

PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER

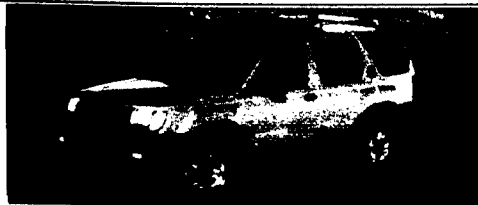
PICKERING'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1965

PRESSRUN 44,600

40 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1999

OPTIONAL 4 WEEK DELIVERY \$5/ \$1 NEWSSTAND



See the truck of the year
Wheels Pull out



Racer revs up for new season
Page B1

Ottawa commits 'highway robbery': Dickerson

Federal cap on taxes to Pickering a bitter PIL

BY MARIANNE TAKACS
Staff Writer

PICKERING — The federal government has given itself a hefty break on municipal taxes, but the Town wants the money back.

Town councillors were told Monday the decision by Ottawa will mean a loss of \$387,098 in revenue for Pickering, and \$161,600 for Durham Region over the 1998, 1999 and 2000 tax years.

"I suppose somewhere in the deep, dark dungeon of the Canadian constitution there is something that gives them that right," said Ward 2 Regional Councillor Doug Dickerson. "But that is just damned disgusting."

A staff report presented to council's executive committee Monday indicates Ottawa has informed provincial and municipal governments it will not cough up the full payment-in-lieu (PIL) of taxes it would have to turn over under provincial property assessment reforms introduced in 1998. Neither provincially- nor federally-owned properties were exempted from the reassessment.

They were exempted from the capped increase of 10, five and five per cent placed later on assessment-related property tax increases over the first three years for commercial, industrial and multi-residential properties. But the feds announced after the capping legislation was passed last year that they wanted to be covered by the capping provision. A Province cannot pass legislation that governs the actions of the federal government.

Queen's Park and Ottawa reached a deal under which the feds will increase their PILs over the actual 1997 payment by 43 per cent in 1998, 49.5 per cent in 1999 and 56 per cent in 2000, but still less than the 1998 reassessment calls for.

As a result, previously ex-

pected PILs revenue on federally-owned properties in Pickering has been reduced from \$1.677 million to \$1.495 million in 1998; from \$1.729 million to \$1.569 million in 1999; and from \$1.729 million to \$1.574 million in 2000. PILs on Canada Post properties here have been cut from \$39,274 to \$20,487; from \$38,120 to \$21,418; and from \$38,120 to \$22,349 over the same period. The total decrease amounts to \$548,697 over the three years — with \$387,098 of the loss sustained by Pickering and the rest by Durham Region.

On Monday, Pickering council's executive committee endorsed the transfer of \$142,577 from Town reserves to general revenues to offset the 1998 PILs loss. Town finance department staff are currently seeking clarification from Queen's Park and Ottawa on the 1999 PILs amount, and maintaining the 1997 base on which the agreed-to increases are being calculated should be adjusted upwards to reflect an-

See PICKERING page A4



CARL FERENCZI/News Advertiser photo

Warm hearts, warm hands

Children, parents and staff at Hydro-Durham College's early learning centre are once again helping needy people in the region with their annual written drive. Mittens and hats are donated to be hung on the tree and the items are then being donated

to Denise House in Durham Region. Hanging the latest arrivals on the Christmas tree yesterday were (from front) Nicole Milne, Natasha Grifredo, Shyan Burkle, Khalifah Keise, Dathleen Rodrigues and Shannon Rowan.

Durham school boards swat Y2K bug

No problems foreseen for systems on Jan. 1

BY SUSAN O'NEILL
Staff Writer

As the clock ticks down towards the new millennium, school board officials here are "confident" the millennium bug won't cause any major problems for schools, staff or students in Durham.

In fact, school board committees have been hard at work for months to ensure the only Y2K impact on students and teachers will be the extended vacation they'll enjoy in January.

The region's two school boards have changed the tradi-

tional dates for the Christmas holidays this year in an attempt to minimize the impact of potential computer problems related to the Y2K bug.

Students and staff at public and separate schools will finish classes on Dec. 23 rather than Dec. 17 and will return to school on Jan. 10 rather than Jan. 3 so boards can address any glitches before classes begin.

But, neither board here is anticipating any significant problems.

At the Durham District School Board, a team of em-

ployees has been working to ensure Y2K compliance for more than a year, reports Shirley Yourkevich, supervisor of programming and training in the board's technology and information services department.

"We've been working on it for probably the past 18 months and we're finished," she says, explaining that although the process of readying the board's computer servers for the new millennium is "simple", it's also time consuming.

Ms. Yourkevich reports the board is anticipating "minimal" problems related to the millennium bug which threat-



DAVID VISSER

'We don't anticipate problems.'

New Canadians face the new millennium

Citizenship judge says Canada 'the hope for your future'



Jiffry Uthumalebbe and his wife, Hinaya were a little more excited than their son, Ishaq, during citizenship ceremonies. The Ajax family joined 34 others when they were sworn in as new Canadians last week.

BY CINDY UPSHALL
Staff Writer

Canada now has 36 new citizens to stand on guard for thee.

Representing 15 different countries, the three dozen newcomers were sworn in as Canadian citizens Friday during a special ceremony at Anderson Collegiate Vocational Institute in Whitby.

"Canada is not a battleground of your past, it is the hope for your future," Citizenship Judge Sigmund Reiser told Canada's newest members, their families and high school students who gathered to watch the ceremony.

Calling Canada "a land of opportunity," Judge Reiser told the group, who ranged in age and race, that being Canadian means they can do whatever

they strive for.

"I was a refugee from the Second World War. I came here without a penny and I came here without being able to speak a word of English," he said. "Now I'm sitting in front of you as a judge. What does that tell you (about Canada?)"

One person in the group who didn't have to be told how lucky he was to become a Canadian citizen was Jiffry Uthumalebbe. In Canada for just four years, the Ajax resident fled Sri Lanka, has managed to establish his own computer consulting company, owns his own home and has two little boys born Canadian citizens with his wife, who was also a refugee from Sri Lanka. He achieved all of this after ar-

See CANADIANS page A2

See your way clear in Pickering

Town moves to toughen up snow-clearing bylaw

BY MARIANNE TAKACS
Staff Writer

PICKERING — Residents who neglect to clear the snow off the sidewalk in front of their homes may end up having the Town do the job for them, and charging them \$75 for the work on their next property tax bill.

That's one of the provisions in a new snow removal bylaw endorsed by Pickering Council's executive committee Monday. The bylaw will be considered by council Dec. 20.

"I am recommending that a new sidewalk snow removal bylaw be enacted because our current bylaw requires that snow be removed within 12 hours of a snowfall, which is unreasonable," explains Town clerk Bruce Taylor in a report to council. "The (current) penalty provisions are both vague and antiquated and it does not provide penalties for obstructing a fire hydrant or damaging a sidewalk."

The main features of the proposed bylaw are:

- a requirement for every owner or occupant of a building or vacant land to remove snow from adjoining sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall, when the snow gets deeper than two centimetres;
- a provision for the Town to clear the snow if the owner

See CLEAR page A4



BRUCE TAYLOR
New bylaw crafted.

See DURHAM page A2

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Durham boards ready for 2000

Staff have been 'aggressively testing' Y2K compliance

DURHAM from page A1

ens older electronic devices that only process the last two digits of the year. Some computers may interpret the year '00' as 1900 instead of 2000 and that's a problem that could potentially cause shutdowns and malfunctions.

Ms. Yourkevich notes staff have been "aggressively testing" the board's servers for months and are planning a final "pseudo test" on Dec. 29 to ensure everything runs smoothly.

"We're going to make all our servers think it's Jan. 1, 2000," she says, adding "hopefully nothing will happen of any significance...we're very confident."

She adds, "the percentage of problems that are likely to occur will be outside of our control."

A recent report to Durham Catholic District School Board trustees also indicated many possible Y2K problems are beyond the board's control, such as the availability of electrical, telecommunications and utility services.

And, the board has done its part to ensure everything is running smoothly when classes resume in the new year.

"Steps have been taken to ensure all building systems and vital computer operations will remain fully functional," board director Grant Andrews said in recent letter to parents. "We

fully expect the normal return of non-teaching staff to our schools and board office on Monday, Jan. 3."

The letter goes on to say that if there is a problem with the delivery of public utilities, telephone, water, hydro, sewer and or gas services and the opening of schools is delayed, then the community will be notified through local radio stations.

Parents can also call the board at 576-6707 ext. 779 or 686-6664 ext. 779 for a Y2K update.

However, superintendent of business David Visser reports, "We don't anticipate problems. We feel we're in very reasonable shape."

Canadians join the family

CANADIANS from page A1

living in Canada with just \$35 in his pocket.

"It's all because of Canada and the opportunity we have in Canada," Mr. Uthumalebbe says. Such achievements would not be possible for him or his children in his native country, he says.

"Every day when I come out of my house I should touch the ground and say 'Thank God.' That's how good I feel," he says.

Friday's citizenship ceremony was sponsored by the Whitby Race Relations and Diversity Committee, the first one the group has been involved in.

Devon Christie, an OAC student at Sinclair Secondary School and a stu-

dent representative on the committee, says the group wanted to host the ceremony at a high school to give students a chance to witness it.

"I think it's sort of a reminder to them what it's like to be Canadian and that it's a special thing," she says. "It's definitely an educational thing for students at the school to see."

In addition to encouraging the new Canadians citizens to strive for great things, Judge Reiser also reminded them of their duties as Canadians, including their "duty to vote. You have the right to fully participate in our public affairs and our political process."

"Educate your children that in Canada they can be anything they want to be. They're your future — they're Canada's future," he said.

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Still time to help Salvation Army

Ajax, Pickering families asked to brighten Christmas for needy

The Ajax-Pickering Salvation Army still needs your help in making Christmas merry for needy families.

More than 1,000 people in about 400 families will turn to the Salvation Army for assistance this Yuletide. To ensure everyone is helped, donations of non-perishable food, toys and gifts are being sought for the annual Christmas Assistance Appeal.

And, while the deadline to apply for assistance is today, Dec. 15, no one will be turned away if they come in later, says Tammi Ritson of the Family Services Centre.

Food items can include dry pasta and sauce, powdered milk, canned fruit, vegetables, meat, stew, fish and pasta, jellies and jams, peanut butter, soup, baby formula and food, coffee or tea, macaroni dinners, fruit juices and rice.

Bins for food are at the Ajax Loblaws outlet, No Frills stores, the Dominion store on Westney Road North and Food Basics in the Harwood Place Mall. Food can also be dropped off at the Family Services Centre or the Thrift Shop at the corner of Bayly Street and Monarch Avenue in Ajax.

Toys and gifts should be

new and unwrapped. Gifts needed are toys for any age and gender.

Gifts for older youths can be sports equipment, make-up, CDs or tapes, clothes, or gift certificates.

Most of the money for the campaign comes from donation kettles at the Pickering Town Centre, the Pickering Flea Market, Wal-Mart, Costco, Zellers outlets and LCBO locations.

Businesses can also sponsor a family looking after all of their needs, such as buying the food for Christmas dinner as well as gifts, Ms. Ritson says.

Volunteers are also needed to help sort items at the Salvation Army's warehouse and to help with Christmas kettles.

