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Jason Liebregts/ News Advertiser photo

Pam Kotchie, right, recounts a story about her children with retiring doctor, Hans Weber, left. Also listening in are Martin, second from left, and Matt Kotchie. Dr. Weber has been the Kotchie's family physician for the past 21 years.

Going home safely

Pickering Council asks GO
Transit for more security,
information for riders

By Kristen Calis
kcalis@durhamregion.com

PICKERING — GO Transit should beef up its security and provide more information to its riders to help them protect their personal property, says Pickering Council.

In a motion introduced by Ward 3 City Councillor David Pickles and Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean, Council asked GO to take a number of measures to ensure safety and less vandalism at the transit system's stations and parking lots.

About 350 incidents are reported to GO every year, but Coun. Pickles thinks the number is higher considering the inconvenience of reporting them. Commuters he knows see a pile of glass in the Pickering GO parking lot on a weekly basis. Coun. Pickles's own car was broken into years ago, and although there wasn't much stolen aside from a bunch of CD cases, he had to replace the window.

"It's quite often when you come home in the evening and see a pile of glass in the parking lot," he said.

GO Transit has worked hard to increase its security measures over the past few months,

◆ See GO, Page 4

Family doctor hangs up stethoscope

Dr. Hans Weber
served residents of
Pickering and Ajax

By Kristen Calis
kcalis@durhamregion.com

PICKERING — After more than 30 years of curing sore throats, providing medical advice and carrying out the duties of a trusted family doctor, the beloved Dr. Hans Weber will hang up his stethoscope at his family

practice on Dec. 18.

A constant flow of patients came out to give their regards to the good doctor at his retirement gathering at the Medical Centre Associates last Friday. Dr. Weber said the turnout was heartwarming and he feels humbled by the amount of people who have stuck with him from Day 1.

"You almost become part of their lives and they became part of my life," he said.

The German native moved to Canada in 1964 and attended the University of Western Ontario. He moved to Pickering in 1974 and began practising at the clinic in 1975. Only

living a short distance from his practice, he has grown to love Pickering. He's also gotten quite acquainted with Ajax, as he was chief of staff from 1983 to 1994 at the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital and cares for the elderly at Ballycliffe Lodge, also in Ajax. He also sees about half of the residents of Community Nursing Home Pickering on Valley Farm Road. He even delivered babies during his days at the Ajax-Pickering hospital.

"For many of them, I'm the only doctor they've ever seen," he said.

◆ See Golf, Page 4

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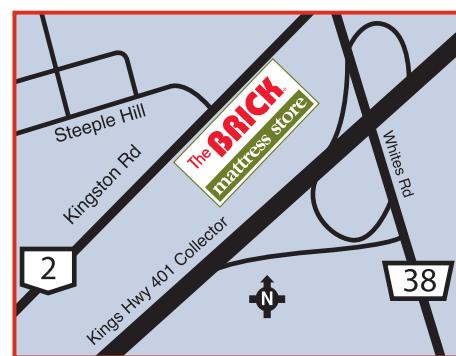
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Regions wants to build to stimulate economy

Durham to put a rush on infrastructure projects slated for 2009

By Reka Szekely
rszekely@durhamregion.com

DURHAM — Durham is planning on putting a rush on infrastructure projects in order to stimulate the local economy.

As part of his economic update, Finance Commissioner Jim Clapp recommended expediting infrastructure projects which were to be included in the 2009 budget and are ready to be put out to tender.

Even if not all of the winning contractors are local businesses, they'll still bring business to the Region, said Mr. Clapp.

"Either way you're going to help the economy, not only with the projects but with whatever spin-offs there are from the projects," he said.

As well, the economic downturn means the Region is getting lots of bites from contractors on tenders and Mr. Clapp is looking

to take advantage of good deals.

"I think this is a hungry economy right now," he said.

As for Durham's struggling auto industry, he said there's little the Region can do.

"There's nothing directly we can do to assist General Motors or the feeder plants," said Mr. Clapp. "It's really to be prepared for the fallout." The Region is likely to feel the pain in reduced property taxes if plants close and lost water and sewer revenue. The closing of the GM truck plant alone will cost Durham about \$1 million in water and sewer revenue per year. As well, should welfare rates go up beyond the increase projected for next year, the Region would have to dip into a rate-stabilization fund to cover the difference so residents don't see big jumps in their property tax bills. In fact, the fund was created for just such a shortfall.

"It arose from a time when welfare caseload was increasing dramatically," said Mr. Clapp.

Regional Chairman Roger Anderson said he has a list of at least 100 projects that could begin shortly should the feds come through with funding. It includes roads, water and sewer and repairs to social housing and the

ing them with sewer and water as part of the infrastructure projects. This would mean employers looking to settle in the region could set up shop quickly without having to wait for the lands to be serviced. The mayor said if Durham came out of the economic crisis with 1,000 acres of serviced lands, it would be an asset for the entire region.

"Bad economic times are about hardships, but they're also about opportunities," he said.

Also included in the economic update was the unemployment rate for the Oshawa census metropolitan area, which includes Whitby and Clarington. Traditionally below the national and provincial rates, in October it was above both at 7.2 per cent. That's still lower than the May high of 7.9 per cent. Housing starts in Durham have also fallen sharply to an estimated 3,870 in 2007 from 5,363 in 2006. It's expected to drop to approximately 3,000 in 2008 as unemployment in Oshawa grows.

'Bad economic times are about hardships, but they're also about opportunities.'

-- AJAX MAYOR STEVE PARISH

Region's nursing homes.

"We have the projects, there's a whole list of them, \$200 million-worth, from \$70,000 to \$12 million (each)," said Mr. Anderson.

In addition to the recommendations that went with the economic update, Ajax Mayor Steve Parish floated a motion to compile a list of large parcels of unserviced employment lands in Durham and look into servic-

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Jason Liebregts/ News Advertiser photo
The City of Pickering has requested GO Transit beef up its security at stations.

GO says it's working on safety measures

♦ GO from page 1

said GO spokeswoman Vanessa Thomas. In July, GO formally asked police forces for increased presence in GO parking lots, and to share its information of reported vehicle damages or thefts to GO in order to better track information. They've also given police formal authority to enforce trespassing laws on GO lots.

"We're really committed to making our parking lots as safe as possible," she said.

And, they've increased the frequency of random parking lot inspections. They also identify the "hot spots" and target those areas. All GO staff have also received memos asking them to take a drive around the lots before and after completing their assigned duties and to report any suspicious behaviour or damages. There are also cameras in most lots.

"We've got a lot of eyes watching," Ms. Thomas said.

Although Coun. Pickles sees GO trying to increase its security measures, he thinks more has to be

done to inform riders on what to do if their cars are vandalized.

"There's no information being provided to those who use the service," he said.

Ms. Thomas said GO is trying to educate its riders with a pamphlet, GO Safely, available at most stations. It provides information on all safety measures, such as protecting vehicles and personal security around the tracks. With the program Lock It or Lose It, transit enforcement or local police officers leave a notice inside of the vehicles that are left open or have windows rolled down.

In fiscal year 2007-08, 304 major incidents were reported to GO transit (116 vehicle thefts and 188 thefts from vehicle). Another 187 minor incidents were reported. In fiscal year 2008-09, the numbers have decreased, Ms. Thomas said.

They've also partnered with the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers, which rewards people who report information on crimes by calling 1-800-222-TIPS. Riders can call GO at 905-803-0642 if they witness a crime.

GO has been asked to

- * provide better education to riders to protect themselves and their personal property;
- * establish a formal reporting and tracking process through staff and online in order to allow riders to report incidents;
- * through advertising, make riders aware of the processes to report the incidents to GO and police;
- * report all incidents and compile and share the information with local police and riders through newsletters and online;
- * increase staff and enforcement at GO stations and parking areas to improve safety and security;
- * improve lighting; and,
- * increase closed circuit television cameras.

Golf and gardening to replace aches and pains for Dr. Weber after 33 years in practice

♦ Golf from page 1

In the high-demand doctor's earlier years, it wasn't unusual for him to work 15-hour days. Now, 33 years later, Dr. Weber can usually be found tending to medical needs, whether at the clinic or a nursing home, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"I'm not going to miss the hours

but I'll certainly miss my patients," he said.

Allan Kowan and his wife are just a couple of the patients who have trusted Dr. Weber for three decades. They moved to Pickering in 1978 and have been seeing him ever since.

"I've enjoyed him," Mr. Kowan said. "He's a German chap. It doesn't look like he's aged at all to

be truthful."

Dr. Weber plans to play golf and do some more gardening in his extra time. As for travelling, he'll have to wait for about another five years, since he'll continue to do his rounds at the nursing homes until then. Although Dr. Weber is leaving, he is glad to see the clinic will carry on and wishes everyone the best of luck.

Your Waste Collection Day may be Changing!



Starting December 2008, a few neighbourhoods in the Town of Ajax and City of Pickering will see a change in their waste collection day.

These changes are necessary to improve efficiency of the Regional waste collection services.

Your new 2008/2009 Waste Collection Calendars are currently being distributed through Canada Post, so check to see if your waste collection day has changed.

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United Way half-way to target

'I'm optimistic we can reach the goal'

By Keith Gilligan
kgilligan@durhamregion.com

DURHAM — With the end of the campaign looming, the United Way is half-way to its goal of \$1.75 million.

Fundraising campaign chairman John G. Smith said \$889,000 had been committed as of Tuesday.

"The numbers are coming in and we're just over half-way to our goal. It's where we expected to be at this point in the campaign," Mr. Smith said.

"Employee campaigns are still going on," he said, adding some continue into December.

The campaign officially ends at the end of December, "although some funds continue to arrive in January. We have our touchdown at the end of January," Mr. Smith said.

