

News Advertiser

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WHY IS SHE SMILING?

Prohaska earns U.S. scholarship
Sports, 11

NEW FRIENDS

Pickering welcomes China
News, 4



Growth study debate resumes Tuesday

PICKERING – City staff are recommending a development plan that would see potential growth to 77,900 people for the Seaton lands and the southern portion of the agricultural preserve in north Pickering.

The City's executive committee will debate the recommendation Tuesday night. The Phase 2 report for Pickering's growth management study is the basis for establishing an urban boundary.

The report was submitted to council in February by Dillon Consulting and circulated for comments from agencies and the public. Planning staff reviewed 78 comments from the public and eight from agencies before making the recommendation.

The recommended structural plan would see 39,000 residents in the Seaton neighbourhood and 37,900 in Cherrywood, which is the southern portion of the ag lands. The plan also anticipates 33,000 jobs would be created.

Two-thirds of the written submissions from individuals opposed any development of the ag lands.

The report also recommends approval for the consulting team to begin Phase 3, which is the more detailed neighbourhood plans.

The executive committee meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers.



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

Leaf it to them

PICKERING — Jill Stone, left, and Renee Hill recently set up a tent in class to create a tropical rain forest environment. They were taking part in a Geofair put on by the Grade 12 world issues class at Pine Ridge Secondary School.

Hospital opening doors

Results from consultations made public this week

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

AJAX – The most important lesson Rouge Valley Healthy System officials learned during the course of recent public consultations is that they need to communicate better.

"We need to open the doors," said Hume Martin, president and chief executive officer. "We always tried to do it but obviously we weren't doing it well enough."

The hospital conducted consultations with the public, staff and stakeholders over the past few months in what it called the first step in opening the lines of communication.

It is ready to release a report with some of the key findings.

"We're very excited about getting this information out to the community," Mr. Martin said. "We feel we have benefited greatly

from hearing from the community."

A large part of the consultation was to gather feedback on which site (Ajax or Centenary) several services should be located. Mr. Martin said there will be no changes to thoracic, plastics or ophthalmology; a decision is to be made regarding vascular services once a report on GTA-wide service is released; "no significant changes" are going to be made to in-patient rehabilitation services; and bronchoscopy and endoscopy won't be restricted to one site.

"We have found that it is not possible to do that based on physician practices and patient needs," he said of the last two services. Both are to be developed at the two sites in the future.

"We are absolutely committed to both listening to the community and trying to offer the best level of service we can," Mr. Martin said.

♦ See Report page 4

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Presbyterians assemble in Durham

Church group meets at college for 130th general meeting

DURHAM – The 130th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is being hosted by Durham College for one week, beginning June 6.

General assembly opens with a worship service Sunday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym of the Gordon

Willey building at Durham College, 2000 Simcoe St. N. in Oshawa.

Outgoing moderator, Rev. Dr. P.A. (Sandy) MacDonald, will deliver the message. At the conclusion of the service, the opening session of General Assembly will receive the nomination of the moderator-designate, Rev. Richard Fee from Toronto.

Rev. Fee is the director of Presbyterian World Service and Development, the denomination's relief and development agency. The newly

elected moderator will preside over the sessions of General Assembly throughout the week.

For more information about General Assembly week call Keith Knight, communications director at 416-441-1111 or Lois Whitwell at the church office in Oshawa at 905-725-8462.

For more information about the Presbyterian Church in Canada visit the Web sites www.presbyterian.ca or www.presbycan.ca.

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An open letter to our community

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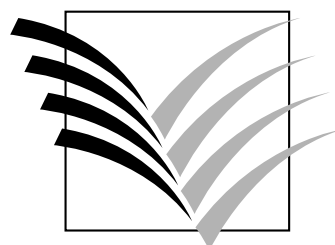
We listened.

Complementary Services, as proposed during the consultations, is not a direction Rouge Valley Health System will be pursuing. We will focus on:

- ✓ **QUALITY.** By looking at best practices in the industry, we will develop common standards of care for all our services at each site, ensuring that they are of the highest quality.
- ✓ **GROWTH.** Rouge Valley serves growing communities, so we will focus on expanding key services within available funding to meet population needs. At Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering, this means getting the much-needed expansion underway as quickly as possible, while at Rouge Valley Centenary we will increase volumes in key services needed by our communities.
- ✓ **PARTNERSHIPS.** We will work co-operatively with family physicians, other hospitals and local healthcare providers to develop new services and help ensure that the people in our communities have access to the services that they need.
- ✓ **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.** We will do a better job of keeping our communities informed and involved as we move forward to meet the challenges we face.

We need your on-going support.

