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Arts and Entertainment, 8

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Hospital scores average

But officials say information out of date

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

AJAX – The Rouge Valley Health System didn't score badly in a recent provincial hospital report, but officials still contend the evaluation isn't accurate because it's based on out-of-date information.

Rouge Valley, with sites in Ajax and Scarborough, scored at or above the provincial average in most areas of Hospital Reports 2003, which covered acute care, emergency department, complex continuing care and rehabilitation. Anne Marie Males said the reports aren't as helpful as they may

have been in previous years.

"Overall the whole idea of report cards is valuable," said the director of communications for Rouge Valley. "The problem is this report is based on information from 2001-2002 and we've made so many changes to our emergency department and services that it's not that valuable to us."

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Hospital Association released the reports Monday. They were independently prepared by the Hospital Report Research Collaborative and the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The breakdown for individual hospitals are divided into four sections; in patient satisfaction Rouge Valley scored at

♦ See NOT, page 2

Hurdle cleared

City's appeal of Johnson variance dismissed by OMB

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING – The Ontario Municipal Board has upheld a decision to let Rick Johnson and his wife build their retirement home in north Pickering.

The OMB upheld the decision made last March by the City's committee of adjustment to approve the minor variance the Ward 3 regional

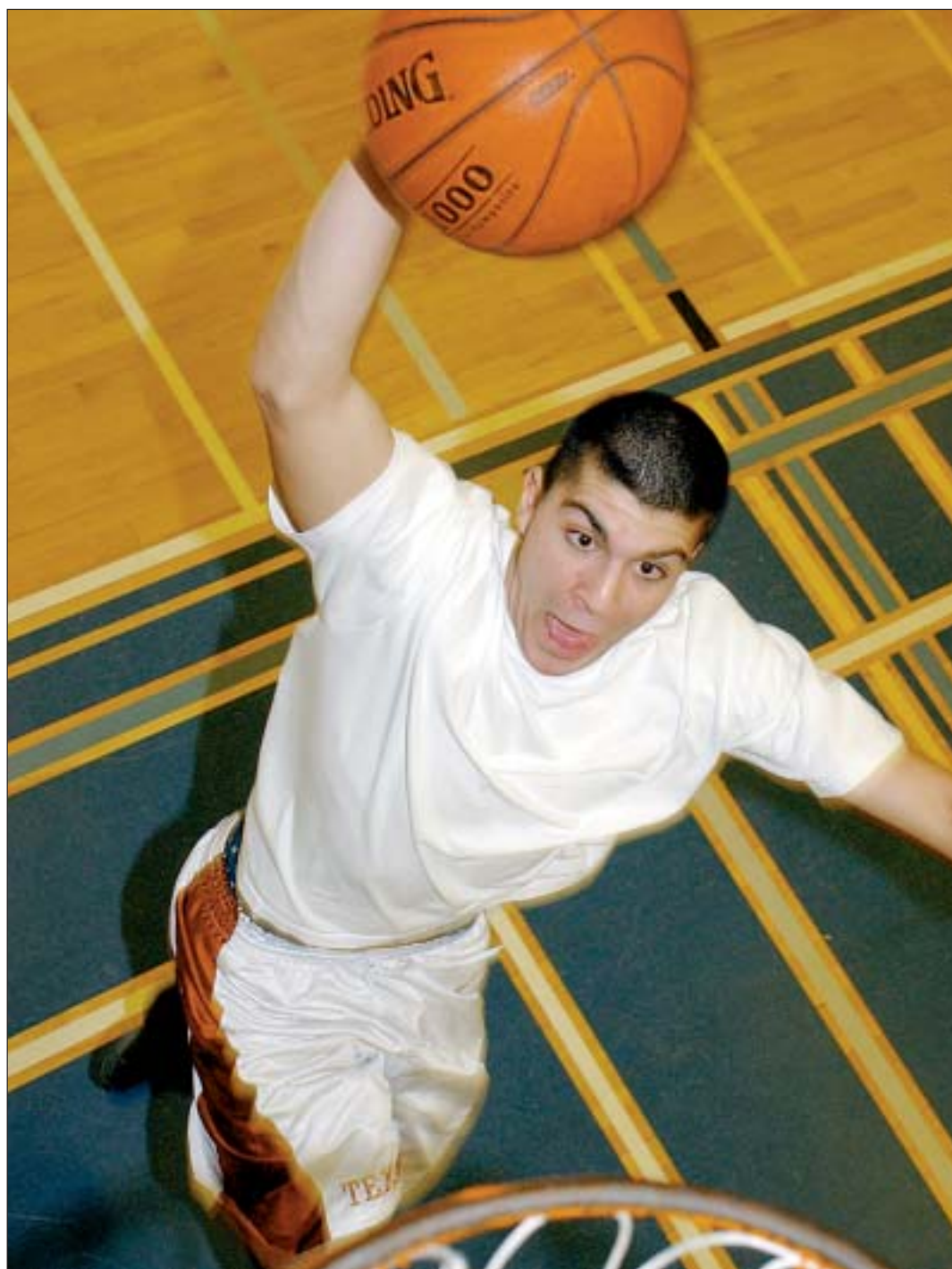
councillor needed to use Uxbridge-Pickering Town Line Road as the frontage for his 100-acre lot.

"Now we have the ability to apply for permits to build on the property," said Coun. Johnson.

The Johnsons are planning to build a home and several barns on the property.

"Since we purchased the property four years ago that's been our plan, to build our retirement home," he

♦ See CITY, page 4



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

This tourney's a slam dunk

PICKERING – Frank Jonke proves he plays above the rim. He and the rest of the St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs are ready to take another shot at winning the News Advertiser/St. Mary Classic senior boys' basketball tournament, getting under way tomorrow. For more details, see Sports, page 10.

Pickering man hit with child pornography charges

PICKERING – A 25-year-old Hewson Drive man faces three charges related to child pornography.

The OPP's child pornography section, called Project P, and the OPP's electronic crime section, in conjunction with Durham Regional Police

arrested and charged the man following a two-month investigation. Yesterday, the OPP and Durham officers executed a search warrant and two computer systems were seized, along with floppy diskettes, compact discs and other items.

Michael William Alexander has been charged with one count of distributing child pornography and two counts of possessing child pornography.

The accused is to appear in Ontario Court of Justice in Oshawa today (Wednesday).

Campaign is taking flight



Maya Basdeo introduces Ariel, a peregrine falcon, to an attentive Grade 4 class at Gandatsetiagon Public School during a recent presentation. They were learning about endangered species.

Peregrine Foundation raises awareness of dwindling populations

By Mike Ruta
Staff Writer

DURHAM – The Grade 4 students inch closer on the floor of Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School's library as Maya Basdeo reaches for the box.

The educator from the Canadian Peregrine Foundation is about to introduce the Ajax students to Ariel, a 20- to 22-year-old female peregrine falcon. Ariel steps on to Ms. Basdeo's arm and the students are impressed when the majestic bird emerges.

Ms. Basdeo and Ariel are on a school visit, one of several to local schools across

Durham this year sponsored by Ontario Power Generation.

"Our whole mission is to help save raptors at risk across Canada; all raptors are birds of prey that kill with their feet," she says, her voice rising for emphasis.

The peregrine is endangered in Ontario and five other provinces, Ms. Basdeo says. The students learn that the insecticide DDT, used for about 30 years in Canada, drastically reduced the population of peregrines because their eggs weren't sturdy enough to survive.

Today, peregrines in southern Ontario generally live in big cities like Toronto.

"Are they nuts?" Ms. Basdeo asks. "Why would a peregrine falcon choose to move to

♦ See Program, page 2

Briefly...

Durham: Attend the January meeting of the Canadian Organic Growers, Durham Chapter for its annual seed exchange.

The meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 28 in the cafeteria at the Durham District School Board's administration building, 400 Taunton Rd. E., Whitby.

Refreshments are provided and members and visitors have the opportunity to share their favourite seeds.

For more information, call Dianne Pazaratz at 905-433-7875.

Durham: Durham's university has appointed Garry Cubitt chairman of its board of governors.

Mr. Cubitt has worked for the Region of Durham for 30 years and is currently its chief administrative officer. The Oshawa resident will serve a one-year term as the University of Ontario Institute of Technology's chairman.

Also appointed to a one-year term, as vice chairman, is Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann. She is program leader of the Lakeridge Health Corporation's maternal child program.

The UOIT appointed KPMG partner Beth Wilson as a community member on the board, while Joanna Campbell, Dr. Christa Colyer, Pierre Hinse and Manon Lemonde were elected governors.

Durham: The Canadian Cancer Society is looking for a few sets of wheels.

Volunteer drivers are needed to take cancer patients to appointments, with more now being scheduled in the evening and on weekends. Drivers pick up patients, take them to their appointments, and then return them to their homes after the treatment.

Across Durham Region, 145 drivers delivered 800 people to 7,500 cancer-related appointments last year.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, should call the Canadian Cancer Society's Durham unit at 905-430-5770.

What's On...

Durham: Westney Heights Baptist Church is hosting a men's breakfast on the last day of January.

The Saturday, Jan. 31 breakfast is from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the church, 1201 Ravenscroft Rd., Ajax. Don Cousens, mayor of Markham, is the guest speaker.

The price is \$5 at the door, and all men are welcome.

Index...

Editorial Page, 6
Entertainment, 8
Sports, 10
Classified, 11

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Rouge Valley gets credit for its services

Health system receives highest rating in evaluation

AJAX - Rouge Valley Health System has received the highest evaluation rating possible.

Rouge Valley was granted last year a full, three-year accreditation from the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

"To get a three-year accreditation is quite a significant achievement because it is the highest you can get. We've gotten it in the past but to get it with SARS and everything is quite a coup," said Katie Cronin-Wood, vice-president of communications.

Accreditation is a national, voluntary system for assessing quality in health-care organizations. As part of this process, a surveying team made up of professionals from other hospitals toured both the Scarborough and Ajax Rouge Valley sites, examining all aspects of the orga-

Program is for the birds

♦ Program from page 1

downtown Toronto?"

After watching a short video excerpt, the students have the answer. The tall buildings in the city are like the mountains and other high places where peregrines prefer to nest. There's lots of their favourite prey, pigeons, as well. In addition, it's warmer in the city than in the wild, and there are less predators there.