"Certainly we're feeling the impact of a troubling economic climate. Some work campaigns and individual donors aren't able to give as much as in other years," Mr. Smith said. "Others are making up



Crystal Crimi/ News Advertiser photo
Pickering Regional Councillor Bill McLean, left, accepts a box of money from Boston Pizza staff members John Kalar, Darla Young and Jessica Way during the restaurant's recent re-opening celebration. In the box is \$403 raised for the United Way through pizza slice sales during a one-hour event at the City of Pickering.

the shortfall.

"Ultimately, donors and volunteers alike recognize the programs that are funded by the United Way will be more vital than ever in the year to come," he said.

Employees at Messier-Dowty

contributed their highest total ever, giving \$65,800, while Nokia employees also reached a new high with a \$23,400 donation.

The United Way funds more than 50 programs that touch one-in-three people in the commu-

nity.

"We're cognizant of the current economic climate," Mr. Smith said, adding the campaign cabinet has to "make sure we knock on every single door. Every dollar is important."



Most of the events in the coming month are "workplace focused," although there will be "specific calls to specific sectors" and the direct mail campaign is continuing, he said.

"I am optimistic we can reach the goal, given where we are right now. It still requires that everyone give what they can," he said.

"We've seen a lot of support at the grassroots level," he said, pointing to such events as the UOIT forensic house event, which raised more than \$1,000.

"If there's one message, in the economic climate, we all know these programs will be important in the year to come. Every dollar is important as people come forward to support the way."

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Editorials & Opinions

We think..

Governments owe automakers some form of assistance

It's clearly zero hour for General Motors and our community waits with bated breath.

In both the United States and Canada, lawmakers are poring over the balance sheets of the Big Three North American automakers, searching for evidence they have plans to rebound from devastating losses suffered these past few years.

General Motors of Canada, centred in Durham Region, depends for its lifeblood on the future of its American parent, which says it is running on fumes. CEO Rick Wagoner says GM will run out of money and go bankrupt unless the Amer-

ican government provides it with the bailout cash it needs to keep operating.

We can only hope the U.S. Congress sees the sense of keeping such a vital industry running and lends it the \$34 billion it needs in loan guarantees to keep afloat.

Here in Canada, the Province, where the auto industry is almost entirely situated, and the federal government are looking at the Canadian operations of GM, Ford and Chrysler. The feds and the Province want to see where Canadian automakers stand and what plans they have to remain viable and successful in a

tough global economy.

We all know how difficult workers have had it over the past few years as sales have slowed. The credit crisis, skyrocketing oil prices and resulting slackening demand for made-in-Canada GM products have dealt a hammer blow to the industry here. New products are needed for the Oshawa flex plant besides the Camaro.

While it is not the job of legislators or bureaucrats to pick successful future models or micromanage the auto business, it is their responsibility to safeguard taxpayers' money. GM, Ford and Chrysler

will need government help -- of that there can be little doubt.

Once the feds and the Province have been satisfied the Canadian Three have plans for future success -- and these must include buy-in and concessions on wages and pensions from the Canadian Auto Workers union as well as from management -- a multi-billion-dollar bailout is a logical outcome. It must come with taxpayer protections and strings attached that require job and investment guarantees from the companies and assurances that taxpayers are near the front of the line of creditors.

Region making diversion intentions clear

Pilot project will educate residents

If it takes the fear of neighbourhood ridicule to push people to dispose of waste properly, then so be it.

A project that's starting out small, only affecting about 750 residents in Pickering's Amberlea neighbourhood and another 750 in Courtice, will begin soon. If it goes well, it could be rolled out Durham-wide. Durham Region has decided to test the two neighbourhoods to see if collecting garbage in clear bags will help increase the Region's diversion rate to 70 per cent. The first two months in the three-month project starting in January involves educating residents. Bags won't be left behind until the final month, and only if they contain significant amounts of recyclables or compost. If there are only a few items in the bags, the Region will pick them up anyway.

But come on, residents will have had two months to get used to the idea by that time. In fact, having a margin of error is rather charitable.

I live in an apartment building and do not have the luxury of a green bin. In fact, I don't have a blue bin either. I have to drag my recycling to the building next to me in order to dump it off there. It annoys me when I see cardboard sticking out of the garbage chute and I think my fellow apartment dwellers would change their tune if others could see who is not following the famous three Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Of course, it's not the Region's intention to ridicule the people who don't recycle or compost as they're expected to. Rather, it simply allows garbage collectors to see if recyclables and compostables are in the wrong place. But this is one instance where peer pressure can actually be beneficial in the end, whether it's intended or not. And, most importantly, it'll educate the residents.



Kristen Calis

Some are annoyed that Amberlea was chosen as the neighbourhood to test out the pilot project without consulting residents first. But it wasn't chosen at random. The Region needs a good sample area to test out the project, and Amberlea is just that, with its single-family homes and no high rises. Also, the residents proved to be good test subjects when the Region tested the green bin program there.

Plus, the Region is allowing residents to put a small opaque bag inside the clear one in order to hide anything that may be embarrassing. Also, arrangements are being made for people with certain medical circumstances, who will be exempt.

Hopefully no one will stash their apple cores or margarine containers in the opaque bags if they're too lazy to separate them. And this is the problem: people are lazy. Is sitting on the couch for an extra couple of minutes really worth filling our precious earth with things that could be recycled or composted?

The Earth is a mess. If people with the luxury of using green bins and blue bins can't be bothered to sort their waste into the proper containers, they deserve to have their garbage left at the curb. Maybe having to go through the trash and sort it out for the next collection will teach them a lesson.

Besides, if people are recycling anyway, what are they afraid of?

Kristen Calis' column appears once a month. E-mail kcalis@durhamregion.com.

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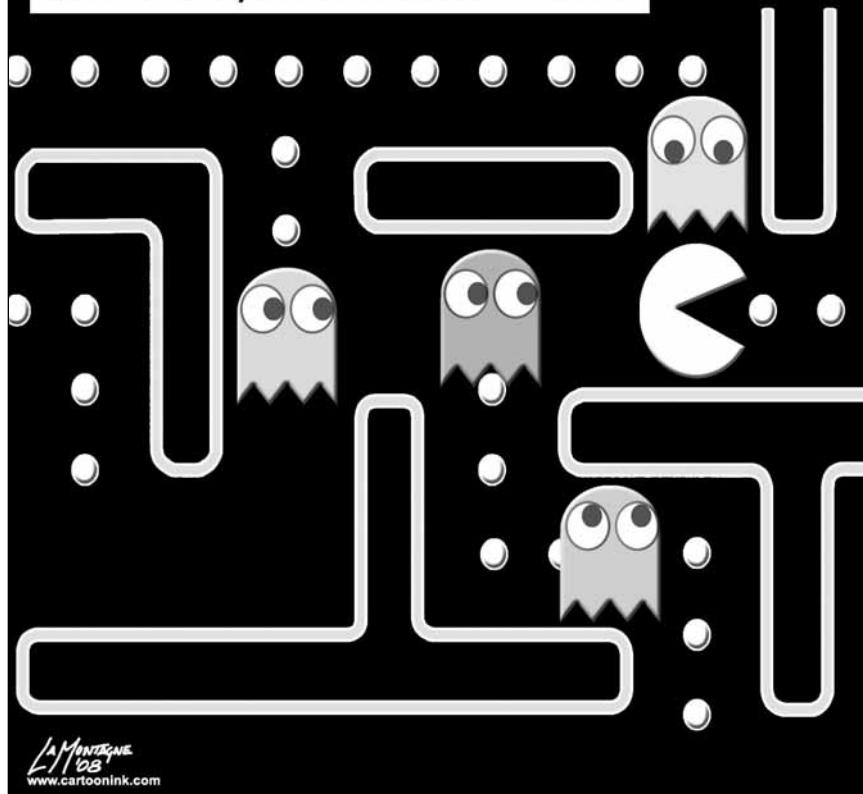
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Our readers think...

Liberal-led coalition would be a 'betrayal' of the electorate

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Brian Densham

Ajax

e-mail letters to mjohnston@durhamregion.com / max. 200 words /

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letters that do not appear in print may be published @ newsdurhamregion.com

Ajax Rotary Club donates to Santa Fund

Gift boxes being delivered this weekend

By Keith Gilligan
kgilligan@durhamregion.com

DURHAM — The Ajax Rotary Club is helping the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund spread joy this Christmas.

The club donated \$500 to the fund yesterday, Dec. 4.

"It's a good community-type initiative. We like to see the money go back into this community," said Tom Batchellor, the club's president. "There are so many kids wanting."

Each year, gift boxes are distributed to needy children up to age 12. Boxes include items such as sleepers and a small toy for babies, and a warm sweater, socks, mittens, a hat, book, toy, candy and a toothbrush and toothpaste for kids four to 12.

Jodi Raymond, the assistant circulation manager for the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, spoke to the club about the fund and the need for it.

In Durham Region, more than 600 boxes are being delivered. Names of recipients are submitted to the fund by social service agencies and "the parents have to agree for the child to receive a box," Ms. Raymond said.

If a family agrees to receive support, each child in the house receives a box, Ms. Raymond said.

Each box has \$33 worth of items and the goal is to raise \$20,000 locally, she said.

Boxes are being delivered this weekend by Boy Scouts, who will be accompanied by an adult while making deliveries. "We never send out a child alone."

"I have volunteers from as far away as Port Perry," she said.

"I remember working with the Salvation Army in Cobourg. We would deliver food baskets. I would walk away feeling this is what Christmas should feel like," Mr. Batchellor said.

Ms. Raymond said she's "very grateful" for the club's \$500 donation.

"It helps put a smile on a child's face. It makes Christmas so much more enjoyable for a youngster," she said in an interview.

In addition to the News Advertiser, other Metroland papers taking part are The Mississauga News and the Brampton Guardian.