Rouge Valley Health System, like all hospitals, will continue to face many challenges. Challenges like physician shortages, on-going funding needs, and fundamental changes to Ontario's healthcare system. To meet these challenges, we need your advice, input and support as we advocate on behalf of our communities.



Rouge Valley
HEALTH SYSTEM

To find out more about our plans for the future, you can read the full Consultation Report which is on our website at www.excellentcare.com, or you can call (905) 683-2320 ext. 5240 to have a copy mailed to you.

Please join us at the first ever "State of the Hospital Address" which will be held June 23rd at the Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Road, in the HMS Ajax Room at 7:00 p.m. There, we'll share our exciting plans for the future and talk about opportunities for you to become more involved with your local hospital.

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Phone call now in Durham council's court

Committee split on whether to buy new system

By Carly Foster
Staff Writer

DURHAM – A \$1.9-million phone system for the new regional headquarters did not receive the blessing of the finance committee, but could still pass at Durham council.

"Why did we get caught with our pants down?" asked a frustrated Oshawa Councillor Joe Kolodzie. "I think this has been a failed opportunity... someone has blown it big time."

Coun. Kolodzie, along with Clarington mayor and finance chairman John Mutton and Pickering Councillor Mark Holland voted against financing the phone system, while Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Whitby Councillor Gerry Emm and Oshawa Councillor Brian

Nicholson voted for it. Oshawa Councillor April Cullen was absent.

With six members present, the vote was evenly split (considered a loss) after a lengthy debate at Wednesday's finance committee meeting.

The committee was only responsible for endorsing the financing of the recommended Voice Over Internet Protocol phone system, and it could still receive support at regional council May 26, said Debbi Bentley, deputy clerk.

When the new headquarters at Rossland Road and Garden Street in Whitby was being planned, staff did not factor in the cost of moving the phone system, Cliff Curtis, the Region's works commissioner said.

Now the Region has two options: spend up to



JIM CLAPP
'An opportunity.'

\$800,000 to move the old equipment (which will need to be replaced in a few years), or spend \$1.9 million on the upgraded VoIP system.

"Nobody forgot the phone system," says Finance Commissioner Jim Clapp. "The original intent

was to move the existing phone system but because we have seven to nine sites (with the new headquarters), it's now estimated at a cost of about \$400,000 to \$500,000."

The cost, insists Mr. Clapp, is also more than simply moving the current communications system.

"It's not just to move the system components but to bring them to certain specifications, upgrade them," he explains, adding that this scenario can be done on schedule and was always part of the original plan.

"Really, what we have now is an opportunity," he

continues. "Instead of pulling three cables through the new building we can pull two and save \$300,000 on the building although the estimate (for a new phone system) is estimated now at about \$1.9 million."

But with the added cost now, Mr. Clapp says the headquarters will be moving to a higher level of technology while fending off the inevitable obsolescence of the existing system.

"It's not an over-expenditure, it's an opportunity to upgrade technology that's going to cost \$1.9 million," he says.

"It was embarrassing" when people came up to Whitby Councillor Gerry Emm and asked what happened, but he said he'd be "more embarrassed if in two years we're told what we put in is obsolete."

Coun. Holland said Pickering's regional councillors personally mailed every resident in town explaining the 334,155 sq. ft. headquarters and that they would only support it if it stayed at \$67.7 million.

Adding VoIP will tip the price to \$69.6 million.

Mr. Curtis said EllisDon, which is constructing the headquarters, needs an answer by next week.

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'Warm and friendly' Pickering welcomes Chinese delegation

Yongchuan City visitors sign off on friendship agreement

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING – Pickering has some friends in China.

A delegation from Yongchuan City in China paid a visit to Mayor Dave Ryan and the city Wednesday, with Chairman Qiang Liu and Mayor Ryan signing a friendship agreement among other activities.

"This is an historic moment in the City of Pickering... We've signed a friendship agreement today and we believe the agreement is the basis for an ongoing relationship between the two cities," Mayor Ryan said.

The agreement, written in both English and Chinese, states both parties agree to encourage each city's related departments and businesses to engage in different forms of

economic activity.

"Through this there will be more businesses coming to Pickering and more businesses coming to Yongchuan," Mr. Liu said through an interpreter.

"This is the beginning of what we hope to be a long and lasting business agreement," Mayor Ryan added.

The stop in Pickering was part of a 10-day visit to Canada by the six-member delegation, which also visits Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Vancouver.

It took eight weeks to plan the visit that included a bus tour, a lunch with members of the local business community and a presentation at Ontario Power Generation.

Planning began with Anna Shao, of Power IT, who contacted Ward 2 City Councillor Bill McLean about a visit. Power IT does business in both Canada and China and wants to see the partnership strengthened.