Before coming to the foundation, Ms. Basdeo says Ariel worked for the Canadian government, laying eggs to help repopulate the country with falcons. At less than a kilo, Ariel isn't the biggest bird in the sky. But Ms. Basdeo says when peregrines are in a hunting dive, or stoop, they have been clocked at speeds of 400 km/h. The bird hurtles down at an unsuspecting bird, slamming into it and breaking its neck, she says. Ms. Basdeo says the birds have baffles in their nose, "like a series of plugs," to prevent too much air from surging into their heads when they're travelling at such high speeds - and so they can breathe.

Ariel's a bit edgy, flapping her wings, but the students don't mind: they want to see her fly. No dice, says Ms. Basdeo: Ariel isn't toilet trained.

In an interview she explains the bird's jumpy because there's a window behind her and her natural instincts are triggered. Even though the shade is drawn, Ariel can see outside and doesn't like that something could sneak up on her from behind.

Stephen McElhinney was amazed at how big Ariel appeared once she spread her wings, and the fact peregrines prefer to live in a city environment like Toronto.

Cole has an answer when asked why we should care if there are peregrines around or not.

"They keep down the population of pigeons," he says. "If the population grew too big, that would be a problem. There would be poop everywhere."

Ms. Basdeo, who travels around the province, says students most often ask if the bird's head can turn completely around. The answer is it can turn halfway.

She says there are no peregrine nest sights in Durham, but the birds sometimes pass through the region on far-flung travels.

For more information on the Canadian Peregrine Foundation, visit www.peregrine-foundation.ca.

nization, and interviewing staff, doctors and patients.

Ms. Cronin-Wood said the accreditation proves the health system passed a rigorous process and has high standards.

"It shows you're committed to patients and to quality care," she said.

More than 100 people participated in the process and prepared the hospital sites for the

surveyors.

Some of the highlights of the report from the council regarding Rouge Valley included the cardiac program's use of the cardiac care community advisory group, which was highlighted as a best practice nationwide, and the organization's response to and handling of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

"We're very pleased with this

report - it is extremely positive," says Hume Martin, Rouge Valley president. "The surveyors made special note of a number of projects that I know staff worked very hard on, so it's gratifying to see that hard work pay off.

"Despite the many challenges we faced this year, like SARS, we kept quality patient care as our focus, and I think this report reflects that focus."

Not many surprises

♦ NOT from page 1

the provincial average in all areas except support services where it came in just below the average; in system integration and change it scored at the provincial average in all areas including co-ordination of care, continuity of care and supporting hospital staff; and in financial performance and conditions, Rouge Valley's expenses exceeded its revenues, as did many community hospitals.

Rouge Valley fared best in clinical utilization and outcomes, where it scored above average in access to coronary angiography and hysterectomy length of stay, while it scored at the provincial average in all other areas.

"There weren't a lot of surprises in there, we would have liked it if some of them (the scores) were better, but given the volume we weren't surprised," Ms. Males said. She added the hospital was pleased with its scores in continuing care and the 42.1

Where the hospital ranks

DURHAM - Here is a sampling of some of the scores Rouge Valley Health System received from Hospital Reports 2003. The brackets indicate how the hospital ranks against others in Ontario.

Patient satisfaction:		
Physician care	support services	unit-based care
83.2-84.8 per cent (avg.)	73.3-75.4 (below average)	84.5-86.8 (average)
Clinical utilization and outcomes:		
Asthma readmissions	hysterectomy	stroke length of stay (days)
0.6-4.7 (average)	0.7-1.3 (average)	4.9-7.9 (average)
System integration and change		
Co-ordination of care	supporting hospital staff	continuity of care
79.9-82.1 (average)	62.2-67.7 (average)	84.6-87 (average)

to 69.8 per cent it received in access to coronary angiography, which is the percentage of heart attack patients who received the test to measure the flow of blood through the heart. The average for hospitals was only 29.5 per cent.

"We're at the provincial average in most areas and above average in a few and we're very happy with that," Ms. Males said. She said as Rouge Valley only received the report Monday, departments hadn't yet had a chance to sit down and decide

which areas to build on.

"That's what we use them for. We take those reports and sit down and go over them," she said. "We just go through and see what areas we can improve on."

Provincewide the reports overall showed patients are satisfied with the care they receive in hospitals. A copy of the report is available on the OHA Web site at www.oha.com.

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Note:

The AGCO gives the applicant copies of any objections.

Submissions to be sent to:

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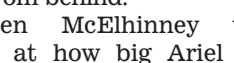
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Pay raise is too little, too late

Minimum-wage increase not enough, critics warn Liberals

By Shelley Jordan
Staff Writer

DURHAM - The Ontario Liberals are raising the adult minimum wage from \$6.85 to \$7.15. But, while the hike will affect approximately 11 per cent of workers provincially, critics argue the increase is not enough.

"It's far below the poverty line," said Michael Desroches, of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty. "The minimum-wage increase is barely up with inflation."

The Ministry of Labour reports minimum wage has been frozen for nine years and will be raised incrementally to \$8 per hour by 2007. As well, minimum wage for students under 18 will be immediately increased to \$6.70 from \$6.40 per hour beginning Feb. 1, and will rise incrementally to \$7.50 per hour by 2007.

The ministry advocates phasing increases in over time to allow companies time to adjust to the increased cost of doing business. Bob Malcolmson, CEO and general manager for the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce is concerned young workers will suffer as small businesses feel the crunch.

"It's a competitive market out there," he said. "(Businesses) have to determine where to save money. If students working 20 hours per week to save for college are cut back to 15, they'll end up losing money."

To illustrate his point, Mr. Malcolmson says a company with 50 student employees working 20 hours per week would cost the company an additional \$1,150 or 157 work hours.

Stephanie Skelton, a third-year marketing student at Durham College says she doesn't think the boost will make much of a difference to young workers.

"Most students work part-time," she said. "Most of us will be out of school and have good jobs by the time they raise it to \$8. Nobody will be blown away."

While young workers are unlikely to notice a change, Mr. Desroches says the increase by the Liberal government is almost entirely without significance for poor working families.

"\$10 an hour would make a difference in quality of life, but for anyone trying to live on less than that, it's far below the poverty line."

According to the government-funded Career Circuit Canada, which operates a network of non-profit youth employment services agencies, inflation has climbed 15 per cent since 1995. During the same period, the minimum wage remained frozen. For a single person living in a city of 100,000 to 500,000, Statistics Canada sets the poverty line, or Low Income Cut-off (LICO) at \$16,407. After the hike takes effect, an individual earning minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will earn a gross annual income of \$14,872.

John O'Toole, MPP for Durham Region says the solution is tying minimum wage to the consumer price index or inflationary index formula.

"I believe all people should receive adequate employment, that's the first requirement," said Mr. O'Toole.

"It's not an easy tightrope for the government to walk," added Mr. Malcolmson. "Businesses coming into Canada are looking for qualified labour, wages and tax rates. They may make a choice in another province or jurisdiction."

The minimum hourly wages across Canada are as follows: British Columbia, \$8; Alberta, \$5.90; Saskatchewan, \$6.65; Manitoba, \$6.75; Quebec, \$7.30; New Brunswick, \$6.20;

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Winds of change

Interest growing in Durham for turbine energy

By Keith Gilligan
Staff Writer

DURHAM - A new group in Durham Region is trying to find out if Bob Dylan was right about the answer blowing in the wind.

For the past few months, the group has been meeting to examine the possibility of developing a wind turbine industry in Durham.

"We started out looking at hydro and energy and we moved on to wind energy," says Pat Olive, the Region's economic development commissioner.

Frank Grieco of PR Engineering in Oshawa adds, "We're trying to get a (larger) group together. There are a few people in (already)."

He noted in Durham there is an extensive wind turbine technology and expertise base, pointing to turbines at the Pickering nuclear generating station and also one on the Toronto lakefront near the CNE grounds.

Mr. Grieco's company helps in the manufacture of large bases and towers for the units, while he says others have skills in designing turbines.

There is also "one of the few groups to do installations, and some inventors in wind turbine concepts," he says. "Some have electrical know-how with turbines."

"We have a nice blend of people. We can merge and potentially we can put Durham on the map for wind turbine technology."

He notes, however, "We have a



PAT OLIVE

"They want to see if they can get into the market on a bigger scale."

long way to go."

The group sprang from "a few of us having done a little work on it. We had a number of meetings at Pat's office. It was during those that various people came together,"

Mr. Grieco says. "We have some pretty good expertise in and around the area and we didn't know this until we started putting out the word."

"It's not just a matter of manufacturing these things. There's a lot involved in this. We had a core in the area, business people get together and throw ideas together. This is one that fell out of a group discussion."

Mr. Olive adds, "They've been meeting as a small little group. They want to see if they can get into the market on a bigger scale."

There's still much to be done to get to that point, but progress is being made, says Mr. Grieco.

"We're still talking, still formulating how and what each of the parties can bring to the table," he adds. "It's premature to launch anything, but we are making steps towards that."

He said there are government grants and subsidies available for locating a manufacturing facility.

"The (federal) government dropped the ball on ITER," said Mr. Grieco. "We have to do something. It was a heartbreak for our area."



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Pay raise is too little, too late

Minimum-wage increase not enough, critics warn Liberals

By Shelley Jordan
Staff Writer

DURHAM - The Ontario Liberals are raising the adult minimum wage from \$6.85 to \$7.15. But, while the hike will affect approximately 11 per cent of workers provincewide, critics argue the increase is not enough.

"It's far below the poverty line," said Michael Desroches, of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty. "The minimum-wage increase is barely up with inflation."

The Ministry of Labour reports minimum wage has been frozen for nine years and will be raised incrementally to \$8 per hour by 2007. As well, minimum wage for students under 18 will be immediately increased to \$6.70 from \$6.40 per hour beginning Feb. 1, and will rise incrementally to \$7.50 per hour by 2007.

The ministry advocates phasing increases in over time to allow companies time to adjust to the increased cost of doing business. Bob Malcolmson, CEO and general manager for the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce is concerned young workers will suffer as small businesses feel the crunch.