Anyone wanting to apply for assistance can do so at the Family Services Centre between 8:30 a.m. and noon and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. When applying, you must have a current rent receipt or lease, an income statement, and proof of address and identification for all members of the household. Gifts and food hampers will be distributed between Dec. 15 and 24.

Call the Family Services Centre at 427-7123 for information.



RON PIETRONIRO/ News Advertiser photo

Where there's a will...

Cold weather and threat of snow didn't deter golfer Byungkook Hong from getting in a few practice shots on the driving range at the Annandale Golf Club last week. Mr. Hong, a member of the golf club, wanted to get a jump on the competition for the coming season.

Police chief, chairman give chopper thumbs-up

Durham's helicopter pilot project likely to be extended

BY STEPHEN SHAW
Staff Writer



BOB BOYCHYN

'It is a viable tool to help carry out effective policing.'

The Durham Regional Police helicopter could become a permanent pair of eyes in the sky after tomorrow, when it's expected police services board members will extend what began as a pilot project six months ago.

The trial project, launched in June by the Durham and York regional forces to study the benefits of a police helicopter, is being hailed a success by police brass.

"I think it has exceeded my expectations in terms of what the helicopter has brought to policing and community safety in Durham," Chief Kevin McAlpine said Tuesday.

"We're recommending the heli-

copter become another part of the manner in which we deliver police service."

It's anticipated police board members will vote to extend the chopper project, subject to budget approval.

Chairman Bob Boychyn said while he was originally skeptical of the chopper's benefits, after reviewing the results of the project he's now on board.

"In my own mind I'm convinced it is a viable tool to help carry out effective policing, and something we should have for the citizens of Durham Region. It has been an absolute benefit to the residents," he said.

The department has credited Air 1's presence for a drop in the

number of police pursuits. It has also played a key role in numerous arrests and major incidents.

"You never know when (a fleeing motorist) is going to run a red light and cream some innocent person. If we can prevent one chase... save one life, it's worth it," Mr. Boychyn said.

But extending the Air Support Unit on a permanent basis will depend on financial considerations, and the chairman said he isn't prepared to "bankrupt the service."

Chief McAlpine said York officials have not made a commitment to forge a long-term air-unit alliance. He said Durham is studying the costs and viability to continue leasing the helicopter compared to buying.

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Scouts prepared for 80th reunion

PICKERING — Be prepared. The 1st Pickering Scout Group is holding a reception to celebrate its 80th reunion and is calling on former and current beavers, cubs, scouts and ventures to join in the festivities.

The celebration will be held Saturday, Feb. 26 at Pickering Village United Church at 300 Church St. N., Ajax.

The time hasn't yet been determined.

Anyone wishing attend the free event or anyone with mementos from their years in the scout group is asked to call Roxanne at 905-428-3814.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

In our December 8 flyer, the following error occurred:

- The Panasonic 30 Watt CD Boombox Power Blaster (model RX-ES30) advertised on page 4 for \$159.99, should not have been advertised.
- The IBM Aptiva 55U with Intel Pentium III Processor (500Mhz) advertised on page 14 for \$2099.99, does not include a 40x CD-ROM drive.

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Notice of Liquor Licence Application

The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the Liquor Licence Act:

Application for a Sale Licence
Monday's Choice Golf Centre
639 Kingston Road East
Ajax (outdoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **January 15, 2000**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person.

Note:
The AGCO gives the applicant copies of all objections.

Submissions to be sent to:
Licensing and Registration Department
Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
20 Dundas St. W., 7th Floor,
Toronto ON M5G 2N6
Fax: (416)326-5555
E-mail at licensing@agco.on.ca

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CELIA BRONKHORST/ News Advertiser photo

Winterfest fun

Cameron Moore, 4, adds some colour to a Pokemon snowman he built at Esplanade Park in Pickering on the weekend as part of Winterfest activities. Cameron and others were taking part in a snow sculpture contest sponsored by the PineRidge Arts Council. Looking on is Stephanie Simmons.

Clear snow or face fines in Pickering

CLEAR from page A1

or occupant doesn't do so within the time limit, and to deem the cost to be \$75 and charge that to the property tax bill;

- a provision under which, if the snow isn't cleared as required, either the owner or occupant or both can be charged with contravening the bylaw in addition to having to pay the cost of clearing by the Town; the Municipal Act allows for a fine of up to \$5,000, though the actual amount would be determined by a judge;

- a prohibition against shovelling the snow from the sidewalk onto the road;
- a prohibition against damaging a sidewalk while clearing snow from it;
- a prohibition against obstructing access to any fire hydrant when moving snow on to the boulevard;

Mr. Taylor told councillors people will usually be given notice before the Town goes in to clear the neglected sidewalk itself.

"That's what we do now and it pretty well works all the time," he said.

However, the clerk urged councillors not to add a notice provision to the bylaw to avoid tying the Town's hands on the issue of whether notice will be given and how much.

Mr. Taylor noted in his report the municipality has been getting more complaints about sidewalks not being cleared of ice and snow for long periods and that the current bylaw is not adequate if the Town wants to pursue penalties against those who neglect their clearing responsibilities.

The new bylaw could go into effect immediately if approved by council next week.

Pickering fumes over tax battle with feds

PICKERING from page A1

assessment increase in 1999.

The executive committee directed staff to report back to council Dec. 20 on what action Pickering can take to voice its disapproval of Ottawa's decision and obtain reimbursement for its PILs losses.

"We have to go a long way to make up the shortfall in revenue," said Coun. Dickerson. He noted that while Ottawa is trying to decide what to do with a \$95-billion federal budget surplus expected over the next few years, "they want to screw us for \$142,577 (in 1998). It's nothing short of high-way robbery."

The Town staff report points out that under the Province's capping legislation, municipal revenues lost through the limits on assessment-related tax increases were balanced by a corresponding limit on assessment-related tax cuts on commercial, industrial and multi-residential properties. There is no balancing of the revenue loss created by the cap being placed on Ottawa's PILs.

Police hunt suspect in mall sex assault

Pickering boy escapes on bike after being fondled

PICKERING — Durham Regional Police are asking for the public's help to identify a man who sexually assaulted a 15-year-old boy in the parking lot at the Pickering Town Centre.

The boy was riding his bicycle in the lot last Friday at 4:30 p.m. when he was approached by a man asking for directions, police said. The man began making personal inquiries of the teen and suddenly grabbed hold of him inside a corridor leading to an entranceway, police report.

The man sexually fondled the boy, who managed to fight off his attacker and ride off on his bike, police said.

The suspect is described as black, in his early 40s, 5'8" to 5'9", with a

heavy build, a large stomach and short black hair. He was wearing a dark blue sweater and light blue jeans. When he spoke, the side of his

lip curled. Anyone with information is asked to call the sex assault squad at 683-9100, ext. 5318, or Crime Stoppers at 436-8477.

Support group aids parents of troubled teens

Parents dealing facing difficulties with their teenaged children have a local place to turn for support and guidance.

The local chapter of the Association of Parent Support Groups holds its weekly meeting Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7:15 p.m. for parents of kids involved in drugs, alcohol, running away, dropping out of school, crimes and parent abuse.

Call 416-223-7444 or 1-800-488-5666 for location.

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Changes made on separate school board Pereira named chairman, Martin moves to vice-chairman's role

The chairman and vice-chairman of the Durham Catholic District School Board switched roles at the board table Monday.

Pickering Trustee Fran Pereira was acclaimed as chairman of the board after serving as vice-chairman for the past year and Whitby Trustee Mary Ann Martin is moving from the chairman's position into the vice-chairman's seat.

"I will work hard to earn your trust," Trustee Pereira said in thanking her fellow trustees for their support.

"It's not the buildings that make a successful school system...each one of us contributes to make Durham Catholic the successful Catholic system it is," she said of the board's



FRAN PEREIRA
'I will work hard to earn your trust.'



MARY ANN MARTIN
Serving as chairman was 'extremely challenging.'

has seen the official openings of two new schools and the recent ground-breaking for a new joint high school facility in north Ajax.

Trustee Pereira, serving her second term on the board, and Trustee Martin, now in her third term, agree working to increase communication among parents, schools and trustees is important as the new millennium approaches.

"The Education Improvement Commission (EIC) recognized many positive aspects (in their recent review of the board)," Trustee Pereira said. "We will continue to build on those...I believe our schools will flourish."

Meanwhile, Trustee Martin said the past year as board chairman was "extremely challenging, enjoyable and gratifying."

"I'm absolutely delighted to represent our board in the position of vice-chair," she noted.

students and staff.

Looking ahead to the year 2000, Trustee Pereira said, "We will continue to grow and we will continue

to improve our children's experience."

She also highlighted some of the board's achievements in the past year, noting the board has had many reasons to celebrate.

"As 1999 draws to a close it is time to review the changes that have been implemented in the province," she said, adding here in Durham the board

These students are real class acts

Two nominated for youth awards

The Durham Catholic District School Board is nominating two students for the annual awards of merit presented by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA).

Student trustee Serena Schwab, an OAC pupil at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Pickering, has been chosen as the board's nominee for the

OCSTA Secondary School Youth Award. Anne O'Connor, a pupil at St. Bernard Catholic School in Whitby, has been nominated for the OCSTA Elementary School Youth Award.

The names of both students will be forwarded to OCSTA for consideration in the provincially event OCSTA will announce the award recipients in the new year.



RON PIETRONIRO/News Advertiser photo

Under the B...Big smiles!

Lloyd DuCosta's smile betrays the serious task he has as the caller for this weekly bingo session at the South Pickering Seniors' Activity Centre. Area seniors can regularly be found at the popular East Shore facility playing cards, shooting billiards and swapping stories. Pickering seniors who use the centre are now enjoying more space and activities thanks to an expansion project.

BILLBOARD DEC. 15, 1999

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

TOASTMASTERS: The Ajax-Pickering Toastmasters Club meets at the Dundee Private Investors Management/Prudential building, corner of Bayly St. and Finley Ave., Ajax. Meet and greet at 7:15 p.m., meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Meeting theme is The Millennium. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 683-4439 (John), 619-9079 (Nancy).

OPEN EUCHRE: The Ladies Auxiliary Branch 606 host an Open Euchre at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1555 Bayly St., Pickering. Prizes and refreshments. All welcome. 839-2990.

CANCER: A weekly Caregiver Support Group drop-in meeting, where people supporting a cancer patient can share feelings and coping strategies, is held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre, 86 Colborne St. W., Oshawa. 579-4833.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

YOUNG PARENTS: A free parent/child drop-in is offered for teen and young parents with children aged two years and younger from 4 to 6 p.m. at The Youth Centre, 360 Bayly St. W., Unit 5, Ajax. Play time, crafts, stories, rhymes, healthy snacks. It's offered by the Family and Community Action Program, Durham Region Health Department and the centre. 1-800-841-2729 or 428-1212.

BREAST CANCER: The Canadian Cancer Society's Living With Breast Cancer peer support group meets at 7 p.m. at the Fortune Financial offices, southeast corner of Bayly St. and Finley Ave., Ajax. The group is for breast cancer patients, families and friends. Support, practical information. No registration necessary. 686-1516.