"It's going to be fruitful and beneficial to both cities," Coun. McLean said of the agreement.

Tang Zhaoping, a senior economist in Yongchuan, was part of the delegation.

"For this trip we are representing the businesses in Yongchuan that are interested in seeing the business opportunities in Canada and after this trip they hope to invest in Pickering," he said through a translator.

The connection was made between Pickering and Yongchuan because they are close to Toronto and Chongqing respectively, which are sister cities.

Mr. Lui had a good first impression of Pickering.

"Pickering is a beautiful city," he said. "My first impression is that the people of Pickering are warm and friendly."

Now that Mayor Ryan has met Mr. Lui and the other representatives from Yongchuan, he is contemplating a visit to China.

"After meeting Chairman Liu it is certainly one of my ambitions and something I hope to do in the very near future," he said.



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

The City of Pickering hosted a Chinese delegation from Yongchuan City this week to encourage economic activity between the two sides. Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan led a day full of activities, including a business lunch attended by Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge MPP Wayne Arthurs, right. He received a gift from Huashi Liu, director of economic development, left, and Yongchuan City Chairman Qiang Liu.

Report available this week

◆ Report from page 1

There has been a lot of distrust in the community towards the hospital since the fall. Residents are concerned about losing services at a time when the community is experiencing rapid growth.

One resident, Yvonne Bosch, even started a petition, which now has almost 11,000 signatures. That petition, asking for a commitment to current service levels and expansion, has been given to Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge MPP Wayne Arthurs to be presented at Queen's Park.

The more than 20-page report should be available on the hospital's Web site (www.excellentcare.com) early this week, while copies are also being mailed to those people who left their addresses at the consultations.

The report includes background information about the strategic plan, the key findings of the consultations, and where the hospital is going from here.

Some of the future plans include pursuing more partnerships with health partners and physicians, keeping the community involved through a newly created community advisory council, and state of the hospital addresses, the first of which is expected in June.

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Distinctive women an example to everyone

Five of Durham's top citizens were honoured last week at the 22nd Annual Durham YWCA Women of Distinction Awards ceremony at the Oshawa Holiday Inn. This year's winners are:

YOUNG WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

Stephanie Germain, a Grade 12 student at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School in Ajax, was honoured for her involvement in a number of projects and activities.

Stephanie has helped educate the entire student body on the contributions of black people in Canada as part of Black History Month. She has been on the field hockey and badminton teams and has been a part of the United Wave, as well as prom and graduation committees. She has also been involved in Fast for Life, Christmas baskets project and is a math tutor. She was granted a national bursary to study French at Jonquiere University in Quebec for five weeks. Stephanie has also volunteered for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, United Way and Ajax's Winterfest.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Penny Contreras

Whitby resident Penny Contreras is a Woman of Distinction for her long involvement in helping women and children as they have dealt with violence and abuse.

Ms. Contreras, during her long career, has managed housing and property plans, administered a women's shelter done family mediation and violence prevention.

She has worked with lawyers and judges in Durham and developed the Victim Witness Assistance Program, a women's resource centre. She has worked with Crown attorneys, police investigators, lawyers and judges in court and has challenged outdated, sexist views of victims. She was co-chair of the Board on Violence Prevention and is involved with the Out of the Cold-Into the Warmth program.

Donna McFarlane

Originally an educator, Whitby's Donna McFarlane has been an executive at Ontario Power Generation for many years.

Ms. McFarlane started as communications co-ordinator at OPG and moved on to be employee communication co-ordinator and is now director of public affairs. Her interpersonal skills have helped build trust at all levels of government with the media, business leaders and neighbours. She chairs and international committee on communications in Paris. She also coaches soccer and fast-ball, was the superintendent of St. Mark's Sunday School.

Elizabeth Roy

Whitby native Elizabeth Roy has worked in the Radiation Therapy Department of Princess Margaret Hospital since her graduation 16 years ago. She has helped administer treatments, educated patients and families and has been involved in many programs.

She has served on the Durham District School Board for seven

years, the past four as elected chair. She also volunteers for minor lacrosse, minor hockey, breast cancer walkathons and various political campaigns.

Sherry Whiteway

Durham Region's top female

cop, Inspector Sherry Whiteway, who works out of the Ajax and Pickering Community Police office, has crossed many milestones in her career.

The Bethany resident has been an Incident Command Coordinator, officer in charge of Human

Rights Arbitration, officer in charge of Professional Standards, Investigator in the Youth Bureau, leader of the Promotional Process team, a leader in community programs and partnerships, and administrative staff sergeant for many budgets.

There's a new command for Harwood sea cadet corps

AJAX - It's a changing of the guard for the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps' Harwood branch.