The Santa fund was established more than 100 years ago by Toronto Star founder Joseph E. Atkinson. He used the Star to tell the stories of less-fortunate kids, asking readers to donate money to buy them gifts. This is the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser's fifth year of involvement.

To donate by VISA or master Card call 416-869-4847 or visit www.thestar.com/santaclausfund.

Donations are being accepted at the News Advertiser offices, 130 Commercial Ave., Ajax, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.



AJ Groen/ News Advertiser photo
The Rotary Club of Ajax donated \$500 to the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund through the News Advertiser. Accepting the cheque from the Rotary's Community Service officer Steve King is Jodi Raymond, the assistant circulation manager at the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser.

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Fraud suspects busted during court appearance

Cops recognize them from ATM photos

By Jeff Mitchell
jmitchell@durhamregion.com

OSHAWA — Five men who came to court to support friends busted in a debit card skimming operation wound up behind bars themselves when cops identified them as accomplices in the scheme.

"I think they were pretty surprised," said Durham police Detective Jeff Caplan of the five GTA men, who were busted in the lobby

of an Oshawa courthouse Wednesday.

Det. Caplan and his partner Mark Stone were at the courthouse, at 242 King St. E., for a series of bail hearings for seven men busted last week on fraud charges relating to the theft and use of debit card data skimmed from an ATM. A number of people were at the courthouse to show their support for the accused men, Det. Caplan said.

"They had probably about a dozen supporters," he said.

Some of the faces were familiar to the cops, Det. Caplan said. They retrieved a number of pictures -- the images were photos of suspects using forged debit cards at

ATMs across the GTA -- and used them to identify five suspects who had previously been unknown to the cops.

Five men in their 20s from Toronto, Ottawa and Markham were charged with fraud-related offences -- and taken to jail to await bail hearings.

Police arrested the first seven suspects last Saturday after tracking their movements in Whitby, following them to a motel room where investigators seized a stolen debit pin pad. But even as the police were preparing to make the arrests, accomplices were using data from the pin pad to withdraw money from victims' bank accounts, Det. Caplan

said. "It was stolen Friday night and they had all their cards ready by Saturday afternoon," he said. "They must have worked through the night."

Investigators have yet to determine the number of victims affected by the skimming operation and the amount of money stolen.

Det. Caplan said the fact the alleged accomplices showed up at the courthouse -- under the noses of the men investigating the skimming operation -- indicates they had few concerns about being implicated.

"It goes to show how bold these people are -- they don't think they're going to get caught," he said.

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Click on "About DDSB," then click on "Financial Report."

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- Management's Report
- Auditor's Report
- Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
- Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
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- Notes to the Financial Statements
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Thugs beat pregnant woman in robbery

By Jeff Mitchell
jmitchell@durhamregion.com

OSHAWA — Workers at a south Oshawa convenience store are in shock after a violent robbery in which their pregnant manager was repeatedly punched in the face by thugs who left a trail of cash behind as they fled.

"It happened so fast," worker Sue Hiscock said of the Monday evening incident at the Reid's Dairy store on Cedar Street south of Wentworth Street. "They showed no mercy."

Ms. Hiscock was working in the store at around 7:30 p.m. when two young men,

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Auditions will be held on the evenings of Wednesday Dec. 10 and Tuesday Dec. 16 in the Pickering Civic Complex's Tower Meeting Room, located at One the Esplanade in Pickering.

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their faces obscured by hoods, entered. One leapt over the counter and reached into an open cash register while the other suspect grabbed the manager, a 26-year-old woman named Jorga, in a headlock and repeatedly punched her in the face.

"They came in and jumped over the counter," she said. "One jumped the counter and one jumped Jorga."

Ms. Hiscock said she started to confront one of the men but backed off when he made an aggressive move toward her. The thugs fled with about \$350, Ms. Hiscock said. A customer who witnessed the robbery pursued the young men -- Ms. Hiscock reckoned they're in their early 20s -- west toward an apartment block, noting several

dropped bills on the ground.

The victim, who is six months pregnant with her first child, sustained slight injuries to her face but did not require treatment at hospital, Ms. Hiscock said. The victim's husband came to the store immediately after the attack and Jorga was resting the day after the incident, Ms. Hiscock said.

"It could have been worse," she said.

Durham police are looking for two white men, both estimated at 6 feet and 175 pounds, with medium builds and short brown hair. One of the men had a clean-shaven face while the other wore a goatee. Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call police at 905-579-1520, ext. 5355 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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Single stop sought for double challenge

Durham's first-ever resource guide for people with dual diagnosis unveils teamwork approach

By Parvaneh Pessian
ppessian@durhamregion.com

DURHAM — Families seeking support when caring for a person with dual diagnosis can now turn to a handy, one-stop resource guide that combines all the information they need in a single package.

After more than two years of intense research and collaboration with community partners in the developmental and mental health sector, the Durham Region dual diagnosis committee launched the new manual at a celebration at the Whitby Mental Health Centre (WMHC) recently.

Dual diagnosis refers to an individual who is suffering from a developmental disability and also has mental health needs or challenging behaviours.

The committee is made up of organizations like Community Living, Lakeridge Health Oshawa and the WMHC.

The idea to produce the guide was fueled by the discovery of an already existing guide created by a Toronto-based support and advocacy group called Concerned Parents of Toronto Inc. The group was founded to aid families and friends of individuals with a dual diagnosis of intellectual disabilities and mental health needs.

CONSERVATION ZONE

Peter Love
Chief Energy Conservation Officer of Ontario
Ontario's long tradition of Christmas lights gets an energy efficient makeover

The first settlers to Ontario placed lit candles in holders on trees in celebration of Christmas. More than 100 years ago, in the 1890s, electric lights were used for holiday store displays and some grand homes, but this was rare and very expensive. By the 1920s, strings of big coloured bulbs, using enough electricity to burn your hands, complete with woven cloth coverings over the wires were common.

Fast forward to the 1970s and mini-incandescent bulbs became the rage. Each of these bulbs consumed about 0.5 watts, compared to the five watts that the big bulb incandescent lights sold beside them used. Today, you can buy strings of Light Emitting Diodes. Known as LED Christmas lights or Seasonal Light Emitting Diodes, they use about 10 per cent of the electricity of a mini-incandescent, about three per cent of the older, larger Christmas lights and are much less likely to burn out.

So toss out your old bulbs and get yourself an early holiday gift this year! Thousands of others have exchanged their strings of old-fashioned bulbs for new LED lights. The old strings are decommissioned and the plastic, glass and wire are all properly recycled.

The power needs of these newer lights are very low; in fact some of the outdoor strings come with a small solar photovoltaic device which converts sunshine into electricity for seasonal illumination. These don't even need to be plugged in. Also, automatic timers let you preset when the lights go on or off which saves costs and draws less power.

A special feature prepared and funded by the Conservation Bureau of Ontario
www.conservationbureau.on.ca
www.everykilowattcounts.com

The group's president Jim Johnston -- who currently looks after his two adult children with dual diagnosis -- said caring for these individuals creates great pressures on a family and help is often difficult to obtain.

"It's tiring, it's physically draining and when you have mental health problems and behavioural problems in the mix, it often can be quite a crushing burden for families."

Some of the stress spurs from confusion when dealing with the two separate challenges because service agencies tend to zero in on finding solutions for one of the two different problems while neglecting to consider that multiple causes may be at work, he said.

"It can be complex to understand how intellectual disability and mental health problems interact. Mental health problems can

be mistakenly seen as part of the intellectual disability . . . This is known as diagnostic overshadowing and as a result, many are improperly diagnosed and overly medicated."

The new resource guide aims to alleviate the pressures by providing a comprehensive listing of services and access points to help people navigate the often complicated system when seeking support for loved ones, said Mark Rice, manager of dual diagnosis services at WMHC.

"It really nails down exactly what each agency can offer so people who are looking for services don't have to waste a lot of time or energy," he said, adding that families now have access to fast and useful information from the various types of professionals and services offered each agency to their locations and hours of operation.

Lyn Kyneston from Pickering looks forward to relying on the guide to lead the way when struggling with caring for her 28-year-old son who has autism and obsessive compulsive disorder.

"There's very often a feeling of just hopelessness because things come up and you have no where to turn," she said. "This guide being available now gives the agencies and professionals a way to connect so it's easier for us to find assistance."

The dual diagnosis resource guide is available online through the National Association for Dually Diagnosed Ontario at nadontario.org.

For more information about finding help for people with dual diagnosis or their families, call the WMHC dual diagnosis support unit at 905-668-5881 ext. 6755.

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Cat Heaven

Second career gets enhancements

More chances to apply for re-training

DURHAM — More laid-off people can get help finding a new path in life, thanks to Second Career program enhancements.

The ministry of training, colleges and universities is helping them by offering more opportunities to apply for re-training.

"With any program the government rolls out, it wants to make sure it's meeting the needs of Ontario," said ministry spokesman Greg Flood.

Second career was launched in June and previously only applied to those laid off within a year. Through the program, participants can receive up to \$28,000 to help pay for tuition, travel, books and other costs.

"We're always looking to improve programs and make them available to Ontario," Mr. Flood said, and added this is the next step in the process.

The changes include allowing eligibility for those laid off as far back as January 2005.

Other improvements include allowing people to: apply for more than the maximum \$28,000 on a case-by-case basis; take an interim job; and, apply for short-term training of up to six months for people who don't qualify for employment insurance.

About 1,500 people are in training now or being considered for it, Mr. Flood said.

Second Career is just one avenue for those who are unemployed, he added. It's designed to get people back into training and thinking about another career path.

"This is one of many," Mr. Flood said. "This is a long-term training program."

Ontario has budgeted \$355 million for Second Career over three years which, under the original commitment, would help about 20,000 people with re-training.

More information on employment programs can be found through Employment Ontario, online or by calling the Employment Ontario hotline at 1-800-387-5656.