BREASTFEEDING: The La Leche League Canada, Pickering Group, meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the YMCA Family Resource Room, 1400 Bayly St., Suite 15A, Pickering. Information and support for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Nursing babies welcome. 427-8063.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17

ADDICTION: The Serenity Group holds its weekly 12-Step Recovery Meeting at 8 p.m. at Bayfair Baptist Church, 817 Kingston Rd., Pickering. The group deals with addictions of all types, including co-dependency. All welcome. Child care program available as required. 428-9431 (Jim, evenings).

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: Pickering Christian School, 1030 Ravenscroft Rd., Ajax, presents A Ticket To Christmas, a musical tale of Jesus' birth, at 7 p.m. Admission is free, an offering will be taken. Refreshments following the performance. 427-3120.

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Editorial & OPINIONS

NEWS ADVERTISER DEC. 15, 1999



EDITORIAL

Kids must be able to play safely

Pickering politicians need to make park upgrades a priority

Pickering's parks are just accidents waiting to happen. So implies the Durham Region Health Department which found 1,012 "critical health hazards" in an inspection of 43 Town-owned playgrounds. Those hazards could potentially kill, dismember or permanently injure our children.

The dangers found include playground equipment in which a youngster's head or neck could be trapped; slides and poles where kids' clothes might become entangled; and missing or inadequate safety barriers on elevated equipment.

To be fair, the health department applied 1998 Canadian Standards Association guidelines when it checked out playgrounds throughout Durham and found that, of those inspected, Pickering's parks pose a greater rate of hazard than any other municipality's in the region. It's important to note that the 1998 CSA standard is a manufacturing guideline for the playground equipment industry and was not intended to be applied retroactively. And, it should be pointed out, Pickering has some playground equipment as much as 20 years old.

The Town's director of parks and facilities uses those facts to defend the playgrounds his department oversees. Everett Buntsma says the health department's findings do not necessarily mean Pickering parks are unsafe.

To Mr. Buntsma's credit, he and his staff swung into action after receiving a letter from the health department reporting the results of the inspections of Pickering playgrounds conducted between May and October. Crews were dispatched to parks to correct every problem identified that could be fixed within the department budget for the year. A list of things that couldn't be corrected this year has been drawn up and Mr. Buntsma expects to have a full report from staff by January.

Coincidentally, that's about the same time Town department heads like Mr. Buntsma will be finalizing their wish lists for consideration by Pickering council during the politicians' annual budget deliberations.

At present, about \$400,000 has been allocated in the Town's planned 2000 budget for playground equipment replacement and renovations. But, Mr. Buntsma says he expects the changes required to bring all of Pickering's playgrounds up to the new CSA standard would cost more than that.

The political will must be there to make the Town's parks as safe as they can be. Pickering councillors have to make playground upgrades a priority.

Our children and their safety must come first. They deserve no less than to be able to play without fear of getting hurt... or worse.

Crack crackdown

Police need more drug officers

The numbers are troubling.

From 1995 to 1998, crack possession and trafficking arrests in Durham jumped from 94 to 149, an increase of 59 per cent. In Oshawa alone, called "crack city" by RCMP drug squad Constable Serge Giroux, arrests went up a whopping 85 per cent over that period from 68 to 126.

Crack cocaine has become a scourge in Durham. Sergeant Jack Dancy, head of Durham Region's understaffed drug squad, says bluntly, "Crack cocaine is the No. 1 drug problem we have in Durham Region. It seems like we're just getting overwhelmed with it."

With just five officers at his disposal for drug investigations, Sgt. Dancy doesn't have the manpower he needs to effectively tackle the problem. By way of comparison, Hamilton-Wentworth has 17 drug squad officers, York Region has 16, while Peel Region has 25. No wonder the dealers are working Durham Region. With such a small number of officers to contend with, crack pushers figure the odds are good they'll get away with it.

Still, local officers do get their man at times. Witness the more than 100 crack-related arrests in three takedowns the past three years. But much more could be accomplished with a greater emphasis on drug enforcement in Durham.

Sgt. Dancy, head of the Region's drug squad for the past eight years and an officer for 22, says he believes up to "80 per cent of robberies are to feed a drug habit."

The problem isn't just with the increase in drugs, but with the upward spiral of related crimes. Prostitution, according to one local prosecutor, wasn't seen in Durham until crack appeared here. Who knows how many muggings and break-ins were fueled by an addiction to crack? There's little doubt a drug addiction pushes people, who otherwise wouldn't take the risk, into criminal behaviour.

Chief Kevin McAlpine admits the force is understaffed and is in the midst of a five-year plan to address the problem. He should strongly consider asking for more drug officers. Pushers need to be put on notice residents won't accept our region becoming a haven for crack dealers.

E-mail comments on editorials to nnews@durham.net. Include your full name and town of residence.

YOU SAID IT

The question was:
Are you ready for Christmas?



Fiona Forrest says, "Almost. I'm just picking up the tree and a few decorations. The shopping's almost done. We're just planning and organizing where we're going on Christmas."



Brian Cranfield says, "Sure I'm ready for Christmas. The shopping's all done. My son is not the food yet, of course. I do a massive shop in a week. I'd like to be more organized, but..."



Diana Palmer says, "Yes. I just started last month, but it's all done. My son is two now and he'll understand Christmas a lot more. He's really excited about it all."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parents must give children advice

To the editor:

I urge area residents to ignore Durham District School Board trustees Jane Weist and Susan Sheller when they espouse their view that prayer in our schools will be of value to our youth. Prayer should be taught in our churches, our homes and at Sunday school.

What our youth need to be taught is critical thinking.

With so many young people from different cultures, I think it's about time religious leaders should be running the show when it comes to prayer.

As a father of four young men and the grandfather of five wonderful young ladies, I believe we should first of all start to listen to what youth have to say. They are the future leaders of this country.

News Advertiser reporter Susan O'Neill said it best when she stated in a recent column our youth could teach some trustees lessons in democracy.

It would appear to me after reading about the recent national election for the rights of children that the results should indicate to certain trustees and parents they ought to start listening to our children.

Maybe we should ask ourselves if we listen to our youth or tell them we're too busy and we'll discuss their problems later, only to put off the answers and leave them with unanswered questions.

Stan Easton,
Ajax

We don't have to agree with them but as parents we owe it to them to at least listen and then use common sense and try to find a solution.

If we don't listen to our youth they will go to the local hangout and their friends will listen. Many of the friends are facing the same problems. So as a unit they believe they can come up with the answers that the parents didn't have time to provide. Many times their decisions can lead to drastic results.

When that happens, we look for someone to blame. Many place the blame on teachers and some on police. It is not the duty of our teachers and police to solve our children's problems. It is our duty as parents to at least try to help and if we need further help to speak to the appropriate people for advice.

Some parents ask youth to listen to televangelists, faith healers and the rest of the frauds who claim they can cure any problem for a price. These men and women who claim to speak on behalf of God and say they can cure all our problems for a donation should be exposed for what they are - frauds who pick on the sick, the poor, the senior citizens and the lonely.

I'm not against religion but I am against these people who prey on our youth in the name of religion.

If our children are to succeed, then it's up to parents to demand children be taught critical thinking and leave the prayers up to their religious leaders and parents.

Charge silent witnesses to Matti slaying

To the editor:

I can only imagine the grief that Matti Baranowski's family are experiencing now after their son was savagely murdered by hoodlums.

Those people who were with the criminals who killed Matti must think they have the right to remain quiet. Unbelievable.

"What can we do?" some people ask. "We can't force them to talk." I would like to see it very clearly stated in law that there are three choices when anyone sees a crime taking place.

1. Stay and watch and do nothing. You will be charged with being an accessory.

2. Try to intervene. Not recommended.

3. Leave and call for help. The responsible thing to do. You don't have to give your name.

Maybe this could be part of legislation called the Safe Streets Act.

Charge every person who stood there and watched this murder with accessory to the crime. Their silence would not last long and the message would be sent out clearly to all that as citizens we have a responsibility to help others even if it is just by placing an anonymous phone call to 911.

Larry Noonan,
Pickering

Premier is no legal eagle

Courts continually rule against Mike Harris

Premier Mike Harris must be afraid of stepping out of his office in case someone hands him a writ.

The Progressive Conservative premier has faced - and lost - far more challenges in the courts than any predecessor.

Mr. Harris has now decided he has had enough and complained higher court judges who are federally-appointed make too many rulings that create new policy and usurp the rights of elected governments like his.

He has asked provinces be given a say in appointing such judges, whom he clearly sees as activist and unsympathetic to his right-of-center agenda.

The Tory premier has won some court cases, but more often been rejected. Soon after he became premier a judge ruled he could not abolish a law that forced employers in the broader public sector to pay women the same as men even when they did not have male employees so they could make comparisons. The court held they could be compared to women who have pay equity in other institutions.

When Mr. Harris tried to fire five directors of a government agency and appoint others more compatible, a court said he could not do it before their terms expired without proving reasonable cause and they stayed.

The premier was proud of a so-called victims' bill of rights he passed and flourished it at every opportunity. But a court ruled it was mere rhetoric designed to make victims feel good and gave them no new rights.



Eric Dowd

At Queen's Park

Mr. Harris was amalgamating one municipality when he tried to undermine objecting councillors by appointing trustees he nastily said would prevent them going on a last-minute spending spree, but a court told him he had no such power.

Mr. Harris tried to prevent teachers' spouses running for election to school boards, fearing they might sympathize with a profession that mostly opposes him, but a court ruled trustees can think independently of their spouses and said no.

The premier wanted a law that would have forced separate schools to hire non-Catholic teachers, but a judge found separate schools have a right to exist in the Constitution and also a means to preserve their religious character.

Mr. Harris, in just one more recent example, one which irritates him most of all, was prevented from scaling down Montfort Hospital in Ottawa by a court which ruled Ontario has an obligation under the Constitution to maintain its services to preserve the area's French language and culture.

The premier is now being sued by, among others, Indians who live off reserves because he earmarked profits from a casino for only those on reserves.

An environmental group is privately prosecuting his government for failing to clear up a hazardous dump, which may seem merely an allegation anyone can make, but it already has prosecuted a municipality on a similar charge and had it fined.

Guides and outfitters are suing Mr. Harris because he cancelled the spring bear hunt and the premier is trying to put off a date in court to explain his role, if any, in a police shooting of a Native demonstrator.

His law grudgingly giving rights to gay and lesbian couples is being challenged because unlike other jurisdictions he defines them as same-sex partners rather than spouses, which they say segregates and stigmatizes them.

Another law only a few days old, prohibiting aggressive panhandling, already faces challenges including a claim it trespasses on the federal Criminal Code.

Mr. Harris has been in more legal tangles than earlier premiers partly because he is more innovative and unwilling to accept the status quo.

He may have had poor legal advice, but more likely he disregards some of it because he is always in a hurry.

Mr. Harris also is attacking judges when he should be attempting to change the laws they have to work with. But those who lose, often blame the referee.

E-mail comments on this column to nnews@durham.net. Include your full name and town of residence.

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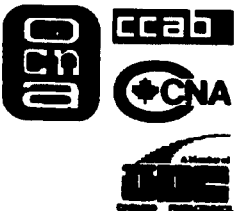
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Crack cocaine reaches crisis level in Durham

Undermanned police force in Durham swamped with drug infestation

BY STEPHEN SHAW
Staff Writer

A growing demand for crack cocaine and a shortage of police manpower has made Durham Region "a haven for dealers," local drug enforcement officers say.