Harwood holds its change of command ceremony Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. Retiring Commanding Officer Lt. Scott Milburn is giving way to Lt. Ross Moun-

stevens at the ceremony, which is at the Harwood Barracks, 48 Exeter Rd. in Ajax.

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony and everyone is invited.

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Editorials & Opinions

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2004 ♦ News Advertiser ♦ DAVID STELL, NEWS EDITOR, 905-683-5110 EXT. 249

Editorial

What we have is a failure to communicate

Council should adopt new phone system even at cost of \$1.9 million

Somebody blew it over at Durham Region headquarters. While the plans for the new \$67.6-million headquarters were being drawn up they didn't do enough homework when it came to the phone system. It's an oversight that could add \$1.9 million to the total bill, but that's all it needs to be.

Now the Region has two options: waste \$800,000 originally budgeted to move the old equipment (which will need to be replaced in only a few years), or spend \$1.9 million on the upgraded Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system that is expected to last the Region well over a decade. By going with the second option, the Region will save the \$800,000 through elimination of moving and extra cabling costs.

Whitby Councillor Gerry Emm rightly points out this embarrassing situation would be compounded by having to replace an obsolete system in a few years. There is only one sensible choice - spend the money for the new phone system now and try to sell off the old phones to recoup some money.

Oshawa Councillor Joe Kolodzie, along with Clarington Mayor and finance chairman John Mutton and Pickering Councillor Mark Holland voted against financing the phone system, while Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Coun. Emm and Oshawa Councillor Brian Nicholson voted for it. Oshawa Councillor April Cullen was absent.

With six members present, the vote was evenly split (considered a loss) after a lengthy debate at Wednesday's finance committee meeting.

Councillor Holland has told his constituents he wouldn't support any increase in the price tag of the new headquarters. Apparently, he doesn't have a problem wasting \$800,000 of taxpayers' money when the aging system is moved into the new building. This flawed logic is also being supported by Clarington Mayor John Mutton.

Nobody likes a nasty surprise that hits us in the pocketbooks. But two wrongs - insufficient homework on the phone system and deciding to move it in even if it isn't the smart thing to do - don't make a right. Everyone in Durham wants our politicians to be financially responsible, but we also require them to be pragmatic with our money. Keeping the old system is 'short-sighted' as Scugog Mayor Pearce points out.



Letters to the Editor

Rougemount moves don't address the issue

To the editor:

Re: 'Rougemount setup perfect example of wasted dollars,' letter, May 14.

This is wasted dollars and not for the reasons Vivian VandenHazel supposes.

Approximately eight years ago, a ratepayers association agitated for some measure of traffic calming on Rougemount Drive. At that time, there was a lot of traffic using side streets during the widening of Hwy. 401. Even then, traffic speeds were not excessive (10 km/h over the posted limit).

Residents agreed to a 'trial' period that eventually lasted eight years. But

come time to rehabilitate the road and install a sidewalk, environmental studies were deemed necessary even though they were not required when the humps were installed on a trial basis.

Thousands were spent on consultant reports that concluded traffic calming was not justified on Rougemount, yet the City went ahead with installing just about every possible measure. This is the real waste of money.

The only thing that will relieve the perceived traffic concerns is the widening of Altona Road to two lanes in each direction. You cannot continue to allow residential development without upgrading the infrastructure to service those homes. City officials are hiding behind the fact that Altona Road is a regional responsibility.

**Gino Hamparian
Pickering**

Cowardly act deserves harsh punishment

Victim of signs faces unfair stigma



**David
Stell**

news editor

tim, the police say they are working on the theory the signs were put up in an act of revenge in a neighbourhood feud, by an ex-resident of the area. Neighbourhood feuds are a fairly common thing in this world, but revenge of this nature is inexcusable.

The victim's name, address and phone number were posted on several sheets of paper in different spots in the area. The victim found

a few himself and police were able to find more. Imagine how many of the man's neighbours saw these posters. This man could have a lasting and terribly unfair stigma attached to him in his own neighbourhood now.

Personally, I can't imagine a worse accusation you could make against anyone. The type of news I get most angry at are reports of actual pedophiles convicted of interfering with a child.

According to Sgt. Paul Malik, police spokesman for Durham Regional Police, if found, the suspect would face a charge of defamatory libel. According to Canada's Criminal Code, that crime carries a possible jail term not exceeding two years, if convicted.

A pretty stiff sentence, but a de-

served one.

Take for example the outrage some communities have when they find out a pedophile is being released from prison and could possibly be residing in their area. Communities rally against a convicted pedophile living nearby. Some turn to violent against the offender, even after they've served their time.

Right or wrong, some people will never forgive offenders of this crime and they are incredibly passionate about it.

