

The Pickering News Advertiser

40 PAGES ♦ **Metroland Durham Region Media Group** ♦ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2004 ♦ Optional delivery \$6 / Newsstand



SHE'S BACK

Felicien eases into training schedule

Page B1

diversity

Our multicultural makeup means Pickering celebrates all month long

Page C1

ON THE JOB

Allea delivers for her customers

Page A9



[Briefly]

Wrapping paper, ribbon can go in blue box: The garbage is no place for remnants of Christmas.

Wrapping paper, wrapping paper tubes, cardboard gift boxes, Christmas cards, ribbon and gift tags can all go in your blue box, said Peter Watson, manager of waste management for the Region of Durham.

"It's always been there," Mr. Watson said of the ability to recycle Christmas goods. "It's just that not everybody recognizes it."

He said the key word is paper and cardboard products: no metallic paper or cloth ribbons.

"Naturally, we encourage people to use gift bags, which are reusable over and over again," he said.

For more information on what can go in your blue box, visit www.region.durham.on.ca or e-mail waste@region.durham.on.ca or call 905-579-5264.

[What's on]

Lions Club celebrating New Year's Eve: The Lions Club of Pickering is ringing in the new year with some singing, dancing and good food.

The celebration is at Papps Banquet Room, located on Pickering Parkway at Brock Road.

The evening features Rick Johnson's County Jamboree and special guests Allan Dollar, Mr. DJ and Aaron Solomon.

Tickets are \$25 and includes a hat, favours, door prizes and midnight champagne, as well as a roast beef dinner from 8 to 8:30 p.m. There is a cash bar.

Proceeds are going to the Herizon House women's shelter, county community fund, and the Pickering Lions administration fund.

Doors open at 7 p.m. There are limited tickets. For more information, call 905-649-2295.

[Index]

Editorial Page, A6
Sports, B1
Entertainment, B5
Classified, B10
Community, C1

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Holland's bill gains momentum

Pickering MP travelling country to gauge support for younger voting age

By **Danielle Milley**
Staff Writer

PICKERING — Canada's young people would vote if they were given the opportunity — that's what a poll conducted a few weeks ago shows.

Liberal Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Hol-

land, along with members from other federal parties, is championing his bill to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 years old.

"The most important finding of the poll is 76 per cent of those (surveyed) would vote if given a chance," Mr. Holland said.

The poll was conducted by a professor at Carleton University, 1,000 Canadians between the ages of 14 and 18 were asked a variety of questions including would they vote if they were

able to.

The poll is one measure being used to gain support for the bill, which received first reading in November.

Conservative MP Belinda Stronach, Bloc Quebecois MP Stephane Bergeron and NDP MP Nathan Cullen have joined with Mr. Holland to support the bill.

"Interest in this bill cuts across party lines," Mr. Holland said. "This is about empowering youth and encouraging their participation in the electoral pro-

cess. It's also about showing that members of opposing parties can put aside their differences to work together for a common purpose."

Young people can drive at 16, join the armed forces at 17 and vote for the leader of a political party at 14 so why shouldn't they be allowed to vote in a federal election, Mr. Holland argues.

Those championing the bill also point out voter turnout is declining

♦ See Holland, Page A11

JOLLY OLD FLY GUY STOPS BY TO DELIVER CHRISTMAS CHEER



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

AJAX — Just before loading up the sleigh and getting the reindeer ready, Santa and Mrs. Claus paid an early visit to the patients at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital. For Pickering resident Rowena Heck, Santa had a special bear. For the boys and girls of Pickering, the countdown is on until they find special gifts under the Christmas tree tomorrow.

Pickering residents play Santa to kids in need

News Advertiser readers help fund reach \$1.3-million goal

By **Mike Ruta**
Staff Writer

PICKERING — For Rose Cudney and hundreds of children in Ajax and Pickering, Christmas came early this year — three days early, to be precise.

"I can't stop smiling," said the executive director of Toronto Star Children's Charities, including the Santa Claus



Fund. "To me, this really is Christmas; this is Christmas Day because we have reached our goal."

By the evening of Dec. 22, Ms. Cud-

ney expected to be near or over the top in raising \$1.3 million for the Santa Claus Fund, while 45,000 gift boxes had already been delivered to needy children from Mississauga to Pickering and Ajax.

While the Santa Claus Fund is 99 years old, the Ajax and Pickering News Advertiser participated for the first time in 2004, and Ms. Cudney says hundreds of gift boxes were delivered in the two communities.

"We are so thrilled that the Santa

♦ See Santa, Page A5

Pickering aims to build bridges with new funding

Program would help with repairs at five locations

By **Danielle Milley**
Staff Writer

PICKERING — Some Pickering bridges might be getting a facelift thanks to the federal and provincial governments.

As part of the Canada-Ontario Municipal Renewal Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF), the City is submitting an application for the undertaking of a bridge deck replacement program. Staff compiled a list of five bridges and submitted it to council for approval at its Dec. 20 meeting.

"I'm very pleased to see this motion come forward," said Ward 3 City Councillor David Pickles. "We really need to do bridge work in this municipality."

The \$900 million fund was announced in mid-November to help municipalities of less than 250,000 fund infrastructure projects. The three partners (federal, provincial and municipal) would split the cost equally.

The deadline for the application for the first intake of the five-year program is Jan. 10. The focus of Intake 1 is infrastructure renewal and improvements in water, wastewater, local bridges and roads, and solid waste management.

Councillors were glad to see the other levels of government coming forward with a program that can benefit the city.

"This is another project the Province will probably cut off in a year or two so it's something we better take advantage of," said Ward 3 Regional Councillor Rick Johnson.

Ward 2 City Councillor Doug Dickerson agreed.

"Thirty-three cent dollars don't come along that often and we want to

♦ See Pickering, Page A7

Durham aims for intelligence with transit

Region will spend \$150,000 to develop strategic plan

By **Carly Foster**
Staff Writer

DURHAM — A partnership between traffic specialists and users could make driving easier and cheaper for Durham residents.

The Region is putting together a strategic plan looking at intelligent transportation systems (ITS) such as com-

puterized signals, closed-circuit television and incident-reporting software.

The goal is to bring together groups directly impacted by roads and how they work, including the Province, local municipalities, the commercial/industrial sector, police and hydro, said Doug MacKay, project manager, traffic engineering for the Region's works department.

"Everybody out there may be using an ITS element for their specific need," Mr. MacKay said. "If we know what others are using, perhaps there are ways we can save money together and not

overlap."

The Region already uses ITS on Durham's roads, Mr. MacKay said.

Around 480 traffic signals are controlled to ease traffic flow and congestion. In Ajax and Pickering, for example, traffic flowing into Toronto along Hwy. 2 moves pretty fast because of strategically used green lights, which are employed in reverse in the afternoon when residents drive back into Durham.

Fire trucks also have the ability to change lights to green while driving through intersections to an emergency. Cameras at heavily congested intersec-

tions, such as Bloor Street and Park Road in Oshawa and King Street and Townline Road in Clarington, also help the Region plan traffic flows, Mr. MacKay said.

"We cannot continue to widen roads," he said. "So we have to look at ways to manage them more effectively and increase capacity without making them bigger."

Delcan Corporation of Toronto has been hired to help the Region put together a strategic plan looking at all types of ITS technologies, with costs not to exceed around \$150,000.

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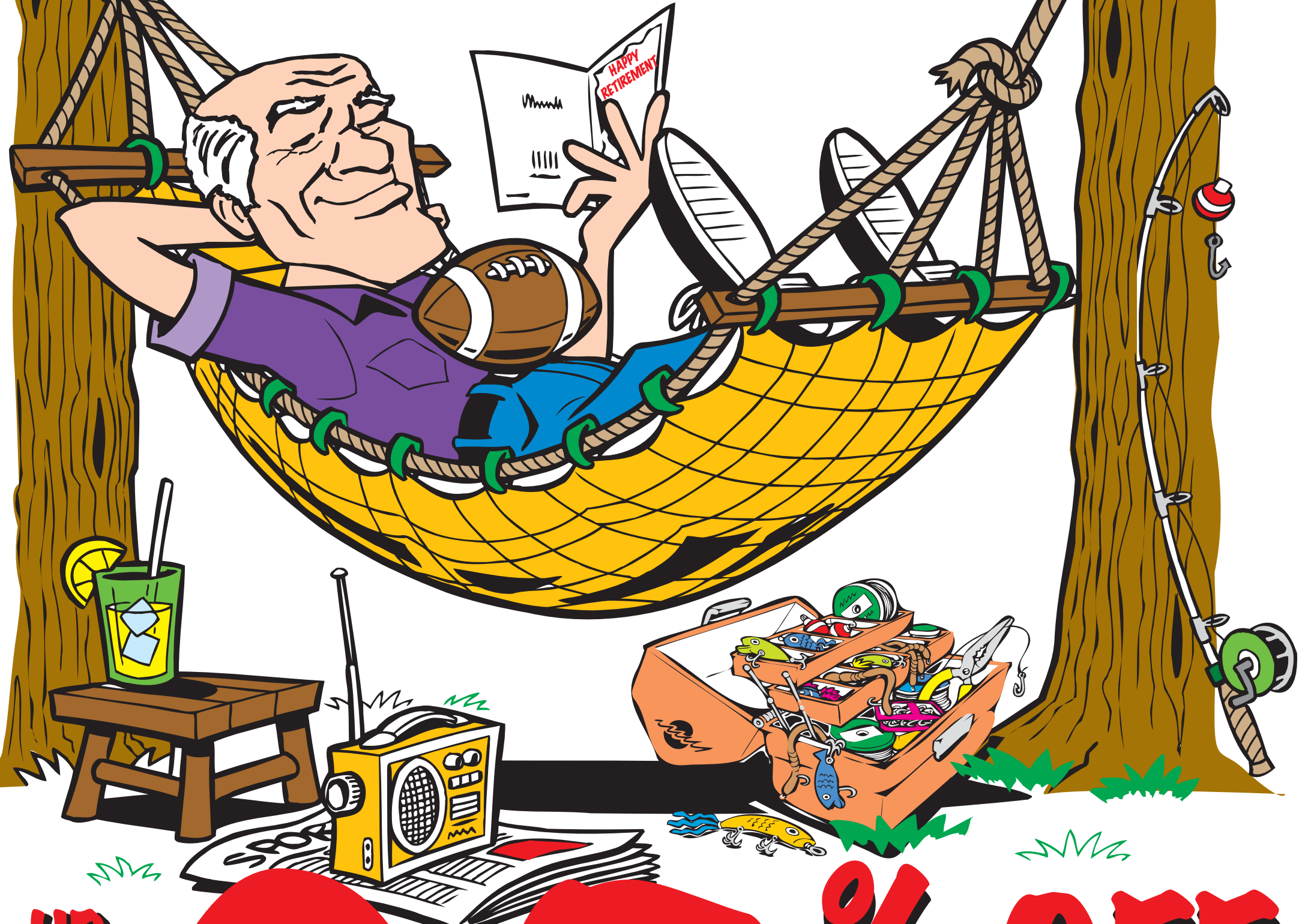
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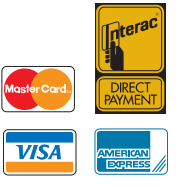
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Pot advocate's constitutional challenge goes up in smoke

By Jeff Mitchell
Staff Writer

DURHAM — A Durham Region judge has rejected a marijuana advocate's constitutional challenge to the nation's possession laws.

Ontario Court of Justice Judge James Keaney said the argument put forth by former Oshawa resident Marko Ivancicevic did not compel him to take the remarkable step of effectively striking down Canada's prohibition on possession of marijuana.

Mr. Ivancicevic's challenge, argued in an Oshawa courtroom by marijuana advocate Edwin Pearson, called upon the judge to declare Ontario's Court of Appeal erred in reinstating the possession laws, which were declared uncon-

stitutional in a landmark ruling in 2000.

"With respect, I decline the invitation to do so," the judge said in a ruling delivered last week.

The judge convicted Mr. Ivancicevic of simple possession and gave him a suspended sentence. The 23-year-old Toronto man has been ordered to perform 20 hours of community service and will be on probation for a year. He is also banned from possessing any non-prescription drugs while he's on probation.

Mr. Ivancicevic, who never disputed the fact he was in possession of 49 grams of marijuana when police caught him smoking a joint behind a Whitby pool hall last January, said he'll appeal the judge's dismissal of his constitutional

challenge.

The self-declared marijuana advocate said he'll take his case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada as he fights for the legalization of pot.

Marijuana advocates must fight for their cause in the courts, rather than waiting for politicians to address the issue, Mr. Ivancicevic said.

"If we rely on Parliament, we're doomed," he said.

"Eventually one day, we'll find the right judge."

Mr. Pearson argued Mr. Ivancicevic couldn't be prosecuted under Canada's possession laws because they failed the test of constitutionality back in 2000. That's when Ontario's appeals court,

in its landmark Parker decision, ruled that marijuana laws infringed upon the Charter of Rights because they made no exception for medical use of the drug. The court suspended its ruling for a year to allow Ottawa to address the inequity; nevertheless, the ruling created confusion and consternation for police and justice officials.



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photos

Snow much fun

DURHAM — Members of the Vaja family, Arjun, Rahul, Krishna and Krushna try to move a rather large ball of snow for the bottom of their snowman. While others battled the large snowfall, the north Pickering residents made the most of the weather. Below, Anthony and Sara Sottile and their neighbour Tobin Semple dig in together and move some snow out of the driveway in South Ajax.



Look for us again next week

AJAX — In order to allow our staff a break over the holiday weekend, the News Advertiser, will not publish on Sunday, Dec. 26.

We resume our regular publication

schedule of Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays on Dec. 29.

We wish all our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a joyous holiday.

Even Santa loves a bargain!

Pick up where Santa left off!
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Monday, December 27th
10:00am-9:00pm

Tuesday, December 28th
10:00am-9:00pm

Wednesday, December 29th
10:00am-9:00pm

Thursday, December 30th
10:00am-9:00pm

Friday, December 31st - New Year's Eve
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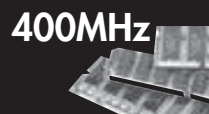
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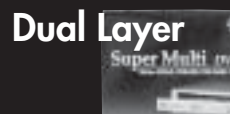
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Pickering employees play big role in packing up Christmas cheer for area children in need



Ellis Packaging makes charity effort possible

By Jerome Watt
Special to the News Advertiser

DURHAM — When the estimated 45,000 children open their gifts from the Santa Claus Fund this year, not only will Paul Colicchio have the satisfaction of knowing he was instrumental in making it happen — he'll also know, firsthand, the difference it makes.