Despite several major sweeps targeting street-level to upper-level suppliers, the flow of crack has reached alarming new heights, according to front-line officers.

Although Durham Regional Police Chief Kevin McAlpine says crack is a "serious problem in Durham Region, we have no (statistical) evidence to suggest we have a worse problem than any other GTA municipality."

But veteran drug cops strongly suggest otherwise.

They say a growing market and a lack of police resources has attracted traffickers from Toronto and surrounding communities to this region's largest municipality, giving the 'City in Motion' a reputation, in some circles, as the GTA's crack-distribution capital.

"There is a rich market out here. There's a large clientele," says Corporal John Green of the RCMP's Bowmanville-based Toronto East drug section. "(Dealers) may think there is less chance of getting caught. It's a haven for dealers, and that's a reality."

RCMP Constable Serge Giroux bluntly adds, "Oshawa is a safe place to deal crack cocaine... In some places in Ontario, Oshawa is known as 'crack city.'"

Including Durham, the RCMP unit is responsible for an area bounded by Toronto, Haliburton and Trenton. Mounties Green and Giroux have more than 42 years of combined experience in federal law enforcement. Together, they say they have witnessed an infiltration of crack dealers in Durham Region over the last decade.

Tens years ago crack was practically non-existent in the region. Police say it first crossed the border over the Rouge Valley, hitting the streets of Oshawa in 1990.

"That was when we first saw its beginnings. We chased it from south-Oshawa and up Simcoe Street. Today it's the drug of choice in Durham Region," said Corporal Green. "The spread has been dramatic... It has grown by leaps and bounds."

Criminal statistics compiled by the Durham department show a dramatic rise in the number of crack-related arrests in Oshawa and Durham Region in the last four years.

From 1995 to 1998, for example, the number of crack

possession and trafficking arrests in the region shot up from 94 to 149, an overall increase of 59 per cent.

In Oshawa there were 126 crack-related arrests in 1998 compared to 68 in 1995, an increase of 85 per cent.

To combat the trade local drug cops began shifting their focus away from the street level and targeting upper-echelon players in organized crack-trafficking rings.

The strategy change began in July 1996 with Operation Octopussy, a six-month joint-forces investigation by the RCMP and Durham Regional Police. The project culminated with the arrests of 52 alleged dealers and suppliers in January 1997.

Legal observers rank the case among the largest-ever crack conspiracy prosecutions in Ontario.

Police say the intensive wiretap and surveillance probe revealed a network of crack houses across the region, most in Oshawa, run by an army of dealers enlisted by Dennis Warner, whom he called his "soldiers."

Around the same time another undercover joint-forces probe targeting the crack trade in the region, Operation Crack-down, resulted in more than 30 arrests.

And last month, another 20 suspected crack dealers and suppliers were scooped up in Operation Bomb Squad, a wiretap investigation conducted solely by Durham Regional Police's drug squad, lasting five months.

In each investigation, police say they were targeting drug rings based in Oshawa, but with supply links across the region from Pickering to Bowmanville to Brooklin.

□□□□

"Crack cocaine is the No. 1 drug problem we have in Durham Region. It seems like we're just getting overwhelmed with it," remarks Sergeant Jack Dancy, a 22-year veteran police officer and the head of Durham Region's drug squad for the past eight years.

He says a saturated market and fierce competition in Toronto has driven crack dealers to Durham Region.

"It started off with some people coming over from Toronto and Scarborough and parking on the street or in a lot and unloading (crack)," says Sgt. Dancy. "They would come for the night or a couple of days until their supply was depleted. They had buyers lining up."

The market was so lucrative, Sgt. Dancy says, some



JASON LIEBREGTS/ News Advertiser photo

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Corporal John Green displays some of the crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and a gun seized as a result of various drug probes conducted by police in Durham Region. The evidence is stored at the RCMP's Bowmanville detachment.

Stats show steady surge in crack-related arrests

Statistics compiled by Durham Regional Police show a dramatic increase since 1995 in the number of arrests in Oshawa and Durham Region relating to crack cocaine possession and trafficking.

The number of possession-only arrests in Oshawa rose from 34 in 1995 to 40 in 1996, 46 in 1997 to 60 in 1998, an increase of 30 per cent in the final year.

The number of trafficking arrests in Oshawa

jumped from 34 in 1995 to 40 in 1996, 50 in 1997 to 66 in 1998, a 32 per cent increase during the last year.

Region-wide totals show a similar surge.

The overall number of crack cocaine trafficking arrests in Durham Region between 1995 and 1998 gradually increased from 43 to 61 to 62 to 72.

The number of possession-only crack arrests during the same period rose from 51 to 53 to 66 to 77.

dealers decided to become permanent residents.

"It got to the point where these people realized, 'Hey, this is a great market' and they started to move into local motels or apartments and set up business," he says.

Police know of about 25 crack houses across the city. They operate out of motel rooms, rooming houses, apartments and houses, all rented for a single purpose.

Many crack deals are made under cover of the night - on the streets, in back alleys or downtown parking lots - in the underbelly of the city, police say.

It's an entire subculture invisible to many in the general public, says Const. Giroux. "The police know all about it and the bad guys know all about it. Just watch the change in downtown Oshawa from day to night," he says.

Police say as many as three organized groups of traffickers have carved out territory in Oshawa and maintain a grip on the region's crack supply.

Most of the crack is "cooked" in Scarborough and imported, police say. There are many independents.

The drug rings, says Sgt. Dancy, "are run like a corporation. It's as well-organized as things can be in the drug subculture. People have responsibilities and they are expected to produce. If they don't then they're tossed out."

He says the majority of crack dealers don't use the drug and they share one common goal: profit.

"The users are ruining their lives but the people profiting big generally aren't using. These people would sell to their own mothers if they could make a profit."

"They don't have any conscience. It all comes down to money... tax free," Sgt. Dancy says.

One kilogram of crack sold on the street at gram level is worth roughly \$60,000.

□□□□

Compared to regional drug squads across the GTA, local police are badly outgunned in the fight to combat crack. Essentially they are a platoon against armies.

A survey of 905 regional police forces shows Durham's six-man unit is dwarfed in comparison.

For example, the Peel Region drug squad is staffed with 25 detectives and constables; the York Region drug squad with 16. Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police, the department frequently held up as a comparison model to Durham, has 17 drug unit members - almost triple.

Sgt. Dancy acknowledges the unit's limited resources, saying, "We're certainly busier than ever."

And although the number of officers in Durham's regional drug squad is the same as when it was established in 1990, the same can't be said for the workload.

"It's gone from where we could spend about 30 per cent of our time on crack investigations four years ago to now when, ideally, we could do nothing but crack investigations," says Sgt. Dancy.

"But I'm astonished with what we accomplish with what (resources) we have. I've never seen a harder working unit."

He says the unit sets realistic goals. As many as 100 case files on average are assigned to each individual officer in the squad and cases are prioritized.

"It is a big problem and we are doing our best to try to keep a lid on it somewhat..."

Corp. Green and Const. Giroux say Durham's drug unit does a "tremendous job," considering its manpower.

"These guys must be swamped. Their frustration level must be tremendous. They are doing a hard job with limited resources. Really, they can only scratch the surface of the problem. It's such a big task," said Corp. Green.

Chief McAlpine says the Durham department has been chronically undermanned for years and is currently in the midst of a five-year staffing plan to address the shortage. But there are no immediate plans to increase the size of the force's drug squad.

"We have a significant lack of resources," he says, adding many units are operating with minimum staffing.

"If we had the number of officers (needed)... we'd be able to apply more resources (to drug investigations)."

He adds not a "single person in this organization" has expressed concern about drug squad staffing in his two years as chief.

Conducting major drug investigations, because of legal and technical complexities, is time-consuming and labour intensive, the RCMP officers say.

"To do these kinds of investigations on a regular basis

takes resources. You need the finances, the equipment, the time and the manpower. (Durham) doesn't have enough people," said Const. Giroux. He is the lead investigator in Project Octopussy, a case with 23 remaining accused persons, still working its way through the judicial process.

So far, 17 people charged in Octopussy, including Dennis Warner, have received combined jail sentences totalling 60 years. All but one of those pleaded guilty.

Const. Giroux stared ahead in a courtroom stonefaced when Mr. Warner, admitted crack kingpin, was led away in handcuffs after pleading guilty to trafficking conspiracy.

The seasoned RCMP officer expressed little satisfaction at Mr. Warner's conviction and sentence, eight years in penitentiary in exchange for his testimony, and downplayed the significance of his downfall.

"We had been trying to get him for many years. He was at the top since 1991," Const. Giroux acknowledged at the time, "but crack is still being sold in Oshawa."

"The market is still there and there are a lot of customers. All you need is people like (Mr. Warner) to bring it there. There's always somebody to take his place."

Trials are scheduled to begin at the Whitby courthouse next year for the remaining co-accused, following lengthy pretrial motions beginning in March. The Canadian Department of Justice has appointed a special prosecutor to handle the case.

□□□□

Police and prosecutors suggest the rise in crack cocaine in the region is linked to increases in other crimes, such as assaults, home invasions, robberies and prostitution.

"It has created a lot of spin-off crime. People aren't robbing banks to feed their kids. Our thoughts are 80 per cent (of robberies) are to feed a drug habit," says Sgt. Dancy.

Local prosecutor Terry Kelly adds: "We didn't have prostitution in (Oshawa) until we got crack."

Up until a few years ago, he says, local lawyers dealt largely with hash and marijuana prosecutions.

"In general we do see a lot more crack cases now. I'd say roughly 80 to 90 per cent involve crack, compared to about 50-50 five years ago," Mr. Kelly says.

He adds crack cuts a path of destruction across socio-economic lines as offenders come from all walks of life, ranging from professionals to the unemployed. This past year a local school teacher was even convicted of possession of crack for the purpose of trafficking.

Sgt. Dancy says "we've been lucky" Durham Region hasn't seen the same level of crack-related violence reported in Toronto.

"There are lots of guns out there and we do see them frequently," he says, adding the unit has seized firearms and hand grenades.

He explains territorial violence among rival groups of crack dealers in Oshawa is limited, mainly because the competition here isn't as fierce as in Toronto.

"We have had some shootings and drive-bys, but it isn't on a nightly basis like Toronto. There is enough business to go around for everybody here," notes Sgt. Dancy, expressing concern that eventually could change.

Mentoring service offered to women seeking work in Ajax, Pickering

Unemployed and under-employed women are invited to learn how to become more confident and successful in their job search.

The Ajax-Pickering Women's Centre is offering Women and Employment: Strategies for the Next Millennium, an employment development project that will offer mentoring partnerships with a professional in their field of interest.

"The mentoring service works by linking professional and business women with low-income women seeking employment," explains mentoring co-ordinator Barb Latimer.

"These women might not

otherwise be able to network on their own, know where to network on their own, or be able to afford the time or resources necessary to find contacts in the field of their choice."

The Women's Centre will also help direct women to training and support organizations that can provide successful links between employers and potential employees.

"The three-way collaboration between the centre, professional and/or business women and women seeking employment builds economic and social well-being and promotes a spirit of co-operation within the community," a news

release from the centre notes.

"More importantly, it gives women in need of guidance a sense of direction and support."

The centre is a non-profit organization designed to offer resources and support services to abused women in the Ajax-Pickering area. Located at 134 Commercial Ave., Ajax, the centre also offers a legal clinic every second Thursday, through scheduled appointments.