Accusing someone of the crime is almost as bad and that person deserves to be caught and prosecuted.

David Stell's column appears every other Sunday. E-mail dstell@durhamregion.com.

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Fairman the fairest of all Ontario elementary schools

Fraser ranking of schools has Whitby facility at top of the class

By Mike Ruta
Staff Writer

DURHAM — E.A. Fairman would be proud.

His namesake school tied for the best in Ontario of the 2,887 elementary schools ranked by the Fraser Institute.

The conservative think tank released its second ranking of Ontario elementary schools this week, including an evaluation of 135 local schools, each of which received a

score out of 10. To arrive at the ranking, Grade 3 and 6 2002 standardized test results, the percentage of students who didn't meet the provincial standard on the tests, and the difference between how boys and girls performed were all taken into account to gauge how well the school is doing academically.

E.A. Fairman received a perfect 10. According to the rankings, just 10.4 per cent of students, down from 23.9 per cent in 2001, did not meet the provincial standard of a 'B' on the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments.

"It's a team approach

for this school," Fairman principal Brian Gillespie said of preparing for EQAO tests. "It's not just the Grade 3 and the Grade 6 teachers. We all take it seriously."

When he came to the school three years ago, Mr. Gillespie said parents told him that EQAO was important to them. As a result, staff place an emphasis on junior kindergarten to Grade 3 students "so they can be prepared to learn" in future years.

After the 2001 assessments, his principal's re-

port on the school's results noted a number of initiatives in the works, including setting up a co-ordinated reading and writing program for the primary and junior grades. Beyond such measures, he says the Fairman community is a tight one.

"This is like a little community school in the middle of town," he says. "What that does is build a strong community."

That being said, Mr. Gillespie notes that educators don't like any ranking of schools.

"All educators do a good job and it's really tough when you pit one school against another," he says.

Of the 135 Durham public and Catholic schools ranked by the institute, 29 finished with a ranking of seven or better, 68 rated between five and 6.9 and 38 were ranked at 4.9 or lower.

Apart from Fairman, the other top schools were Glen Dhu Public School in Whitby (148th) and Goodwood Public School in Uxbridge (167).

Elsewhere around the

Durham public and Catholic school boards, other schools showing significant improvement were Applecroft Public School in Ajax, jumping from a 5.3 to a 7.9 rank, and St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School in Pickering, which went from 6.6 to 7.9. Sir John A. Macdonald Public School students did their Pickering school proud, as the school's score went from a 4.8 to a 6.4.

The entire report is online at www.fraserinstitute.ca/.

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School board in brief

MAY 23, 2004

New student trustees named to school board

DURHAM – The public school board's new student trustees were introduced on May 17.

Amanda Canavan attends Pickering High School in Ajax while Julius Tapper is a student at Sinclair Secondary School in Whitby. They will serve a one-year term on the Durham District School Board.

Mandated by the provincial government, student representatives attend board meetings where they can speak on issues.

The new student trustees replace Liam Mooney from Dr. F. J. Donevan Collegiate Institute in Oshawa and Dunbarton High School's Carolyn Arbuckle.

Former board superintendent dies of cancer

DURHAM – A respected former public school board superintendent died of cancer Wednesday night.

Norm Powers retired from the Durham District School Board two years ago after a 33-year career. At that time, he was the board's operations superintendent. The Newcastle resident began teaching in 1969 and later became a vice-principal, principal and administrative assistant to the education director.

When he publicly announced his pending retirement in April 2002, trustees wished him well but regretted the loss to the board.

"I refuse to let you go," Pickering Trustee Paul Crawford said at the time.

"Can we convince you to stay?" asked Oshawa Trustee Susan Shetler.

Mr. Powers was 59. He is survived by his wife, Pat, three sons and two grandchildren.

Visitation at the Northcutt Elliott Funeral Home in Bowmanville is May 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. The funeral service is May 25 at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Church, also in Bowmanville.

Board committee remains the same

DURHAM – After much discussion, public school board trustees have opted to leave their committee structure as it is.

Durham District School Board trustees formed an ad hoc committee to review the role of committees. Trustees eventually recommended enhancing the board's property and planning committee, turning it into a committee of all trustees with an elected chairman, who would have added duties.

However, some trustees felt the committee chairman's role would replace them in their own communities, since he or she would take the lead on issues relating to new schools, for example. At the May 17 board meeting, several trustees said the committee would be too large.

"I don't think that a committee of the whole board would be effective or efficient," said Oshawa Trustee Susan Shetler.

Others supported the move, saying the importance of the issues surrounding property and planning justified a new structure.

The proposed change was defeated in an 8-4 recorded vote.