It's because of Mr. Colicchio, executive vice-president of Pickering's Ellis Packaging, and his fellow employees, that these kids have a box to open. His company makes the boxes for the charity.

As a six-year-old growing up in Italy, Mr. Colicchio's mother put him in an orphanage because she couldn't afford to look after him. His father, a firefighter, had died years before in a train fire while trying to save the passengers.

"When Christmas came around, we didn't have any gifts," he said of life in the orphanage. The memory lingered with Mr. Colicchio long after he came to Canada as a 12-year-old.

"I knew what it was like not to get any gifts," he said.

And 30 years ago, when he saw the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund, he knew he had to get involved. Ever since, the fund has depended on Mr. Colicchio to come through with the boxes. The fund wouldn't happen without the efforts at Ellis Packaging, said Rose Cudney, executive director of the charity.

"We have less than a month to pack 45,000 gift boxes," Ms. Cudney said. "If those boxes didn't arrive at a steady pace, we couldn't do it."



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo
Paul Colicchio, executive vice-president of Ellis Packaging in Pickering is a strong supporter of the Santa Claus Fund.

The boxes come to the charity pre-wrapped and all the charity workers need to do is lift the lid and pack in a sweater, socks, mittens, a hat, a book, a toy and candy.

The children of the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund can continue to count on Mr. Colicchio to make a difference in their lives well beyond this Christmas.

"As long as I'm alive, I'll be a part of this group," he said.

The boxes would be empty without donations from Ajax and Pickering residents and others across the Greater

Toronto Area. The goal this year of \$1.3 million was achieved, with every penny going towards items for the boxes.

Donors receive a tax receipt after the campaign's completion in January 2005. Donor contributions will be published in the paper during this campaign until mid-January.

If you or someone you know

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Santa Claus Fund enjoys successful first year in Ajax and Pickering

♦ Santa, From Page A1

Claus Fund has reached its fund-raising goal," said Tim Whittaker, publisher of the Metroland Durham Region Media Group, which includes the News Advertiser. "Being our first year with the fund, it was a new experience for us. But from the very first day, everyone at our newspapers has found this to be a tremendously rewarding experience. We had numerous members of staff give their own time on weekends and at night so that they could deliver some Christmas joy to their neighbours, who just happen to be in a time of need."

Mr. Whittaker is so pleased with the experience that he's hoping to introduce the fund to the Oshawa, Whitby, and Clarington communities next year through the media group's This Week publications. "I've witnessed first-hand the impact this program has on the lives of those involved and believe it will help fill a need in east Durham," he said.

"Our newspapers and employees have a long track record of being active members in our communities, and this is just one more way that we feel we can help."

Mr. Whittaker noted the local campaign was a success due to the generosity of Ajax and Pickering residents and all the people who gave time.

"I'd like to thank all our community and employee volunteers, along with our organizing staff

at the News Advertiser, Jodi Raymond, Abe Fakhourie and Tony Doyle," he said.

The News Advertiser for weeks has been telling the story of how the fund benefits underprivileged families in Ajax and Pickering, speaking to social service agencies and gift box recipients.

Ms. Cudney says the lion's share of the gift boxes have reached their destinations, but noted some were still being delivered right up to Christmas Eve day.

Countless volunteer hours went into the Ajax and Pickering operation, with area Scouting troops delivering many of the boxes to homes. News Advertiser staff, friends and family also helped at the Santa Fund warehouse and with deliveries.

Ms. Cudney says two things have to happen for the fund to take root in a community where it has been introduced. First, clients are originally unsure of what is going to be expected of them in terms of payback if they participate. She says "the trust level has to be built" in the sense that there are no strings attached to being involved.

Secondly, since clients themselves can't phone and order a gift box, but have to go through social service agencies, the agencies have a learning curve to go through in terms of what's required and the time involved in handling applications.

Ms. Cudney says the Santa Claus Fund strikes a chord with



The Talhouk and Murrell families of Courtice hosted a fundraising gingerbread making day at their homes with proceeds going to the News Advertiser Santa Claus Fund. Jacklyn MacGillivray, left was putting the finishing touches on her house, while keeping an eye on Liam Apple, right, who seems intent on eating some of the house. Brendan Montgomery was pleased with the progress being made on the house.

A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

people because they know that all administrative costs are paid for by the Star.

"People know that 100 per cent of what they give is going to go out to children," she says.

She notes that since the fund started in 1906, the fundraising goal has always been met.

"Our readers never seem to let us down, in good times or in bad," Ms. Cudney says.

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

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EDITORIAL

RIDE exposes troubling statistics in Durham Region

Do we really have to go over this again? It's obvious that some Durham citizens choose to ignore the devastating impact that drinking and driving can have on so many lives.

Each year we learn of families torn apart, lives lost and children left without a parent because someone took a chance with the lives of others. The impact cannot be minimized.

Yet, here in Durham, we're just not getting the message that drinking and driving kills.

While we've made great strides over the past few years to keep our roads safe, the early results on this year's Durham Regional Police's Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) campaign are troubling. Or, as Nancy Codlin, president of the Durham chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), said last week, they're "staggering."

Heading into last week, Durham officers had stopped 18,500 vehicles, resulting in 45 charges related to drinking and driving. A further 146 other motorists have had their licences suspended for 12 hours for registering a warning at the many roadside checkpoints.

Just how bad are we doing here in Durham? Consider that in Toronto, officers have stopped more than three times the amount of vehicles, about 60,000, yet laid 41 drinking and driving related charges and handed out 170 suspensions.

Let's be clear: Even one impaired driver on our roads is too many.

If you are planning to drink, don't take chances, have a plan in place. Choose a partner, be it a spouse, family member or friend and decide whose turn it will be to sip pop during holiday celebrations. Or, ensure you have enough money on hand to catch a taxi home. Or, make plans to stay the night at a friend's place.

The point is that there are too many options available to even resort to climbing behind the wheel after having too many drinks. Just don't leave the decision until it's too late in the night when your judgement will be impaired; have your exit strategy planned well in advance.

There is so much to be thankful for at this time of year. We live in the best country in the world, where our rights and freedoms are the envy of the world. All Canadians have access to high-quality health care, to an education, to a wealth of job opportunities, to support services when in need, and a political system that offers an equal voice to all voters.

The Durham Region Media Group wishes all our readers the best of the season.

Please play your part in ensuring happy and safe holidays.

IN THE COMMUNITY



A pageant of pageants

Gwen Noble sent us a special moment during the Peace Lutheran Church's Sunday School children's Christmas pageant held recently. She says the teachers worked tirelessly to orchestrate the event including handmade costumes. She adds Peace Lutheran invites everyone to attend its Family Christmas Eve carroll service on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at 928 Liverpool Rd. S., Pickering.

Do you have a photo to share with our readers?

If you have an amusing, interesting, historic or scenic photo to share with the community we'd like to see it. Send your photo, along with a written description of the circumstances surrounding the photo (max. 80 words) identifying the people in the photo and when it was taken to: The News Advertiser, 130 Commercial Ave., Ajax, ON, L1S 2H5. Or, e-mail photos to dstell@durhamregion.com.

Good Neighbours

We need your help

The News Advertiser is looking for Good Neighbours in Ajax and Pickering and we need the help of our readers to find them.

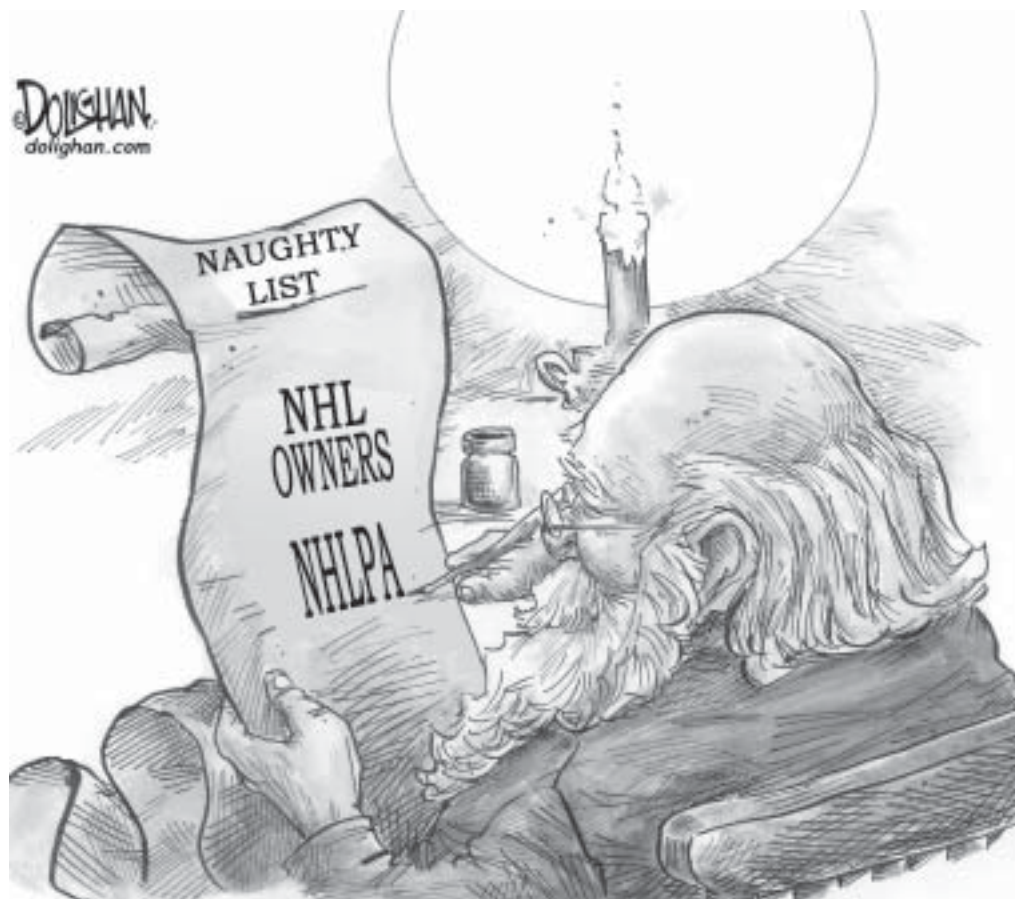
In the new year we will be introducing a new segment called Good Neighbours, profiling the extraordinary people in our community who step forward to help out others.

Every day there are good people doing good things in our community. Sometimes their stories are told, but often times they go unnoticed, except by the people who benefit from their act of kindness.

A wallet or purse returned with all of the money and credit cards; someone stopping to help you on the side of the road with a flat tire or engine trouble or even someone in your area that helps a senior citizen with groceries and shovelling their driveway. You know the selfless people who deserve a little recognition and better yet could inspire others to acts of kindness.

Let us know the inspirational people who go unsung and we'll share their story. Let's start a wave of good spirit by celebrating our Good Neighbours.

To share a candidate, contact news editor David Stell at 905-683-5110 or e-mail dstell@durhamregion.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boundaries needed in defining marriage

To the editor:

Re: 'Churches deal with same-sex ruling' and 'Parliament must follow lead of Supreme Court,' editorial, Dec. 15.

As a pastor of a local church I feel obligated to respond expressing a point of view against same-sex marriage. There are many arguments put forth by the small minority in favour of same-sex marriage and to the listening ear most of them sound reasonable.

The problem is that these same arguments could also be used to justify polygamy, incest, pedophilia and other unacceptable acts. There must be clear boundaries in place otherwise the right to live in a decent, moral society will be eroded in the name of personal rights and freedoms. The issue of same-sex marriage is just a stepping-stone for other groups that will try to again push back the moral boundaries even further. This then will impose on our rights to raise families in a more traditional value-based society.

Canada was founded on Judeo-Christian principals. It has become one of the most desirable places in the world to live, because as a society traditionally we have adhered to them. Once man starts to operate outside of the wisdom of God (who is much smarter than us) it creates a very

dangerous climate for moral decay that will be of great detriment to our country and future generations.

**Pastor Dennis Penner,
Durham Christian Fellowship,
Ajax**

Public deserves a say on same-sex marriage

To the editor:

Re: 'Parliament must follow lead of Supreme Court,' editorial, Dec. 15.

Democracy is government by the people for the people. It is the majority of the people who determine who the government should be, and in which direction the country should go. This is not 'Tyranny of the Majority' it is democracy.

Through experience Canadians know how democracy works, and by our participation we have shown that we are capable of handling the resulting rights and responsibilities. Generally Canadians are tolerant and fair-minded people with a certain laissez-faire attitude. Over time we have evolved and adapted. We have corrected injustices of the past, and are moving forward on important issues such as women's rights, minority rights, etc.

We have always been able to acknowledge and respect our differences through open and meaningful dialogue.

However, there are certain people who feel Canadians are not capable of responsible de-

cision-making and, therefore, be told what is good for them — no discussion allowed. Thereby the right to participate in the democratic process through public consultations and open dialogue on issues that have a far-reaching impact on our society, such as same-sex marriage, abortion, etc., has been stifled.

To preserve our democracy and the tolerance, openness, and fair-mindedness of our society, this must change.

**Renate Roy,
Ajax**

Council must be aware of perception

To the editor:

Re: 'Councillor taking issue with meeting location,' Dec. 12.

The article does not state the exact wording on Councillor Doug Dickerson's letter, but it would appear the councillor is indicating a well-known theme: City councillors, staff, and developers should not be in one another's pockets, nor should they even appear to be in one another's pockets.

Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan's response is that he doesn't think the letter deserves the credibility of a response. What arrogance. I would suggest the mayor take a look at the ongoing computer hearing in the City of Toronto to see where such relationships or perceived relationships can lead.

**Saul Glass
Pickering**

Let's give our youth a chance

Upon first hearing Mark Holland wanted to lower the federal voting age to 16 I wasn't sure what to think of the idea.

The Ajax-Pickering MP and a representative from each of the other national parties have joined together to try to engage youth and gather support for Mr. Holland's bill when it comes to a vote in the House of Commons in March.

He's hoping to increase the ever-plummeting voter turnout in Canada by engaging voters at a younger age and creating a lifelong pattern of political participation.

The arguments for lowering the age — which was decreased from 21 to 18 in 1970 — seem rational: people are able to enjoy the awesome responsibility of driving at 16, 17-year-olds can join the army and die for their country, and 14-year-olds can vote for the leader of national political parties (which in this country means they're voting for the prime minister if they belong to the Liberal party).

It's not surprising Mr. Holland would bring forward a motion like this — the man did begin volunteering for his first political campaign when he was 12, but most young people aren't like him.

And apparently this idea



Danielle Milley staff writer

is not unheard of around the world.