Funding for the mentoring project has been provided by Human Resources Development Canada.

Call the centre at 426-1064 for more information.

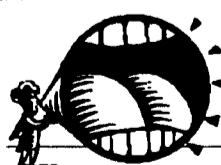
Public meetings

Pickering Town Council
Monday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. — Pickering Council, council chamber, Pickering Civic Complex, One The Esplanade.

Ajax Town Council
There are no more meetings in 1999 for Ajax council or its committees. The next meeting is being held Monday, Jan. 10, 2000 at 7 p.m. when Committee of the Whole meets.

Durham Regional Council
Thursday, Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m. — Health and Social Services, Boardroom, 4th Floor, Lang Tower, Whitby Mall, 1615 Dundas St. E., Whitby.

Durham Catholic school board
Monday Dec. 20, 7 p.m. — Durham District School Board, Education Centre, 400 Taunton Rd. E., Whitby.



WORDS FROM THE WISE

Politics, Points of View and Parodies

Lights and Yule magic...

Christmas is the most colourful time of the year. But the magical time wouldn't be possible without a lot of hard work and a lot of little bulbs.

The origin of lights was first introduced sometime in the 1500s by the lighting of candles, a practice not recommended today unless you have a fascination with fire. Candles were only lit for a short period, but it's said Martin Luther, a professor at Saxon University of Wittenburg started the practice of lighting candles on trees to remind young children of the stars in heaven, from which the Son of God, Jesus, descended to earth. It's also believed the very first electric lights were used in 1882 by

Edward Johnson, an associate of Thomas Edison. Ten years later the lights were sold commercially through General Electric. Today, Alderbrook Industries, Canada's largest manufacturer and designer of Christmas lights and other decorations, supplies this insatiable demand. Craig Rice, senior vice-president of Alderbrook Ind., located in Pickering, says more and more homeowners are decorating their homes with Christmas lights.

"The clear lights are the most popular followed by multi-colour lights...red then blue."

Ice lights are all the rage still. Last year there weren't enough sets available, but this year it seems everyone has them: The next big thing, according to Mr. Rice, will be net lights which can be used to cover shrubs with ease.



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Area driver revs up for new race season

Racer who started in go-karts on track for bigger and faster things

BY AL RIVETT
Sports Editor

AJAX — An Ajax driver hopes to be sporting a new set of wheels when the next race season rolls around - something bigger, a little flashier and a lot faster.

Scott Stephens is looking to move up in the racing world after capturing the drivers' championship of the Pro Formula 1200 Isseco-Kumho Series hosted at Quebec and Ontario tracks this past summer.

Driving the Redline Promotions Racing car with a Volkswagen engine, the 29-year-old won four of the 13 races in his first year in the open-wheel series which took him to Mosport, Shannonville and Mount Tremblant race tracks. In addition, he was on the podium as one of the top three finishers on five other occasions.

In the last race of the series at Mosport, near Bowmanville, in early October, Stephens needed to finish in the top nine in the first race of the evening to wrap up the drivers' championship. He crossed the finish line fourth and in the second race of the evening placed third.

Winning the series in his rookie season "was pretty amazing," says Stephens. "It was a pretty hard series. The team I was with was an experienced team. They

helped me a lot with the set-up of the car and they helped me to learn the various tracks."

His most productive weekend of the series was at

"I would like to go as far as I possibly can (in racing)"

-- SCOTT STEPHENS

Shannonville in May. Coming off seventh- and third-place finishes at Mosport in the series opener that month, Stephens earned the pole position and won both races to take a commanding lead in the drivers' standings - a lead he wouldn't relinquish.

"The cars in the 1200 series are so close in performance that the lead changes hand many times in the course of a race. A lot of it has to do with drafting - using the wind. You have to stay close to the guys in front of you so can slingshot past them. That's a big factor."

Stephens says he's contemplating his options for next season, but he's sure he'll move up to a more competitive level of racing.

He notes the Pro Formula Ford 1600 Canadian series is one option as it's currently one of the biggest and best in the area. "I've

also runs races in conjunction with the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Montreal each summer.

He says he might also opt for the regional 1600 series which runs at Mosport and Shannonville throughout the summer. He may even do both series, but that will depend on getting backers for the coming season.

"It will depend on sponsorship. The pro series costs more money. If not, then I will run the regional series."

Stephens has been racing since getting behind the wheel of a go-kart at age eight. After competing on the go-kart circuit until the

age of 17, he stepped up to cars and in 1995 finished sixth overall in the drivers' standings in the Valvoline Touring Car Championships.

In 1998, Stephens captured the Canadian Automobile Sports Club's Ontario Region GTC championship.

The sky's the limit for Stephens in auto racing, as he plans to go as far as his skills behind the wheel will take him.

"I would like to go as far as I possibly can," he says. "I would like to drive in the Formula Atlantic series or Indy car. I would like to get to the pro level."



ANDREW IWANOWSKI/News Advertiser photo

Scott Stephens shows off the car which carried him to the drivers' title in the Pro Formula Isseco-Kumho Series this summer. He hopes to drive in a higher-calibre series for the coming race season.

PICKERING TOYOTA

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

An Ajax hockey player will represent Ontario at a major international hockey tournament over the Christmas holidays.

Ajax's Ryan Ramsay, 16, a rookie centre with the Ontario Hockey League's Peterborough Petes, received notice he'll be a member of the Ontario under-17 team which will play at the 2000 World Hockey Challenge in Timmins Dec. 27 to Jan. 3.

A former member of the Ajax Axemen of OHA Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League, Ramsay has two goals and four assists with the Petes.

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Juniors winless in last three league games

Last-minute goal by Vaughan sinks Pickering Panthers

BY AL RIVETT
Sports Editor

PICKERING — The Vaughan Vipers scored in the dying seconds to hand the Pickering Boyer Pontiac Panthers their second consecutive loss in a home-and-home series with the Vipers in Vaughan Monday night.

In a contest between the penthouse and the cellar of the OHA Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League's South Conference, the Panthers fared better than they did one night earlier although they still dropped a 3-2 decision to first-place Vaughan. On Sunday night in Pickering, the Panthers were pummeled 8-1.

Playing without five regular starters and with five affiliated players taking their place on the bench Monday, the Panthers battled gamely against the first-place Vipers. Pickering held two one-goal leads in the contest, letting both slip away as the Vipers put the final nail in the Panthers' coffin with the winning goal getting past call-up midget goaltender Bobby Poposki with 48 seconds remaining.



ALLAN MacISAAC
Two-goal game in loss to Vaughan Vipers Monday night.

row. On Saturday night in North York, the Pickering juniors were run over by the Rangers 7-4.

Panthers' coach Brian Blad was pleased with the effort Monday, despite taking to the ice with two members from the Uxbridge Bruins junior 'C' squad and three players from the Ajax-Pickering Raiders' 'AAA' midgets.

"We played a good, solid road game. We kept it as simple as we possibly could," notes Blad, who was missing veteran defencemen Bill Duncan (suspension), Doug Carr (school exams), forwards Dan Schofield (flu), John Buscema (back) and starting goaltender Mike Andreoff (pulled hamstring) for the contest.

Again, as in most Panthers' losses this season, the players failed to execute the little things it takes to win at the junior level. Monday night, the players missed defensive assignments in their own zone, allowing all three Vaughan goals on goalmouth scram-

bles. "We chased the puck instead of taking the man in front of the net," explains Blad. "Overall, it was a good game, but we didn't get the result we wanted. It was a great game by Poposki."

Allan MacIsaac scored both Pickering goals Monday night. Mike Hanna recorded two assists. Alex Pavloski and Garrett Winder had one apiece.

In Sunday's loss to Vaughan, the Panthers were the victim of some shaky goaltending by Paul Guthrie, who was beaten for five goals on 12 shots. Midget call-up goalie Garrett McKinnon took over the puckstopping chores in the second period, giving up three goals the rest of the way. Following the game, Guthrie was suspended by head coach Blad who says Guthrie will be traded as soon as the opportunity exists.

Ian Ross had the lone goal for Pickering against Vaughan. Ian Law earned an assist.

Schofield, Winder, Ross and Brent Chandler scored in Saturday's loss to North York. Hanna, Winder, T.J. Kemp, Oliver Lopez, Duncan, Law, Carr and Schofield recorded assists.

The Panthers will play a home-and-home series against the Thornhill Rattlers before the Christmas break. The Panthers host the Rattlers this Friday at the Pickering Recreation Complex at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Panthers travel to Thornhill for the return match. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

PANTHERS POSTSCRIPT: The Pickering Boyer Pontiac Heat men's Fastball team will be the special guests of the Panthers for Friday's home game against Thornhill. The Heat play in the Molson International Softball Congress Alliance league. Team members will be introduced prior to the start of the game...Goalie Mike Andreoff suffered a hamstring pull in Saturday's game against North York. He may return to action against Thornhill this weekend.

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Lightning peewees light up scoreboard for tourney title

The Durham West Lightning peewee 'B' rep hockey team lit up the scoreboard while winning the championship at the recent Tournament of Lights in Sarnia.

Fifty-four teams from across Ontario and Michigan state participated in the annual tournament.

The Lightning captured the gold medal after defeating the Sarnia Starfires 3-2 in an exciting contest which needed a shoot-out before a winner was declared. With the game tied 1-1 after regulation time, the teams proceeded to overtime. After five minutes of four-on-four play, neither side could score, despite tremendous rushes by Lightning forwards Jennifer Brault and Alix Kole and crucial saves by goalie Jackie Cummins. In the shoot-out, Brault and Stephanie Walsh scored to give Durham West the victory.

Durham West opened the scoring on a goal by Brault, assisted by Walsh. Sarnia responded to tie the game at 1-1 later in the first period. The second and third periods remained scoreless, despite superior play by the Lightning.

Forward Meaghan Yeo, injured in the second game with a badly sprained ankle, came back for the championship final and contributed solid play.

The peewee Lightning opened the tournament with an exciting 2-1 win over the Sault Ste. Marie Wildcats. Defenceman Caley Hulme opened the scoring on an end-to-end rush, assisted by Kelly Sawyer. Kelly Rapson put Durham West in front 2-0 in the third period, assisted by Kole. The Soo responded with a goal with 47 seconds remaining in the third period. Stellar goaltending by Cummins, especially in the last two minutes with the opposition goaltender pulled in favour of a sixth attacker, preserved the victory for Durham West.

A late goal in the third period by the Sarnia Starfires led to a 3-2 loss for the Lightning peewees in the second game. Durham West rebounded from a two-goal deficit to tie the game on goals by Brault and Sawyer. Drawing assists were Kole, Rapson and Brault. Goaltender Alexis Maciawain kept the team in the game with several critical saves.

In the third game, Durham West advanced to the final after an 8-0 thrashing of the Flamboro Sabres. Goals went to Amanda Lilly, Brault and Kole, with two each, while Sawyer and Kelly Rapson scored one apiece. Assisting on two goals were Sawyer, Walsh, and Lilly, with Kole, Karen Wiltshire and Jennifer Cooper assisting on one apiece. Debi Saunders contributed with strong offensive play. The defence of Wiltshire, Cooper, Kristina Brunet and Hulme played well.