Best Buy CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: November 28 - December 4.

Product: 2157218 - Narnia: Prince Caspian. Please note that on the November 28 flyer, page 14, this product is not a Blu-ray movie as advertised. This sku pertains to a DVD version with a one (1) day price of \$19.99 - on December 2 only. The Blu-ray title is sku 2157225 for \$31.99. SKU: 2157218

Best Buy CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: November 28 - December 4.

Product: Coby 2GB MP3 Player. On the flyer, the product subhead says "2GB MP3 Player with AM Tuner." However, there is no AM Tuner for this MP3 player. SKU:10111208

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CORRECTION NOTICE

The Nintendo DS Ice Blue Bundle (#564120) advertised in our current flyer (ending Dec. 12th) will not be available until December 6th.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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★ Veridian will hand out free LED Christmas lights, in exchange for your old ones. Bring in your old incandescent light strings and receive a one-for-one exchange on new seasonal LED's, up to a maximum of two sets per household - while quantities last!

Make A **Joyful Noise**

Music Nights

Tuesday, December 9 &
 Thursday, December 11

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Pickering Civic Complex, Council Chambers

Enjoy a free concert featuring local musicians and choirs playing a variety of holiday favourites. Performance line-up online. ★ *

★ Food donations for St. Paul's on the Hill Food Bank will be accepted at this event.



Advertorial

Michael Hill opens 233rd store.

Michael Hill knows the power of a dream. Starting with just one small shop in Whangarei, New Zealand in 1979, Michael Hill had a vision to create a unique retail experience, with dramatically different store designs and a jewellery range of world-class quality and design at accessible prices. The formula certainly worked and the company grew rapidly, listing on the stock exchange in 1987.

This simple dream remains to this day the founding principle and measure of Michael Hill's great success, along with its philosophy of attaining the right people who have the drive and determination to truly make a difference. At Michael Hill, customer service is unique and tailored to each individual's needs. This is an integral part of their brand promise to every customer and the reason so many return to experience the Michael Hill difference.

The launch of the Michael Hill Watch brand is unique to say the least. Six generations of watchmaking expertise runs in the Michael Hill family and it is this rich family history of craftsmanship that now forms the cornerstone of the Michael Hill Watch Collection. Each timepiece is exquisitely designed, echoing precision and meticulous attention to detail, combined with the contemporary styling for which Michael Hill is now internationally renowned.

Famous for its philanthropy, Michael Hill sponsors the Michael Hill Violin Competition and the prestigious New Zealand Golf Open which has given the brand international status.

Today Michael Hill employs over 1900 staff in retailing, manufacturing and administration and has over 200 stores throughout Canada, Australia, New Zealand and USA.

Michael Hill opens its 233rd store tomorrow at the Pickering Town Centre with a Grand Opening Sale. So make sure you come and join the celebrations.

Submitted photo

A big ride for a big birthday

AJAX — Audrey Parker, second from left, had a great surprise for her 75th birthday recently when she got to ride in a Peterbilt truck courtesy of Cam-Scott Transport Ltd. Ms. Parker had always wanted to ride in the big rig and her family made some phone calls to see if they could get the wish filled. Helping her celebrate are, from left, Liam Parker, Ms. Parker, Kori Kostka, Glenn Weddel, owner of Cam-Scott and family, Donny, Chloe, and Lincoln. Ms. Parker even got a trucker name, LuLu.

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Back left to right: Kathy, Christine, Robbin, Darlene, Marie, Dr. Mike Tzotzis-Orthodontist. **Middle left to right:** Donna, Dr. Robert Pacione, Irene, Vanda, Angie, Dr. Alan Fernandes. **Front left to right:** Angela, Dr. Omar Usman-Periodontist, Krista, Tammie, JanaLee, Kerri.



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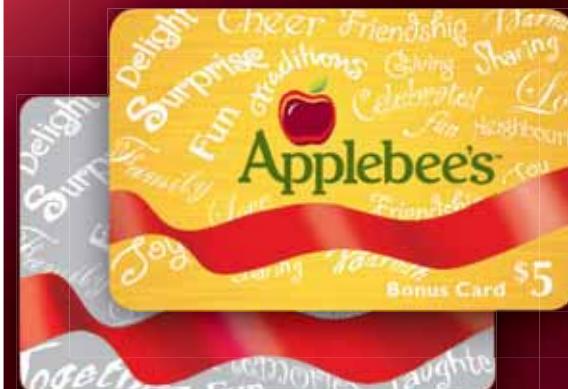
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

LUNCHEON AND DANCE: The Town of Ajax's annual event for older adults (55+) is from noon to 3 p.m. at the Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room, 75 Centennial Dr. Tickets are \$13 each and available at the McLean and Ajax community centres. For more information call 905-428-7711 or visit www.townofajax.com.

ADDITION: The Serenity Group 12-step recovery meeting begins at 8 p.m. at Bayfair Baptist Church, 817 Kingston Rd., Pickering. The group meets every week and deals with addictions of all types, including co-dependency. Everyone welcome. 905-428-9431 (Jim).

ROUGE HILL SENIORS: The Rouge Hill Seniors Club meets every Friday at the Petticoat Creek Library, 470 Kingston Rd., Pickering, at 6:45 p.m. for euchre. 905-420-6320.

EARLY INFANCY PARENTING PROGRAM: A non-profit program to help mothers and families nurture their children from infancy to age two and beyond, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Pickering Ontario Early Years Centre, 1822 Whites Rd. Unit 202. 905-509-0995 (Kelly).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: The Rouge Hill Seniors Club's Christmas tea and bazaar is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Petticoat Creek Library, 470 Kingston Rd., Pickering. All are welcome. 905-420-4660 ext. 6320.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

TAIZE SERVICE: All are welcome at a special church service consisting of singing meditative chants with a short silence in the middle and a few short readings. It is at Claremont United Church, 5052 Old Brock Rd. at 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

ROUGE HILL SENIORS: The Rouge Hill Seniors Club meets to play bid euchre on Mondays at 6:45 p.m. at the Petticoat Creek Community Centre, 470 Kingston Rd., Pickering. 905-420-6320.

AJAX SENIORS: The Ajax Seniors' Friendship Club meets for carpet bowling every Monday and Thursday at 9:20 a.m. at the St. Andrew's Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd., Ajax. Beginners welcome but should come earlier. 905-428-2716 (Jim).

AJAX SENIORS: The Ajax Seniors' Friendship Club meets for cribbage on Mondays at 1 p.m. at the St. Andrews Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd., Ajax. Beginners welcome but should come earlier. 905-426-6265 (Audrey).

MOOD DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP:

A support group for individuals suffering from depression, anxiety, or stress meets every Monday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Located at the Salvation Army Hope Community Care Centre, 35 King's Cres., Ajax. Held in partnership with the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario. For more information, call 905-426-4347.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

TOASTMASTERS: Gain confidence and develop public-speaking skills. The Pickering Powerhouse Toastmasters meets on Tuesday nights from

6:45 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parkway Retirement Residence (Activity Room), 1645 Pickering Parkway, Pickering. Guests welcome. 905-831-6867 (Joan).

SENIORS: The Ajax Seniors' Tuesday Morning Discussion Group meets at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Andrew's Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd., Ajax. A presentation by Bernie Rosebush on Is Santa Just for Children? Everyone welcome. 905-683-7799 (Louise), 905-428-8711 (Shirley).

HELP FOR PARENTS: Helping Other Parents Everywhere (HOPE) Inc. is a community-based support group for parents dealing with children who have behavioural problems including attitude, substance abuse, running away, dropping out of school and parent abuse. The group meets locally on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. Call 905-239-3577 for more information and meeting location.

MOM AND TOTS: Mom and Tots is a playgroup for stay at home moms and their children up to kindergarten age. Includes play centres, a sensory table, crafts, snack time, story time, and songs and games. Meets Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 at the Hope Community Church, 35 King's Crescent, Ajax. Free and open to all, including moms on maternity leave.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The Pickering Township Historical Society welcomes Rod Clarke, speaking about North America's first narrow gauge railway, which opened in 1871. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the East Shore Community Centre, 910 Liverpool Rd. Free admission to guests and refreshments served.

ADOPTION: The Durham Adoption Disclosure Support Group meets at 7 p.m. at the Durham Children's Aid Society offices, 1320 Airport Blvd. (corner of Taunton Rd. and Airport Blvd.), Oshawa. It's for those 18 and older who was adopted or a birth family member considering looking for biological members. 905-434-7656 (Joan).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

SENIORS DROP-IN: Eagles Nest drop-in for those 50 and over is at Forest Brook Community Church, 60 Kearney Dr. in Pickering Village, Ajax, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information call Jack at 905-686-5647 or Bob at 905-571-5635.

ROUGE HILL SENIORS: The Rouge Hill Seniors Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. for darts and 1 p.m. for carpet bowling at the Petticoat Creek Library, 470 Kingston Rd., Pickering. 905-420-6320.

AJAX SENIORS: The Ajax Seniors' Friendship Club meets for euchre on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and on Mondays and Fridays at 8 p.m. at the St. Andrew's Community Centre, 46 Exeter Rd., Ajax. For more information, call Jack at 905-683-9696.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

PICKERING VILLAGE SENIORS: Join the seniors for bridge on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Village Seniors Centre, 29 Linton Ave. (Church Street and Kingston Road), Ajax. 905-683-1659 (Toni).

HELP FOR PARENTS: For the past 28 years APSGO (Association of Parent Support Groups of Ontario) has been helping parents of disruptive youth better their family circumstances. Meetings are now every Thursday. Call 1-800-488-5666 or visit www.apsgo.ca.