Mr. Holland cites examples from several other countries where 16-year-olds can vote. Brazil has a voluntary voting age of 16, while in some German local elections youth can vote at 16. There is also a coalition working in the United Kingdom to lower the voting age to 16.

In the press release prepared by the group of MPs, it also points out that currently some people can't vote until they are 21 or 22 depending on when their birthday is in relation to an election. Should the voting age be changed it would mean many people still wouldn't be able to vote for the first time until they were 19 or 20.

All of these are very compelling arguments, but then there are those who question how

much 16- and 17-year-olds know about politics.

As a 16-year-old less than a decade ago, current events and politics were a big part of my life. To be honest I couldn't wait to vote — but I was a bit of a geek.

Does the average 16-year-old have the knowledge and maturity to be deserving of the privilege of voting? Politicians seem to think so.

Mr. Holland said the young people he has spoken with through visits to local high schools were as aware of current events, if not more, as the adults he spoke to on the campaign trail. His former colleagues at Pickering council support his initiative and Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean echoed his statements about young people being aware.

There may be many young people who are unaware or don't care about voting, but the same could be said of the millions of adults who choose not to exercise their voting rights.

So why not give youth a chance and see what they do with it.

Danielle Milley's column appears every third Friday. E-mail dmilley@durhamregion.com.

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Pickering residents VOCAL in pushing for support in finding answers about GTAA's proposed airport plan

Support council motion for peer review funding

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING — A motion to request money to pay for a peer review of the plan for a proposed Pickering airport received backing from council, as well as several residents.

Three people made presentations at Monday's council meeting to express their opposition to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority's proposal to build an airport in north Pickering, as well as to express support for Ward 3 City Councillor David Pickles' motion.

"I do appear in support of Coun. Pickles' motion. We clearly need a peer review of the GTAA's proposal," said Stephen Frederick, president of Voters Organized to Cancel the Airport Lands

Pickering's share of bridge work would be \$575,000

♦ Pickering's, From Page A1

jump on it," he said.

Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean took a tour of the City a few years ago and saw the bridges, which include the nearly 80-year-old Bulmer bridge over Duffins Creek on the Fifth Concession, and the 64-year-old Resesor Creek bridge on the Pickering Uxbridge Townline Road. He is pleased to see repair funds will come from more than just Pickering.

"I saw personally the state of them and they are something that needs replacement," he said.

The other bridges are the Greenwood bridge on Sixth Concession Road, the Palmer bridge on Valley Farm Road, and the Michell bridge on the Seventh Concession Road.

The cost for the project is estimated at \$1,730,300, with Pickering's portion \$576,767. Two of the bridges are located on boundary roads so there is a potential to share the deck replacement with neighbouring municipalities.

Intake 2 and 3 of the program have deadlines of spring 2005 and spring 2006 respectively. All projects need to be completed by March 31, 2009.

(VOCAL).

Coun. Pickles brought forward a motion later in the meeting requesting the GTAA or the federal transport minister provide funding to the City to hire a consultant to do a peer review of the GTAA's financial assessment analysis and the airport draft plan. The motion passed in a six to one recorded vote.

Mr. Frederick said a peer review would give the City and residents the opportunity to determine if an environmental assessment is needed, and if it is, the review would help determine the terms of reference.

Peer review funding is to be available,

but not until the EA gets underway. Still, Coun. Pickles and Mr. Frederick don't want to wait.



Stephen Frederick

He said if the peer review showed there was a

need for an airport, he would support it.

"We always said we would support it if the need were clearly demonstrated, we haven't seen that," he said.

Michael Robertson, who lives on the federal lands, would prefer an airport is never built, but if it is, he doesn't see the need for it now.

"We are at least 10 years premature to needing an EA," he said. "I'm one who would personally not be in favour of an airport in Pickering regardless of how

strong the business case is."

He said the land needs to be saved because it is the only class 1 farmland east of Toronto in the country and he doesn't want the pollution that he said comes with an airport.

Pickering resident Giogio Siragusa also spoke. Although he doesn't live on the federal lands or in the noise contour area, Mr. Siragusa said he doesn't want to see an airport in Pickering.

"I strongly advise you to go on record and be against (it)," he said.

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UOIT a big winner as Mississaugas hand out \$170,000 in Christmas donations

DURHAM — The Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation handed out more than \$170,000 in early Christmas donations to a number of charitable organizations yesterday, including \$100,000 to the University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

Each year the Baagwating Community Association, in conjunction with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, provide several charitable and/or non-profit organizations with Christmas cheer.

At the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Health and Resource Centre recently, a total of \$170,650 was handed out to 23 organizations.

Receiving financial support were:
 • The Port Perry Scout Hall Restoration Committee \$25,000
 • Scugog Lake Stewards Inc. \$10,000
 • Community Care Scugog \$3,500
 • Scugog Shores Historical Museum and Archives \$3,000

- Port Perry High School FIRST Robotics Team \$2,500
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- The University of Ontario Institute of Technology \$100,000
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- The Denise House, Sedna's Women's Shelter \$1,000
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- J.G. Jazz Band, Joseph Gould Jazz Band \$1,800
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- Hodino:ni Traditional Sports and Healing

- Complex \$1,000
- Durham Secondary Academy and Middle School \$1,000

Pickering Naturalists discuss watershed recovery

PICKERING — Improving a watershed is the topic for discussion at the January meeting of the Pickering Naturalists.

The meeting focuses on the Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehab Project group, with Angela Porteous outlining goals and accomplishments of the project designed to rehabilitate some of the past degradation caused by human activity in this south Pickering watershed. The meeting is Thursday, Jan. 6 at St. Elizabeth Seton School Library, 490 Strouds La., at Rosebank Road North, at 7:45 p.m.

For more information, call Heather Jessop at 905-837-1775.

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News Advertiser carrier delivers service with a smile

Running a small business helps kids develop numerous skills

AJAX — When it comes to delivering the News Advertiser, it's a matter of looking ahead to a day of freedom for Allea Grattan.

A very successful carrier, the eight-year-old has a set goal in mind for what all of her money will do for her some day, says her mom.

"She is saving for a car and a house, so she can move out when she is 16 and not live under our rules," says Kim Grattan, with a laugh.

The family shares that joke as Allea continues to impress all of the customers on her route, so much so that almost everyone is happy to pay under the News Advertiser's collection system, which is unique to the newspaper industry.

"For a smaller route, she does very well," Ms. Grattan says.

Allea has just more than 40 customers and it's just the right fit for her, she says. At first, going out to collect on her route was a little intimidating, but "now I'm really used to it," she says. "It gets easier as you do it."

Kim agrees it was hard for Allea prior to her first collection, "but she went out there and just knocked their socks off," she says.

In fact, she's a lot less shy now, Allea adds, and is learning a lot about how to save money. Her parents help her put away most of it in a savings account, but she does keep some to spend.

"I'm wearing pants right now that I bought and I have spending money for the cottage," she explains.

She treats her carrier route like a job, she explains, and the fringe benefits are simple and make it very enjoyable.

"I get to meet new people and I get to know my neighbours," she says.

Starting her route last April, at just seven years old, her parents were a little nervous. However, the experience has meant they've gotten to know their neighbours a lot better and



Allea Grattan has been on the job delivering the News Advertiser since April. She likes managing a route and keeping her customers happy, as she has a goal of getting a car and house when she's 16.

really recommend the experience to others. If Allea had had her way, she would have had a route a lot sooner, having asked the year before as well.

It was in January 2002 that the News Advertiser introduced its new carrier collection model. Carriers keep 100 per cent of all money collected from their customers every three weeks, a change from the previous system that had carriers paid depending on the number of papers

and flyers they delivered. With the changes, most carriers are now making more money, and some are collecting two or three times what they were before. In some cases, they are achieving nearly 100 per cent voluntary collection from customers.

Introducing the new system, says Ajax, Pickering and Uxbridge circulation manager Abe Fakhourie, was due to the fact the paper was regularly receiving feedback about the incred-

ible job the young carrier force was doing. The inspiration behind the change was that customers would want to reward their carriers for a job well done.

"The fact is, everyone in our circulation department believes that quality service is service worth paying for," said Mr. Fakhourie. "It is our focus in dealing with carriers, parents, and our customers."

That commitment has been rewarded over and over again as readers have proven they will pay the optional charge, knowing it's all going to their hard-working carriers. As for the few cases where carrier collections aren't as high as they should be, the News Advertiser tops up the pay.

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Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

New GTAA chairman has long history of service in Ajax and Pickering

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Warren Hurren's three years on the Greater Toronto Airports Authority's board have been challenging but that hasn't stopped him from accepting the chairman's position.

The Pickering resident has served on the board of directors since May 2001 as one of the appointees from Durham Region. He was recently elected chairman, which becomes effective Jan. 1.

"I was really pleased I was elected by the other members of the board," Mr. Hurren said. "It should be interesting and very challenging."

"I look forward to serving my term."

Mr. Hurren's election comes as the GTAA turns its attention to Durham and the proposed air-

port in north Pickering.

He doesn't believe that had anything to do with his election, but as an active member of both the business and local community he said he has "an appreciation and understanding for the proponents" of the airport.

"I don't think it would be a detriment to the residents or business community," he said of his election.

The chairman position is chosen on a year-to-year basis.

Since joining the board, Mr. Hurren has dealt with Sept. 11, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Air Canada's bankruptcy, just to name a few issues. "It has been especially challenging," he said.

Mr. Hurren has practised as a chartered accountant in the Ajax and Pickering area since 1982 and is a founding member

of Hurren, Sinclair, MacIntyre Chartered Accountants.

He is also an active member of the community having served on the board of the Ajax and Pickering hospital, and the quality control committee of the joint hospital boards during the amalgamation of the Rouge Valley Health System.

A past director and member of the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade, Mr. Hurren continues to act as chairman of the government relations committee. He is also active with the Ajax Rotary Club.

Mr. Hurren succeeds Michael Butt as the chairman of the 15-member board, which draws on persons nominated by the four regional municipalities (York, Durham, Peel and Halton), the City of Toronto, the Province and federal government.

Holland heading off on cross-country tour

♦ Holland, From Page A1

and by giving youth the right to vote it can help to encourage positive voting habits throughout life.

In the new year, the MPs are planning on travelling across the country to engage youth in a discussion about this and other

issues.

They are going to spend two days in each part of Canada visiting several schools and talking to youth.

"We will also be talking broadly about engaging youth in other ways," Mr. Holland said. "We're going to take all the things we are hearing and put it

in a report (for Parliament)."

There is going to be a stop in Ajax-Pickering.

The bill should receive second reading in February and be voted on in March. In the past, similar private member's bills had been introduced but because of different rules they were never voted on.

Offering assistance

PICKERING — Pickering firefighters and Durham Emergency Medical Services tend to a victim in a two-car accident at the corner of Whites and Kingston roads Wednesday morning. The injuries were believed to be minor, according to Durham Regional Police.

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Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

Let local politicians win immunity: MPP

New bill would encourage more open debate in meetings

By David Blumenfeld
Staff Writer

DURHAM — A new bill, if passed, would give municipal council and school board members the power to say what's on their minds in meetings without reprisals from outside interest groups, said Oshawa MPP Jerry Ouellette, who introduced the bill Dec. 15 at Queen's Park.

The Elected Officials Immunity Act 2004 would give municipal council and school board members the same speaking privileges given to members of the federal and provincial governments. Mr. Ouellette said the bill would promote more freedom of speech and democracy in chamber sittings and encourage public debate without the fear of potential lawsuits.

"I know very specifically the reason I brought it in. It was brought to me by elected officials in the past... that they had been told that if they criticized or mentioned the inaction of certain individuals or people then they would be charged for it," he said. "I'm not saying which level of officials were the ones that were saying this to me, but it was brought to my attention... that if they said (other officials) weren't doing their job again they'd sue them for defamation of character."

"What happens is then you're always second-guessing what you're going to say, and what you're not going to say, and making sure you're saying the right thing so you're not held liable for it," he

added.

Mr. Ouellette said the goal of the bill is to create more open and free discussion of issues among local councils and school boards — something he said isn't happening.

"It's about letting elected officials do their job, and part of the problem sometimes is there's a reluctance or a hesitation, particularly with new individuals being elected to positions, to speak their mind without having the threat of reprisals coming forward," he said, adding as the bill was being brought forward he discovered more officials being "influenced by outside people" and threatened with legal action as well.

The bill, which goes to second reading

in the legislature next spring, appears to have the support of some of the region's mayors.

"This gives elected officials the type of immunity needed at the local level so that they are not bullied by special interest groups or threatened by legal action," said Clarington Mayor John Mutton.

Meanwhile, Oshawa Mayor John Gray said the bill would balance the playing field among the three levels of government.

"Federal and provincial members have enjoyed immunity when sitting in their respective legislatures, and the same regulation should apply to municipal politicians when speaking in council chambers," he said.

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AJAX — Kimberley Mills and Amie Watson set their goals high and managed to collect enough donations to fill 206 backpacks with daily necessities. The Ajax women were helped in their quest by community and business donations, with the bags going to clients of the Yonge Street Mission for homeless street youth in Toronto.

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Easy does it as Felicien returns

Says indoor meets not out of the question

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

PICKERING — Rumours of hurdler Perdita Felicien skipping the entire indoor track and field season have been greatly exaggerated.

The 24-year-old two-time world champion has tentatively set her sights on returning to competition at the Gaz de France du Pas-de-Calais indoor meet in Liévin, France on Feb. 26 — almost a full six months after her fall in the final of the 100-metre hurdles at the Athens Olympic Games.

"It's a really good indoor meet but, right now, it's very sketchy," says Felicien, who's almost fully recovered from a deep heel bruise suffered during her crash on the first hurdle in Athens. "I would like to run once or twice. I love Europe; they've been very good to me there."

She's currently back in her home training base of Champaign, Illinois where she's working out under long-time coach Gary Winckler, who's also the head track and field coach at the University of Illinois. She started back training Nov. 1 and reports her injury is coming along nicely.

"The heel is doing better. I did some light hurdling last week. It was a bit sore, but nothing extreme. The workouts are pretty tame, pedestrian at best. Last week, I did some endurance runs."

She notes Winckler had advised her to skip the indoor season and concentrate on being fully recovered in time to run in the professional outdoor circuit, which gets rolling in the spring, culminating in the IAAF world championships in Helsinki, Finland from Aug. 6 to 14.

"He wants me to pass up the indoor season, get over things and get to the right place again. I'll stick with him and not compete (indoors), but if I'm really raring to go, he would be OK with that," she says.