Area gymnasts post strong results at qualifier

Area members of the Scarborough Gym-Elites were gym-dandy at the first provincial qualifier at Gemini Gymnastics in Oshtawa recently.

The qualifying meet attracted gymnastics clubs from across the GTA, with gymnasts attempting to earn a spot on the Metro East provincial teams in the various categories that will compete at the Youth Artistic Gymnastics Provincial Championships in 2000.

In the open 2 category, Ashley Fawcett finished first overall, placing first on all four events — uneven bars, vault, balance beam and floor exercises. Clubmate Lauren Viret finished second all-around, finishing second on bars and beam.

Jennifer Tomayer placed third overall in the level 3



ASHLEY FAWCETT
First overall in open 2 category at provincial qualifier.

novice category. She placed second on bars and third on vault, beam and floor.

Kendall Patterson, competing in the pre-junior 3

bracket, finished fifth overall. She placed first on bars and third on floor.

Joy Cretney finished seventh all-around in the junior 3 level. She placed second on bars.

Jennifer Milne placed third overall in the senior 3 division, placing first on beam. Clubmate Melissa Ramsay was fourth in the same category, finishing first on vault and third on floor.

Lindsay Soo-Chan finished fifth all-around in the junior 2 division. She placed third on bars and vault.

In the novice 1 category, Raisa Gerschovich finished eighth overall. She finished fifth on both beam and floor.

Samar Amouri finished sixth overall in the senior 1 bracket. She placed first on floor.

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Curlers win zone title

BY JIM EASSON
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — An Annandale Curling Club women's rink is headed to regional competition after winning the Ontario Ladies Trophy Zone event in Sutton this past weekend.

Susannah Moylan skipped her rink of Brenda O'Hara, Joan O'Leary and Jean Maloney to first place in the zone event, winning the 'A' side of the competition.

The Moylan team will now advance to the regional playdowns slated for the Bayview Country Club Jan. 22 and 23. Two winning teams at the regionals will advance to the provincial final in Galt Feb. 4 to 6.

In other news, Frank Boyland, Don Critchley, John Thain and Dave Hutchison all skipped Annandale teams at the Tim

Hortons Colts zone event at Tam Heather Curling Club in Scarborough this past weekend. None of the local teams advanced to the 16-team double-knockout playdown. The Hutchison rink finished with the best record of the Annandale contingent with a mark of 3-2. With Hutchison were Brian Waugh, Marvin Harrison and Chris Cribby. Meanwhile, Critchley and Thain went 0-2 and Boyland exited with a 1-2 record.

It was confirmed that Annandale will have three teams in the Nokia Cup zone playdown which leads to the Ontario Men's Curling Championship. The fill system gave the club a third entry, so skips Warren Leslie, Gord Norton and David Lloyd will all take teams to the competition in Uxbridge Jan. 15.

SCOREBOARD

DEC. 15, 1999

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL JUNIOR 'A' HOCKEY LEAGUE

Standings as of Dec. 13/99

SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS

TEAM	G	W	L	T	OTL	P	A	PTS	GAA
Vaughan	30	23	4	1	2	132	68	48	2.27
Westford	31	21	4	3	3	157	104	48	3.35
Thornhill	33	21	8	3	1	178	129	46	3.91
Ajax	29	12	12	5	0	101	111	29	3.83
Markham	31	12	14	2	3	136	140	29	4.52
North York	32	11	16	5	0	104	127	27	3.97
S. Metrop.	32	11	19	2	0	121	155	24	4.84
Collingwood	33	9	19	3	2	124	135	23	4.29
Pickering	32	8	23	4	0	99	152	14	4.75

SALE SPECIAL BARGAINS

ADVERTISING FLYERS
IN TODAY'S News Advertiser

Wed., Dec. 15, 1999
News Advertiser

- Beigo International Ajax/Pick.
- Black's Photography Ajax/Pick.
- Business Depot Ajax/Pick.
- Canadian Tire (Rylander) Pick.
- Caribbean Roti Stop Ajax
- Compucentre Ajax/Pick.
- Little Ceasars Ajax
- Party City Ajax/Pick.
- Party Packagers Ajax/Pick.
- Real Estate Ajax/Pick.
- Salvation Army Ajax/Pick.
- The Bay Ajax/Pick.
- The Brick Ajax/Pick.
- Wheels Ajax/Pick.

* Delivered to selected households only
Remember, all inserts, including those on glossy paper, can be recycled with the rest of your newspaper through your blue box Recycling program. For information on delivering your advertising flyers, call 426-GOLF (4653).

PENCAN
PUBLISHER

Carrier of The Week

Jonathan
Wednesday's Carrier of the Week is Jonathan. He enjoys tennis and competitive swimming. He will receive a dinner for 4 voucher, compliments of McDonald's.

Congratulations Jonathan for being our Carrier of the Week

135 Kingston Rd. #101
222 Bay St. #201
720 Kingston Rd. #101
1560 Kingston Rd. #101

If you did not receive your News Advertiser or flyers call **Circulation at 683-5117**.

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 - 5:30
Sat. 9 - 4:30, Sun. 10 - 1

RE WILLY WESCO

Dec. 17 Midnight

ROUGH CUTS

Cowan & Brimley

Ashletes World
In-store promotions. 15% to 25% off everything in the store!

Bell Mobility
Free leather case with cellular phone purchase and activation (conditions apply).

Bonnie Tops
\$10.00 off Woodland snowsuits. Free bandanna with \$50.00 Osh Kosh purchase (1 per customer).

Braemar
10% off regular and sale priced merchandise.

Buffalo Jeans
Buy a pair of jeans, get 50% off second pair. 50% off coats!

Caryl Baker Visage
Free Spa Experience Card with every gift purchase!

Claire's
20% off one regular priced item (excludes ear piercing, prior purchases and gift certificates).

Cotton Ginny
In-store specials! Flannel shirts \$4.99.

Crabtree & Evelyn
20% off all food products.

Florsheim Shoes
20% to 50% off selected styles. 25% off belts & shoe trees.

Grafton & Co.
20% to 40% off selected merchandise.

Hallmark
FREE Gift Wrap sampler with purchase of any Hallmark Keepsake Ornament (while supplies last)

Healthy's
Try a protein shake, sample some herbal teas, learn about weight loss over the holidays and discover how to keep healthy over the winter! Ask about our discount card!

I'm Clocks
30% off Citizen watches, 20% off Seiko watches, plus in-store specials!

International Clothiers
Free vest with any pair of jeans.

Keyman Engravables
20% off all Swiss Army Knives, also major leather wallet clearance on selected wallets \$19.99 (excludes no GST/PST offer).

La Senza
15% off any item in the store - regular and sale price.

La Swiss
Everything in the store on sale! Up to 40% off selected items.

Madame Angelo
Fall sweaters at half price. No GST on most merchandise (excludes 50% off items).

Magni Frame
Free James Christensen Fine Art Puzzle with purchase over \$100.00

Mrs. Fields Cookies
Buy 3 cookies or 3 brownies and get 1 free.

Mrs. Vanellis
Special surprise discounts.

Nike by Ashletes World
In-store promotions. 15% to 25% off everything in the store!

P.J.'s Pet Centre
In-store specials.

Personal Edge
Free leather case (\$29.99 value) with each purchase of selected Clearnet P.C.S. phones.

The Porcelain Shop
30% off Royal Doulton Figurines.
20% off M.I. Hummel Figurines.

The Purple Planet
Save all taxes on shoes and boots.

Quilts Etc.
No GST! Extra \$30.00 off sale price on our White Goose Down Duvet!

Rodeo Jewellers
10% to 35% off gold jewellery.

Roots
20% off all sweats. 10% off sale merchandise.

Scarborough Town Sewing Centre
In-store specials.

Shue's
Up to 50% off selected items.
Buy 1 pair, get an extra 25% off 2nd pair!

Sirens
Entire store up to 50% off.
Buy one pair of shoes, get 50% off second pair.

Smithbooks
With purchase over \$20.00 "Avid Reader" cardholders will be entered to win a copy of "Crazy Plates".

Sports Fantasy
In-store specials.

Stars Men's Shops
Leather jackets from \$199.00.
Outer wear from \$89.99.

Stitches
In-store specials.

The Telephone Booth
In-store specials.

Thrifty's
An extra 10% off all previously marked down items (excluding 2/fors). An extra 20% off some clearance merchandise.

Tip Top
In-store draw for a Fossil Watch!

Treats
Small coffee and a muffin for \$2.00 (no tax).

Trinkets Fine Jewellery
50% to 70% off entire inventory!

Utopia
In-store specials.

MORE TO WOW YOU FROM 9:00 PM!

*Shop tax free at the following stores:

- Ashton C2 Shoes
- Bata Shoes
- Carlton Cards
- Caryl Baker Visage
- Classic Boutique
- Dynamize
- Fruits & Passion
- Garage Clothing Co. (The)
- Garfield
- Gentlemen's Court
- Grafton & Co.
- L.A. Express
- Laura Secord
- Magni Frame
- Mrs. Fields Cookies
- Porcelain Shop (The)
- Rodeo Jewellers
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Soft-Moc
- Solemate
- Sports Fantasy
- Suzy Shier
- Telephone Booth (The)

Look into these late night specials:

Diana Sweets Restaurant
Get 10% off all food orders, plus receive a coupon for a soft ice cream (buy one get one FREE) at Diana Sweets Ice Cream & Coffee Shop.

Gentlemen's Court
50% off Christian Dior Belts and all Player's sport shirts.

Japan Camera
No GST and PST on frames and albums. Please visit our new location across from the Rainforest Cafe, beside Indigo Books!