"It's a competitive market out there," he said. "(Businesses) have to determine where to save money. If students working 20 hours per week to save for college are cut back to 15, they'll end up losing money."

To illustrate his point, Mr. Malcolmson says a company with 50 student employees working 20 hours per week would cost the company an additional \$1,150 or 157 work hours.

Stephanie Skelton, a third-year marketing student at Durham College says she doesn't think the boost will make much of a difference to young workers.

"Most students work part-time," she said. "Most of us will be out of school and have good jobs by the time they raise it to \$8. Nobody will be blown away."

While young workers are unlikely to notice a change, Mr. Desroches says the increase by the Liberal government is almost entirely without significance for poor working families.

"\$10 an hour would make a difference in quality of life, but for anyone trying to live on less than that, it's far below the poverty line."

According to the government-funded Career Circuit Canada, which operates a network of non-profit youth employment services agencies, inflation has climbed 15 per cent since 1995. During the same period, the minimum wage remained frozen. For a single person living in a city of 100,000 to 500,000, Statistics Canada sets the poverty line, or Low Income Cut-off (LICO) at \$16,407. After the hike takes effect, an individual earning minimum wage and working 40 hours per week will earn a gross annual income of \$14,872.

John O'Toole, MPP for Durham Region says the solution is tying minimum wage to the consumer price index or inflationary index formula.

"I believe all people should receive adequate employment, that's the first requirement," said Mr. O'Toole.

"It's not an easy tightrope for the government to walk," added Mr. Malcolmson. "Businesses coming into Canada are looking for qualified labour, wages and tax rates. They may make a choice in another province or jurisdiction."

The minimum hourly wages across Canada are as follows: British Columbia, \$8; Alberta, \$5.90; Saskatchewan, \$6.65; Manitoba, \$6.75; Quebec, \$7.30; New Brunswick, \$6.20;

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Winds of change

Interest growing in Durham for turbine energy

By Keith Gilligan
Staff Writer

DURHAM - A new group in Durham Region is trying to find out if Bob Dylan was right about the answer blowing in the wind.

For the past few months, the group has been meeting to examine the possibility of developing a wind turbine industry in Durham.

"We started out looking at hydro and energy and we moved on to wind energy," says Pat Olive, the Region's economic development commissioner.

Frank Grieco of PR Engineering in Oshawa adds, "We're trying to get a (larger) group together. There are a few people in (already)."

He noted in Durham there is an extensive wind turbine technology and expertise base, pointing to turbines at the Pickering nuclear generating station and also one on the Toronto lakefront near the CNE grounds.

Mr. Grieco's company helps in the manufacture of large bases and towers for the units, while he says others have skills in designing turbines.

There is also "one of the few groups to do installations, and some inventors in wind turbine concepts," he says. "Some have electrical know-how with turbines."

"We have a nice blend of people. We can merge and potentially we can put Durham on the map for wind turbine technology."

He notes, however, "We have a



JOHN O'TOOLE

Tie minimum wage to the consumer price index or inflationary index formula.

Minimum wage increase schedule:

Date	General Rate	Under 18
Feb. 1, 2004	\$7.15	\$6.70
Feb. 1, 2005	\$7.45	\$6.95
Feb. 1, 2006	\$7.75	\$7.25
Feb. 1, 2007	\$8	\$7.50

Nova Scotia, \$6.25; Prince Edward Island, \$6.50; Newfoundland, \$6; Yukon, \$7.20; Northwest Territories, \$8.25; Nunavut, \$8.50.



PAT OLIVE

"They want to see if they can get into the market on a bigger scale."

long way to go."

The group sprang from "a few of us having done a little work on it. We had a number of meetings at Pat's office. It was during those that various people came together,"

Mr. Grieco says. "We have some pretty good expertise in and around the area and we didn't know this until we started putting out the word."

"It's not just a matter of manufacturing these things. There's a lot involved in this. We had a core in the area, business people get together and throw ideas together. This is one that fell out of a group discussion."

Mr. Olive adds, "They've been meeting as a small little group. They want to see if they can get into the market on a bigger scale."

There's still much to be done to get to that point, but progress is being made, says Mr. Grieco.

"We're still talking, still formulating how and what each of the parties can bring to the table," he adds. "It's premature to launch anything, but we are making steps towards that."

He said there are government grants and subsidies available for locating a manufacturing facility.

"The (federal) government dropped the ball on ITER," said Mr. Grieco. "We have to do something. It was a heartbreak for our area."



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Road accidents on the rise in Durham

By Shelley Jordan
Staff Writer

DURHAM - Durham Regional Police are warning the public to slow down after a rash of fatal accidents.

Icy roads, alcohol and poor driving resulted in six serious collisions and have left seven people dead so far this year. Sergeant Paul Malik of the Durham Regional Police says Ajax experienced one fatal and one non-fatal accident; Pickering and Brock each had one fatal accident; Oshawa had two and Whitby had one. While Clarington was the site of one serious accident near Newtonville that sent two to hospital, neither the municipality nor Scugog Township have reported any traffic-related fatalities.

In contrast, Durham Regional Police were called in January 2003 to one fatal collision that resulted from a driver having a heart attack. There were no fatalities last January, though there were two other serious collisions.

Between 5 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday while the region was under a winter storm watch, 15 accidents were re-

ported. Two of the accidents were serious but not fatal. The previous Tuesday when weather was favourable but cold, there were 12 accidents.

"Obviously, people listened to the weather report coming out of Toronto and adjusted their driving according to conditions," said Sergeant Malik.

The Traffic Services Branch says speed was a contributing factor in collisions in 2004, but unfamiliarity with roads and alcohol were also factors. Winter storms over the weekend are being blamed for 16 fatal crashes in the northern U.S. The weather system dumped sleet, snow and freezing rain over the area before settling over southern Ontario midweek.

To help remind drivers to slow down, traffic-enforcement officers will be issuing tickets. To avoid getting one, police are advising drivers to obey all rules of the road.

Speed signs suggest the maximum safe speed for driving under ideal road conditions. Drivers should adjust their speed according to conditions.

Police probe double-stabbing

PICKERING - Two Pickering men received minor stab wounds during a weekend confrontation outside a Bayly Street convenience store, police say.

A 22-year-old was slashed in the arm and his 23-year-old associate was stabbed in his side and leg during an altercation with two other men, which police believe occurred sometime Friday night in the area of 893

Bayly St.

Durham Regional Police said the injured victims, who were uncooperative with investigators and provided few details of the incident, drove themselves to Rouge Valley Health Ajax early Saturday.

The pair were treated with stitches and released. The investigation is continuing into the attack and no description of the suspects was available.

City appeal turned down by OMB

◆ CITY from page 1

said, adding he was happy with the outcome.

The variance from the committee of adjustment was needed because Town Line Road is a non-publicly maintained roadway. Getting approval to build on a non-publicly maintained roadway is not uncommon, Coun. Johnson said, and it is a process several of his neighbours have had to go through.

Pickering council disagreed with the decision of the committee of adjustment and decided by a 4-2 vote to launch an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in April. Coun. Johnson declared a conflict of interest and didn't vote.

Ward 1 Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner had disagreed with the committee of adjustment's decision.

"The Ontario Municipal Board hearing dealt at arm's-length from the municipality and obviously we will adhere to the recommendation of the Ontario Municipal Board," he said.

The Durham and Toronto Region conservation authorities were also part of the appeal as the property is part of the Oak Ridges Moraine and abuts Toronto Region Conservation lands.

Coun. Brenner said although the OMB upheld the committee of adjustment's decision, it also upheld the standards and conditions pertaining to the use of the road contained in the original agreement.

"The decision grants the variance but still adheres to the safeguards that the City had in place with the applicant," he said.

Coun. Johnson said four days were set aside for the hearing, but it wrapped up in four hours Jan. 19 with the only verbal evidence being given by his planner.

With the decision coming down in his favour, Coun. Johnson is also seeking costs from the three parties that appealed the original decision.

He doesn't plan on applying for a permit until all matters are settled. "Until we get the legal bills out of the way we won't apply for a building permit," he said.



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

Snowed under

PICKERING - Glenanna Street resident Ed Hoiko had the snow coming right back at him as he tried to keep up with the snow falling on his driveway Tuesday. The weather caused many traffic accidents and even cancelled some GO train routes between Union Station and Pickering.

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City's fingers are crossed

Mayor, CAO looking for provincial support

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING - Mayor Dave Ryan is optimistic about a meeting tomorrow (Thursday) with the minister of municipal affairs.

Mayor Ryan and chief administrative officer Thomas Quinn are meeting with Minister John Gerretsen to ask for a commitment from the Province to participate in the City's growth management study.

"I view this as a positive step that he's going to sit down with us," Mayor Ryan said, adding the City wasn't able to get anyone to meet with it under the previous provincial government.

The growth management study is going to guide development in central Pickering, which includes the provincially owned Seaton lands and examine the city's urban boundary.

Mayor Ryan said Pickering wants input from the Province in order to meet the growth needs of the City, as well as the needs of the provincial government in terms of the land swap involving Seaton. In order to decrease the number of new homes built in a development on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill, the Province swapped land with the developer in Seaton. The City still has no details about the swap.

The second phase of the growth management study should be finished next month. Public consultations on the second phase are expected in April.

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Survey says... feedback unnecessary

Strategic plan surveyed teachers, school councils and board staff

By Mike Ruta
Staff Writer

DURHAM - Durham Directions, the public school board's strategic plan, is in the hands of trustees for possible amendments -- but does anybody care?

The written survey portion of the plan review -- 1,715 were returned to the Durham District School Board -- asked respondents how important it is for the board to share information with the community about the development and monitoring of the plan. Just one in three respondents, in a group that included teachers, school council members and board staff, felt it was "very important" to do so.

"It might tell us that we need to communicate the plan more than we have in the past," education director Craig Burch said in an interview.

He noted 44 per cent of school principals, the highest of any stakeholder group, felt it was important. Asked how well ingrained the plan is in the system, seven of 10 administrators said it was a "well refined and routine practice."

"They are the people we want this to be in front of," said Mr. Burch. "I hope the next time we review this, it will be higher."