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They specialize in Canadian made products, which means the customer can rest assured knowing they are supporting the local economy. MasterBedroom carries birch bedroom furniture from College Woodworking, which is located just east of Oshawa and pine furniture by Bedroom & More, which is also manufactured in Ontario. Both offer high quality, solid wood products. Customers are also able to build their own bedroom sets by choosing only the pieces and sizes they need, as opposed to having to buy the entire package. They are also able to choose their hardware and finishes, with choices ranging from classic white to the more contemporary espressos, antique blacks and java shades.

Customers also have a great variety of mattresses to choose from, including brands such as Serta, BackMaster, and Comfort Rest. MasterBedroom also has TempurPedic mattresses, which are made from open cell foam developed by NASA that offers better contouring to your body, creating more breathability, cooler temperatures



"At MasterBedroom, you are sure to find the mattress that is perfect for you."

and a more comfortable sleep surface without movement that disturbs your partner. Natura is another Ontario manufacturer that offers a line of latex mattress, which is a natural product derived from the rubber tree. They also have a Green line of mattresses that are made from organic, soy based products that contain less glues and products that can be harmful to you and the environment.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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They also have a large section of futons, which are one of the best sleep alternatives for guests. With rigid foundations, they offer firmer support

than sofa beds. At MasterBedroom, they have a variety of different styles and five different mattress types to choose from.

MasterBedroom also carries adjustable beds, waterbeds, linens, duvets, pillows, mattress pads and other bedroom accessories.

MasterBedroom has two convenient locations in the Durham Region and is open seven days a week. The

Pickering store is located at 1755 Pickering Parkway in the Home & Idea Centre. They can be reached at (905) 427-2047. The Whitby store is located at 1540 Dundas Street East, on the northwest corner of Thickson Road and Dundas. They can be reached at (905) 668-4300. For more information on MasterBedroom, please visit the website at www.masterbedroom-stores.com.

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Will feds come to the automakers' rescue?

Finance minister hints at bailout

By Melissa Mancini
mmancini@durhamregion.com

DURHAM — It's a manufacturing waiting game.

Many are wondering what, if anything, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler will get from the Conservative federal government and the Liberal provincial government.

While the federal Conservative government was preoccupied with staying in power -- the Governor General agreed Thursday to prorogue Parliament at Prime Minister Stephen Harper's request until Jan. 26 -- ongoing discussions to deal with the plight of the automakers continued.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said he was in a "long meeting" with one of the Big Three automakers and Industry Minister Tony Clement on Wednesday and talks continued Thursday.

"It isn't simple. Each company has its own particular situation, they're not identical. Each also has its own needs, whether it's with respect to cash or credit or both," Mr. Flaherty said.

The federal government has asked for the auto companies to submit long-term plans by Friday. The feds have been told that the plans will be in Ottawa by the due date, Mr.

Flaherty said. "We've been looking at various options, some of them are through my department of finance some are through the department of industry," said Mr. Flaherty, who is scheduled to deliver a budget to the House of Commons on Jan. 27.

Mr. Flaherty said he won't have to wait until parliament reconvenes to make credit promises to the Big Three.

"I think we can take necessary steps to do this in terms of credit without having parliamentary approval immediately but ultimately I expect that we would have to go to parliament and ask for authority on a couple of issues that are being discussed," he said. "In general . . . if we offer, for example, any sort of guarantees by the government I can do that as minister of finance but if the guarantee were used later on and payments were necessary I would need approval of parliament to do that. The feds will be closely watching what happens in the United States where the Big Three automakers are putting their bailout plans before Congress and are collectively asking for \$34 billion in bailout guarantees. Mr. Flaherty is keeping his eye on what happens south of the border.

"We have to make sure the Americans don't do something that would damage what we might do . . ." he said. "I think we'll get to a place where some support, I hope, can be extended to try and bridge to the future."

On Wednesday December 3, 2008 an error appeared in the Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser for the Angel Wings and Fairy Dust advertisement.

The Pre-Christmas Open House is Saturday December 6th & Sunday December 7th.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

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The Waiting Game

Canadian Auto Workers Local 222 president Chris Buckley said the government needs to stop ignoring the crisis that is happening in the manufacturing industry. Mr. Buckley and the CAW national supported a coalition government and wasn't concerned that it would further delay auto assistance, he said.

"Ultimately we wanted immediate action on behalf of our declining

auto industry that was out front and centre," he said. "We would like to have heard Jim Flaherty last week put some stimulus in place or at the very least a commitment to support the financial relief for our auto industry and that was a huge disappointment." Mr. Buckley said he can only hope that after what has happened the last few days the government will finally take the crisis seriously. The 10 per cent drop in Canadian sales for November should be no surprise, auto guru Dennis DesRosiers said in an e-mail summarizing

the state of the market.

"It has finally caught up with us up here in Canada. For most of the last two years we have been hearing about the troubles in the auto sector ... for all of the last three months ... all the consumer has heard is that the auto sector in North America and in particular the Detroit Three is in "Crisis" ... that my friends is code for "don't buy a vehicle" ... any vehicle," he said.

Until the industry gets out of the daily headlines, "it will be a rough ride," Mr. DesRosiers said.

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♦ Dealers from page 22

mediately since companies would still be producing cars. Still, the impact would be devastating to dealers.

"We're arguing that most people would not buy a car from a manufacturer that's gone bankrupt, so declaring bankruptcy would send them off a cliff and make things that much worse."

He doesn't think bankruptcies, such as those experienced within the airline industry after 9/11, are a good comparison.

The airlines used bankruptcy protection to renegotiate contracts and run leaner operations. Consumers, however, make a bigger

commitment to cars than to airline tickets.

"It's a long-term relationship you're entering into with the manufacturer. If the manufacturer declares bankruptcy ... that would lead to an even lower demand for that manufacturer's vehicles."

The CADA is lobbying against that happening. Auto dealers employ just more than 135,000 people in Canada and 49,000 people in Ontario.

"We're trying to communicate that would be a disaster," said Mr. Hatch.

A number of local car dealers did not want to comment on the issue.

--Files from Torstar news services



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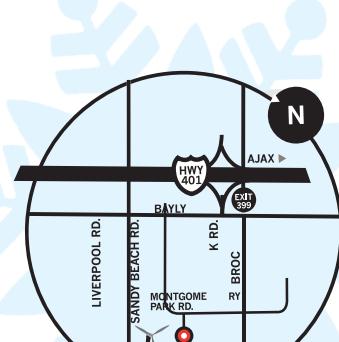
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RSS UPDATES

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Region says it's ready for increased welfare caseload

Spin-off jobs, not line workers, reason for increase

DURHAM — Given the economic uncertainty surrounding manufacturing jobs in Durham, the Region is prepared to add additional people to its welfare rolls.

"Because Durham has a high concentration of manufacturing jobs, it's been a difficult past year or so because of the job losses, especially related to the auto industry," said Paul Cloutier, the Region's director of income support.

Durham administers the Ontario Works (OW) program and pays a fifth of the cost of the benefits doled out. In two years, the OW caseload has increased almost 20 per cent in Durham.

As of October, the Region was handling 7,868 OW cases, 667 more than in October 2007. And since families are considered a single case, the caseload translates into 17,448 people receiving social assistance.

For 2009, the Region is budgeting an eight

The Waiting Game

per cent increase in OW cases. In 2008, the Region budgeted \$29.3 million for social assistance. Should demand for OW benefits increase at a higher rate, it will be up to Regional council to decide if additional money is needed and where it will come from.

As to where the demand for social assistance is coming from, Mr. Cloutier said he's not seeing the line workers themselves applying since many of them qualify for EI benefits or company buyouts, he's instead seeing the spin-off jobs disappearing.

"I think the common understanding among economists, among those that focus on the auto sector, is every line job that's lost may impact another seven in the community," Mr. Cloutier said.

A federal package to supplement EI could be a part of an economic stimulus package but, so far, no such an announcement has been made.

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A glimpse of 1922 dining decorum

Minding your manners at Parkwood

By Christy Chase
cchase@durhamregion.com

DURHAM — You see it everywhere -- men wearing hats in restaurants, people with their elbows on the table, even more people talking on cell phones during dinner.

If you'd like to restore a little decorum to your dining experiences this holiday, try going back in time to 1922, when table etiquette was a big thing, especially in the upper echelons of society. You can find out just how people behaved in the drawing room and at the dining table during a special Parkwood Estate program on Dec. 9.

Dining Decorum is educational and fun, said curator Samantha George. The hour-long program focuses on the drawing room and the dining room, offering an intimate look at how Canada's auto baron, R.S. (Sam) McLaughlin, and his wife, Adelaide, would have entertained.

"We talked about how the rooms would have functioned in 1922," George said. "It's so different from etiquette today."

Unlike royalty or people born into money, the McLaughlins wouldn't have grown up knowing all the details of entertaining etiquette, she said. They would have learned as adults. And there was plenty to learn.

"Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin, as adults, all of a sudden had to learn this to be able to entertain," she said.

From the beginning, 1922 etiquette is different from today. The formal greeting of "How do you do?" from the host didn't bring a chorus of "Fine. How are you?" Oh no. The proper response was "How do you do?" accompanied by a nod of the head or a curtsey, George said.

(Etiquette called for guests to arrive 15 minutes before dinner, no earlier, no later. Late arrivals wouldn't be seated after the second course had been served and their reputations would be in tatters.)

Then it was off to the drawing room, where there was no sitting and chatting or pre-dinner drinks or appetizers. George said everyone would have remained standing and talking politely in what was basically the waiting area.

The big show of the evening was dinner, a multi-course meal. Seating arrangements would have been drawn up with meticulous details by Mrs. McLaughlin and her staff, depending on people's standing. Husbands and wives couldn't sit



JoAnn Hayden, a Parkwood Estate volunteer, lights the candles in the estate's dining room.

Walter Passarella/ News Advertiser photo

together so she had to take that into account. The order down the table had to go man, woman, man, woman, etc. Status had to be taken into account. There were important people, people who thought they were important and everyone else.

