goal on Sept. 22 against the Barrie Colts. He scored the goal shorthanded.



Sports briefs

DECEMBER 24, 2005

[Lacrosse]

Summerfield signed by Minnesota Swarm

DURHAM — A member of the Ajax-Pickering Rock senior 'B' lacrosse team will ply his trade in the land 'o lakes this season.

After earning a training camp tryout with the National Lacrosse League's Minnesota Swarm, Shawn Summerfield made the most of the opportunity, being signed to a contract for the 2006 season.



Summerfield, a defensive player with the Rock for the past two seasons, recorded four assists and 22 penalty minutes in 10 games with Ajax-Pickering last season.

The 6-foot-2, 215-pounder played one game with the Swarm in 2005.

Summerfield won't be the only Ajax-Pickering Rock connection with the Swarm. Rock head coach Paul St. John will be behind the Minnesota bench as an assistant this season. Last year, he served as the NLL club's director of scouting.

[Video sports]

Gridiron gamers gear up for showdown

AJAX — Gamers can run, kick, throw and punt their way to video glory at an upcoming competition.

The Rogers Video at 15 Westney Rd. North will be the battleground and the new Microsoft XBOX 360 the instrument of choice for 32 gamers competing for a chance to represent Ajax at the Madden NFL Canadian Championship in Toronto Jan. 13 and 14.

The 32 local gamers, randomly selected from submitted ballots, compete in a single elimination tournament using the EA Sports Madden NFL 06 video game Wednesday, Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Four of the spots will be randomly awarded to walkups the morning of the event.

The Canadian champion competes against Madden NFL International winners from the U.S., China, Japan and Europe at the Madden NFL International Championship during the NFL Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii on Feb. 11.

Scoreboard

DECEMBER 24, 2005

PICKERING MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Results of games played on Dec. 12.

GAME ONE

Eli-Rod Holdings 52 vs. Accent Building Sciences 41.

TOP SCORERS

Eli-Rod: Steve Leahy 13, Alberto Daros 13, David Voht 10, Roger Young 6.
Accent: Bill Linton 11, Horace Peterkin 7, Ian Campbell 7, Carl Sasmann 6.

GAME TWO

Warwick Publishing 57 vs. Best Buy Insurance 48.

TOP SCORERS

Warwick: Alonzo Starling 26, Claude Feig 13, Luke Lukkonen 8, Sam Macada 6.
Best Buy: Ian Grant 13, Reuben Newman 8, Frank Gallo 7, Sherwin James 6.

GAME THREE

Lakar Carpentry 59 vs. Gallantry's Eatery 37.

TOP SCORERS

Lakar: Dodge Beckford 22, Bill Warren 16, John Fleming 9, Pat Roach 7.
Gallantry's: John Bowen 14, John Girmonte 10, Tony Oliver 8.

GAME FOUR

Knights: Corner Pub & Grill 50 vs. Verifeye 30.

Knights: Karl Hutchinson 11, Randy Filinski 10, Jim Wilkinson 10, Rod Fraser 6.

GAME FIVE

West Hill Men's Slo-Pitch 62 vs. Ellis Packaging 61.

West Hill: Eiman McLean 23, George Jordanov 22, Orin Taylor 8, Paul Vorvis 5.
Ellis Packaging: Conrad Davis 37, John Esposito 11, Joe Lococo 7.

LAKE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS

SENIOR BOYS' HOCKEY

Standings as of Dec. 15

TEAM	EAST DIVISION				P	F	A	PCT.
	G	W	L	T				
Dwyer Saints	8	6	2	0	12	39	26	0.75
Bowmanville Talons	8	5	3	0	10	41	29	0.625
Courville Cougars	8	3	4	1	7	29	33	0.438
Port Perry Rebels	8	2	3	3	7	28	37	0.438
Eastdale Eagles	8	2	5	1	5	30	39	0.313
McLaughlin Trojans	8	1	5	2	4	15	25	0.25

TEAM	CENTRAL DIVISION				P	F	A	PCT.
	G	W	L	T				
Ajax High Rams	8	5	1	2	12	31	17	0.75
Austin Wildcats	8	2	2	4	8	22	23	0.5
Uxbridge Tigers	8	2	3	3	7	25	22	0.438
Henry St. Hawks	9	1	3	5	7	25	31	0.389
Anderson Raiders	8	2	4	2	6	20	25	0.375
All Saints Titans	8	2	4	2	5	18	29	0.313

TEAM	WEST DIVISION				P	F	A	PCT.
	G	W	L	T				
St. Mary Monarchs	8	7	0	1	15	23	11	0.938
Durham Spartans	9	6	1	2	14	34	21	0.778
Notre Dame Cougars	7	2	3	2	6	28	30	0.429
Pickering Trojans	7	2	4	1	5	21	28	0.357
Richardson Storm	6	1	3	2	4	14	17	0.333

Gymnasts capture meet medals

PICKERING — Gymnasts with the Pickering Athletic Centre carried off multiple medals at the first provincial qualifier in Burlington recently.