She admits that starting back on her training regime after five months of relative inactivity, including vacations to Vancouver and to Mexico, has forced her to confront her performance at Athens, which ended in heartbreak after a 2004 track and field season that included six consecutive winning performances leading up to the Olympics.

"Athens took a lot out of me. I've



Canadian Olympian Perdita Felicien is looking forward to resuming her track career in 2005, either in the professional indoor or outdoor season. She's currently back in training in Illinois, under coach Gary Winckler.

kind of looked beyond it. Now, since I've been back training the past six weeks, I'm at a point where I'm trying to figure it out. I'm trying to find the meaning. Now, I'm having to face it head-on.

"I was thinking the other day that I want to have a long career. I want to have a career that's very successful. If I let Athens haunt me throughout my career, it's not going to go where I want it to be. I was very unfair to myself. For a few months I thought my whole season was terrible, but I can't base it on one day at Athens. I have to look at everything instead of one part of the year."

Jason Liebrechts/ News Advertiser photo

Felicien was recently in Toronto where she was named co-winner of the Jack W. Davies Trophy for Canada's top amateur track and field athlete. She shared the award with five-time 2004 Paralympic gold medalist Chantal Petitclerc of Montreal. She was also a recipient of the Phil Edwards Memorial Trophy, awarded each year to Canada's most outstanding male or female athlete in overall track events.

The award presentation, however, didn't go without some controversy, with Petitclerc declining to share the award in protest for not winning the award outright.

Felicien, however, wouldn't be

drawn into the controversy.

"I don't do it for the awards or the recognition. If someone wants to honour me, I say great, thanks for the recognition... if there's going to be controversy, I'm going to stay out of it."

She defended her worthiness, saying her rookie season as a professional hurdler was the best ever for a Canadian, complete with gold medals in the IAAF Golden League and IAAF Grand Prix Series events, as well as winning the 2004 IAAF World Indoor Championships.

"It was a big honour and I'm really thankful for it," says Felicien.

She notes her vacations, a belated graduation present to herself after finishing at Illinois last year and immediately turning pro in track and field, were the best medicine for her following the heartache that was Athens. But, had things gone completely smoothly there, she still would have been ready for a change of pace.

"It was a great experience. It was my first time going on a leisure vacation. I needed to get some time away," she says, noting she went on an adventure vacation to Vancouver as well as taking friend and fellow Illinois grad Nicole Wittman to Mexico for a week of relaxation.

Felicien says she was pleased with the reception in Pickering for herself and fellow Olympians Anson Henry and Bernard Luttmr several months ago. She notes being from Pickering is a point of pride that she carries proudly to her meets around the world.

"Whenever someone says Pickering, it puts a smile on my face. People are always coming up to me and congratulating me and showing how much they appreciate me. Anytime I come home it's a big treat. Pickering has supported me from Day 1."

This coming outdoor season and especially the 2005 world championships in Finland, she hopes, will go a long way toward erasing some of the bad memories associated with Athens.

"Oh yeah, I want to be world champion again this year. I want a chance for redemption at the next world championships. I'll be back — I have no choice. I love my sport so much. I love what I do. Quite honestly, I asked myself 'how am I going to get over the events on that one occasion?' Some people can't get over it. I'm refusing to let my career fade away because of one freaky accident."

Sports Briefs

DECEMBER 24, 2004

[Swimming]

Pickering swimmers shine at Quebec provincials

PICKERING — Three Pickering swimmers with the Scarborough Swim Club made their presence felt in the water at the Quebec Provincial Swim Meet in Trois-Rivieres, last weekend.

Laura Barnes, 16, Tawyna Rudy, 17, and Vanessa Wappell, 16, were three of 30 members from the Scarborough club at the high-profile competition.

Barnes cracked Swim Canada's national standard in the 200-metre breaststroke. She finished second in a time that will allow her to attend the Canadian Nationals and Canada Games Trials later this year. Barnes also collected a silver medal in the 100m breast.

Rudy, entering the meet with several national standards under her belt, garnered silver medals in the 100m and 200m butterfly events with new personal best times. The multi-talented swimmer also won bronze medals in the 200m and 400m individual medley races.

Wappell swam in six events with her best finishes seventh-place efforts in the 100m and 200m breast events. The versatile swimmer can hold her own in everything from the 50m freestyle to the 400m IM.

All three swimmers with the Scarborough club attended Dunbarton High School.

The three will travel with the club to a training camp in Austin, Texas in the new year.

[Hockey]

Raiders peewees earn split with Petes, tie Markham

DURHAM — The Ajax-Pickering Raiders minor peewee 'AAA' rep hockey team turned the corner after earning a key victory along with a tie and a loss in a tough part of the recent Eastern Ontario league schedule.

Hosting the Peterborough Petes, the Raiders started the week with a big 5-3 win.

Steven Deeg led the way with two goals and an assist. Jake Buckler, Jordan Minos and Joe Doherty added singles. Adam Valadao recorded two assists, Khalid Alli and Alex Fortin added one apiece.

Kristoff Lyons earned the win in net with several big saves.

In Peterborough, the Raiders fell a goal short in a 5-4 loss.

Deeg paced the squad again with two goals, while Christian Kirk and Valadao added markers. Robbie Affleck, Brandon Labumbard, Jake Bannister, Eric Mitchell, Valadao, Deeg, Alli, Kirk and Fortin drew assists.

Goaltender Connor Wilkinson kept the score close, turning back several good Peterborough scoring opportunities.

The Raiders then came up with a big 3-3 tie against division rival Markham Waxers.

Alli was the big scorer with a goal and an assist. Andrew Henderson scored on a big-timer from the point. Deeg rounded out the scoring. Fortin, Bannister, Affleck and Valadao chipped in with assists.

The team eagerly awaits the return of team captain Jacob Lessard who has missed three weeks with a broken hand. Lessard is expected back in the lineup early in the new year.

[Ringette]

Ajax tweens blitz Barrie Blizzard on the ice

AJAX — The Ajax Shooting Stars Canadian Tire tween 'B' ringette team blanked the Barrie Blizzard 7-0 in a pre-Christmas league showdown at the Ajax Community Centre last Sunday afternoon.

Kelly Davey opened the scoring just 42 seconds into the first period and it was all the Ajax Shooting Stars would need for the victory.

Emma Espino assisted on that goal and scored one of her own later in the game, while Davey aided with an assist.

Sarah Salvatore, Lauren Lewthwaite and Natasha Saliba all counted one goal apiece.

Heather Dietrich had two goals and an assist and Brianna Campbell had an assist.

City track athlete the Mayne man for Mocs

St. Mary grad helps university cross-country team to new heights

PICKERING — A City track and field athlete led his southern U.S. school with strong individual and team results during the recently-completed collegiate cross-country season.

Ian Mayne, competing for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Mocs (UTC) in cross-country, posted numerous top-10 efforts at a variety of big meets during his junior season.

Most significant was the 22-year-old's efforts at the South Conference Cross-Country Championships at the Furman Golf Course in Spartanburg, S.C. He placed fifth in a time of 26:08.56, making the all-conference team for a second consecutive season. He placed 10th in the same event last year. As a team, the Mocs won the title for the second year in a row, outpacing second-place Appalachian State by more than 20 points.

Mayne advanced to the NCAA South Regional Cross-Country Championships



Pickering's Ian Mayne, left, looks to overtake a competitor during a meet in Knoxville, Tennessee earlier this year.

in Tuscaloosa, Ala. where he finished 30th overall, running a personal-best time of 30:59 in the 10-kilometre race, a good result considering stiff competition from a number of big schools.

"The field was a lot tougher this year as a lot of the bigger teams such as Florida, Georgia and Florida State brought in some Kenyans," says Mayne.

As a team, UTC finished fifth, ahead of NCAA Division I powerhouses University of Tennessee (Knoxville) Volunteers, Alabama, Miami, Georgia Tech and Mississippi State.

Mayne also made his presence felt at a number of other big meets this season. The St. Mary Catholic Secondary School graduate placed seventh at the Stegemoller Classic at Southern Indiana University in a time of 25:19 for the five-mile event. He also finished sixth at the University of Tennessee Volunteer Classic in Knoxville, Tenn. It was the first time in six years that UTC had defeated its state rival at the meet. Mayne also placed fourth in the annual MOC Invitation at UTC.

Mayne notes UTC's track and field and cross-country programs received some good news of late. A year ago, the programs were at a crossroads as the school cut funding to both programs, which left them teetering on the brink of extinction. Several scholarship re-

ipients, including Mayne, took some "minor cuts" to their funding in order to keep the programs afloat.

Mayne is happy to report that following a groundswell of support from the school's alumni, the Chattanooga community, many UTC professors, and runners from all over North America, the programs were completely reinstated.

"The athletic director couldn't take the 20 e-mails he was receiving each day and the bad publicity. We are now able to recruit more runners for next year as we graduate three runners, leaving only myself and Colin Sullivan (younger brother of Canadian Olympic long-distance athlete Kevin Sullivan) as the only Canadians left," says Mayne.

Mayne continues to study in the pre-med program at UTC where he carries a 4.0 grade point average for the semester and 3.82 overall.

NOTES: Mayne also serves as the president of the UTC Student Athlete Advisory Council, organizing a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the Chattanooga Food Bank late last month. This year, the council collected more than 1,500 canned food items.

Annandale men's rinks on a quest for the Silver Tankard

Foursomes team up to win zone event; regionals in Uxbridge next

By Jim Easson
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — Two Annandale Curling Clubs rinks are looking for more success in doublerink play this season.

Last season, the pair of teams won the Ontario finals of the doublerink Dominion Regalia Silver Tankard. Last weekend, they took the first step in de-

fending their championship. The Annandale teams won the zone playdown at Scarborough's Tam Heather Curling Club. Seven pairs of teams competed. The Annandale teams now advance to the regionals in Uxbridge next April.

One team consisted of Warren Leslie, Jon Payne (who replaced Alex Bianchi), Jason March and Blair Metrakos. Gord Norton skipped the other team with Dave Hutchison, Marvin Harrison, and Ron Alexander.

♦♦♦

The new year will see the Ontario Curling Association bantam boys' and

bantam girls' (under 16) zone playdowns at the Sutton Curling Club from Jan. 15 to 17. In the boys' event, Annandale will be represented by the team of Michael Bryson, Wesley Forget, Emmett Murphy, and Sandy Martin with coach Susannah Moylan. In the girls' competition, two teams are entered. Lesley Pyne skips Heather Bell, Leahanne Legrow, and Stacey Hogan with coach Jennifer McGhee. Jaclyn Stephenson has the other team of Sarah Leslie, Samantha Smith, and Angela Glanzmann with coach Richard Glanzmann.

Two teams advance out of the double-

knockout playdowns to the regionals at the York Curling Club on Jan. 22.

♦♦♦

Pickering resident and Olympian Richard Hart curls with Glenn Howard of Coldwater along with Brent Laing and Craig Savill. Last weekend the team went to Ottawa to compete in the Canada Cup East. It offered a purse of \$98,000 and was one way of entering the next Olympic Trials.

Twenty-eight teams competed in the triple-knockout event. The Howard team, however, was sidelined one game from being in the money.

Pickering skaters glide to top at own event

Annual Home Club Competition produces fine performances

PICKERING — Skate Canada Pickering Skating Club members glided and twirled to fine performances at the club's annual Home Club Competition at the Pickering Recreation Complex earlier this month.

Skaters representing many of the club's programs, including CanSkate (Canada's only national learn-to-skate program), StarSkate and Competitive, participated. A wide variety of events and spectacular performances made the day special for competitors and spectators alike.

- Results were:
- Junior 1: 1. Emma Martin, 2. Michele Tennant, 3. Emily Spadafora;
 - Junior 2: 1. Natalie Van Rooy, 2. Mia Moore, 3. Katherine Hertler;
 - Introductory ladies' free skate: 1. Michelle Eakin, 2. Christin Spencer, 3. Libby Reeves;
 - Elementary ladies' free skate: 1. Natasha Calizon, 2. Amanda Fowler, 3. Michelle Nicholson;
 - Junior boys' free skate: 1. John Tennant, 2. Dante Sellitto;
 - Pre-preliminary ladies' free skate, Flight 1: 1. Joanna Salvagna, 2. Amanda Smith, 3. Noelle Baird;
 - Flight 2: 1. Tobi Oduke, 2. Kylie Burt, 3. Corinne Rivers;
 - Preliminary 'A' ladies' free skate: 1. Kailey Trewartha, 2. Nicole Haughton, 3. Lauren Cowley;
 - Preliminary 'B' ladies free skate: 1. Jennifer Pappas, 2. Alissa Kuksis, 3. Tamara Dowhy;
 - Pre-preliminary ladies' solo dance: 1. Michelle Nicholson, 2. Amanda Fowler, 3. Natalie Van Rooy;
 - Preliminary ladies' solo dance: 1. Tamara Dowhy, 1. Kailey Trewartha, 3. Alana Grant, 3. Tobi Oduke;
 - Junior bronze ladies' solo dance: 1. Jennifer Pappas, 2. Jacqueline Clarke, 2. Amanda Cozier, 2. Aliesha Cozier;
 - Junior bronze ladies free skate: 1. Rachelle Degenstein, 2. Kristen Kuksis, 3. Callie Carkner;
 - Senior bronze ladies' free skate: 1. Kaycee Morrison, 2 Sandra Black, 3 Lauren Cunningham;
 - Junior silver ladies' free skate: 1. Kayla Cunningham;
 - Senior silver ladies' free skate: 1. Paige Heathcote, 2. Savannah Heathcote;
 - Senior bronze ladies' solo dance:



Pickering Skating Club members, from left, Savannah Heathcote, Rachelle Degenstein, Callie Carkner and Jennifer Pappas all had winning performances at the club's recent Home Club Competition at the Pickering Recreation Complex.