At the Jan. 19 board meeting, he asked trustees to answer a number of questions posed by the review, which in addition to the survey included stakeholder review groups. Trustees will make suggestions in a private session, possibly this week, before the first draft of the amended plan comes back to a public meet-



CRAIG BURCH
'I hope the next time we review this, it will be higher.'

ing.

What Mr. Burch calls "themes of change" coming out of the review prompted him to ask trustees if the board's mission statement should include the phrase, "in a safe learning environment." It currently reads, "students will be prepared to embrace the challenges and inspired to create opportunities for their futures in a dynamic and complex society."

He also asked if the mission statement should include a reference to staff and/or parents.

Mr. Burch said the results of one survey question were a "surprise." The questionnaire asks how important it is to share the board's survey of student attitudes. Overall, one in three respondents felt it was very important.

He says student attitudes are to be taken seriously and he would

"strongly argue" against the survey being discontinued.

Mr. Burch wants the new plan to be finished by the end of the school year.

The survey results also show:

- Only 23 per cent of stakeholders

believe it's very important that students' performance on provincial tests be shared with the public.

- Just 38 per cent of parents feel the board as a matter of course shares how educational dollars are spent, though 81 per cent feel it's

very important.

- Ninety-two per cent of stakeholders say a program focus on literacy and numeracy is very important, and 91 per cent feel it is a "well-refined and routine practice" in schools.

Don't drink and ride

By Shelley Jordan
Staff Writer

DURHAM - Snowmobilers can cut the risk of injury by heeding a few safety tips - and not drinking and riding.

"One of the main things we're recommending is to stick to zero alcohol until after you're home and out of your suit," said Sheri Devereaux, public safety nurse with Durham Region Health Department.

Ms. Devereaux says alcohol is not antifreeze and can contribute to hypothermia.

"Alcohol is involved in over 70 per cent of snowmobiling fatalities," she said. Other factors Ms. Devereaux says can make the sport dangerous is excessive speed and not knowing the environment.

"A lot of collisions happen off trails with obstacles like fallen trees, rocks and stumps. Stick to trails," she said.

Ms. Devereaux says most accidents happen at night between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., mainly because there's an inability to see far enough ahead to notice hazards.

"Also, people get lost at night and can succumb to hypothermia," she said. While the health department is against snowmobiling across ice, it has tips for riders who choose to take the risk.

"Wear a floater suit and carry ice picks in a fanny pack," said Ms. Devereaux. "If you go through, kick and swim to the ice edge and use picks to grab the ice end and move along until you get to ice thick enough so you can pull yourself out."

"Think ahead, but better yet, always travel in pairs."

For more information on snowmobile safety call the Health Department at 905-723-8521 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2545.

Take care out on the snowmobile trails

David Arama, a survival-skills teacher from WSC Survival School Inc. and Durham College, recommends snowmobilers leave an emergency trip plan with authorities or loved ones and carry kits in case of a breakdown or emergency.

Kit for sled:

- Extra warm clothes, such as woollens and fleece (sweater, socks, hat, long johns, etc.)
- Bearpaw shoes, or lightweight aluminum snowshoes in case you have to hike out or stay put.
- Personal flotation suit or vest (worn) in case you crack though the ice or find open water.
- Communication equipment such as a VHS radio or satellite phone.
- Space blankets, 8x12 lightweight Bivy tent, lightweight minus 35-degree Thinsulate or Polarguard sleeping bag, folding saw, chopping knife, rope and duct tape.
- Tin can for boiling water.
- Launching flares, road flares, smoke flares.
- Silva compass and 1:50,000 topographical maps of your route, GPS unit.
- First aid supplies

- High energy, non-freezing foods like granola bars, trail mix, lard and margarine, power bars.

Items that can be stored in a fanny pack in waterproof containers include:

Ice-picks, cellphone, extra socks, hat, compass or GPS unit, maps, first-aid supplies, high-energy foods, waterproof matches, flint stick, fuel cubes, candles, flares

Mr. Arama says it's possible to break down or have an accident 20 to 100 kilometres from civilization on a typical day out on the trails. He adds most lost victims are located in the first 24-48 hours if they remain stationary and avoid further mishaps by staying put. Mr. Arama recommends learning how to use a compass, GPS unit and topographical maps. Survival and first-aid training courses are available.

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heritage and cultural diversity
Sat. February 14th at 11:00 am
Pickering Town Centre
(Centre Court)
For info or to participate
call 905.420.4660 x 2099**

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cityofpickering.com

24 Hour Access 905.420.4660

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS AT CITY HALL

DATE	MEETING	TIME
February 2	City Council Meeting	7:30 pm
February 9	Executive Committee Meeting	7:30 pm
February 11	Committee of Adjustment Meeting	7:00 pm
February 12	Pickering Museum Village Advisory Committee Meeting	7:00 pm

**All meetings are open to the public.
For meeting details call
905.420.2222 or visit our website.**

2003 Civic Awards NOMINATION FORM AVAILABLE

The City of Pickering will once again be presenting Civic Awards to members of the community who have exemplified outstanding service, and to celebrate the activities and achievements of those deserving individuals and local groups.

We invite and encourage you to submit nominations for individuals, groups and businesses who have made a significant contribution to the City of Pickering.

Please note that all nominations must be received by 4:00 pm on **Thursday, February 12, 2004 by:**

**The City of Pickering
Civic Awards Committee
Clerk's Division
Pickering Civic Complex
One The Esplanade
Pickering, Ontario
L1V 6K7**

Nomination Forms are available on the website or at Pickering City Hall, Pickering Libraries and Pickering Recreation Complex.

"CIVIC AWARD DESCRIPTIONS"

Special Citation Award: given to one or more individuals, groups or businesses from Pickering, whose outstanding achievement(s) over the last year or more, within or outside of the City, brought provincial, national or international recognition to the City.

Award for Bravery / Heroism: given to one or more individuals for their selfless act of bravery or heroism within or outside of the City during the last year.

Lifetime Achievement Award: given to one or more individuals living within or outside of Pickering, for a significant contribution over their lifetime, to the betterment of the community.

Individual Volunteer Award: given to one or more individuals who stand out amongst all other valuable individuals in Pickering for their volunteer service to the City over the last year or more.

Service Group Award: given to the service group whose activities stand out amongst all other service groups in Pickering for their contribution and service to the City over the last year.

Community Group Award: given to the community group whose activities stand out amongst all other community groups in Pickering for their contribution and service to the City over the last year.

Amateur Sports Award: given to one or more individuals or teams from Pickering to recognize excellence in amateur sports over the last year.

Youth Volunteer Award: given to one or more Pickering youths for outstanding volunteerism within or outside of the City, over the last year or more.

Youth Leadership Award: given to one or more Pickering youths for outstanding leadership within or outside of the City, over the last year or more.

Arts and Culture Award: given to one or more individuals, groups or businesses from Pickering to recognize significant artistic or cultural achievements within or outside of the City, over the last year or more.

Urban Design Award: given to one or more individuals, groups or businesses for their significant contribution to architecture, urban design, or parks and open space design within the City, over the last year or more.

Economic Development Award: given to one or more businesses from Pickering who have made a significant contribution to the City's economic prosperity over the last year or more.

Local Business Award: given to one or more businesses from Pickering who were outstanding in their support of, and participation with community activities over the last year or more.

Environment Award: given to one or more individuals, groups or businesses from Pickering who have made a significant contribution to conserving or enhancing the City's natural environment.

Healthy Community Award: given to one or more individuals, groups or businesses from Pickering who's actions during the last year or more exemplify the principles and objectives of the City's Healthy Community Initiative.

Please see the website, cityofpickering.com for award descriptions and additional nomination forms.

A selection committee will review the nominations and determine recipients from each of the categories. Award recipients will be notified by Monday, March 15, 2004, and the presentations will take place in the Council Chambers at the Pickering Civic Complex, One The Esplanade on Monday, April 26, 2004.

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Pickering at 905.420.4620, or from telephones in north Pickering at 905.683.2760, or our toll free line at 1.866.683.2760

SALE OF SURPLUS CITY LANDS BY PUBLIC TENDER

TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of those parts of Blocks 7 and 13, Plan 40M-1599, Pickering, designated as Parts 1 and 5, Plan 40R-21767 (Glen Eden Court). Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned no later than 2:00 pm local time:

Wednesday, February 18, 2004.

The tenders will be opened in public on the same day at approximately 2:15 pm

Tenders must be submitted in the form of a signed Agreement of Purchase and Sale which will be provided in the tendering package. Tenders must include a bid deposit in the amount of 10 per cent (10%) of the total tendered amount and have a closing date within 60 days of February 18, 2004.

The City of Pickering makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchaser.

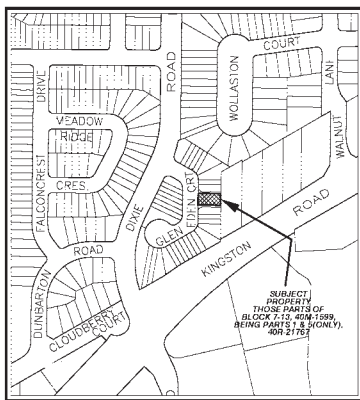
Tendering packages are available from the Corporate Services Department, Supply & Services, upon receipt of a \$10.00 payment made in cash or by cheque payable to the City of Pickering.

Any questions respecting this property please contact Denise Bye, Property & Development Services, 905.420.4660, extension 2052.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

The Corporation of the City of Pickering
Corporate Services Department
Supply & Services, 2nd Floor
One The Esplanade
Pickering, Ontario L1V 6K7

Vera A. Felgemacher, C.P.P.,
CPPO, CPPB, CMM I, CPM
Manager, Supply & Services



Community Cultural & Heritage Associations
You are Invited!
The City of Pickering Advisory Committee on Race Relations and Equity invite's community cultural & heritage associations to participate in their annual
2004 Heritage Day Celebration Event
At Pickering Town Centre (Centre Court)
Saturday, February 14, 2004 starting at 11:00 am
Cultural & Heritage Associations can participate in the event by conducting a performance (dance, song) and/or by providing a display that showcases their heritage.
For more information or to express your interest to participate - please call 905.420.4660 ext. 2099 by February 3, 2004.
Please join us as we celebrate Pickering's rich heritage and cultural diversity!