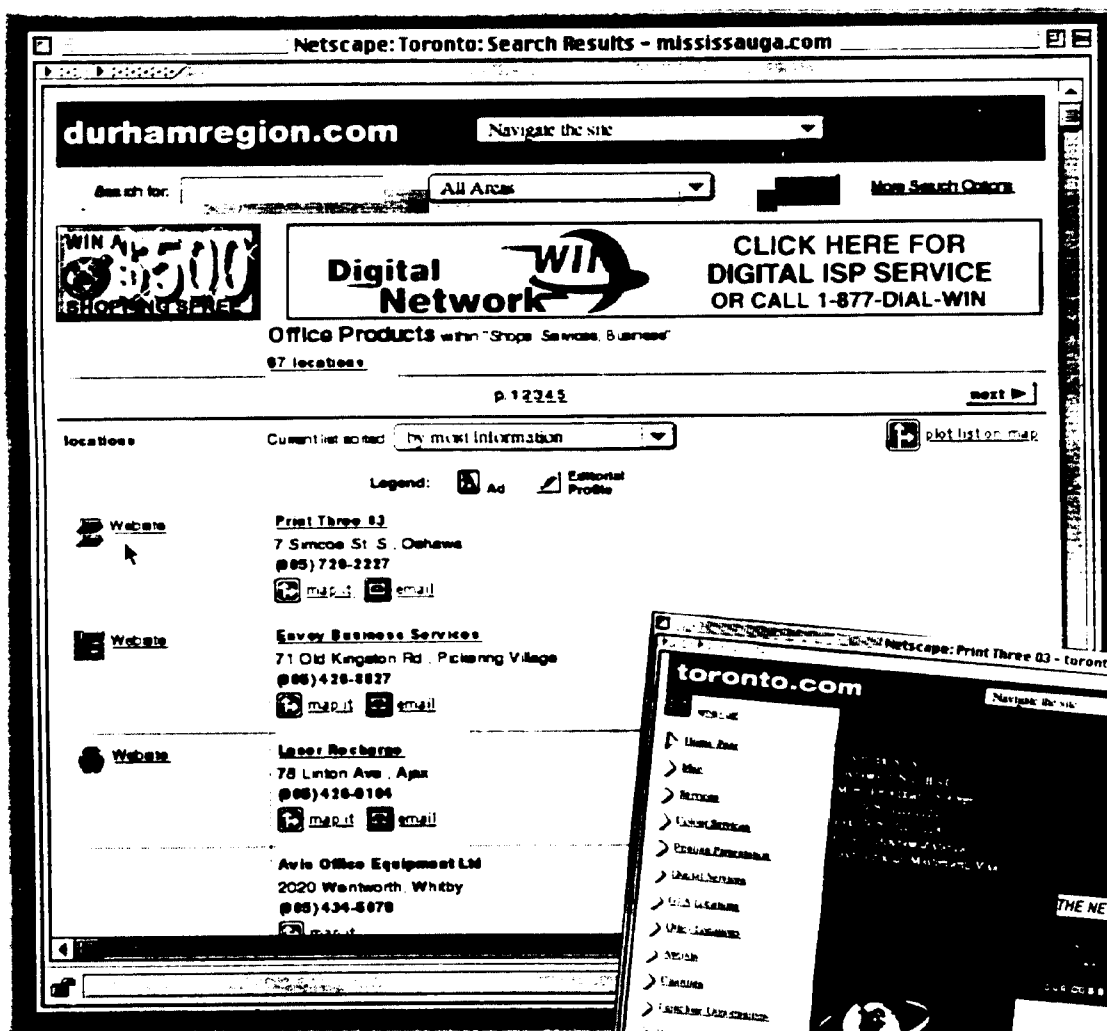
Town Shoes
10% off all merchandise.

* Each store will deduct the equivalent of the GST and PST from the total purchase price. Some restrictions may apply. Please see individual participating stores for details.

We've got *your* connection to SUCCESS

Connect to the *virtual* database of businesses
in Durham Region.

Get a profile of the suppliers or services that you need, *anytime*.



Here are just some of the businesses
that you can have quick and easy
access to...

- 1138 BUILDING, CONTRACTING
- 269 FINANCIAL SERVICES
- 670 HEALTH SERVICES
- 97 OFFICE PRODUCTS

Time is money. *Find it now on...*

For advertising information, call us at (416) 596-4300

durhamregion.com
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT DURHAM REGION

durhamregion.com is the ultimate online guide to the city and surrounding areas. We've got information on shops and services, hotels, restaurants, arts and entertainment, business and community organizations, as well as feature stories, weekly restaurant reviews, sports and much more.
Updated daily.



CLASSIFIED

To Place Your Ad Call:
683-0707

"TECS" Training • Education • Careers • Schooling "TECS"

110 General Help 110 General Help 110 General Help 160 Daycare Wanted

It's time to plan for the New Year!
We have lots to offer you

Toronto School of Business
A Private Career College Offering Diploma Programs

New! Computer Testing Centre MICROSOFT & NOVELL APPROVED	New! Police Foundations Do you qualify for this demanding and exciting program?
Prepare for: MCSE * A+ * C.N.A.	Personal Support Worker Legal Administrative Assistant NEW! Law Clerk Executive Office Assistant Medical Office Assistant Travel and Tourism Counsellor Dental Chairside Assistant
Information Technology Technician Internet Programmer Network Administrator Network and Internet Systems Specialist NEW! Web Site Designer	Computer Applications Specialist Prepare for your Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) designation
Are You an Artist? Computer Animation with Alias/Wavefront MAYA 10 month diploma program	New! Marketing Assistant Retail manager Small Business Manager Accounting and Computers Business Administration

New! Programs we are working on to start in the New Year!

Massage Therapy Chiropractic Assistant
Community and Social Service Worker
Veterinary and Animal Health Care

TSB Toronto School of Business
Check for details at the Campus nearest you!
Financial Assistance May be Available if You Qualify

Oshawa Centre 419 King St. West (905) 723-1163	Pickering 1450 Kingston Rd. (905) 420-1344	Cobourg Northumberland Mall (905) 372-8978
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The Local Exhaust and Ventilation Company of Canada (LEV-CO), an expanding Industrial Air-Pollution Control company located in Pickering is seeking 4 new individuals for the following positions:

Shipper/Receiver/Warehouse/General Maintenance
A mechanically inclined individual needed to take care of the warehouse. Duties include shipping, receiving, and some small amounts of shop work.

Receptionist/Office Help
Duties to include account receivables, fax follow-ups, AP matching, filing.

Sales Rep
An organized individual is needed with some sales background. Applicant should be very outgoing and a fast learner.

Executive Assistant
Applicant must be very organized and able to multi-task. Should have strong office skills and the ability to work with others.

* Strong people and computer skills required (Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook 98).

Please fax resume to 905-831-7443, or e-mail at sales@lev-co.com.

lev-co
We'd like to thank all applicants, however only selected individuals will be contacted.

Art & Technique
Academy of Hairstyling & Esthetics

REGISTER
Today for the year 2000
One of the fastest growing industries in the world!

Only 10 seats remaining.

Esthetics Diploma - graduate in 6 months
721-7546
Next start up Jan. 17, 2000

Hairstyling Diploma - graduate in 9 months
576-0479
Next start up Jan. 3, 2000

Registered and approved as a private vocational school. Job placements and financial assistance available.

15 Simcoe St. S., Oshawa (at the 4 corners)
www.artandtechnique.com

UXBRIDGE TRIBUNE
requires
NEWSPAPER CARRIERS
to deliver papers twice a week in the following areas:
UXBRIDGE
Main St. N.
Brock St.
Bristol Pond
Bristol Sands Crs. Alta Rd.
Heritage Hills
Silver Springs Crs.
Hillborne Crt.
Also Adult Carrier for walk & drive routes needed
CALL DEBBIE
905-852-9741

UXBRIDGE TRIBUNE
requires
NEWSPAPER CARRIERS
to deliver papers twice a week in the following areas:
UXBRIDGE
Main St. N.
Brock St.
CANNINGTON
Cameron St. W.
Country Lane
Meadowlands Dr.
Windsor Crt
UDORA
Suievi Ave.
Lembitu Ave.
Manniku Rd.
Viru Ave.
Vambola Ave.
Also Adult Carrier for walk & drive routes needed
CALL DEBBIE
905-852-9741

CONFIDENTIAL TO BOX REPLIES
If there are firms or individuals to whom you do not wish your reply sent, simply place your application in an envelope addressed to the box number in the advertisement and attach a list of such names. Place your application and list in an envelope and address to: Box Replies. If the advertiser is one of the names on your list your application will be destroyed.

PLEASE NOTE, resumes that are faxed directly to Oshawa This Week, will not be forwarded to the file number. Originals must be sent directly as indicated by the instructions in the ad.

FULL TIME FLOORING INSTALLER
Qualifications:
• Valid driver's license
• Carpet and vinyl installation experience
We offer:
• Regular hours • Salary based on experience
• Full Benefits • Work in Durham Region
Please fax qualifications to (905) 576-5767.

The News Advertiser
Is looking for reliable people to insert and deliver papers and flyers door to door every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday in the Pickering area. Deliveries must be completed by 6:00pm. Must have a vehicle.
For more information call 905-683-5117

BIG BROTHERS ASSOCIATION OF AJAX-PICKERING
Immediately Request an
IN-SCHOOL MENTORING CO-ORDINATOR (Part-time Contract)

Responsible to the Executive Director, the Co-ordinator will be responsible for all functions of the Big Brother In-School Mentoring program. The program, in co-operation with Durham School Boards, matches male and female adult volunteers to children 5 to 10 years of age in a school setting. The successful candidate must have:

- Professional degree or college diploma in human services, health or education.
- Two years minimum experience with interviewing, screening and assessment.
- Proven supervision & training experience of volunteers.
- Ability to effectively market the program to the corporate community.
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- The ability to work independently.
- Excellent written and presentation skills.
- Previous experiences working with school staff and corporate sponsors an asset.
- Windows 98, Quicken
- Familiarity with Ajax and Pickering communities is beneficial.
- Approx. 26 hours/week.
- Automobile required.
- Hourly wage dependent upon experience.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Part-Time Contract)

Responsible to the Executive Director, the Administrative Assistant must possess excellent computer and written skills. Minimum 2 years working experience as a receptionist and strong public relation skills an asset. Must be professional, organized and detailed. The individual must be a team player and be multi-tasked. Bookkeeping experience is beneficial. Automobile required. Hours approximately 10 am - 2 pm.

Box Replies to: Big Brother Board of Directors
905-686-8224 or mail by December 29th to:
2-226 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax, Ontario L1S 2H6
Only applicants granted an interview will be contacted.
No phone calls please.

CIRCLE ME!
If you are looking for permanent full time work,
CALL TRACY (905) 686-4772

THE NEWS ADVERTISER
is looking for Kids to deliver papers and flyers door to door four times a week by 6:00 PM in their neighborhoods.
call 905-683-5117

PICKERING TOYOTA
Requires
Part-time evening receptionist.
Call Wayne Turner 905-420-9000

ACCOUNT MANAGER
required for a leading law & organization. Must have 5+ years experience in a law firm. Excellent salary and benefits. Call (905) 420-5005 Fax (905) 420-1270

ATTENTION OAC & COLLEGE
students: \$120K to start. Oshawa based work. Positions may continue after break. Earn \$600-\$1000/40 openings starting Monday. Call Wed 10:00-6:00 pm or Thurs 10:00-2:00 pm (905) 723-9820

AZ DRIVERS for Broker 3 yrs experience. CC Medical. Near abstract. Canada and U.S. Call 905-571-1087

APPRENTICE MECHANICS
required for a leading law & organization. Must have 5+ years experience in a law firm. Excellent salary and benefits. Call (905) 420-5005 Fax (905) 420-1270

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NANNY live in or out for Ajax send info with phone number & references to PO Box 86112 1355 Kingston Rd Pickering Ont L1V 8P7

NEEDED LIVE-IN caregiver for two children ages 8&5 meal prep general housekeeping willing to work some evenings & weekends 905-420-3937

STARTING IN JANUARY for infant Pickering in my home responsible just caring non smoker References 839-8062

165 Daycare Available

AFFORDABLE HOME daycare before and after school for students attending St. Elizabeth's school nutritious meals and snacks. outdoor play (905) 420-5276

EXPERIENCED daycare for your little ones. Safe and loving environment nutritious meals, educational toys, discipline. Full/Part time \$30/weekly for Full time Please call 427-0620

HOME DAYCARE provided by experienced mom diploma in childhood education. Accepting children for winter vacation kids going to Highbush school. Reasonable rates limited space. Whites/Ambler 427-8312

PICKERING Beach 7 Ralls: Loving daycare 18 months to 12 years. Daily outings (fenced backyard and park) 2 1/2 hrs story time, music, nutritious meals & snacks. First Aid, CPR certified. Non-smoking. References 905-428-1244

199 Free Trade
RESCUED and kittens available for adoption. Please call 905-571-7402

205 Firewood
KOTY HEAT FIREWOOD... quality hardwood guaranteed with one time fully seasoned cut & split. Honest measurement. Free delivery 905-753-2246

120 Office Help
BOOKKEEPER for maternity leave. Position starting January 2000. Data entry, monthly reconciliation, A/P, A/R and knowledge of Business Vendors would be an asset. Potential for continuous employment. Please forward to: "Managers Environmental", 2175 Clements Rd., Pickering, Ontario L1W 3V1 Fax: (905) 427-9901

RECEPTIONIST required for a dynamic work environment in Pickering. Must be a well-organized, multi-tasked self-motivator with a pleasant phone manner for a growing advertising company. Computer skills essential. Please submit resumes to: File #455, Pickering This Week, P.O. Box 881, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 5S1

120 Office Help
RECESSIONIST required for a dynamic work environment in Pickering. Must be a well-organized, multi-tasked self-motivator with a pleasant phone manner for a growing advertising company. Computer skills essential. Please submit resumes to: File #455, Pickering This Week, P.O. Box 881, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 5S1

110 General Help
ACCOUNT MANAGER required for a leading law & organization. Must have 5+ years experience in a law firm. Excellent salary and benefits. Call (905) 420-5005 Fax (905) 420-1270

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WORKFORCE 2000

Presented by **THIS WEEK**
Wednesday, January 26, 2000
1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, Oshawa
Publication Date:
Sunday, January 23, 2000

To reserve your booth, or for further information, please call
OSHAWA & WHITBY & CLARINGTON & PORT PERRY
THIS WEEK
576-9335
Pickering 683-0707
Toronto 798-7259
NO ADMISSION CHARGE

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There are approximately 35,000 IT positions open in Canada today.