Ask The Podiatrist And I always thought I was perfect

Ronald J. Klein B.Sc., D.P.M. Podiatrist-Foot Specialist



It is not uncommon for us to have one foot larger than the other or an eye stronger than the other. But when one leg is longer than the other leg, there are complications, which can become quite painful. When the difference is substantial, the effect on gait and posture can be quite disruptive.

There are two types of limb-length discrepancies. The first is designated as structural. This is an actual difference in the skeletal length of one leg. This could be caused by polio, hip replacement or leg fracture. The other is known as a function discrepancy. The actual length of the legs are the same but a curve in the back or a dropped pelvis may lead to the difference in leg length.

Changes in walking patterns occur as your body tries to shorten the longer leg and lengthen the shorter leg. This can be seen in the foot whereby the foot on the shorter side maintains a higher arch and the patient will bear weight on the outside of the foot. This foot can be a shoe size smaller because of the higher arch. The foot on the longer leg will lose some of its arch and weight will be borne along the big toe side of the foot. This foot, because of the fallen arch can be a size longer. The foot on the shorter leg can be prone to stress fractures as the foot is more rigid while the leg on the longer side may be prone to knee strains due to internal rotation of the leg.

The most common change in posture due to a limb-length discrepancy is scoliosis, a curve in the back. As a result of the scoliosis, the patient's pelvis will be tilted down on the shorter leg side; the head and shoulder will be tilted down the longer leg side and even the level of the fingers when standing erect will be lower on the long side.

Continued on next page

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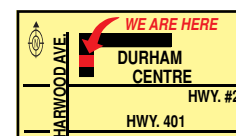


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They take the cake

AJAX — Marjorie McDonald, left, and Betty Richards were among the many seniors, executives and other guests to stop by the Pickering Village Seniors Club recently to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary.

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Walking tall

Continued from previous page

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The measurement of the length of legs is not very accurate. I use two different methods and look for a raw difference as I measure from the belly button to the inside ankle and also the top of the hipbone to the inside ankle.

Treatment involves lifts and/or orthotics. Purely structural deformities require a lift for the shorter leg. Functional deformities are best treated with orthotics. Asymmetrical problems should not be treated lightly. They are one of the leading causes of back problems and the third most common cause of running injuries.

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It was love at first sight

Teen girl, service dog bond from the start

By Mike Ruta
Staff Writer

AJAX – Ashley May can't wait for her new pal Olympia to arrive.

A Special Olympics champion figure skater, 15-year-old Ashley May is globally delayed and has intractable epilepsy.

That's where Olympia came in. She's no ordinary dog, but has been bred and trained especially for Ashley. The Ajax girl has five different seizure disorders and frequent seizures that cannot be controlled by medication. Ashley has full-time education assistant support at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate and support at home as well.

But, to Ashley's great disappointment, Olympia's arrival has been delayed. Olympia has been diagnosed with Addison's disease, which will make it tough for the pooch to perform her duties.

"A second service dog will start going into training in the next couple of months," says mom Debbie May. "I was given the option of not taking Olympia at all, but I can't do that to Ashley."

The two have met about a dozen times, bonding instantly, and Ashley named her. Then Olympia went off to complete her training in Oregon before returning for good. Ms. May says with a lot of care, Olympia will hopefully be able to handle the workload for about two years. At that point, she would become a non-working member of the family and a new service dog would step in.

The two-year-old standard poodle was being trained to bark to alert people that Ashley is having a problem. Tethered to Ashley, she won't let her buddy out of the house, off a curb or up a flight of stairs unless Ashley gives her a signal.

"Eventually, the hope is that Ashley will be able to go out the door without someone being with her," says Ms. May. "She's fighting tooth and nail for independence."

Olympia is due to arrive June 18 - but that isn't soon enough for Ashley.

"To her mind, Olympia's not feeling well and should be with her," says Ms. May.

The dogs' specialized training comes with a price to rival any prize animal, \$14,000, too rich for most. Enter Luke Feetham, treasurer of



Ashley May and service dog Olympia have become fast friends.

the Canadian Progress Club, Durham South, who took it upon himself to get the fund-raising ball rolling to pay for Olympia. Mr. Feetham has a long-standing involvement with the Special Olympics, where he met the Mays, and last year won a Canadian Progress Club National Mentor Award.

He obviously has a special place in Ms. May and Ashley's hearts.

"He's just an incredible man with the world's biggest and warmest heart who would do anything to help," says Ms. May, noting Mr. Feetham isn't one to blow his own horn.

Mr. Feetham said he would rather "sit in the background and just do it" than step forward for acknowledgement. He first appealed to local service clubs about a year ago, and in six months had raised the entire amount.

While Ms. May would not have to pay for the second dog, she says the cost of frequent veterinarian visits and medication for Olympia will be a steep one. She's prepared to pay it for Ashley's special friend.