- 1. Rachelle Degenstein, 2. Lauren Cunningham, 3. Katrina Gates;
 - Junior silver ladies' solo dance: 1. Victoria Giglio, 2. Jordan Pagnello, 3. Kayla Cunningham;
 - Senior silver ladies' solo dance: 1. Savannah Heathcote, 2. Paige Heathcote, 3. Jennifer Powell;
 - Gold ladies' solo dance: 1. Breanne Allen;
 - Introductory interpretive: 1. Callie Carkner, 2. Rachelle Degenstein;
 - Silver interpretive: 1. Savannah Heathcote, 2. Paige Heathcote, 3. Jennifer Powell;
 - Bronze interpretive: 1. Victoria Giglio;
 - Gold interpretive: 1. Amanda Press;
 - Open interpretive: 1. Breanne Allen.
- In addition to Home Club, many Pickering skaters have also competed outside the city with considerable success this season. The club performed at the recent Raccoon Rally event in Clarington and the Cobourg Skate.
- Results from the Raccoon Rally:
- Nicole Haughton, Preliminary 'A' Flight 1, second; Alyssa Jarvis, Pre-Preliminary 'B' Flight 4, fifth; Nicole

- Lalonde, Pre-Preliminary 'B' Flight 4, sixth; Tobi Oduke, Pre-Preliminary 'C' Flight 1, third; Tayler Cleland, Introductory 'A' Flight 1, third; Angel Farrer, Pre-Preliminary 'C' Flight 2, sixth; Anna Aguayo, Stage 6 Flight 2, seventh; Michelle Nicholson, Pre-Preliminary 'B' Flight 1, second; Joanna Salvagna, Pre-Preliminary 'F' Flight 1, first; Marc-André Servant, Preliminary men, first; Tamara Dowhy, Preliminary 'F' Flight 1, fourth; and Jennifer Pappas, Preliminary 'F' Flight 2, second.
- Results from the Cobourg Skate:
- Nicole Haughton, Preliminary 'A' Flight 1, fourth; Nicole Haughton, Preliminary spins, sixth; Kayla Cunningham, Junior silver spins, third; Kayla Cunningham, Junior silver solo, fifth; Kayla and Lauren Cunningham, intermediate pairs, fourth; Rachelle Degenstein, Junior bronze elements Flight 2, fifth, Junior bronze spins, first, Junior bronze ladies' 'B' free skate Flight 1, third, introductory interpretive Flight 2, third; Alycia Degenstein, Junior bronze elements Flight 1, first, Junior bronze ladies' 'B' free skate Flight 2, sixth.
- Senior skaters were also successful at

a recent high test day at the Ajax Skating Club. Passing were: Senior silver Dance - Blues - Kaycee Morrison; Senior silver dance - Blues - Julia Blandisi; Senior silver dance - Starlight Waltz - Jordan Pagnello; Junior silver dance - Rocker Foxtrot - Christie Moore; Junior silver

dance - Harris Tango - Rachelle Degenstein; Junior silver skills - Alycia Degenstein.

New skaters are welcome. For information about registration, family discounts and programs, call 905-420-4117.



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A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

Goal-mouth scramble

PICKERING — Pickering Panthers goaltender Ryan Daniels covers up a loose puck with a little help from Joel Lenius (6) during OHA Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League action against the Couchiching Terriers at the Pickering Recreation Complex on Wednesday night. The teams played to a 1-1 draw. Cody Smith had the Panthers' goal.

Axemen coach not surprised by OHA ruling

Lucas LaBelle still suffering ill effects

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

AJAX — The eight-game suspension handed down by the Ontario Hockey League to Thornhill Thunderbirds forward Steve Tamaridis came as no surprise to Ajax Axemen head coach Larry LaBelle.

LaBelle says he expected OHA president Brent Ladds to deliver a suspension of between eight and 10 games for the hit-from-behind by former Axemen Tamaridis on Axemen forward Lucas LaBelle, the son of LaBelle, who's also the owner of the Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League club.

"As far as the suspension goes, it's what I expected," says LaBelle. "Eight games is the standard suspension they get in the past for incidents like this. They were consistent in their ruling."

Tamaridis is back on the ice with the Thunderbirds, however, as he has appealed the OHA's decision and, if a player has served half of his suspension (four games), he can play until the appeal is heard. Ladds says that hearing will likely be Jan. 16.

LaBelle laments that there wasn't video evidence of the hit which, according to the referee's report filed with the OHA, pointed to Tamaridis as having "intent" to hit the Ajax player from behind.

"The problem is when there's no video of the incident nobody can get the true impact of the action," says LaBelle. "They can't

get the impact of it if they can't see it."

LaBelle says his son has resumed playing, but is still bothered by a sore back, although headaches he endured for several days have subsided.

"He's been going to therapy, acupuncture... he's not out of the woods yet," says LaBelle. "He's a kid who can't stand on the sidelines to prove a point. In his mind, he was good enough to play and contribute."

The OHA may have delivered its verdict for the Dec. 5 on-ice incident in Ajax, but it's not the end of the story. There were several assault-related charges laid in respect to off-ice incidents at the game. Jennifer LaBelle, 47, and her daughter Belinda LaBelle, 18, are to appear in court in Oshawa on Jan. 13.

Ajax Axemen set to play at Newmarket Showcase Tournament

AJAX — The Ajax Axemen won't be idle during the Christmas break. Rather, they'll be one of 20 junior teams competing in the annual Newmarket Showcase Tournament from Dec. 27

to 30. The Ajax juniors are making their 10th consecutive appearance at the event.

The Axemen start tournament action Dec. 27 against the Syracuse Stars. On Dec. 28, they play

the host Newmarket Hurricanes and then finish round-robin action later that night against the Streetsville Derbys at 7:30 p.m. All games are at the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket.

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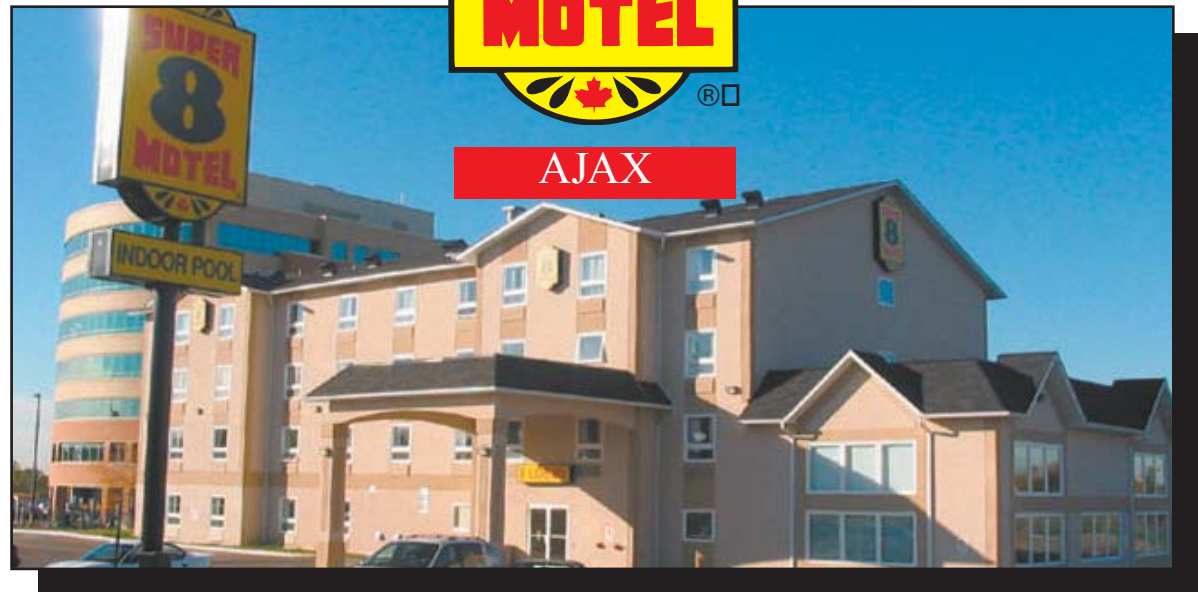
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Pickering bantams head out Boxing Day for three-country European hockey tour

Panthers' reps to play in Czech Republic, Austria, Germany and Italy over Christmas break

PICKERING — Following in the footsteps of other bantam-age hockey teams before them, a group of Pickering Hockey Association players are heading to Europe.

The Pickering Panthers bantam 'AA' rep hockey team will be the only Ontario team to travel to Europe this season, bringing Canadian-style hockey to arenas in the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany and Italy. The boys, aged 14, their parents and coaches leave Toronto on Boxing Day for a 12-day tour in which they will play a minimum of seven games, as well as touring some historical sites and learning about the countries they visit.

Currently, the bantams are in first place in the York-Simcoe league's East Division. Travelling to Europe is a great tradition within the Pickering Hockey Association and the opportunity has been offered to other bantam 'AA' teams during the last 15 years.

"This will not only be a great hockey experience, but an educational one as well," says head coach Dale Lee in a media release. "This is a great honour for these boys to play the game they love and represent



The Pickering Panthers bantam 'AA' rep hockey team will leave on Boxing Day for a 12-day tour of Europe where they'll play games and visit the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany and Italy. Team members are, front row from left, Kyle Bateman, T.J. Angrove, Chris Wright, Kyle Becker, Daniel Schofield and Aaron Williams. In middle row are Michael Ross, Cole Crerar, Joseph DeMarinis, Cole Watkins, Jeff Paul, Ryan Lee, Shawn Lant, and Peter Watkins, assistant coaches, Jesse Metzger, Andrew Rhodes, Eric Bartholomew, Chris Riches, Andrew McConnell, Nigel Fleming, Brian Rhodes, trainer, Dale Lee, head coach and Ray Angrove, assistant trainer.

their city, province and country."

Calling it an opportunity of a lifetime, he says the players will learn about how hockey is played in Europe while also appreciating the culture and the history of the four countries.

"This is a trip that they will always remember and the players know they are getting a unique opportunity to have fun, learn about history and appreciate different cultures. They are

also very good hockey players and I am sure that the Europeans will enjoy watching them very much."

After leaving Dec. 26, they play their first game in Prague, Czech Republic on Dec. 28.

From Prague, they will journey by bus to Cesky Krumlov and then travel to Salzburg, Austria where they will visit a fortress, Mozart's home and play a game. As well, they will visit

Innsbruck, Austria and then travel to Vipiteno, Italy. During one of these days the players will spend the day skiing.

The team will also travel to Fussen, Germany and visit the Neuschwanstein Castle, which Disney used as the model for its castle at Disney World in Florida. The team will play at least two games in Germany.

Junior squad Generally puzzling at the halfway point of the season

By Brian McNair
Staff Editor

DURHAM — Frustration. That's the buzzword surrounding the Oshawa Generals right now as the OHL breaks briefly for Christmas.

New owner John Davies is frustrated.

General manager Brad Selwood and head coach Bob McGill — both frustrated.

The players? "Clearly it's frustration right now," Adam Berti said after Sunday's 6-3 loss to Plymouth, which sent the Generals

into the break on a six-game winless skid and 13 points back of a playoff spot with a 10-21-1-0 record.

Since a 4-1 start to the season, there's been little of anything else. A team that was supposed to have two dangerous scoring lines and solid goaltending has struggled to both score and prevent goals and appears well on its way to missing the playoffs for the second time in five years — unheard of in Oshawa.

"There's obviously frustration without a doubt," says McGill. "My message to the boys was that we have to take this time and get back on track and have a

fresh attitude."

Indeed.

The question is will McGill be around long enough to oversee such a change in attitude?

Selwood, who has been quite busy trying to find the right formula through trades, is well aware that the fans are — you guessed it — frustrated too. As such, he likely won't watch the losing ways continue for much longer without making a drastic change.

"I just don't like what I'm seeing right now."

Among the 10 trades he has made

since taking the job in May was a blockbuster sending 19-year-old goalie Dan Turple — unquestionably the team's MVP last season — to Kitchener in exchange for bruising defenceman Devereaux Heshmatpour, 17, and goalie Carlo DiRienzo, 18.

Gone, too, are sniper Chris Hult, traded to Ottawa for Peter Tsimikalis, and disgruntled twins Tyler and Justin Donati, at home in Oakville awaiting a trade.

In other words, a big chunk of those top two lines is now elsewhere, replaced only by Tsimikalis.

Scoreboard DECEMBER 24, 2004

PICKERING MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Results of games played on Dec. 13.

GAME ONE

Verifeye 52 vs. Warwick Publishing 48.

TOP SCORERS

Verifeye: Bill Linton 17, Bill Warren 10, Roger Young 9, Randy Filinski 7.
Warwick: Sherwin James 21, Rod Fraser 11, Ian Campbell 8, Derrick Jaggall 6.

GAME TWO

Gallantry's Eatery 55 vs. Van Kempen 48.

TOP SCORERS

Gallantry's: Ian Grant 15, Elman McLean 15, Frank Gallo 9, Ted Piotrowski 6.
Van Kempen: John Girmonte 15, Don MacDonald 6, Bill Pappas 3.

GAME THREE

Ell-Rod Holdings 51 vs. Knights Corner Pub & Grill 40.

TOP SCORERS

Ell-Rod: Ivor Walker 18, Don Leahy 15, Collin Exeter 8, John Esposito 6.
Knights: Karl Hutchinson 18, Steve Leahy 6, David Bayliss 5, Mike Jovanov 5.

GAME FOUR

Lakar Carpentry 48 vs. Synergy Trade Group 31.

TOP SCORERS

Lakar: Alberto Daros 17, Gord Brown 10, Horace Peterkin 7, John Fleming 7.
Synergy: Claude Feig 12, Reuben Newman 7, Corrado Roccasava 6.

GAME FIVE

Accent Building Sciences 58 vs. West Hill Men's Slo-Pitch 50.

TOP SCORERS

Accent: Mike Horn 15, Pat Roach 11, Rick Jones 8, Ron Pella 7.
West Hill: Conrad Davis 27, Paul Vorvis 14, David Vohn 11.

AJAX SOCCER CLUB

Indoor season standings and results inclusive to Dec. 19.