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Become a Microsoft Certified Solution Developer. Learn programming and analytical skills. Specialize in SQL, Access, Front Page, Visual Basic and Visual C++.

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Prepare for A+, Network+, NetWare & CNA & CNE and Microsoft MCSE certification.

COMPUTER SERVICE TECHNICIAN
Prepare for A+ and Network+ certification. Also learn Novell & Admin and Advanced Admin and NT Server and Workstation.

FOR INFORMATION CALL (905) 427-1922

FIRE SERVICE INTRODUCTION Start this career preparation certificate program. Training, Tuesday evenings starting January 25th, includes Fire Dept. organization, Firefighter's Role, and Safety. Prerequisites and program details Durham College, Whitby Campus, 905-721-3334 or 800-816-3615

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SHIFTS WORKERS January training in "Cabinet Making" and "Small Engine Repairs" Courses run either 11 am to 2 pm, or 4 pm to 7 pm. Durham College, Whitby Campus, 905-721-3334 or 800-816-3615

THE NAIL STATION Career Training available in artificial nails, ear candling, pedicures, waxing, air brushing and tattooing techniques. Student Financing negotiable (905)439-2217

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130 Commercial Ave., Ajax
Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed Saturdays

VISA

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E-mail: compco@durham.net

Our phone lines are open
Mon. to Fri. 8:00 pm.
Sat. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Weary Pickering peewees beaten in tournament title game by Weston

PICKERING — The Pickering Panthers peewee select hockey team was emotionally and physically fatigued after a battle in the semi-final game, leaving little for the title game at the recent Weston Hawks 'A' Hockey Tournament.

As a consequence of the semi-final clash with the Kingston Cougars, the Pickering selects were dominated by the host Weston Hawks 7-1 in the title game. Peter Nicholson scored the lone Pickering goal, assisted by Trevor Fray and Michael Carter.

Pickering advanced to the final after a gutsy 4-2 win over Kingston. With the score knotted at 2-2, Matthew Lawrence used his speed to pounce on a loose puck and score on a breakaway. Mark Romanelli assisted on the play. Peter Shaver added an empty-net marker, assisted by Patrick Molony. Goalie Michael Olsen was solid between the pipes. Lawrence was named the most valuable player.

The Panthers' selects opened the tourney with a 1-1 tie with the Toronto Aeros. Shaver potted the lone goal, assisted by Brady Doyle and Jason Megit. Goaltender Ryan Sabourin received MVP laurels, but presented the award to teammate Michael

Oliver after the game. Oliver was badly injured in the contest and missed the remainder of the tourney.

In the second game, Pickering skated to a 2-2 tie with the Clarkston Algonquins. Doyle led the way with a goal and an assist. Megit

scored the other goal. Molony and Lawrence added assists. Goal-tender Olsen

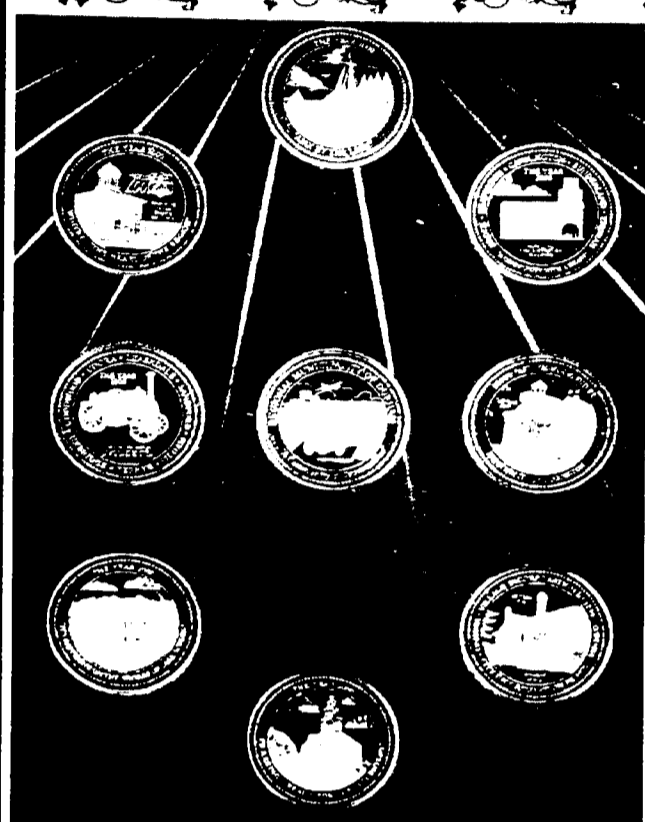
earned the nod as game MVP. The Pickering selects played a must-win third

game against North Toronto, posting a 3-2 win. Shaver's physical play and single

goal earned him MVP honours. Other goals were scored by Molony and Fray. Assist-

ing were Matthew Zammiti, Chris Wall and Fray. Goalie Sabourin preserved the vic-

tory as North Toronto was pressing for the tying marker in the final minutes.



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A face we loved is missing. A voice we loved is still. A place is vacant in our hearts. That never will be filled.
Lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his wife Mona, daughter Barbara, and sons Kenneth, Geoffrey and Kevin and families.

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In memory of **NOREEN STOCKTON** Oct 19, 1930 - Dec 16, 1994 Wife, Mum, Nana
It's hard to believe this will be our fifth Christmas without you.
The last five years have brought us a wedding, graduations & Emily & Ben had their first day of school.
We've also had our share of upsets and disappointments. But we've earned to cope because of the strength you showed us.
We celebrate the holidays trying to hold on to family traditions passed to us. Christmas was always a favourite time for you, for those left behind it will never be the same.
You are always in our thoughts and you live on through all your grandchildren. You would be proud
With much love your daughter Di

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SIMMONDS, Esther Maud "MOM" - Esther M Gray "MRS. GRAY" of Faylee Cres. Pickering Canada; of St. John's Road, Spanish Town "Member of The Spanish Town Anglican Cathedral"; of Nottingham, England; of Freedom/Above Rocks, St. Catherine; of Colonels Ridge, Clarendon; died peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, December 11th, 1999. Leaving Sons: Herman (Roy) & Elizabeth (Keith) Gray, Caswell (Ran) Simmonds, Harvel (Bunny) Peyer; Daughter: Elo Ann (Dee) Simmonds; Granddaughters: Dawn & Audra Gray, Sheena, Stacie & Maya Simmonds; Grandsons: Devon Gray and Cameron Simmonds; Plus many loving and caring relatives and friends. The family will receive friends at the **MCEACHNE FUNERAL HOME**, 28 Old Kingston Road, Ajax, (905) 428-8488, from 7 - 9 p.m., Thursday. The service of thanksgiving for Mom/Mrs. Gray's life will be on Friday, December 17th, 1999 at St. Paul on the Hill Anglican Church, Pickering Canada at 10:30 a.m., interment at Erlaine Cemetery to join her late husband Aston Simmonds.

Entertainment
NEWS ADVERTISER
DEC. 15, 1999

**Movie matinees
for children at
Ajax library**

AJAX — Books aren't the only attraction that will draw youngsters to the Ajax Public Library over the holidays.

Children four years and older can also turn out for free movie matinees featuring some classic movies and popcorn at the main library branch.

On Tuesday, Jan. 4, kids can enjoy two Robert Munsch stories and a selection of Caillou and other Canadian short films.

Runaway Ralph is the feature and it will be followed by everyone's favourite aardvark Arthur on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

Children can sing-along with Dr. Seuss' Hooper Bloob Highway and watch Thomas the Tank Engine selections on Thursday, Jan. 6.

All sessions start at 1:30 p.m. and run for one hour. The programs operate on a drop-in basis and parental supervision is required.

The main library branch is at the corner of Harwood Avenue and Kings Crescent, next to the Town hall.

Call 683-4000 for more information.

**Durham Adventist
Community Choir
sings songs of the
season**

The Durham Adventist Community Choir is offering something a little different for their 4th annual Christmas concert.

"Whereas in the past we have focused on one major Christmas cantata, this year we have selected a variety of well-known and not so well known musical selections," says choir spokesman Dirk Zinner.

The theme will be expressed in music and words beginning with the first selection 'With Joyful Expectancy' by John Parker and David Lantz III.

Other selections include 'Hurry to Bethlehem,' and Mark Hughes' arrangement of 'O Holy Night,' and 'Christmas Peace Canon.' The Canon is a combination of 'Dona Nobis Pacem' and 'Silent Night.'

The concert will "highlight the joy that comes when one is ready and expecting Jesus, the Saviour of the world, to come — both 2000 years ago and again soon as prophesied in the Bible," says Mr. Zinner.

The choir has grown to 50 members who are accompanied by Greg Foreman.

The Christmas concert takes place on Saturday, Dec. 11 beginning at 7 p.m. at Bowmanville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 2850 Hwy. 2, Bowmanville.

Everyone in the community is invited to the concert for which there is no charge. A freewill offering will be accepted during the event.

**Amberlea
church
hosts
Yule
concert**

PICKERING — Members of the public are invited to join a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at Amberlea Presbyterian Church.

The evening of Christmas music will feature the church choir, and special appearances by the junior choir and the 7th Pickering Scout choir.

Refreshments will be served to audience members in the church hall following the concert.

A free will offering will be accepted.

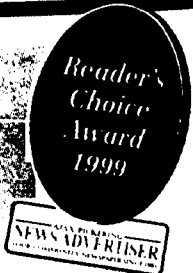
Amberlea church is at 1820 Whites Rd. N., Pickering.

For more information on the event, call 839-1383.

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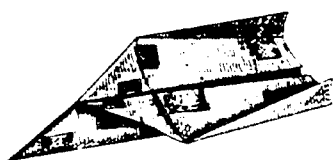


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