@ your library™
GST/PST Seminar for Small Businesses
Representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency will present a free, joint seminar on the similarities and differences between the GST and PST on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm in the Central Library. To register, call 905.831.6265 and press 0 or email the library at help@picnet.org
Pickering Public Library

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Makes a great Valentines gift
For more information, call the Pickering Recreation Complex at 905.831.1711

EXPERIENCE ART
at the Pickering Civic Complex
The City of Pickering is committed to furthering arts in our community. "Experience Art" at the Civic Complex is only one of the many ways in which we strive to recognize local artists and bring Arts & Culture to the community. Each year we have a series of painters, illustrators and photographers display their work on the walls of the City of Pickering, Civic Complex.
NAOMI McQUADE-BALOCH
*Paintings in Watercolours & Drypiles
Drawings in Graphite & Charcoal*
Naomi McQuade-Baloch is a Pickering artist who works from her home & studio. Naomi is well versed in a variety of different mediums - setting no boundaries to her art.
Naomi's love for design is the inspiration for her wide range of work which includes graphic design, art direction, set decorating and above all visual arts. Majoring in animation has also been a key influence in her work. As such, Naomi's attention to texture, colour and line can be found in her art.
Naomi lends her talent to the community as Volunteer Art Director for "Kids-safe Productions" - donating her time to help out this local theatre group design and create sets and props.
Naomi's artwork expresses emotion and captures the soul.
Naomi McQuade-Baloch brings life to art that comes to her mind but originates from her heart.
Viewing Times:
Monday to Friday
8:30 am ~ 4:30 pm
January 28th to February 20th
Contact information is available at the Reception Desk.

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A message from the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and the Pickering Fire Services. For more information contact the Pickering Fire Services at Phone: 905.420.4628 or Email: fire@city.pickering.on.ca or visit our website at cityofpickering.com

Lottery mania boosts charities

Cash for Cancer campaign back to help new Durham centre

By Lesley Bowie
Staff Writer

DURHAM — It may sound funny, but Trish Thompson can't remember what kind of car she won three years ago in the Cash for Cancer Lottery.

"I didn't keep it because it wasn't big enough. I have four children," she explained.

"I traded it in at a dealership and upgraded to a van."

Needless to say, she's been a faithful ticket holder in the lottery ever since, going in on them with relatives and even purchasing them as gifts.

"I just thought it was something I wanted to support," said Ms. Thompson, of the lottery, which raises money for the Durham Region Cancer Centre at Lakeridge Health Oshawa.

A redevelopment project leader at the hospital, Ms. Thompson already has her ticket for this year's draw. She's not alone.

Just a few weeks into its fifth run, the Cash for Cancer Lottery has already sold more than 80 per cent of its 86,000 tickets, priced at \$100 each.

The number of charitable lotteries is steadily growing in Ontario. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario issued 12 lottery licenses to charities in 2003, com-



JIM SZEMAN
Careful to do a lot of research beforehand.

pared to only seven in 1998.

Among those hosting a lottery this year are the Princess Margaret Hospital (which is conducting two this year), the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Society,

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the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Ottawa Hospital Foundation.

Each lottery brings respective ticket-holders the hope of winning a \$1-million grand prize, cars and trucks, exotic vacations and, as in the case of the Cash for Cancer Lottery, a Muskoka dream cottage.

Coming back each year with "different twists" in the form of unique prizes and early bird draws is what has made the Cash for Cancer lottery such a success, said its founder Jim Szeman.

He credits a well-thought-out formula for the \$9 million the lottery has raised since its inception five years ago.

"We were very careful to do a lot of research beforehand," said the executive director of the Oshawa General Hospital Foundation.

The number of tickets has been intentionally kept to a modest number to allow the Cash for Cancer Lottery to maintain what Mr. Szeman says are among the best

odds in Canada, one in 7.

Your chances of winning all six numbers in the Lotto 649 draw are one in 13 million, according to the game's Web site.

"We also don't use consultants to manage our lottery. I do it," Mr. Szeman said, estimating the move saves the lottery almost \$120,000 in consultant fees annually.

A lot of the prizes are either donated or negotiated down in price with partnering businesses. The Cash for Cancer lottery is also careful to stretch its advertising dollars as much as possible.

Of the \$8.6 million the lottery is expected to pull in this year, Mr. Szeman anticipates \$2.5 to \$3 million will be left after administration costs, prizes, and licensing fees, to go towards the cancer centre.

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) charges a lottery license fee equal to 3 per cent of the lottery's prize value - that's the retail value of prizes, too, pointed out Mr. Sze-

man.

"You have to be careful not to saturate the market," he added. "I think it's important to stick to only one lottery in a 12-month period. When others try to do more that's when they run into trouble."

Even with the better odds going for them, charitable lotteries aren't a concern for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC), which operates such weekly draws as Lotto 649 and Super 7.

"We don't see it as direct competition. They're one-offs. Our games have been played each week for years," said spokesman Theresa Roncon.

The AGCO sets aside \$100 million of its gaming proceeds each year towards the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Province to distribute to charities and non-profit organizations.

If hospitals and some of these other groups can raise money through their own lottery, the more power to them, Ms. Roncon said.

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The Canadian Statesman

Oxbridge Times-Journal

Arts & Entertainment

Friday flicks

Check out what's
new in movies
Friday's entertainment

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004 ♦ News Advertiser ♦ DAVID STELL, NEWS EDITOR, 905-683-5110 EXT. 249

Nothing's as it seems in Buffalo

Little theatre farce
hits stage next week

DURHAM – Members of Oshawa Little Theatre are over the moon about the next production.

"We're having a ball doing it," said director Michael Roantree about 'Moon Over Buffalo' by Ken Ludwig.

"It's a farce so it's got doors and dropped pants and mistaken identities," Roantree said. "It's a play of timing and delivery of lines, quick-paced delivery of lines."

The play, OLT's entry in this year's Association of Community Theatres for Central Ontario's festival, features the acting couple George and Charlotte Hay, who are toiling away in a slightly seedy theatre in Buffalo in the early 50s. They hope to someday make it to Hollywood but haven't quite yet.

Then, they learn the great director Frank Capra is looking for replacements for Ronald Coleman and Greer Garson, who've dropped out of his latest project. Capra is coming to look at the Hays.

But, of course, this is a farce and nothing is straightforward or easy, Roantree pointed out. There's a deaf mother, a daughter's new and old boyfriends, misunderstandings and mistaken identities. George and Charlotte end up thinking their daughter's new boyfriend is Capra, thanks to a badly mangled message from Charlotte's deaf mother.

"It gets quite complicated and it's great fun," Roantree said. "They're doing 'Cyrano de Bergerac' and 'Private Lives' in repertory. When Frank Capra is supposedly coming, one group of people thinks one play is being performed and the other group thinks the other play is being performed. It's quite a contrast."

The eight-member cast has been rehearsing for several months. George is played by Steve Foote, well-known in local community theatre. Charlotte is Shari Thorne-Kowalski, who was seen in OLT's 'Streetcar Named Desire' last season.

'Moon Over Buffalo' runs Feb. 5 to 21 at 8 p.m. with a matinee Feb. 15. OLT is located on Russett Avenue in north Oshawa. For ticket information, call 905-723-0282.

Showing us how it's done



The work of Naomi McQuade-Baloch can be viewed until Feb. 20 at the Pickering Civic Complex. This is the first exhibit for the Pickering artist, who showcases paintings and drawings.

Pickering artist enjoys first exhibit, teaches tricks of trade to community

By Jeff Hayward
Special to the News Advertiser

PICKERING – A local artist knows success is a hard thing to come by — but is helping others achieve that dream.

Pickering artist Naomi McQuade-Baloch is currently enjoying her first solo show, a collection of unique paintings and drawings on display during regular business hours at the Pickering Civic Complex until Feb. 20.

Yet despite keeping busy working in fine arts, graphic design, art direction and set decorating, she still finds time to help kids develop their skills.

McQuade-Baloch is a volunteer art director for a local theatre group, Kid-Safe Productions, where she uses her experience to guide aspiring performers in the design and creation of set props.

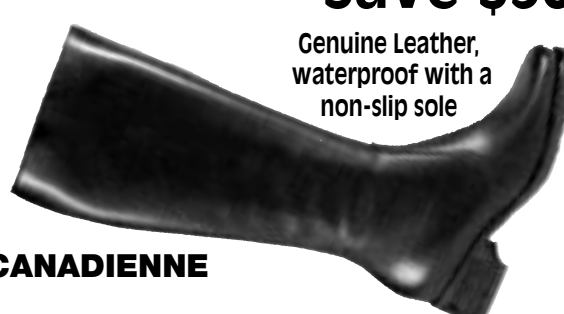
"They're a wonderful group," she said. "I'm helping out kids who have self-esteem issues; it's a great cause."

McQuade-Baloch said she has considered being a teacher in the past, but her artwork now occupies her time.

"It took years of volunteering (in the art field) to get where I am," she explained. "You have to get your foot in the door, you have to get your name out there... you have to do your share of the grunt work."

A lot of her inspiration comes from her foster father, and she's building interest in a new generation as well.

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Sports & Recreation

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004 ♦ News Advertiser ♦ AL RIVETT, SPORTS EDITOR 905-683-5110 EXT. 250

A Classic in the making

Who's who at hoops Classic

G.L. Roberts CVI, Oshawa
Team name: Lakers
Coach: John Pfeifer
League: LOSSA 'AA'
Record: 7-0 (league); 12-3 (overall)
Strengths: Great shooting team.
Weaknesses: Defensive rotation.
Players to watch: Point guard Amit Sieukumar, power forward Tysen Eteii.
Coach's prediction: "We are a young team, mostly Grade 11s. They need to play tougher competition to get better."

Peterborough CVI
Team name: Raiders
Coach: Dave Goulding
League: COSSA (Central Ontario)
Record: 8-0 (league); 26-6 (overall)
Strengths: Solid inside game; won Heimbuck tournament in Waterloo.
Weaknesses: Losses to Eastern Commerce, Father Goetz twice, Windsor St. Anne's, Hamilton Sherwood, Georgetown.
Players to watch: Forward Greg Surmacz, centre Tom Baginski, guard Chris White.
Coach's prediction: "If we show up, we're OK."