While importance or lack thereof was a factor, so too was "servant's gossip," George said.

"They knew who was talking to who and who wasn't getting along," she said.

That was A list. There was

'Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin, as adults, all of a sudden had to learn this to be able to entertain.'

-- PARKWOOD ESTATE CURATOR SAMANTHA GEORGE

also a B list, made up of people who knew the etiquette and were available at short notice. If someone from the A list had to cancel, someone was needed to fill in, as the McLaughlins needed to have "a proper table."

At the table, you talked to the person on either side of you, that's it, George said. If Mr. McLaughlin wanted to talk to someone at the opposite end of the table, he couldn't. He had to wait until after the dinner was finished.

"Some of these dinners were eight-course meals and if you were sitting beside Mr. Dull ..." George said, his voice trailing off.

Of course, guests and the hosts had to keep conversation civil and limited to certain topics. As the

host, Mr. McLaughlin would have had to monitor things and be able to steer talk back on track, George said.

At the end of the dinner, the men retired to the billiard room for cigars and drinks while the women headed to the drawing room, where coffee, tea and alcoholic drinks were served, George said. After a suitable time, the men joined the women and then the evening and the conversation flowed a little freer.

But to get through the eve-

ning without any blemishes on the McLaughlin reputation, the McLaughlin's had to know the rules. In Parkwood's collection are 100 books on etiquette, many of them with notes in the borders, some in Mrs. McLaughlin's handwriting, others written by staff.

Another twist was that Mrs. McLaughlin, raised in the Victoria era, had to get used to new styles, fashions and etiquette in the Roaring 1920s, the era of flappers, shorter skirts and short haircuts, George said. Mrs. McLaughlin's Victorian laces were out and damask was in. However, she was allowed to mix the two.

Then there were the differences between British dining etiquette, followed by the McLaughlins, and

the American. The British had a serve-yourself breakfast and lunches and dinners served by staff, while the Americans had a served breakfast and were big on dinner buffets, George said. What would Mrs. McLaughlin have done if Lord Tweedsmuir, landed gentry and the governor general of Canada, and Walter Chrysler, an American auto baron, were both invited to dinner at the same time?

"Lord Tweedsmuir trumped Mr. Chrysler," George said.

To keep everything straight, Mrs. McLaughlin kept books filled with guest lists and dinner menus.

Things changed once the Great Depression hit in the 1930s and dinner parties were few and far between. Things never really returned to their former grandeur after that, although you will still find table etiquette practised at top levels, George said.

Sometimes, when faced with people with cellphones stuck to their ears, she regrets the loss of dining decorum. But she's quite happy to see some of the quirker etiquette stay forgotten.

You can find out all about fine entertaining at Parkwood at the Dec. 9 program, which runs at 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Don't be late. Tickets are \$18 per person and can be obtained by calling 905-433-4311 Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advance registration is required. You can also book other dates for small groups for Dining Decorum.

Parkwood is at 270 Simcoe St. N., and is a national heritage site.

An old-fashioned Christmas in Pickering

Holiday traditions galore at Greenwood's Museum Village

Any opportunity to visit scenic Pickering Museum Village, near the village of Greenwood, is always welcome, but this Sunday and next (Dec. 7 and 14) will be especially festive as the museum celebrates the Christmas traditions of local settlers from 1810 to 1910.

In the old log cabin, costumed guides share the rituals of the traditional Scottish New Year celebration, Hogmanay, first with a frantic bout of cleaning to sweep away a year's accumulation of evil spirits, then with a first-footer carrying symbolic items including a lump of coal for warmth.

In the 1850s' Collins House, there's no tree, just a little greenery and lots of carol singing as the Welsh family welcome the Mari Llywd, or Grey Horse, in a door-to-door caroling contest fuelled by Wassail punch.

English Christmas crackers and a table-top tree are seen in the late 19th century Miller House, where visitors can sample a traditional Christmas pudding. The puddings will be on sale at the General Store, but shop early because they always sell out. The Christmas tree is a new part of the celebration, introduced to England by Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert.

After the Illustrated London News featured an engraving of the royal couple with their decorated tree, the trend spread across the British Empire.

Although these traditional celebrations may seem short on decorations, they were big on music. The Stepping in Tyme dance society performs Squire Jonathan's Christmas Ball in the museum's Oddfellows Hall. It's a true Fezziwig-style dance party where visitors are invited to join in traditional English country dances. 905-683-8401, www.cityofpickering.com/museum.

Betty Zyvatkauskas is a Durham tourism writer. Look for her occasional columns in The News Advertiser and her blog at www.newsdurhamregion.com.

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Eastman rink cashes in at mixed skins bonspiel

Foursome takes top prize at Annandale event

By Jim Easson
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — Curlers put brooms to ice and swept up some dollars at the Mixed Skins Cash Bonspiel at the Annandale Golf and Curling Club last weekend.

Eighteen teams competed in the bonspiel that featured a total payout of \$2,400 in 'skins.'

The Terry Eastman rink was the big winners, capturing the 'A' event and collecting \$338. Curling in the Eastman foursome were Cathy Menard, Mike Menard and Linda Eastman. The Jerry Pinkney team finished as runners-up in the 'A' division, taking home \$327 in prize money.

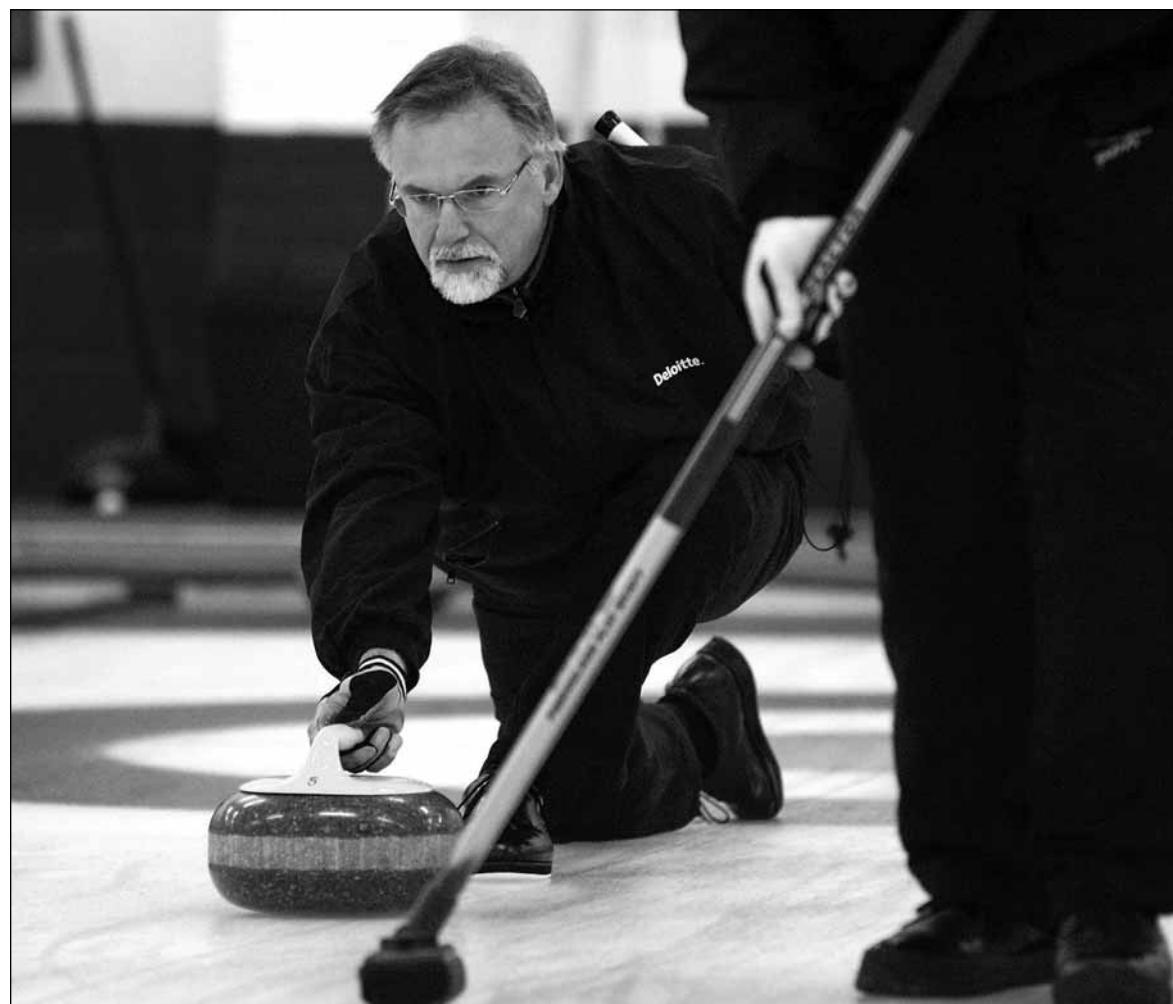
In the 'B' division, Team Payne won over Team Jewer. The Payne rink earned \$351, while the Jewer foursome settled for \$250.

•••
The OCA Pepsi Junior Regional playdowns were last weekend and Annandale had members who were successful on competitive teams in other zones.

Chantal Lalonde played with Danielle Inglis of Burlington in Zone 13 on a team that included Annandale curler Tracy O'Leary, now at Laurier University. The Inglis rink won the 'B' side of Region 4 and now advances to the Ontario Provincial Junior Women's Curling Championship at the Gananoque Curling Club from Jan. 7 to 11.

Joan Moorecurls with Danielle Loney of Midland in Zone 10 on a team that includes reigning Ontario champion Glenn Howard's daughter, Carly. The rink advanced to the Region 3 in Meaford but was sidelined with an 0-2 record.