STANDINGS - UNDER-EIGHT DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Dalmatians	6	5	0	1	11	3	16
Shepherds	6	2	3	1	4	5	7
Beagles	6	2	3	1	4	7	7
Retrievers	6	1	4	1	5	9	4
Dec. 5: Dalmatians (Royal Blue) 2 vs Retrievers (Yellow) 1							
Shepherds (Sky Blue) 0 vs Beagles (Red) 1							
Dec. 12: Beagles (Red) 1 vs Retrievers (Yellow) 1							
Dalmatians (Royal Blue) 1 vs Shepherds (Sky Blue) 1							
Dec. 19: Retrievers (Yellow) 1 vs Shepherds (Sky Blue) 2							
Beagles (Red) 0 vs Dalmatians (Royal Blue) 1							

STANDINGS - UNDER 10 DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Sharks	6	3	2	1	6	6	10
Barracudas	6	2	1	3	6	5	9
Marlins	6	2	3	1	8	7	7
Dolphins	6	2	3	1	6	8	7
Dec. 5: Marlins (Yellow) 0 vs Barracudas (Orange) 0							
Sharks (Light Blue) 3 vs Dolphins (White) 1							
Dec. 12: Dolphins (White) 1 vs Barracudas (Orange) 1							
Marlins (Yellow) 3 vs Sharks (Light Blue) 1							
Dec. 19: Barracudas (Orange) 0 vs Sharks (Light Blue) 0							
Dolphins (White) 2 vs Marlins (Yellow) 1							

STANDINGS - UNDER-12 DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Thunder	6	4	2	0	23	10	12
Fury	6	3	3	0	18	24	9
Blizzard	6	2	3	1	16	19	7
Lightning	6	2	3	1	13	17	7
Dec. 5: Fury (Red) 3 vs Lightning (Burgundy) 1							
Thunder (White) 1 vs Blizzard (Green) 3							
Dec. 12: Blizzard (Green) 5 vs Lightning (Burgundy) 6							
Fury (Red) 2 vs Thunder (White) 12							
Dec. 19: Lightning (Burgundy) 1 vs Thunder (White) 2							
Blizzard (Green) 3 vs Fury (Red) 7							

STANDINGS - HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Manchester United	6	5	1	0	36	13	15
Arsenal	6	4	2	0	24	21	12
Chelsea	6	4	2	0	22	13	12
Liverpool	6	2	4	0	14	25	6
Tottenham Hotspurs	6	2	4	0	13	22	6
Everton	6	1	5	0	14	29	3
Dec. 5: Arsenal (White) 5 vs Tottenham Hotspurs (Red) 3							
Manchester United (Red) 5 vs Chelsea (Yellow) 1							
Liverpool (Green) 3 vs Everton (Sky Blue) 2							
Dec. 12: Hotspurs (Red) 2 vs Liverpool (Green) 1							
Arsenal (White) 3 vs Manchester United (Red) 4							
Everton (Sky Blue) 2 vs Chelsea (Yellow) 8							

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Concert helps friends remember Ajax teen

Several local bands on the bill in benefit for Hospital for Sick Children

AJAX — An upcoming benefit concert is being held in memory of an Ajax teen who died on the soccer field this past summer.

Nataleigh Allen and Sarah Westlake are raising money for the Hospital for Sick Children a favourite hospital of their friend Jonathan Stewart, who died after being struck in the chest by a soccer ball.

"(Before his death) Jonathan was upset that when he turned 18 he would have to go to another hospital, he enjoyed Sick Kids and always talked about it, said Allen. "Jonathan went to Pickering High in grade 9 and 10 and I went to Ajax High. Then he and I transferred to J. Clarke for grade 11 and became instant friends".

The girls together are organizing the benefit concert, which was the idea of another of Jonathan's friends, Brandi Reader.

"Jonathan would have been 18 on Dec. 1, so I think this is a perfect celebration of his birthday," said Ms. Allen.

The concert includes bands Fail to Speak, Sold, The Johnstones, One Second 2 Late, Scratch 3, Green Division, The Flatliners and Gunned Down.

And, knowing Jonathan so well, the girls thought it was appropriate to call the concert 'The Green Ribbon Skank' because green was his favourite colour and he loved to do a dance to ska music called skanking, said Allen.

The maximum capacity for the Dungeon is 250 people so the girls are hoping to raise approximately \$2,500.

The concert is at the Dungeon, 44 Bond St. E. in Oshawa on Dec. 28. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10 at the door.



Jonathan Stewart



Jason Liebrechts/ News Advertiser photo

Nataleigh Allen, left, and Sarah Westlake are organizing a benefit for their friend, Jonathan Stewart, who died last summer. The concert is at The Dungeon in Oshawa, Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Singers sought for County Town

Hit the high and low notes on Jan. 5

DURHAM — The County Town Singers need several good singers, especially basses and tenors, for the spring season.

Auditions are held at the group's practices on Jan. 5 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. downstairs at the Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre, Brock and Burns streets.

The group includes singers from all over Durham Region and presents several concerts a year. This spring, the Singers will perform three cabaret-

style shows at Dnipro Hall, Oshawa on April 28, 29 and 30. There will also be a benefit concert at the Pickering Village United Church in Ajax on April 22.

For more information on auditions, call Linda at 905-668-0083. To find out more about the choir, go to www.countytownsingers.com.

Murder, fundraising mix in court clinic benefit performance this February

Be part of 'Seeds of Hope'

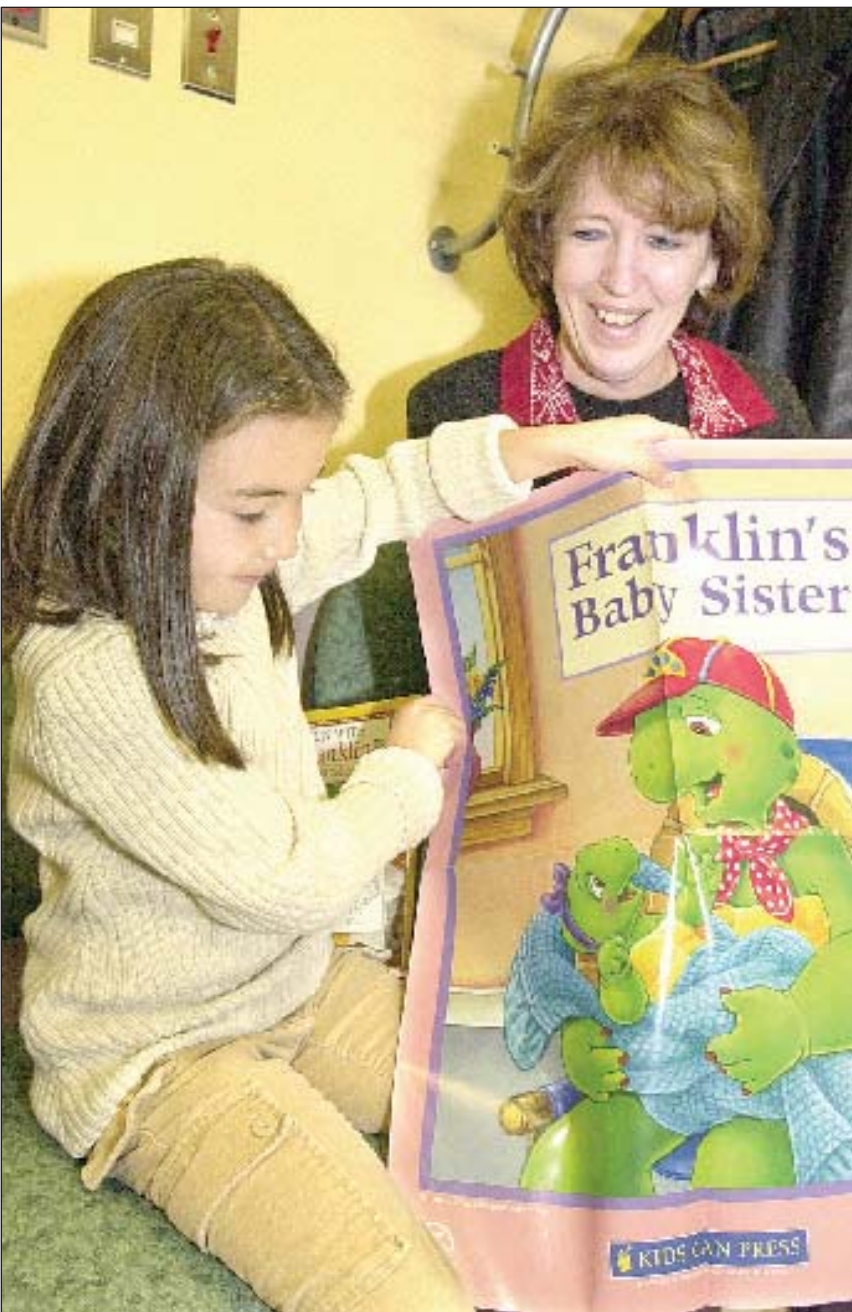
DURHAM — Dial M for Murder and offer a boost to the Durham Family

Court Clinic.

An upcoming Oshawa Little Theatre performance of 'Dial M For Murder' will benefit the clinic's Seeds of Hope campaign. Tickets are \$15 and avail-

able through the DFCC.

The performance is Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. at the theatre, 62 Russett Ave. in Oshawa. For more information, call 905-436-6754 ext. 237.



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

Hospital gets an early Christmas present

AJAX — Angie Littlefield, executive director of the Durham West Arts Centre, presented the Ajax and Pickering hospital children's ward with some Franklin the Turtle books, posters and bookmarks this week. Months after her successful exhibition at the centre, Brenda Clarke, illustrator of Franklin the Turtle, contributed the items. Cassandra Holinaty checks out her Franklin poster, part of the donation. As well, three Franklin prints will be on display in the ward for nearly a year. Art students at St. Mary Catholic High and Pickering High and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary schools received free frames from the exhibition so that they can enter juried art shows.

Be a junior artist this winter

Station Gallery offering several classes for kids

DURHAM — A winter of art lessons is in store for children at the Station Gallery.

Offered out of the gallery's temporary home in the Centennial Building, the classes start in January and run through to the beginning of March.

Kinderart: Primed for Painting is taught by Carol Kapuscinsky Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for children ages three to six, starting Jan. 25. **Kinderart: Stories That Inspire You** is taught by Tara Bergeron Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for the same age group, starting Jan. 26. The cost for each is \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members.

Art Ventures After School: Print Impressions runs Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m., starting Jan. 25, for ages 10 to 12. It's taught by Steve Rose. **Art Ventures After School: Medieval Times** runs

Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m., starting Jan. 27, for ages seven to nine. It's taught by Rowena Dykins. The cost is \$80 for members, \$90 for non-members.

Art Explorers: The Gallery Goes Backstage will provide young artists with a private backstage tour of the Whitby Courthouse Theatre and then a chance to create and design a 3-D stage set maquette for a play. Barbara Kimball and Ruth Read will teach the course Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon for ages six to eight and 1 to 3 p.m. for ages nine to 12, starting Jan. 29. The cost is \$80 for members, \$90 for non-members.

Teen Art: Faces of Music is taught by Laura Hair Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. for ages 13 to 16, starting Jan. 27. The cost is \$80 for members, \$90 for non-members. Registration is limited for each course. Family discounts are available. For more information, call the gallery at 905-668-4185 business hours or send an e-mail to station@idirect.com.

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Accent Chair	Reg. \$919	Sale \$399	Qty 10
Buhler			
Curio	Reg. \$599	Sale \$349	Qty 20
Paiano			
Sofa	Reg. \$999	Sale \$499	Qty 6
Loveseat	Reg. \$979	Sale \$479	Qty 6
Chair	Reg. \$799	Sale \$399	Qty 2
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Sunday, January 2nd	12 to 5
Monday, January 3rd	10 to 6

Community show hits close to home

Ajax and Pickering artists shine in latest arts centre exhibit

AJAX — The Durham West Art Centre is showcasing community talent for its next exhibit.

'The Community Show' is free to the public and features artwork from members of the centre, including Joan Attersley, Cathy Laskar, Pam Auguste, Hi Sook Barker, Cyril Cox, Gail George, Shirley Heard, Susan Hinnecke, Dorsey James, Judith Jewer, Anja Knuuttala, Susan Lindo, Gwen Williams, Karen Welbourn, Wayne Headley, John Raynard, Phyllis Desjardins, Andrea Ketelaars, Mary Cook, Carol Kapuscinsky, April Polak and Dianne Horvath.

The exhibit runs from now until Jan. 9 at the centre, 72B Old Kingston Rd., Pickering Village in Ajax.

For more information, call centre at 905-686-7697.



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo
Gary Faulkner and April Polak of the Durham West Arts Centre, stand amongst the art of 'The Community Show' on display until Jan. 9.



Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser

Spring 2005 Wedding Show

Featuring the area's leading Wedding Professionals

Sunday, February 20, 2005

Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Rd., Pickering
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Comprehensive pre-show supplement
Sunday, February 13, 2005

Fashion Show 4:00 pm

Featuring: Bridal Gowns, Tuxedos, Bridesmaid Dresses, & Mother of the Bride Dresses

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For exhibitor information call Laurie Thompson at 905-683-5110 ext. 230

lthompson@durhamregion.com

News Advertiser



Here's the holiday hot list for movie watchers

DURHAM — If you're looking for a few ideas on appropriate holiday movies to watch with the family this weekend, Rogers Video has some suggestions.

Elves, Scrooge, the Grinch and miracles combine in its top 10 holiday movies list. Here's some popular Christmas movies for great family viewing:

1. *Elf*; 2. *A Christmas Story*; 3. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; 4. *It's A Wonderful Life*; 5. *White Christmas*; 6. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*; 7. *The Santa Clause*; 8. *A Christmas Carol*; 9. *A Miracle on 34th Street*; and 10. *Scrooged*.

Read up: infodurhamregion.com

Another way to find community news from the **NEWS ADVERTISER**

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NEWS ADVERTISER





Gwen Stefani, as Jean Harlow, and Leonardo DiCaprio, as Howard Hughes, at the premiere of Hughes' 'Hell's Angels' in 'The Aviator'.

The extraordinary life and times of Howard Hughes

Aviator flies into theatres

The following movies open in theatres this week.

The Aviator

Directed by Martin Scorsese
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale, John C. Reilly, Alec Baldwin and Alan Alda
Rated PG-13

From his early years with his involvement in Hollywood and through many innovative career changes, Howard Hughes transforms a small fortune into a massive one as the son of a Texas inventor of an amazing drill bit. Hughes moves to Los Angeles to become a Hollywood film producer, where he helps launch the career of Jean Harlow and other starlets, and produces several classic films.

His legend grows as he branches into industry after industry, including aviation and TWA Airlines and then national defence during the Second World War, leading to the creation of the infamous Spruce Goose, a flying boat of immense size. Throughout these adventures, Hughes romances many Hollywood stars like Katharine

Hepburn and Ava Gardner.

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

Director: Wes Anderson
Starring, Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett, Anjelica Huston, Willem Dafoe and Jeff Goldblum.
Rated R

Internationally famous oceanographer Steve Zissou and his crew, 'Team Zissou', set sail on an expedition to hunt down the mysterious, elusive, and possibly non-existent jaguar shark that killed Zissou's partner during the documentary filming of their latest adventure.

They are joined on their voyage by a young airline co-pilot who may or may not be Zissou's son, a beautiful journalist assigned to write a profile of Zissou, and Zissou's estranged wife and co-producer, Eleanor. They face overwhelming complications including pirates, kidnapping, and bankruptcy.

Also opening in theatres this week: 'Meet the Fockers', 'Fat Albert' and 'Phantom of the Opera.'

FOR FULL MOVIE LISTINGS
durhamregion.com

Tribute artists coming to Durham next month

DURHAM — Great balls of fire! Former Oshawa resident Billy Diel will perform his Jerry Lee Lewis tribute show here on Jan. 7.