St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Brampton
Team name: Cardinals
Coach: Gary Fleming
League: ROPSSAA (Peel Region)
Record: 2-4 (league); 5-4 (overall)
Strengths: Starting to play well as a team; good quickness.
Weaknesses: Team size.
Players to watch: Jeff Darkwah, Dwayne Chung, Andy Smith.
Coach's prediction: "Might surprise a few teams..."

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mississauga
Team name: Crusaders
Coach: Robert Tucci
League: ROPSSAA (Peel Region)
Record: 7-0 (league)
Strengths: Height and speed.
Weaknesses: Consistency.
Players to watch: Joe Dako, David Stephens, Jordan Henry, Patrick Wilson.
Coach's prediction: "Play to our potential."

St. Marguerite d'Youville Secondary School, Mississauga
Team name: Panthers
Coach: Head coach Carlo Zoffranieri.
League: ROPSSAA Northeast Conference (Peel Region)
Record: 6-2 (league); 23-6 (overall)
Strengths: Depth.
Weaknesses: Consistency.
Players to watch: Guards Shane Cox and Jose Araujo.
Coach's prediction: None given.

Pickering High School, Ajax
Team name: Trojans
Coach: Ron Parfitt
League: LOSSA 'AAAA'
Record: 4-3 (league), 15-8 (overall)
Strengths: Plays hard.
Weaknesses: Young.
Players to watch: Steve Lopez, and Eric Roberts.
Coach's prediction: "In tough, may win one game."

St. Joan of Arc High School, Barrie
Team name: Knights
Coach: John Grace
League: Simcoe County
Record: 5-1 (league), 12-4 (overall)
Strengths: Good depth, collective size - no 'real big' guys, but overall height.
Weaknesses: Coming off two-week basketball moratorium due to exams; conditioning might be a concern.
Players to watch: Centre/forward Sebastian Kasiuk, point guard Christian Lucas.
Coach's prediction: "We will be at St. Mary at 1:30 p.m. on Friday."

St. Michael's College School, Toronto
Team name: Blue Raiders
Coaches: Emile John, Vaulton Reece, Jeff Zownir
League: TDCAA
Record: 2-4 (league), 6-11 (overall)
Strengths: Improved drastically from beginning of year - have played difficult schedule; tough team defence; smart team.
Weaknesses: Young team; not a deep bench; can be inconsistent.
Players to watch: 6-foot-5 Dusan Petkovic - leading scorer at St. Mike's tournament; 6-foot-2 forward Charlie Houghton (Grade 11); 5-foot-10 point guard Marcel Hyde (Grade 9).
Coach's prediction: "Will be competitive and may surprise people despite youth of team."



The St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs hope to shoot the lights out at their Classic tournament, set to begin tomorrow. A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

Will the Monarchs reign this year?

News Advertiser-St. Mary event shaping up to be another classic

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

PICKERING — Mike Gordensky has taken his St. Mary Monarchs to the final of their own News Advertiser/St. Mary Classic senior boys' basketball tournament the past two years.

The coach admits, however, getting to that point once again at the 2004 edition of the tournament from Jan. 29 to 31 should prove a tough task indeed.

This year, the third annual tournament has grown from eight to 16 teams, is hosted at two schools (St. Mary and Ajax's Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School) and is spread out over three days of competition. Most importantly, it features many teams currently ranked in the top 20 in the province.

All of that, says Gordensky, makes for an extremely competitive event. And, he notes, the Monarchs will have their mettle supremely tested if they are to reach those heights once again.

"We have a better team this year, but the calibre of the tournament has gone up so much that it will be difficult to make it back to the final," says Gordensky. "If we get by Joan of Arc (in the first round), I have a feeling we could be playing Westview (of Toron-

to) in the second game, which may be the best team in the tournament."

This year's tournament has definitely drawn a strong field of contenders, including the two-time defending champion Pickering High School Trojans of Ajax, which shouldn't be overlooked in its quest for a third consecutive title.

Gordensky predicts any one of seven teams could win, pointing to strong entries from Peterborough Collegiate, Laurier from Scarborough, Markham District Secondary School, Westview, St. Marguerite d'Youville of Mississauga, as well as Pickering High and St. Mary.

Other teams, such as Northern Collegiate, Earl Haig, St. Michael's and Senator O'Connor, all of Toronto, and St. Thomas Aquinas of Brantford, St. Joan of Arc of Barrie and Mount Carmel of Mississauga are unknown quantities, but will still be in the hunt.

Two other Durham Region entries -- the co-host Notre Dame Catholic Secondary Cougars of Ajax and the G.L. Roberts Lakers of Oshawa -- are both having strong seasons, with the Cougars, playing at the Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA) 'AAA' level, and the Lakers competing in LOSSA 'AA'.

As for the Monarchs, Gordensky says this year's edition of the team distributes offence evenly among the backcourt and frontcourt players.

"We're a much more balanced team in terms of scoring," explains Gordensky. "A different player is the high scorer every game. In any given game, seven kids can score in double figures, which is nice."

While last year's team relied heavily on the scoring touch of point guard Sydney Bookal or forward David Ferdinand, this club features a kind of 'pick-your-poison' type of offensive structure. Up front, Erik Glavic and Frank Jonke have led the way.

Of Jonke, Gordensky calls him "a ferocious rebounder. He's probably the most aggressive player I've ever coached at St. Mary."

As well, the team has a host of outstanding guards who are talented ball handlers and distributors, who can also drive to the basket or make the outside shot on a consistent basis. Nathan Thomas, Duane Howard, Sean Maingot and newcomer Jason Bulgin make up a lethal backcourt.

The Monarchs are also blessed with bench depth, with players who can come into the game and provide a spark when needed. Leading the way is Stephen Salvador, who has been a consistent shooter from three-point range. Grade 10 forwards Chris Johnson, Andre Tucker and backup point guard Ryan Lerma have also been important contributors. Rounding out the bench are Tristan Walker, Dan Han, George Lalata and James Buchanan.

The tournament kicks off tomorrow (Thursday) at 3 p.m. with the Peterborough Collegiate Raiders facing the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Blue Devils at St. Mary.

The Trojans draw the St. Michael's College Blue Raiders in their first-round game, at St. Mary on Friday at noon. The Monarchs' first-round contest against the St. Joan of Arc Knights of Barrie follows at 1:30 p.m.

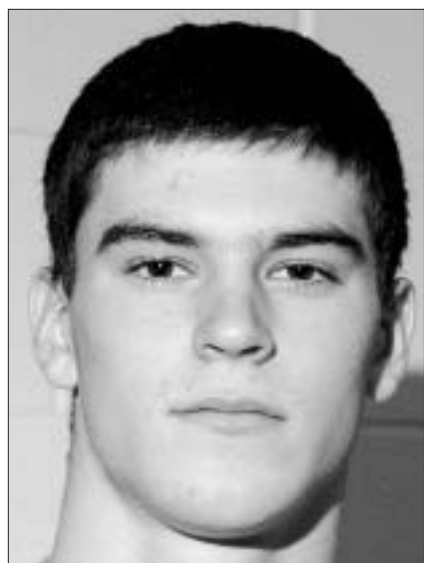
The consolation final is slated for St. Mary Saturday at 6 p.m. The championship goes at 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School is at 1918 Whites Rd. in Pickering, and Notre Dame is at 1375 Harwood Ave. N. in Ajax.

NOTES: St. Mary dropped the inaugural 2002 News Advertiser/St. Mary Classic final to **Pickering High** 72-59. In the 2003 event, the **Trojans** defeated **St. Mary** 67-53 in the final... In addition to **St. Mary** and **Pickering High**, **Laurier** has played in all three events...



NATHAN THOMAS
Monarchs' guard having fine season.



ERIK GLAVIC
St. Mary forward player to watch.

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- Sun., Feb. 1, 2:05 pm vs Kitchener

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Northern Collegiate, Toronto
Team name: Red Knights
Coaches: Ehoud Farine, Jim Hutton
League: TDCAA - South Conference
Record: 3-2 (league), losses to Oakwood, Central Commerce, wins over Jarvis, Western Tech, Central Tech; 7-5 (overall)
Strengths: Discipline, hustle, guard play.
Weaknesses: Rebounding, not a big team.
Players to watch: Guard Simon Farine, forward Yannick Walcott, guard Andrew Day, forward Trevor Potts.
Coach's prediction: None given.

Earl Haig SS, Toronto
Team name: Haigmen
Coach: Eric James
League: TDCAA - North Conference
Record: 6-2 (league); 15-8 (overall)
Strengths: Good overall size.
Weaknesses: Average guard play.
Players to watch: None mentioned.
Coach's prediction: "We could make the final if we play well or we could lose our first two games. That's the nature of my team this year, very inconsistent."

Notre Dame Catholic SS, Ajax
Team name: Cougars
Coach: Shawn O'Hare
League: LOSSA 'AAA'
Record: 8-2 (league); 15-4 (overall)
Strengths: Team speed and defence.
Weaknesses: Plays down or up to opponents; doesn't always come out with a strong effort.
Players to watch: Mike Dahiroc, and Alex DeSilva.
Coach's prediction: "A team that could surprise."

St. Mary Catholic SS, Pickering
Team name: Monarchs
Coaches: Mike Gordensky, Mark McCann
League: LOSSA 'AAAA'
Record: 8-0 (league); 20-7 (overall)
Strengths: Balanced scoring, defence, depth.
Weaknesses: Rebounding.
Players to watch: Erik Glavic, Nathan Thomas, and Jason Bulgin.
Coach's prediction: "Unknown first-round opponent, if we win, will have a very tough second-round in (very probably) Westview. Hoping to make finals on Saturday night, but it will be tough to do so."

Markham District High School
Team name: Marauders
Coach: George Kraus
League: York Region
Record: 7-1 (league); 13-11 (overall)
Strengths: Decent defensive team; look good when playing together and not forcing the offence.
Weaknesses: Lack of quickness and size.
Players to watch: Point guard Andrew Kraus, guard Matt Cole, forwards Mike Folker, Tyler McGarrity and Andrew Hobbs.
Coach's prediction: "Hard to predict. School is coming out of exams and will not have practised for two weeks."