The local Region 2 Playdown was held at the Oshawa Curling Club and neither of the competing Annandale teams advanced to the provincials. The junior ladies' team of Lesley Pyne, Stacey Hogan, Suzanne Miller and Katie Hickey, with coach Jennifer McGehee, posted a 2-2 mark.



Skip Jerry Pinkney gets set to deliver the rock at the Mixed Skins Cash Bonspiel at the Annandale Golf and Curling Club last Saturday. Pinkney and crew finished as runners-up in the 'A' division, winning \$327 in prize money.

Adrien Veczan photo

The Annandale junior men's team of Michael Bryson, James McPherson, Sandy Martin and Josh Hall, coached by Susannah Moylan, went 0-2.

•••

An Annandale rink has advanced to the regionals after competing at the OCA senior men's and women's zones at Dalewood Golf on the weekend.

Sandra Thain's Annandale team of Barb Luffman, Joan O'Leary and Janet Alexander advanced as there were only two senior women's entries. They next play in the regionals in Lakefield on Dec. 13 and 14.

The Annandale men's team of Carl Vickers with Dave Gaudette, Doug Lawson and Geoff Peck went 0-2.

Three other Annandale competitive curlers were on two additional teams but none advanced. Warren Leslie was on an Uxbridge team skipped by Greg Timbers with Barry Acton and Kent Cochrane.

Alex Bianchi and Mike Trudeau were on an Oshawa foursome skipped by Brian Suddard with John Brotherhood.

•••

Annandale will host the first step in the chase for a Tim Hortons Brier entry. The TSC Stores Tankard Zone Playdown is at the club starting Friday, Dec. 5.

The draw is full, with 16 men's teams playing a double-knockout draw for the two spots to the regionals.

Blair Metrakos skips one Annandale entry with Chris Van

Huyse, Andrew Klein and Scott March.

Another Annandale entry is skipped by Wes Johnson with Patrick Janssen, Tyler Anderson and Spencer Yule. Johnson and Yule are playing with competitive memberships and do not play in house leagues.

There is no charge to drop by the club and watch the action.

•••

Skip Glenn Howard, with Pickering resident Richard Hart at vice and Brent Laing and Craig Savill on the front end, heads to The National in Quebec City from Dec. 3 to 7.

The Quebec event represents the second leg of the men's 2008-09 Capital One Grand Slam of Curling series.

Eight qualifiers out of 18 top teams will compete for a share of the \$100,000 purse.

Sports briefs

DECEMBER 5, 2008

Ajax Rams batter Henry Street

AJAX — The Ajax High School Rams kept their unbeaten streak alive in Durham Region senior boys' hockey action on Tuesday afternoon.

The Rams improved to 5-0-1 on

the season after they obliterated the Henry Street High School Hawks of Whitby 11-1 in Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA)

regular-season play at the Iroquois Park Sports Centre.

Ryan Brawley led the charge with an incredible seven-point (hat trick, four assists) effort against the Hawks. Drew Boyd recorded a two-goal game, while Pat Mayhew, Scott Desroches, Matt Black, Mike Brogan, Brandon Watts and Taylor Giffin all chipped in with singles.

Kyle Lindsay notched the lone goal for the Hawks, which are still winless on the season at 0-5-0.

The Rams, in second place in the LOSSA East Division standings, take on the first-place Eastdale Eagles (6-0-0) in a battle of two unbeaten teams on Thursday morning at 9 a.m. at the Ajax Community Centre's Pad 4.

Hoops house league signups soon

DURHAM — The Durham City Basketball Association holds signups this month for its upcoming winter house league program that gets underway in January.

The DCBA is in its fifth year of providing boys and girls with a structured program for youths ages four to 15. The house league

program includes player development and structured league play, while also providing participants with basic basketball fundamentals, free clinics, game play and player-of-the-week awards.

Registration dates are on Sunday, Dec. 7 at J. Clarke Richardson (1355 Harwood Ave. N., Ajax) from 1 to 3 p.m. and on Monday, Dec. 15 at Carruthers Creek Public School (1 Greenhalf Rd., Ajax) from 7 to 9 p.m.

The eight-week house league program begins Jan. 11 at J. Clarke Richardson. The cost is \$75 on or before Dec. 7. After this date, the cost is \$100.

All players will receive a T-shirt and trophy.

For more information, call 905-427-4253 or visit www.durhamcitybasketball.ca.





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CABINET MAKER wanted with minimum 3 years experience, applicants must be familiar with all cabinet making equipment, wage 16 to 20 dollars per hour based on experience, email swilliams12398@yahoo.ca

EAVESTROUGH/SIDING Crews and helpers required. Work year round. Experience preferred. Call Annie at 416-438-4344.

PLUMBER, REQUIRED for work in Oshawa and surrounding areas, top wages and benefits. Fax resume to 905-576-8065.

TRUCK TIRE road service technician, tire installers license and drivers license for work in the Durham area. Call Ron 905-431-6363.

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EXPERIENCED ECE required for Scarborough daycare. Fax resume to (416)321-1695 or email to kimbercroft2@rogers.com

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160 Baseline Rd.E. Warehouse and commercial storefront area for lease. 4500sq.ft., 18ft. ceilings, overhead door, reasonable rent. Avail. after Dec.1. 905-261-9447 for more information.

FOR LEASE - 170 Bloor St. East Oshawa, 11,674 Sq.Ft. Prime Commercial Lot - Only. Corner of Bloor St. East and Howard Street. Deadline for Offers Dec. 15, 2008. Contact Susan at 1-866-833-2033 ext 229 or scastro@dmproperty.com

INDUSTRIAL BAY walking distance Walmart, Oshawa Centre, Stevenson/401 exit. High roll-up door, air compressor, \$915/mo. includes all utilities, parking. Auto repairs machining, hobbies and other uses (light industrial). month-by-month available. Also Storage Container available. 905-576-2982 or 905-626-6619.

HOMEWELL SENIOR CARE is hiring personal workers & companions, part-time, full time & live in positions. Automobile an asset. homewell.pickerling@gmail.com Fax (905) 426-2139. 700 Finley Ave. Unit 5, Ajax, Ont. L1S 3Z2

PART-TIME DENTAL ASSISTANT Level 2 preferred. Experience preferred for Whitby dental office. Send resume to 865 Farewell St. Oshawa, Ontario L1H 7L5, Box #361.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (Maternity leave position) for busy Oshawa Pharmacy. Minimum one year Pharmacy experience required. Pharmacy diploma, OCP certification, Zadall and long-term care background preferred. Submit resume in confidence to vlau@medicalpharmacies.com

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Call Matt 289-240-4447

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Townhouses for Rent

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OSHAWA - 2 bedroom townhouse in 4 plex. Quiet crescent, 1 near schools, 401. New windows, furnace, bath, enclosed patio, basement, laundry room, appliances, utilities NOT INCLUDED. Water, parking included. \$840 monthly. 1st/last, (905)626-5777

OSHAWA, 2 BEDROOM townhouse, main floor, fridge, stove, garage, parking. \$925/month. No pets, first & last. avail. Jan 1, (905)433-0385.

RENT TO OWN, 3 bedroom townhouse, new paint, carpet, available now. open house, Sunday, 2 - 4, 207 - 10 Bassett Blvd., Whitby Manning/Brock (416)-402-1006

Rooms for Rent & Wanted

NOTICE OF SALE

Goods and/or vehicles will be sold on December 13, 2008 at 33 Hall Street, Oshawa, Ont. at 4:00 p.m. to satisfy outstanding charges for storage rental incurred by the following:

KYLIE LEWIS
JUSTIN ROBICHAUD
GLENN TYE
ANTHONY MAIR
VIVIENNE UNDERWOOD
KELLY KOSLOWSKI
PATRICIA BROWN
MICHEAL BROWN
MICHAEL BROWN
PAM SMYTHE
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SONIA MONTHEITH
PROS PLUMBING

Dated in the **City of AJAX**, in the Province of Ontario, November 27th, 2008.
SENTINEL SELF-STORAGE CORP., #475 Harwood Avenue North, Ajax, Ontario L1Z 1L8.

2 FURNISHED BEDROOMS, 1 large \$435/month, one small \$410/month. Professional seeks same or student to share Oshawa house. Internet, cable, laundry, parking incl. (905)723-0859 after 6 pm or VelsenLaw@hotmail.com

BROCK RD/FINCH Pickering, clean, quiet, large furnished bedsitting room. Private bathroom, shared kitchen. Must love animals! Parking, cable/internet included, \$550/mo. Available immediately. No smoking. (905)426-8525.

FURNISHED ROOM +private living room, bathroom, utilities, cable, fridge, hotplate, microwave, local phone provided. \$550/mth. Add second room \$600/mth. Available immediately. First/last. 905-725-7679.

LARGE AJAX upstairs room, double closet, available immediately. Share facilities, laundry, cable, internet, bus at door. \$450 per mo. (905) 239-1732 (416)723-7557

LARGE CLEAN, furnished room, close to Oshawa Centre. No pets. Share kitchen & bath, ideal for working person. First/last. Phone 905-436-1420.

SALEM/BAYLY, furnished room, in quiet family home. Female preferred, non smoker. Own washroom, pool, hot tub, laundry facilities, parking. \$450/month, no pets. 289-892-2985.

Shared Accommodation

FURNISHED BEDROOM (Private TV/Sitting room) Professional female seeks same or student for Oshawa townhouse. Internet, cable, included. \$500/month, available immediately. (905)243-7252 or lindapark100@hotmail.com.

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BED, ALL new Queen orthopedic, mattress, box spring in plastic, cost \$900, selling \$275. Call (416)779-0563

A MATURE ADULT single male, 52 yrs. old is looking for a down-to-earth non-smoking lady as a companion for a long-term relationship. If any of you ladies are interested please call 905-686-9838.