"My daughter finds it very difficult to bond with people and things, but when she does, it's over the top, 150 per cent," says Ms. May.

"I think the two of them laid eyes on each other and it was love at first sight."

Walk for the Humane Society

DURHAM – Animal lovers can walk for their pets or walk for 'Fred,' a Humane Society shelter animal, at the 13 Annual People for Pets Walkathon.

The fund-raiser is Sunday, May 30 at Heber Down Conservation Area, on Coronation Road, north of Taunton Road in Whitby from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration is 9:30 to 10 a.m. and there will be also a toonie and loonie breakfast during that time. From 10 to 11 a.m. the five kilometre walk is on rain or shine. At 11 a.m. there will be

refreshments and at 11:30 there will be contests, prizes awarded and games for people and pets.

The entry fee is \$7. All proceeds go to animals in the care of the Humane Society.

Pre-registration will be held Saturday, May 29 at the Durham Humane Society shelter, 199 Waterloo St., Oshtawa from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pledge sheets are available at the shelter, at area pet food stores, or from the Humane Society's Web site at www.humanedurham.com.



Judi Longfield, Member of Parliament for Whitby - Ajax

Chair Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

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Teamwork

Ice duo has national training date
See page 12

Prohaska fitted for Yellowjacket

Pickering woman earns university soccer scholarship

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

PICKERING — After two years of playing college soccer close to home, a Pickering athlete is packing up and going to Graceland.

Not Elvis's mansion, however, but rather a college in Iowa.

Julia Prohaska has signed on for an athletic scholarship at Graceland University in Lamoni, to play for the Yellowjackets women's soccer team, which plays in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Heart of America Conference.

Prohaska admits she could have gone stateside two years ago after she received several scholarship offers prior to graduating from Pine Ridge Secondary School. Her reluctance to leave home, however, led her to attend Durham College in the sports administration program, while also playing soccer for the Lady Lords women's team.

"Originally, I was too afraid to go to the States," says the 21-year-old. "I could have gone to the States, but I didn't want to go right after high school."

Following graduation from Durham College, she had a change of heart and now relishes the opportunity to play away from home.

"It's a big chance to get away, live on my own and try it out. I'm a little bit more nervous than anything," she says.

Graceland head coach Kevin Sherry is extremely pleased to have Prohaska on board for the 2004-05 season.

"Julia Prohaska is not only a great player but has a great personality also which is essential for all Graceland recruits to have," Sherry says in a press release. "It is not enough just to be a good soccer player, you



After spending the last two years with the Durham College Lady Lords, Julia Prohaska is looking to make her mark down south. The Pickering soccer player has signed on for an athletic scholarship to Graceland University in Iowa.

have to be of good sound character in order to join, fit in and contribute to the program. Julia showed this side of her personality during her visit to the school recently and everyone was very impressed, not only as a soccer player but as a person too.

"Julia is hard working, very coachable, and full of energy, humorous, listens to instructions well, puts the team first and is extremely motivated to

become the best soccer player she can be," continues Sherry, adding he expects Prohaska to anchor the midfield.

At Durham College, the 5-foot-5 midfielder/defender became the cornerstone of the program, helping the Lady Lords to the gold medal at the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) championships last year. The Durham squad was the silver medallist in 2002. Individually, she captained the

indoor and outdoor women's team last season and received the Coach's Leadership Award and the Award of Excellence at the college.

After hearing about an opportunity at Graceland through her phys.-ed teacher at Pine Ridge, Andrew Lue, Prohaska says she pursued a scholarship and eventually visited the campus where she practised and played an exhibition game with the team.

Prohaska says she's excited to join a team that's undergone a transformation in the past few seasons, from a team that wasn't ranked on the national scene to one that was number-17 in the NAIA last season.

She also believes the Iowa school is the right fit for her in a number of other ways.

"It's a little different life there. It's really laid-back, but it's awesome," she says.

It also has the academic program she wants to pursue. She'll study physical education, with an eye toward becoming a high school gym teacher.

Prohaska is also interested in coaching at the highest level, and will be trained toward that end at Graceland. She currently has a level 3 coach's certification from the Canadian Soccer Association.

Prohaska notes the Yellowjackets team is truly an international squad, with players coming from Japan, Germany, Brazil and her home country. Seven other Canadians play on the Yellowjackets. Sherry is originally from England.

She'll prepare for the fall at Graceland with the Scarborough United Panthers regional squad in the Ontario Women's Soccer League.