Senator O'Connor College School
Team name: Blues
Coach: Robert DiZio
League: TDCAA - 'A' Division East
Record: 0-7 (league)
Strengths: Core of the team is hard-working, intense, first-year seniors; Andre Daley and Dwight Farren both Grade 11 kids.
Weaknesses: Lacks depth and experience. Playing in a very tough conference. Tough schedule early resulted in a couple losses that could have been wins. Lack of confidence and stress of losing factored in two games noticeably.
Players to watch: Semoi Hines (shooting guard/small forward) a good, steady outside shooter and a good slasher, too.
Coach's prediction: "Although our league record is abysmal, we've been playing much better recently. Intensity on defence is picking up. We're hoping that our best game is yet to come."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI, Scarborough
Team name: Blue Devils
Coach: Mike Jovanov
League: TDCAA - East Division
Record: 7-0 (league); 12-2 (overall), losses to Jean Vanier and Central Commerce.
Strengths: Pressure defence, very athletic, balanced scoring, high tempo -- run, run, run.
Weaknesses: Struggle at times with a slowdown game, especially if we fall behind, (this has not happened often), and opponents pack in a tight zone.
Players to watch: Shevon Thompson and Dale James.
Prediction: "Tough draw for us. If we can get past the first two rounds it means we are playing well and then I like our chances of hopefully winning it all. We will see."

Note: No information was received from Westview Centennial school of Toronto.

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Scoreboard

JANUARY 28, 2004

PICKERING HOCKEY ASSOCIATION									
Week 12 standings - As of Jan. 4									
ATOM DIVISION									
TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		
Dickson Printing	8	6	2	0	32	21	12		
Boyer Pontiac	8	5	1	2	43	34	12		
Alliance Collision	8	5	2	1	32	22	11		
Ontario Power Generation	8	5	3	0	36	24	10		
BMO Mutual Funds	8	4	2	2	25	16	10		
Arnts Loan Supply	8	3	2	3	31	29	9		
Wood Crane Rental	8	3	4	1	16	27	7		
Bay Cycle Sports	8	3	5	0	30	42	6		
Pickering Oldtimers	8	3	5	0	26	37	6		
Mincom New Choice	8	2	5	1	24	39	5		
Re/Max-Paul Etherington	8	1	5	2	22	24	4		
Exit Realty	8	1	5	2	22	24	4		
PEEWEE DIVISION									
TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		
Ontario Power Generation	8	6	2	0	23	16	12		
The Score Television	8	6	2	0	30	26	12		
White Radio	8	6	2	0	29	15	12		
Pickering Honda	8	5	2	1	31	24	11		
Bob Johnson Chev-Olds	8	5	3	0	32	22	10		
Phoenix Search Group	8	3	3	2	20	27	8		
Sporting Images	8	2	3	3	24	24	7		
Boyer Pontiac	8	2	3	3	20	14	7		
Source for Sports	8	3	5	0	23	37	6		
Brian English Foundation	8	2	5	1	21	27	5		
Master Mechanic	8	2	5	1	20	20	5		
Legion 606	8	0	7	1	13	34	1		
BANTAM DIVISION									
TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		
Legend Music	8	6	0	2	24	6	14		
Bay Cycle and Sports	8	5	0	3	35	23	13		
Canadian Custom Carpet	8	5	2	1	23	18	11		
Pickering Oldtimers	8	4	1	3	23	17	11		
A Animal Removal	8	5	3	0	16	15	10		
Canadian Progress Club	8	4	3	1	26	25	9		
Green Geo. Photography	8	4	3	1	20	19	9		
Ryswin Grafik	8	3	2	3	21	19	9		
Pappas Restaurant	8	2	3	3	18	16	7		
Bob Baun Hockey Club	8	2	4	2	23	31	6		
Re/Max-Paul Etherington	8	2	5	1	18	19	5		
Midax Muffler	8	1	5	2	16	20	4		
Knights of Columbus	8	1	7	0	19	36	2		
Ontario Power Generation	8	0	6	2	10	28	2		
MINOR MIDGET DIVISION									
TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS		
Century Small Business	8	6	0	2	45	11	14		
Boyer Pontiac	8	5	2	1	23	23	11		
Port Royal Mills	8	4	3	1	22	22	9		
Bob Johnson Chev-Olds	8	3	3	2	22	17	8		
Auto Trek	8	3	4	1	19	30	7		
Ontario Power Generation	8	2	5	1	10	29	5		
Bay Cycle & Sports	8	2	5	1	13	20	5		
Re/Max-Shayne Lynden	8	2	5	1	6	17	5		

TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Century Small Business	8	6	0	2	45	11	14
Boyer Pontiac	8	5	2	1	23	23	11
Port Royal Mills	8	4	3	1	22	22	9
Bob Johnson Chev-Olds	8	3	3	2	22	17	8
Auto Trek	8	3	3	4	19	30	7
Ontario Power Generation	8	2	5	1	10	29	5
Bay Cycle & Sports	8	2	5	1	13	20	5
Re/Mac-Shayne Lynden	8	2	5	1	6	17	5

MIDGET/JUVENILE DIVISION							
TEAM	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Boyer Pontiac	8	5	1	2	37	27	12
Licks	8	4	3	1	36	32	9
Mr. Transmission	8	3	4	1	37	33	7
Bob Johnson Chev-Olds	8	3	4	1	24	28	7
Bay Cycle & Sports	8	2	3	3	31	40	7
AVR Communications	8	2	4	2	34	39	6

PICKERING SOCCER CLUB							
UNDER-SEVEN DIVISION							
Jan. 4: Pickering Slo Sports 1 (Collin Litterick) vs Parmalat 4 (Andrew Jegg 2, Alonzo Addae, Zachary Palantzas); Label Tech 4 (Kavina Ganeshan, MVP Ashna Ganeshan) vs Jets 1 (Keegan McInall, MVP Mitchell Fisher); Vachon 5 (Alex Arhontakis 3, Dayne St Clair, Frankie Condo, MVP Alex Arhontakis) vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 1 (Jonathan Chetram, MVP Anthony Carignano);							
Jan. 11: Pickering Slo Sports 0 vs Label Tech 1; Jets 0 (MVP Matthew Cammick) vs Vachon 5 (Dayne St Clair 3, Alex Arhontakis, Frankie Condo, MVP Lindsay Arnot); Parmalat 3 (Alonzo Addae 3, MVP Alonzo Addae) vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 1 (Jonathan Chetram);							

UNDER-NINE DIVISION							
Nov. 30: Pickering Slo Sports 1 (Aydan Nankooisingh) vs Sudemaster 2 (Gabriella Banfield, Jayden Dias, MVP Gabriella Banfield; Dr M. Lean 1 (Prashan Rajaratham, MVP Prashan Rajaratham) vs Lightning 1 (Joshua Trentadue, MVP Matthew Mulgrew);							
Dec. 14: Pickering Slo Sports 4 (Aydan Nankooisingh 2, Iain Reid, Sury Thamoatham) vs Sudemaster 1 (Jayden Dias); Lightning 0 vs Dr M. Lean 3 (Byanka Chambers, Alex Houde, Leon Mohorovic, MVP Byanka Chambers and Arjun Vajai); Almost Doesn't Count 1 (DJ Cushman) vs United 0 (MVP Cameron Norlock);							
Jan. 4: United 1 (Matthew Ruscitti, MVP Alexander LeGresley) vs Sudemaster 1; Dr M. Lean 1 (Alexandre Houde, MVP Graham Hart) vs Almost Doesn't Count 0; Pickering Slo Sports 5 (Jamie Reece 3, Iain Reid, Nicolas Servos, MVP Nicolas Servos) vs Lightning 0 (MVP Taylor Easson);							
Jan. 11: Pickering Slo Sports 1 (Jamie Reece) vs United 1 (Nicholas Campbell, MVP Nicholas Campbell); Sudemaster 0 (MVP Jayden Dias) vs Dr M. Lean 3 (Michael Mariano 2, Prashan Rajaratham, MVP Michael Mariano); Lightning 0 (MVP Hadi Abouhad) vs Almost Doesn't Count 1 (Cameron Hepburn, MVP Cameron Hepburn);							

UNDER-11 DIVISION							
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Dec. 14: United Soccer 2 (Ivor Mohorovic, Shane Ples, MVP Shane Ples) vs Binns 1 (Richard Yeates); Ensuro 2 (Ryan Faraone) vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 1 (Michael Wright); Pickering Slo-Sports 0 (MVP Brandon Ralph) vs Lightning (George Meszaros 3, Sahil Chodha 2, MVP Alexandra Maxwell).

Jan. 4: Binns 3 (James Guest, Rizwan Thawer, Richard Yeates, MVP Ravikumar Rajasingham) vs Pickering Slo-Sports 0 (MVP Brandon Rajko); Ensuro 2 (Ryan Persaud, Liam Lexovsky) vs United 1 (Shane Ples, MVP Damon McLeod); Lightning 2 (Teresa Haza, George Meszaros) vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 0.

Jan. 11: Lightning 5 (George Meszaros 3, Teresa Haza, Eric Miatello, MVP Sahil Chodha) vs Binns 0 (MVP Jonathan Abate); Ensuro 2 (Ryan Faraone, Liam 1, MVP Ryan Faraone) vs Pickering Slo-Sports 1 (Gregory Lake, MVP Shouvik Datta); United 1 (Ivor Mohorovic, MVP Katherine Tremblay) vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 1 (Michael Wright).

Jan. 18: Ensuro 2 (Ryan Faraone, Liam Lexovsky, MVP Ilesha Mitrao) vs Lightning 2 (Teresa Haza, Sahil Chodha, MVP George Meszaros); United 2 (Jamal Drysdale, Damon McLeod, MVP Jamal Drysdale) vs Pickering Slo-Sports 2 (Jordan, Brandon Ralph); Boyer Pickering Panthers 3 (Julian Medeiros 3) vs Binns 0 (MVP Helena Arhontakis).