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2006 KUBOTA LAWN TRACTOR 17hp, gasoline engine. 48" cut, hydrostatic drive, power steering, double bagger, dial in cutting height. Like new \$4500. Call 905-436-1823, 905-924-4022

65 GALLON FISH AQUARIUM, up & running, paid \$1100 plus, asking \$700 obo. Call 905-579-6731

AFFORDABLE Appliances, HANKS Appliances, PARTS/SALES/SERVICE 310 Bloor St. W. Stoves \$175/up, Fridges \$175/up, Washers \$175/up, Dryers \$149/up. All warranty up to 15 months. Don't know what to get your loved ones... Get a Gift Certificate and they can pick! Durham's largest selection of Reconditioned Appliances. (905)728-4043.

ANTIQUE WEBER dining room set, table with two leaves, buffet, china cabinet, 6 upholstered chairs, \$1,500. Variety of depression glass, best offer! (905)725-4714.

LEATHER SOFA recliner, 4 months new, 3 seat \$499, 2 seat \$450. Ask for Javed (905)683-2888

POOL TABLE, professional series 1" slate, new in box with accessories, cost \$4500, selling \$1395. 416-779-0563

APPLIANCES, refrigerator, stove, heavy duty Kenmore washer & dryer, apartment size washer & dryer. Mint condition. Will sell separately, can deliver. Call (905)903-4997

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BOBBY ORR Auto-grafted 20 x 24 Framed Picture, Great North Road Certificate of Authenticity. Custom Framed "Flying Goal" \$400 obo. Must see to truly appreciate. call Paul 905-269-0624

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CORNER JACUZZI tub \$300-obo; Playstation 3, like new in box \$350-obo. I-phone, 16 gigs brand new \$650, no contract (905)922-7015

GIBSON ES335 - Dot neck, red, 2 years new, in the case, never used. \$2200 obo. Also, GODIN LGX - 4 years new (PRS finish), \$825 obo. Ask for David 905-434-2970.

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PIANO TECHNICIAN available for tuning, repairs & pre-purchase consultation. Used upright or grand acoustic pianos for sale. Moving, rentals available. Call 905-427-7631 or visit: www.barbhall.com

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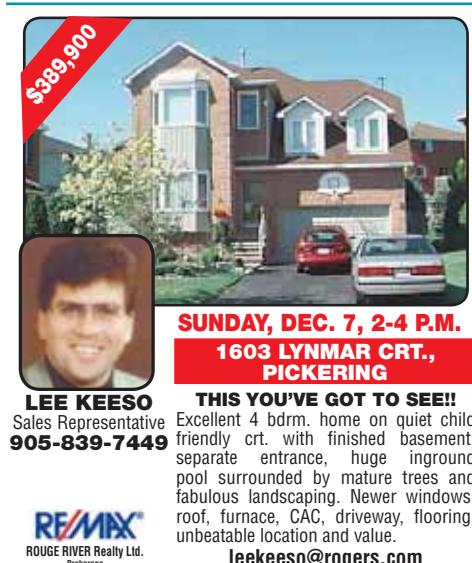


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Scoreboard

DECEMBER 5, 2008

PICKERING OLDTIMERS HOCKEY LEAGUE

OVER-35 DIVISION
Standings as of Nov. 17

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Bay Dukes	16	10	1	5	92	60	25
Virtual Law Flyers	16	8	2	6	99	79	22
Penguins	16	9	5	2	76	73	20
Hawg Farmers	16	7	5	4	75	63	18
Shagwells	16	7	8	1	90	89	15
Intrepid	16	4	8	4	46	58	12
Re/Max	15	2	9	4	64	89	8
Flames	15	2	11	2	42	73	6

Results (Nov. 30): Bay Dukes 7 vs. Shagwells' 3; Penguins 9 vs. Hawg Farmers 5; Virtual Law Flyers 7 vs. Intrepid 3

OVER-50 DIVISION
Standings as of Nov. 17

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Canadians	15	11	3	1	78	36	23
RoadRunners	15	9	5	1	61	45	19
Bruins	15	8	6	1	53	54	17
Buds	15	7	6	2	65	58	16
SloFlames	15	4	10	1	52	81	9
Rusty Blades	15	3	12	0	39	74	6

Results (Nov. 30): Canadians 10 vs. SloFlames 0; Bruins 4 vs. Buds 2; RoadRunners 7 vs. Rusty Blades 2.

LOSSA SENIOR BOYS' HOCKEY

Recent standings
EAST DIVISION

TEAM	W	L	T	P	F	A
Eastdale	6	0	0	12	30	8
Ajax	4	0	1	9	27	6
Anderson	3	0	1	7	31	15
Austin	2	2	1	5	20	18
O'Neill	2	3	1	5	21	28
Paul Dwyer	1	4	0	2	14	21
Notre Dame	1	5	0	2	17	30
McLaughlin	1	5	0	2	11	34
Clarington Central	0	5	1	1	12	39

WEST DIVISION

TEAM	W	L	T	P	F	A
St. Mary	6	1	0	12	42	12
Holy Trinity	4	1	0	8	22	10
All Saints	4	2	0	8	35	26
Pine Ridge	3	2	1	7	26	23
Pickering High	3	1	0	6	24	18
Dunbarton High	2	2	1	5	13	13
Uxbridge Secondary	2	3	1	5	24	21
Bowmanville	0	4	2	2	21	38
Henry Street	0	4	0	0	7	37

LOSSA JUNIOR BOYS' HOCKEY

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
All Saints	1	0	0	2
Holy Trinity	1	0	0	2
Pickering	1	0	0	2
Dunbarton	1	0	0	2
Dwyer	0	0	1	1
Eastdale	0	0	1	1
Donovan	0	0	1	1
St. Stephen	0	0	1	1

Thermostat: How it may increase your vehicle's gas consumption



In order to reduce emissions, modern engines run at a higher NTP (normal operating temperature) than older engines.

Thermostat: Is a part in the cooling system (like a gate) that is responsible for

will be burned and combustion will be incomplete. Incomplete combustion produces lots of harmful emissions.

Modern vehicles use electronic fuel injection to control emissions and maximize power, through the use of computers (ECM) and different sensors and actuators. Depending on the information the ECM receives, it processes certain orders to be executed by different actuators. One of the very important inputs to the ECM is the engine temperature.

If the ECM sees a colder than NTP engine, it will order a richer mixture, resulting in more gas consumption and higher emission levels.

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keeping the engine running at NTP. When starting a cold engine, the thermostat will be closed and coolant circulation to the radiator is prohibited. As the engine heats up, the temperature rises. As it reaches a preset value, the thermostat will start to open and let the coolant circulate to the radiator where it cools off, preventing overheating. Simple!

A matter of fact is that thermostats have a certain life span. As they malfunction, they may open too soon and wider, resulting in a longer warm up time and not reaching NTP, or too late and narrow, resulting in overheating.

In older carbureted vehicles, cold started engines need more gas to perform before reaching NTP, which is achieved by closing the air passage to the intake manifold by means of the choke. The thermostat is still needed to regulate NTP. If choke sticks closed or partially closed after the engine warms up, the engine will be sucking way more gas than it should. As a result, not all gas

Balsam Lake Leafs

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
29	8	4	3	1	9	Innovative Awards	20
8	4	4	0	28	23	8	PV
- Source for Sports	8	3	5	0	34	38	6
OPG	8	3	5	0	31	38	6
Howie Burrows - State Farm	8	3	4	0	19	26	6
Web Construction	7	2	4	1	21	22	5
Formula Ford Lincoln	8	2	6	0	29	40	4

BANTAM DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
PV - Source for Sports	8	5	1	2	42	33	12
Eastern Construction	8	5	2	1	37	21	11
Vidom Sand & Gravel	8	5	2	1	26	21	11
Allsource Inc.	8	5	3	0	33	25	10
Harrison's Auto Service	8	4	3	1	26	21	9
Nebraska Collision Centre	8	3	3	2	33	31	8
Investors Group / K Murdock	8	3	5	0	25	28	6
Labels Plus Inc.	8	3	5	0	25	38	6
Pickering Honda	8	1	5	2	17	34	4
Boyer Pontiac Buick	8	1	6	1	22	34	3

MINOR MIDGET DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
OPG	8	7	1	0	35	15	14
Pickering Square Dental	8	5	2	1	34	30	11
Pickering Playing Fields	8	5	2	1	34	31	11
HomeLife/Cimerman	8	4	3	1	31	21	9
PV - Source for Sports	8	4	4	0	36	25	8
Winston Shagwell's	8	4	4	0	36	47	8
Pace Consulting	8	3	4	1	36	40	7
Monarch Kitchen & Bath	8	2	6	0	29	36	4
Grain Process Enterprises	8	1	5	2	22	31	4
Master Mechanic - Pickering	8	2	6	0	14	31	4

MIDGET JUVENILE DIVISION

TEAM G W L T GF GA PTS

Knights of Columbus Council 8	5	1	1	36	24	11	
Ryswin Graphix Inc.	8	4	2	2	27	22	10
Paul Etherington - RE/MAX	8	4	2	2	24	22	10
Winston Shagwell's	8	4	3	1	39	32	9
Legend Music Enterprises	8	3	4	1	18	19	7
Gray Dog Promotions	8	3	5	0	25	28	6
E M Brien	8	2	4	2	20	31	6
In Memory of D. Cameron	8	2	5	1	20	31	5

ATOM WEST DIVISION

TEAM GP W L T GF GA PTS

Barrie	18	10	7	1	72	58	0.659 29
Ajax/Pickering	15	9	4	2	54	36	0.667 20
Markham	19	8	3	2	57	35	0.692 18
South Central	13	8	3	2	48	29	0.607 17
York Simcoe	17	7	4	3	51	26	0.607 17
Clarington	17	7	9	1	54	62	0.441 15

ONTARIO JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

RUDDOCK DIVISION STANDINGS

TEAM GP W OTWSWOTLSL O PTS

<tr

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