Diel, a popular performer in the area for years, returns for his show at El Stavros restaurant. He'll rock the Gar-

den Room on his baby grand piano.

The show is one of a series of dinner shows being presented by Bernie Jessome Entertainment with El Stavros in 2005. On Feb. 25, look for Nancy Tromm as Shania Twain/Cher. On March 19, Jessome, of Courtice, and

Jeff Scott will do tributes to Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison and the Everly Brothers. A later show will feature John Preston with his Elvis tribute.

All shows are \$50, with a Christmas special of all four for \$180. Tickets are available by calling 905-404-6855.

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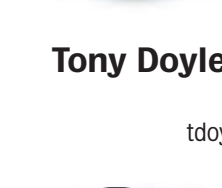
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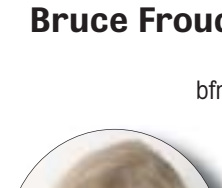
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Entertainment

Our journalists bring a wide variety of experience to the job, from magazines, daily and weekly newspapers, radio and television. Christy Chase has been covering Durham Region since her days as a reporter at the Oshawa Times. When the Times closed, Christy joined the team at Oshawa This Week where she is the Entertainment Editor.



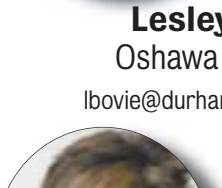
Christy Chase/
 Entertainment Editor
 cchase@durhamregion.com

News

You may recognize them as friends and neighbours, they're the men and women who write about the community they live and work in, Durham Region. Whether it's a blackout, a train wreck, propane explosion, election, or just plain bad politics – they're there and with 40 editorial awards in 2004, they're a winning team.



David Blumenfeld/
 Whitby Reporter
 dblumenfeld@durhamregion.com



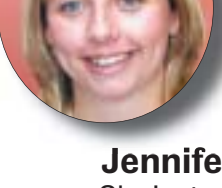
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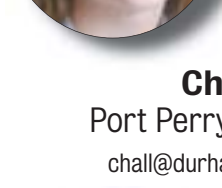
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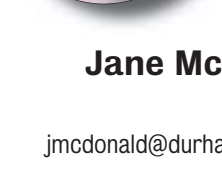
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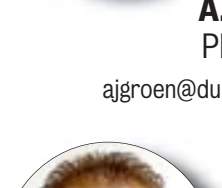
Jane McDonald/
 Reporter
 jmcDonald@durhamregion.com

Photography

Often a photograph says it all and this group's work speaks volumes. Our photo team is led by veteran photographer Walter Passarella, who was a leader in the introduction of digital photography to the newspaper industry. They're all award-winners and they're on the job seven days a week telling the news through the lens.



Walter Passarella/
 Chief Photographer
 wpassarella@durhamregion.com



A.J. Groen/
 Photographer
 ajgroen@durhamregion.com



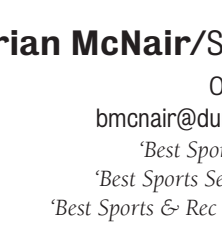
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Jason Liebrechts/
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 'Photographer of the Year' OCNA
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Sports

The Generals, Dunlops, Axemen, Panthers, MoJacks and Bruins – the sports department has them covered. From minor sports to Olympians, Brian, Al, Brad and Paul are sports fans themselves and eager to bring you Durham's sporting news – the good, the bad and the unusual.



Brian McNair/Sports Editor
 Oshawa & Whitby
 bmcnair@durhamregion.com
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 'Best Sports & Rec Story, 3rd' OCNA



Al Rivett/Sports Editor
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 arivett@durhamregion.com
 Metroland 'President's Award'



Brad Kelly/Sports Editor
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Paul Futhey/
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Classified INDEX

100 Housing For Sale
103 Private Sales
104 Open Houses For Sale
110 Apartments/Condos For Sale
115 Farms For Sale, Rent & Wanted
120 Out of Town Properties
125 Property Outside Canada
130 Houses Wanted
135 Lots & Acreages
140 Investment/Business Properties
145 Industrial/Commercial Space
150 Office & Business Space
155 Stores For Sale, Rent/ Wanted
159 Investment Opportunities
160 Business Opportunities
161 Franchises
162 Insurance
163 Professional Directory
164 Art & Antiques
165 Automobiles, Loan
166 Accountants
167 Computer/Internet Equipment
168 Business Services/Personals
169 Employment
170 Apartments & Flats For Rent
172 Furnished Apartments
174 Short Term Rentals
175 Rooms For Rent
180 Condominiums For Rent
185 Houses For Rent
190 Townhouses For Rent
191 Rooming & Bed, Avail. & Wanted
192 Rooms For Rent & Wanted
194 Shared Accommodation
195 Carcure Available
196 Halls & Lodges
197 Vacation Properties
205 Rentals Outside Canada
210 Articles Homes & Parks
215 Motor Homes
216 Campsites, Trailers, Sites
217 Motorcycles
230 Sports Equipment
231 Antiques
232 Boats & Supplies
233 Boats & Supplies
234 Pools & Supplies
235 Travel
236 Services & Crafts
239 Women's column
240 Banns
246 Adoptions
247 Employment
249 Coming Events
250 Engagements
251 Forthcoming Marriages
252 Birthdays
253 Anniversaries
254 Graduations
255 Announcements
256 Deaths
258 In Memoriam
259 Birthdays
260 Tenders
261 Notices
262 Public Notices
263 Airline Transportation
265 Lost and Found
266 Personal
269 Support Groups
270 Nannies/In-home
271 Childcare
272 Nursery Schools
274 Daycare Wanted
275 Employment
276 Private Tutoring/Schools
277 Employment
278 Registration
279 Employment
282 Ethical/Beauty Services
283 Health & Healthcare
288 Fitness Services
289 Career
292 Wedding Planner
293 Employment
294 Psychics
295 Financial Services
296 Amusements Clubs
297 Hotels/Resorts
298 Concessions
299 Domestic Help
301 Flowers and Delivery
302 Farm Services
303 Horse Supplies and Boarding
305 Poultry and Livestock
307 Clothing
310 Articles for Sale
311 Bicycles
312 Bicycles Wanted
313 Garage/Yard Sales
325 Automobile Sales
326 Automobile Sales
330 Firewood
331 Christmas Tree
336 Woodstoves, Fireplace
340 Auto Care
345 Baby Needs
346 Childcare
350 Industrial Equipment
351 Career
353 Appliances
354 Home Services
360 TV, Sound Systems
365 Musical Instruments
370 Pets, Supplies, Boarding
375 Photography
380 Swap and Trade
385 Tickets for Sale
400 Cars For Sale
401 Cars Wanted
410 Trucks For Sale
415 Trucks/Wallet Drive
425 Sports Cars
430 Automobiles
435 Motorcycles
440 Auto Parts/Supplies & Repairs
445 Auto Leasing & Rentals
450 Car Washes
457 Driving Schools
460 Auto Care
465 Garage & Storage Space
470 Heavy Duty Equipment
475 Career Training
480 Career Counseling & Resumes
505 Careers
506 Employment Agencies
509 Drivers
510 Employment
511 Retail Opportunities
512 Career Employment
515 Salon & Spa Help
516 Skills & Technical Help
520 Computer & IT
525 Office Help
530 Inside Sales
532 Sales Help & Agents
533 Home Services
537 Hospice/Medical/Dental
540 Health
541 Holistic Health
542 Restaurants
541 Part-Time Help
545 Teaching Opportunities
550 Domestic Help Wanted
555 Domestic Help Available
565 Volunteers
570 Employment Wanted
700 Home Improvements
701 Demolition, Blasting
702 Garbage Removal/Hauling
703 Electrical
707 Handyman
708 Handyman
709 Handyman
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Celebrating in Ajax and Pickering

Multicultural communities celebrate many traditions

This is the 11th in a series of stories exploring the ever-evolving and expanding multicultural makeup of Durham Region.

By **Danielle Milley**
Staff Writer

DURHAM — While many residents have been decking the halls, trimming the tree and racking up their credit card bills this Christmas, members of Pickering's and Ajax's growing multicultural and multi-faith communities are looking forward to or have already observed their own celebrations.

Zaheer Karim is feeling recharged having recently finished the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. This year it started Oct. 15, although it changes from year to year. It takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

When most people think of Ramadan they think of fasting. But it is much more than that.

"It's an increase of your spiritual-

ity," Mr. Karim said. "After the month you should feel like you've gone through a spiritual experience."

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset for 29 days. The recent fast wasn't that difficult Mr. Karim said, but when Ramadan falls in the summer and the days are longer, it can get tough.

As part of the fast there is no eating, drinking or smoking — nothing can enter the body — during daylight.

"If you have any kind of addiction, like coffee, you can get a little irritated," he said.

The act of fasting is more than just dieting, there are strong mental and spiritual dimensions to fasting. During the day the focus is on remembering God, reciting from the Qur'an (holy book) and doing good deeds. There are daily prayer services at mosques and a main service Friday afternoons.

After sunset each day the fast can be broken — called iftar. At the end of the month there is a day of celebration and festivities, Eid al Fitr.

Another important part of the Islamic faith is the Hajj or pilgrimage

Whereas Mr. Karim describes Ramadan as a time for solitary reflection, the Hajj is a communal activity. Each Muslim is expected to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia at least once in his or her life if they are physically and financially able. Mecca is the most holy city in Islam.

Mr. Karim is performing the pilgrimage in January for the first time. It includes visiting the Ka-ba and other sacred sites.

More than one million Muslims perform the Hajj during the last month of the calendar.

"You really get to feel that you are just a little drop in larger humanity," Mr. Karim said.

◆◆◆

KWANZA

Just after Christmas is the celebration of Kwanza, which isn't a religious celebration.

"Kwanza is a celebration of community, culture and family," explained Yaa Shange, executive director of It Takes a Village.



Jason Liebrechts/ News Advertiser photo

It was the seventh day of Hanukkah as Richard and Arlene Shulman, along with children Kamille, left, and Jessica, light the menorah. Many families in Ajax and Pickering have been observing customs, traditions and celebrations over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

The group is organizing Durham Celebrates Kwanza for the third time this year, a family event featuring poets, singers, an African marketplace and activities for people of all ages.

"There's a misconception that it's a replacement of Christmas and it isn't," Ms. Shange said. "It isn't a replacement of anything, it is an addition. It is to add meaning to our lives."

Kwanza began in 1966 in the

United States for people of African descent to celebrate something that was symbolic and meaningful to them.

It is founded on seven principles: unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, purpose, creativity, faith, and co-operative economics.

"All of those principles are things the whole community can relate to," Ms. Shange said.

Kwanza beings Dec. 26 and runs

for seven days. Each day a candle in the kinarah (candle holder) is lit to represent the principles.

The last day (Jan. 1) might be marked with a huge feast and homemade presents — known as zawadi — are sometimes given out.

"Commercialism is really discouraged," she said. "If presents are given out they are homemade gifts, something from the heart."

Ms. Shange invites all members of the community to find out more about Kwanza and participate in the celebration in Ajax.

"We want everyone to learn about it," she said. "The values and principles are things that everyone can benefit from."

◆◆◆

HANUKKAH

The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah comes with many legends, but Ron King, future president of B'Nai Shalom V'Tikvah congregation in Durham Region, explained the real reason the celebration began.

"The actual Hanukkah celebration is in commemoration of a victory by a Jewish guerilla force over a strong occupying army," he said, adding it happened in 165 BC.

The forces then rededicated a temple in Jerusalem as a centre of worship.

Mr. King also said there were a number of legends to explain why Hanukkah, which began Dec. 7 at sundown, is eight days.

One popular legend relates to the lighting of a candelabra.

"In rededicating (the temple) they found a small flask of holy oil and it was only supposed to last for one day but it lasted for eight days," he explained, adding he believes making it eight days was a compromise because many other Jewish holidays are that long.

In the Jewish calendar, Hanukkah is less about religious observance, compared with Yom Kippur or Rosh Hashanah, and more about being at home.

"Hanukkah is a festival that by and large should be celebrated in the home," Mr. King said. "The key

◆ See Focusing page C5

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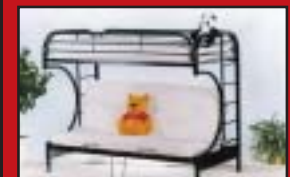


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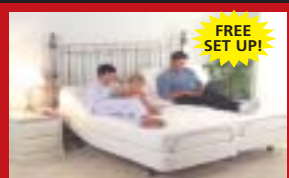
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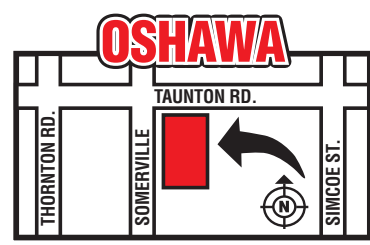
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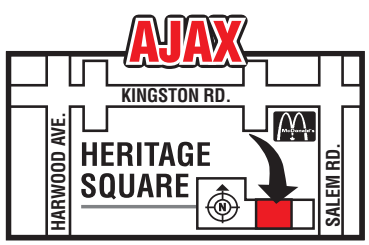
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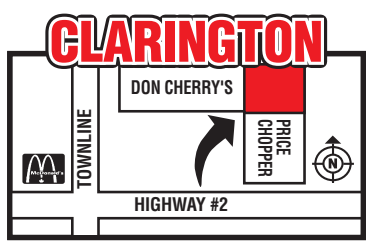
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Alcohol retailers change hours

DURHAM — Most local liquor stores are keeping regular hours over the next two weeks, but close early on Christmas and New Year's eves.

All Liquor Control Board of On-

tario (LCBO) stores in the province close at 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31. The stores do not open on Christmas, Boxing and New Year's days.

In Ajax, the LCBO store in the Baywood Centre near Harwood Av-

enue and Bayly Street is open until 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday. The Durham Centre outlet is also open until 9 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, but continues to serve customers until 10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23

and 30. Pickering shoppers can visit the LCBO store on Kingston Road at Whites Road until 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday, while the Brock and Kingston roads store is open until 10 p.m.

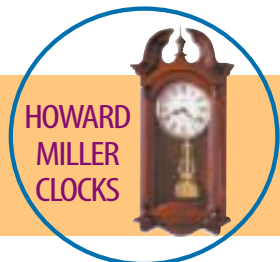
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GET BETTER GAME



Young Pickering 'life-givers' receive a lesson in goodwill

By James McMurtrie
Special to the News Advertiser

PICKERING — Elementary school teacher Stephanie Hardy gave her Grade 6 class a lesson in multiplication and philosophy this month, empowering her students to be 'life-givers' through a unique program.