UNDER-13 DIVISION

Dec. 14: Kicks 1 (Deanna Norlock, MVP Layla Hussain) vs Speedy Auto 5 (Shantelle Brown 2, Dominic Mitrao 2, Lisa Summers, MVP Shantelle Brown); Rotork Controls 1 (Scott Simons, MVPs Shannon Murphy/Ashley Riding) vs Cosmos 0 (MVP Eric Thomas); Boyer Pickering Panthers 1 (Klara Brownell, MVP Kyle Nazareth) vs Pickering Slo-Sports 0 (MVP Jacquelyn Somerville); BMO Nesbitt Burns 2 (Bryndon Fry, Sarah Kelly, MVP Bryndon Fry) vs Creative Space Rockets 0 (MVP Jessica Stasiuk); Speedy Auto Service 3 (Dominic Mitrao 2, Brianne Diemert, MVP Brianne Diemert) vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 2 (Blanca Diquattro, Imran Tharani, MVP

Samantha Glyls); Rotork Controls 4 (Scott Simons 2, Megan Scott, Terry Tambacopoulos, MVPs Ashley Riding, Megan Scott) vs Creative Space Rockets 1 (Michael Douglal, MVP Chelsea Hazlewood);

Jan. 11: Rotork Controls 1 (Christopher Murphy 1, MVP Shelton Camacho) vs BMO Nesbitt Burns 1 (Bryndon Fry, MVP Alex Cleary); Pickering Slo-Sports 3 (Adam Aly 2, Krystina Marolias, MVP Adam Aly) vs Kicks 1 (Malcolm Wright, MVP Laura Corkum); Speedy Auto Service 4 (Chantelle Brown, Dominic Mitrao 2, MVP Shauna Kutt) vs Cosmos 1 (Keegan Murphy, MVP Corin DeSousa); Boyer Pickering Panthers 3 (Shakeel Johaadien, MVP Shakeel Johaadien, Samantha Glyls) vs Creative Space Rockets 2 (Evan Aziz, Michael Douglal);

Jan. 18: Rotork Controls 2 (Scott Simons 2) vs Pickering Slo-Sports 1 (Jacquelyn Somerville); Boyer Pickering Panthers 4 (Imran Tharani 2, Shakeel Johaadien 2, MVPs Giulia Moltisanti, Shakeel Johaadien) vs Kicks 0 (MVP Layla Hussain); Speedy Auto Service 2 (Chantelle Brown, Dominic Mitrao, MVP Chantelle Brown) vs BMO Nesbitt Burns 0 (MVPs Alexa Lupinacci, Stephanie Mill); Cosmos 0 (MVP Nichole Carson) vs Creative Space Rockets 0 (MVP Chelsea Hazlewood).

UNDER-18 DIVISION

Dec. 14: East End Bundry 0 vs Kicks 1 (Alex Pace, MVP Crystal Garcia); Cosmos 0 vs Boyer Pickering Panthers 3 (Nicole Bates, Robert Jaipal, Erik Mrozkowski, MVP Mallory Cain); Almost Doesn't Count Stables 0 (MVP Shane Kerslake) vs Canada Hardwood Flooring 3 (Amreen Thawer, Matt Wilson, Mitchell Chudziak, MVP Natalie Diquattro);

Jan. 4: Kicks 0 (MVP Emily Prior) vs Almost Doesn't Count Stb. 0 (MVP Shane Kerslake); Cosmos 2 (Sasha Faraone, Andrew Morari, MVP Andrew Morari) vs East End Bundry 1 (Evan Kirkpatrick, MVP Warren Fernandes); Canada Hard-

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BEST BUY

CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our January 23rd to January 29th flyer.

For the XGO Computer Package (Computer & Monitor Sku#s 10030544 & 10038127, the Computer Creation Station logo was inadvertently omitted from this package. This package is a part of Best Buy's Configure to Order program (Computer Creation Station) and is only available through special order, not in-store.

325 auctions	325 auctions	325 auctions	325 auctions	325 auctions	325 auctions	256 deaths	256 deaths
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PUBLIC AUCTION

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SHERIFF'S SALE OF LANDS

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF A Writ of Seizure and Sale issued out of the Superior Court of Justice at Milton dated the 15th of May 2003, Court File Number 12D1003 to me directed, against the real and personal property of Eric Robert Treadwell, Defendant, at the suit of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Plaintiff, the Enforcement Office of the Superior Court of Justice located at 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario has seized and taken in execution, all the right, title, interest and equity of redemption of Eric Robert Treadwell, Defendant in, and to: Part of the west half of Lot No. 4, Concession 5, Township of Uxbridge, Regional Municipality of Durham as more particularly described in instrument Number D411443 and municipally know at 1629 Regional Road #1 Uxbridge, Ontario L0C 1K0.

All of which said right, title, interest and equity of redemption of Eric Robert Treadwell, Defendant, in the said lands and tenements described above, I shall offer for sale by Public Auction subject to the conditions set out below at the Superior Court of Justice, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1N 9G7 on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 2:30 p.m.

CONDITIONS:

The purchaser to assume responsibility for all mortgages, charges, liens, outstanding taxes, and other encumbrances. No representation is made regarding the title of the land or any other matter relating to the interest to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchaser(s).

TERMS:

Deposit 10% of bid price or \$1000.00, whichever is greater.

* Payable at time of sale by successful bidder by cash, certified cheque or bank draft

* To be applied to purchase price

* Non-refundable

Ten Business days from date of sale to arrange financing and pay balance in full at 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1N 9G7.

All payments in cash or by certified cheque made payable to the Minister of Finance Deed Poll provided by Sheriff only upon satisfactory payment in full of purchase price

Other conditions as announced

THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION BY THE SHERIFF WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UP TO THE TIME OF SALE.

NOTE: No employee of the Ministry of the Attorney General may purchase any goods or chattels, lands or tenements exposed for sale by a Sheriff under legal process, either directly or indirectly.

January 7, 2004

Andrew McNabb

Court Enforcement Officer

605 Rossland Rd. East

Whitby, Ontario L1N 9G7

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Console Table (Wooden), old wooden shipping box, Print of Dumas Timber Wolves & Mother Wolves, Glen Loates print & Rose Shul, computer components, barrister bookcase, chunky knitting machine, bar fridge, oak dresser (Rawlinson arts & crafts), silk flowers, copper fire extinguisher, video camera, old radio, dishes, fancy wooden easel.

<

Time's running out for Panthers

As playoffs loom, Pickering juniors far from ready

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

PICKERING — With little more than a week before the regular-season schedule ends, the Pickering Boyer Pontiac Panthers need to deliver better efforts -- and fast.

Only three games remain (the Panthers played the Wexford Raiders after press time Tuesday night), but the juniors seem nowhere near ready to compete at a playoff level.

That was borne out by a lacklustre 7-0 defeat at the hands of the North York Rangers (28-17-2-0 for 58 points, third in South Conference) at the Pickering Recreation Complex on Friday. The game was a significant one for the Rangers as they're currently fighting for second place with the Wexford Raiders.

And, with a 'must-win' game on the line, the Rangers came up with a solid effort, while the Panthers completely wilted. In fact, the Rangers threw everything but the kitchen sink at the Pickering net, registering a staggering 61 shots. It was the highest number of shots the Panthers have given up this season.

The lone bright spot for Pickering was the continued strong work of goaltender Brian Schermele, who kicked out 54 saves despite a tepid defensive effort by the players in front of him.

With the loss, the Panthers (12-26-7-0 for 31 points) are perilously close to finishing in the cellar of the Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League's South standings. They're one point ahead of the last-place Ajax Axemen, but have three games

in hand.

The Panthers play in Newmarket against the Hurricanes Thursday night and play their final regular-season home game Friday against the Raiders. They close out the schedule in Oshawa against the Legionaires on Tuesday night.

No matter what the result of those games, the Panthers likely won't finish higher in the conference standings than eighth. The Vaughan Vipers (15-28-1-1 for 32) have seventh place all but locked up as two of their remaining four games are against the Huntsville Wildcats, which has suspended operations, thus the Vipers will earn automatic default victories.

The Panthers will likely suit up against the Raiders or the Hurricanes in the best-of-seven opening playoff round. Both will be massive favourites against Pickering, but playoffs are, by and large, unpredictable.

"With our team, on any given day, we can do well," says Panthers head coach John Winder. "I'm still confident. That's what we're trying to impress upon the boys."

Incredibly, the Panthers have fared reasonably well against both Wexford and Newmarket so far this year. Pickering has a tie (5-5 on Nov. 9) and a loss (4-3 on Oct. 10) to show against Wexford, while in its only meeting with Newmarket, the Panthers came out on the short end of a 5-2 score on Nov. 30.

"We don't care which team we play," says Winder. "You never know what can happen. We've given Wexford some good games this year."

PANTHERS' POSTSCRIPT: The Panthers are still without forwards **Kyle Cunningham** (back) and **Matt Caranci** (shoulder). Although **Caranci** is day-to-day, **Cunningham** is doubtful to return to this season...

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The Ajax United Soccer Club will be holding Registrations for the 2004 Soccer Season

Registration Date:
Saturday, January 31st - Admirals Room - Ajax Community Centre
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Registration Fee: \$125 per player ~ \$360 per family of 3 or more
After March 1st: \$135 per player ~ \$390 per family of 3 or more
Rep Fee: \$250 per player Select Fee: \$195 per player

REGISTRATION FORMS ALSO AVAILABLE AT:
Nelson Hobbies in the Ajax Plaza - (905) 683-0351
The Soccer Connection, 71 Station St., Ajax - (905) 427-8829
Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Registration is open to girls & boys ages 4 and up.
Proof of age and health card number is required.

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Please contact the appropriate coach or call the Club at (905) 683-0351 for details:

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Ashley Williams (905) 428-8610	Mark Lee (905) 428-3265	William Dover (905) 426-8576	Tony Lancia (905) 686-3006	Hugh Crumplen (905) 436-6515

GIRLS U14	GIRLS U16	BOYS U11	BOYS U12	BOYS U15
David Desouza (905) 831-1128	Al Lees (905) 427-0239	Mala Singh (905) 428-0891	Dean Thomson (905) 686-0739	Sandro Dipoco (905) 427-4088

SELECT TEAMS

GIRLS U8	GIRLS U9	GIRLS U9	BOYS U8	BOYS U9
Marty Rose (905) 428-7725	Paul Meikle (905) 428-1084	Kurt Haisley (905) 683-3205	Easton Luke (905) 427-7474	Jose Flores (905) 426-6378

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