The centre sent 11 artistic gymnasts to the meet and captured 29 medals.

Julia Waters led the way in the level 5, nine-year-old Group 1 with a first-place finish. She earned first-place marks on balance beam, second on floor exercise, third on uneven bars and fifth on vault. Rebecca Brown and Katie Towers finished tied for second overall. Brown finished first on bars, tied for second on beam, fifth on floor and eighth on vault. Meanwhile, Towers was first on vault, second on bars, tied for second on beam and was 11th on floor.

In the level 5 nine-year-old Group 2 bracket, Adrianna Sanidas finished fourth all-round. She placed third on vault and beam, fourth on bars and fifth on floor.

Samantha Smedley, competing in the level 6, nine-year-old group, finished third. She captured the vault crown, while also finishing second on floor and fourth on beam and bars.

Sydney Marcoux finished second

overall in the level 6, 10-11 category. Marcoux placed second on bars, third on vault, fifth on beam and eighth on floor. Alexandra Large placed third overall, with a first on vault and floor, third on bars and 13th on beam.


Emily Towers placed third overall in the level 7, 12-13 bracket. Towers finished first on vault, fourth on floor, eighth on beam and ninth on bars. Teammate Alexandra Clayton was fourth overall, placing first on bars, second on floor, eighth on vault and 11th on beam.

Maya Swami earned fourth-place overall marks in the level 8, 10-11 category. She finished second on beam and floor, fourth on vault and seventh on bars.

Shannon Riches finished ninth overall in the level 8, 12-13 division. She finished sixth on beam, eighth on vault, ninth on floor and 10th on bars.

The centre hosts its own provincial qualifier at its 1095 Kingston Rd. facility from Jan. 27 to 29. Several national athletes are expected to compete.

Debbie Siemon, Serena Bono and head coach Andrew Taylor coach the girls' program.

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Pickering peewees make family's Christmas great

Players eschew party, instead donate money toward gifts, food for a needy area family



PICKERING — The Pickering Panthers minor peewee 'AE' hockey team made a local family's Christmas a little brighter this year.

The team used money set aside for a party and gift exchange to put together all the ingredients to make Christmas special for a needy family from the Ajax and Pickering area. "Our kids realize that they get many extras that some families can't afford," said head coach Rob Sayer. "The community has always been a great supporter of our hockey team and we felt it was important to give back to those in need."

The team contacted the Salvation Army, which put them in touch with a local family. One of the team member's parents spoke to the mother several times to get gift ideas.

Submitted photo
Members of the Pickering Panthers peewee 'AE' hockey team show some of the presents they helped purchase. The team, showing the true spirit of the holidays, opted not to have a party this year, but rather to put money and effort into helping an area family during the Christmas season.

The Panthers wanted to try to make this a special Christmas for the family -- to get some of the gifts on their 'wish list' and to make sure they had the food they needed to celebrate the season.

The families of team members contributed food, money and gifts.

Parents and kids were enthusiastic about spending the time and making the effort to choose the right gifts -- even searching all over town to find an elusive 'Furby' for one of

the children.

The team members all helped wrap the gifts and a few representatives delivered the gifts and food last week.

Team members are Jacob Arnts, Jamie Romaniuk, Connor Sullivan, Cameron Guenther, Brandon Eno, Matthew Coppa, Bryan Peattie, Matthew Woitzik, Jason McNeil, Cameron Fleming, Evans Knoll, Natalee Wise, Brandon Kirkup, Torey Cundari, Christopher Bentley, Kristoffer Sayer and Mitchell Carkner.



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

In the swim of the season

AJAX — Team members of the Ajax Aquatic Club held their 12th annual Christmas Food Drive with more than 1,000 items of food being donated from only 45 swimmers at their Friday practice. Alex Andrechuk, Julian Monks and Devin Ste. Marie take a break from practice and sort out some of the donations, the food was picked up by the Durham Regional Police and distributed to local food banks.

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Capital: Accra
Official Language: English
Other Languages: Twi, Ewe, Dagbani



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