This is her second year running Chores for Charity with her class at St. Monica Catholic School in Pickering. Students do chores for their families in return for money, which is then used to purchase stockings and stocking stuffers for families in need during the holiday season.

When asked what chore is most popular among parents, she answered "A lot of cleaning toilets," before adding with a chuckle, "moms and dads seem to like that job." Other common chores included vacuuming, set-

ting the table and shovelling snow, but tasks could be anything around the house or even for neighbours.

The clever catch of the program is that it isn't enough for the parents to just give the money to their children, but they must sign off on the chores that are done.

"Everyone has to contribute, and everything has to be earned... even if it is only a quarter," said Ms. Hardy.

The highlight of the program is when the children go shopping for all the items they need. The students go from store to store armed with shopping lists and their trusty calculators.

Eight parents attend the shopping spree, as well as Ms. Hardy's husband and father to fill the necessary gaps in supervision.

To conclude the well-spirited cause, at St. Monica

Catholic School's Dec. 16 pre-Christmas-break assembly, Ms. Hardy's students had a 'show and tell' where they presented to the entire school their gifts for those in need.

"Being a life-giver is any way you can give a positive gesture" said Ms. Hardy. "It's someone who does positive things, like holding the door open, or giving to charity."



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo
Stephanie Hardy and her Grade 6 students at St. Monica Catholic School made sure it will be a Christmas to remember for people in need this year.



Focusing on the home

◆ Focusing from page C1

point is to light the Hanukkah light."

On the first night one candle is lit, on the second night two and so on until all eight have been lit. The lights are to be displayed in the window so people can see the lights of freedom burning, Mr. King said. A blessing is said each night as the candles are lit.

Small gifts are also given each day.

"The tradition was to give money as gifts, as well as fruits that were available at the time," he said.

In recent years Hanukkah has become the most popular of all Jewish holidays because of its proximity to Christmas, he said.

◆◆◆

DIWALI

Another celebration that has just been marked is the Hindu festival of lights, Diwali.

It is the most glamorous and important of all the Hindu festivals, said Damo-

dar Sharma, a priest at the Devi Mandir temple in Pickering. This year it was Nov. 11.

"We celebrate Diwali for two reasons — to celebrate our triumph over the darkness, and the goddess of the world appeared on this Earth and we worship her," he said.

The story goes that King Rama returned home after defeating evil and darkness and candles were lit to welcome him. Diwali marks the day he returned.

"That's why we light candles, to commemorate the victory over the darkness," Mr. Sharma said.

On Diwali, Hindus also fast, recite special prayers and ask for blessings.

"First people worship at home and then the temple," he said. "They visit (with friends and family) too."

After worship, they break the fast.

At the celebrations at home, sweets are eaten and sometimes gifts are given out, such as clothing or jewelry.

Religion by the numbers

DURHAM — A breakdown of religions, according to Statscan data from 2000.

	Ajax	Pickering
Protestant	29,525	32,470
Catholic	23,995	28,930
Muslim	2,045	3,400
Christian Orthodox	1,515	3,000
Hindu	1,810	2,050
Sikh	350	405
Buddhist	275	265
Jewish	215	260

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1867 Valley Farm Rd., Pickering, Ample parking in rear of building.

Friday, February 25, 2005, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Admiral's Room, Ajax Community Centre

Thursday, March 31, 2005, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Meeting Room #3, McLean Community Centre, Ajax

Please also watch Mark's website (www.markholland.ca) for dates of other upcoming meetings, or contact the constituency office.



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Prospects are good for white Christmas in Ajax and Pickering

If you have snow now, it's not going away, says climatologist

By Jennifer Stone
Staff Writer

DURHAM — A white Christmas may be in the cards for much of Durham, says Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips.

After the cold snap earlier in the week, the climatologist was calling for a "mixed bag of precipitation," with temperatures warming to more seasonal levels midweek, then dropping back down on Christmas Eve and day.

"It looks like a white Christmas," Mr. Phillips predicted Monday.

"The temperatures will be marginally above freezing, but everyday, we'll have rain or periods of snow. Toronto doesn't have (a forecasted white Christmas) but Oshawa does, and north Durham.... We're back into the cold with a 40-per cent chance of flurries on Friday, so that may give us the white Christmas we're looking for."

For those areas of Durham that currently have snow, a white Dec. 25 is almost certain, he noted.

"If you've got snow right now, you're not going to lose it," said Mr. Phillips.

The cold snap of Sunday and Monday made winter seem like a reality, even though the season didn't officially start until 7:42 Tuesday morning, said Mr. Phillips.

"It is a shocker to enter winter so abruptly," he said, noting that it was "above freezing on Saturday, and then, we got down (Sunday night) to -24, -25 C. Then, to go back up to above freezing (Tuesday) — this yo-yo kind of swing is a bit difficult on the system.

"It doesn't always happen that way. Usually, we ease into winter. This has been an abrupt push."

Temperatures during the early-week cold snap were 12 to 14 degrees Celsius lower than normal, noted the climatologist.

"I'm talking real temperatures, not even adding the windchill," said Mr. Phillips.

And, what does the rest of winter look like?

Mr. Phillips said so far, forecasters are, in general, calling for colder and drier conditions than average.

"We're seeing more Arctic air than Pacific air," he said, noting there could be some fairly wide day-to-day variations in the weather this winter.

"In many ways, it's going to be this back and forth, topsy-turvy, pot-hole kind of weather," he said.

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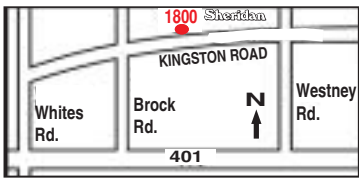
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Ajax's Edwards family ready to welcome Christmas guests

Dinner a tradition

By **Danielle Milley**
Staff Writer

AJAX — For Andrea Edwards and her family the Christmas season is about reaching out and helping others.

That's what the Ajax family is doing by opening their home and their hearts to people from across Durham who have no where to go for Christmas dinner, especially seniors.

After all, Dec. 25 is a special day for the world's Christians, including the Edwards family.

"I am a Christian and at Christmas we're celebrating our saviour's birth and the way Jesus would celebrate is by reaching out to those in need," she said.

Andrea, her husband Roger, and daughters Daisy and Cristal have done the same thing for the past three years.

When Ms. Edwards first told her family she wanted to do this, they were a little surprised but it wasn't long before they embraced the idea and now they are excited about it every year.

"It's a joy," she said. "We look forward to this. It's not a stress at all, I love doing it."

Now they even have volunteers wanting to help them; Ms. Edwards hopes the idea will rub off on others and they'll open their homes too.

"We're praying and hoping that other people will start to open their homes to their neighbours and other people," she said.

Ms. Edwards works with people in need through the volunteer work she does in the community.

"I know that there's a lot of hurting people around and we can make a difference," she said.

The traditional Christmas dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. They usually also watch a Christmas movie and sing Christmas carols.

So if you're a senior with no family or friends to enjoy Christmas dinner with, the Edwards invite you to their place. If you're a bit too young to be classified as a senior, well, you won't be turned away.

However, space at the Edwards' place is limited, so please call ahead to say you want to come.

The Edwards' dinner is from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information or to attend, call 905-686-7204.

-with files from Mike Ruta

A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo
Andrea and Roger Edwards are welcoming people from across Durham into their homes tomorrow as they continue their Christmas tradition started three years ago.

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Q: Isn't window condensation inevitable in our Canadian climate?

A: No. Materials used in high performance windows can actually prevent condensation. Buy windows with foam edging for example, not highly conductive metal. Keeping moisture off the glass is achieved by maintaining the warmest overall surface temperature. The foam Super Spacer conducts heat (and cold) at a rate over 950 times lower than aluminum, and 85 times less than stainless steel.

Q: Is plastic edging as good as foam?

A: No. Plastic is far more rigid and less durable since seal failures are more likely to occur.

Q: What features deliver top energy efficiency?

A: The best in window

science combines the no-metal technology with the thermal properties of low argon gas fills, and multi-glazing to deliver durability, premium energy performance and maximum condensation resistance. Buy windows that display the international Energy Star seal, a rigorous standard for energy efficiency.



healthy, window units must also help to control condensation that leads to mould growth.

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You can help put the brakes on climate change

The world's climate is changing quickly, with most climate scientists predicting a major increase in global temperatures over the next 20 to 50 years. Although governments are doing their best to overcome the climate change challenge, every one of us can help by doing our bit to prevent major impacts on the environment, the economy and human health.

The Earth's temperature has been increasing at record rates since the dawn of the Industrial Age, and our use of fossil fuels - oil, natural gas and coal - has emerged as a major cause. We all know that each of us can be a part of the solution by driving our cars more efficiently and by using them less often, but did you know that you can help by reducing your energy use at home?

Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) offers the following easy energy-saving tips:

- Set your thermostat back at night - for every degree you turn your heat down, you'll save two per cent in energy costs.
- Install low-flow shower heads to reduce your shower's water use by 60 per cent.
- Clean or replace your furnace filter once a month during the heating season.
- Caulk and seal the drafts around switches and outlets on exterior walls and baseboards on the main floors. Also, seal the openings where plumbing or other services penetrate your basement walls.
- Weatherstrip your doors, windows and attic hatch.
- Insulate your hot water tank and pipes.
- Think about replacing your refrigerator - today's models use at least 60 percent less energy than refrigerators manufactured 20 years ago.
- Remove window air conditioners during the winter months.

An even better way to save energy is to take advantage of the unbiased, expert advice available through the OEE's EnerGuide for Houses service (EGH). This service connects you with an EGH energy advisor, who will make a detailed analysis of your house, conduct a "blower door test" to find air leaks around windows and walls, and model different upgrades in order to suggest the most cost-effective energy-saving options for your home.

Recently, the Government of Canada announced grants to homeowners who complete energy retrofits based on EnerGuide for Houses Advisors' recommendations. The incentive is intended to provide Canadians, especially those with older homes, with extra motivation to improve the energy efficiency of their home.

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advertising feature

Tips for cleaning mould and mildew

Unightly mould growth around windows is very unhealthy. It can lead to allergic reactions, as well as rhinitis, skin rashes and respiratory distress. It is imperative therefore to prevent mould growth before it starts by keeping window

fan or hair dryer in the deep crevices.
 • Identify the source of the moisture. Is it from badly fitted windows or from the actual window structure itself? Buy windows that display the international Energy Star seal, a

rigorous standard for energy efficiency. When upgrading, look for windows that are able to maintain a constant thermal balance between the temperatures indoors and out. This is done by the elimination of highly conductive metal materials. Before making a decision, be sure to examine the spacer edging between the glass panes and

at the perimeter edge. A specially developed foam called Super Spacer is perfect. The Super Spacer scored highest in "edge-of-glass temperature trials", delivering the best resistance to condensation. More information is available online at www.healthsmartwindows.com.



condensation, and resulting mould to a minimum. Take a look at these tips.
 • Wear plastic gloves and clean the surface thoroughly with: 1/4 cup bleach, mixed with four quarts warm water.
 • Rinse with clean warm water and cloth. Don't let excessive moisture get caught beneath the surface, or mould will likely grow again.
 • Dry the window, frame and wall thoroughly, using a heater,

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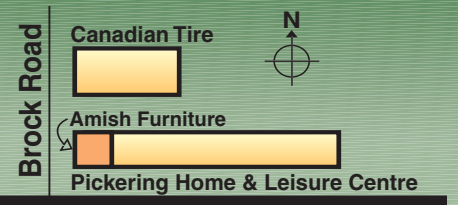
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STOPPING THE NUMBER ONE KILLER IN ONTARIO

Smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke is the number one preventable killer in Ontario today.

The Government of Ontario has introduced a bill that would make all workplaces and enclosed public places smoke free.

The government's proposed Smoke-Free Ontario Act would take effect May 31, 2006.

We all pay for the costs of smoking

About 16,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses every year in our province, including many who do not smoke themselves.

Smoking and second-hand smoke have been linked to many cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. And the list is growing.

Patients with tobacco-related diseases occupy more than 500,000 hospital days each year – the equivalent of seven community hospitals.

The cost to Ontario is more than \$1.7 billion in healthcare costs and \$2.6 billion in lost productivity annually.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act

The new legislation is part of the government's comprehensive anti-tobacco strategy.

The proposed act would:

- ban smoking in all workplaces and enclosed public places, such as restaurants, bars, casinos, private clubs and work vehicles
- protect employees who seek enforcement of the workplace smoking ban from retaliation by employers
- eliminate designated smoking rooms
- limit the sale, distribution and use of tobacco products, including stricter measures to ensure only those 19 years of age and older can buy cigarettes.

The proposed act does not extend the smoking ban to private dwellings, with the exception of licensed private home day care. Operators of residential care facilities and hotels would have the option of allowing smoking in these residential settings.

Identifying our programs and partnerships

The government is partnering with many organizations such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, The Lung Association and the Canadian Cancer Society in a united effort to help create a smoke-free Ontario.

This will include initiatives to help prevent youth from starting to smoke and help smokers quit, for example, Smokers' Helpline, 1-877-513-5333.

You'll be able to recognize these programs and partnerships by the new Smoke-Free Ontario logo that will appear in advertising and promotional materials.

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A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

Waltzing through their duet

PICKERING — Community Care Durham guests were recently treated to a Christmas dinner and entertainment at the Pickering Public Library's Petticoat Creek branch. George Dowding and Denyse Lester, members of the Pickering Perennials, performed a duet of the Snow Waltz. The Rouge Hill Seniors Club was a co-sponsor of the event.

Make sure to check changing holiday hours

DURHAM — Last-minute shoppers can rest assured that most Durham-area businesses and services will remain open until the late afternoon or evening on Dec. 24, and reopen on Boxing Day, Dec. 26. Before heading out, residents should be aware of reduced hours for stores, transit and government services.

- GO Transit trains and buses will follow regular schedules until the morning of Dec. 24. An early rush-hour schedule

goes into effect that afternoon, followed by a Sunday schedule on Dec. 25. Call 1-888-GET-ON-GO for detailed schedules.

- Ajax Pickering Transit Authority runs reduced schedules Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. For schedules visit www.townofajax.com/apta or call 905-683-4111.

- Pickering Town Centre remains open until 5 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 31, and will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Boxing Day hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.



(L-R) Catherine Carney-White, Executive Director, Herizon House Ajax, accepts a cheque from Canadian Tire Pickering employees, Roz Bidgood and Raquel Manko. The money was raised through pot luck lunches and 50-50 draws and the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families program.



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We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support because without you, Thrifty Mechanic Shop would never have been a success.

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