Prohaska will report to school early to begin training with the Yellowjackets, starting on Aug. 14. The team plays its first season game on Aug. 22 against Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

Dodgers work extra hard for win

By John Herron
Staff Writer

DURHAM — It took until the early hours of the morning, but the Oshawa Dodgers defeated the defending league champion Guelph Royals 8-7 in a 12-inning marathon.

It was the longest game in the three-year history of the Oshawa Intercounty baseball club, which is made up of players from around the Durham.

Oshawa improved its record to 3-1 in a game that not only included three extra innings, but also saw many deep counts and pitching changes. Rookie pitcher Gord Robertson threw out the first pitch at 7:45 p.m. and Guelph's losing pitcher, Jason Perry, finally walked in the winning run with the bases loaded at 12:05 a.m.

An emotionally exhausted Dodgers manager Troy May was satisfied to gain the win.

"We talked about what we could do against the Intercounty champs leading up to this game. They have a stronger lineup than last year when they won the whole thing. So this was a huge measuring stick because now we know we can play with the elite teams in this league."

Robertson, making his first start, exited the game with his team ahead 4-2 in the top of the fifth after walking the first two batters. Adam Clarke took the mound in relief but watched helplessly as third baseman Pat Tobin committed one of his two errors on the night by permitting a ground ball to squeeze through his legs, scoring two runs and tying the game.

Fast forwarding to the bottom of the ninth inning, the Dodgers trailed 7-4, having allowed six unearned runs. Tobin led off with a double. Mick Kurhan followed with a single and first baseman Ken Calaway drew a walk to load the bases. Pinch-hitter Chris Serita hit a sacrifice fly to pull his team within one before speedy Adam Sylvester tied the game with an RBI single. With a chance to end it, Kyle Sheppard took a few too many steps rounding third and was picked off for the third out.

Minutes after the game reached the four-hour-mark in the bottom of the 12th inning, Perry walked the bases full. As fate would have it, Tobin got another chance at redemption and waited out the struggling pitcher by taking a bases-loaded walk to win the game. Vance Cozier picked up the win to move to 3-0 on the season.

The Dodgers travel to Christie Pitts in Toronto to face the Maple Leafs today (Sunday).

Blue Jay Woodward flies into Ajax

AJAX — A Toronto Blue Jays infielder is making a stopover at an Ajax baseball facility next week.

Blue Jays' shortstop Chris Woodward makes an appear-

ance at the Home Run Baseball Academy in Ajax on Tuesday night.

He'll attend a members-only practice and autograph signing from 7 to 8 p.m.

The public gets its chance for autographs between 8:15 and 9 p.m.

Photos are available for \$2 each, with all proceeds turned over to the Ajax Spartans

Minor Baseball Association.

The academy is at 695 Westney Rd. S.

For more information, call 905-426-8825 or visit www.homerunbaseball.ca.

No slowing down for skate couple

Ice season continues for Barnes, Chong as duo earns spot on national team

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

PICKERING - There's no such thing as a summer vacation for an up-and-coming Pickering skater and his partner.

Next month, Spencer Barnes, 17, of Pickering, and his partner Andrea Chong, 16, of East York, travel with several other top Canadian skaters to Oberstdorf where they'll train for two weeks under top international coaches at the German national training centre for skating.

"A lot of world-class skaters and coaches will be there, so it's going to be interesting," says Barnes who adds his coaches, Carol and Jon Lane, of Ajax, will also be giving some training seminars in Germany.

Join summer volleyball league

DURHAM - Bikini bathing suits and Speedo swimming trunks will be popping up all over the Durham College/University of Ontario Institute of Technology campus as an upcoming Beach Volleyball League swings into action.

The schools are currently accepting registration forms for the 18 and over co-ed league, which runs June 14 to Aug. 21.

For more information, call the athletic department at 905-721-3129.

The skating pair were included as part of the Canadian contingent after a solid season on the ice. A big part of their success was winning the novice dance event in February at the 2004 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Junior Nationals in Ottawa.

Against 15 other of the top novice pairs in Canada, a season's worth of hard work and sacrifice paid off for Chong and Barnes. Tied for second after two compulsory dances with Quebec's Maggy Pellerin and Dominique Dupuis, the Ontario duo put forth an outstanding program in the free dance to capture the overall crown.

"We were just thinking about beating them; (Pellerin and Dupuis) beat us at divisionals, so we were set on beating them at nationals," says Barnes, who's in the high-performance

athlete program at Dunbarton High School.

Finishing first at nationals, says Barnes, was the duo's goal this season, hoping to improve on a 14th-place showing at the 2003 junior nationals. This season was a steady build-up toward the 2004 event, as Chong and Barnes won the novice dance event at the Central Ontario Sectionals, before finishing second behind Pellerin and Dupuis at the Eastern Challenge.

Because of their first-place finish at junior nationals, the duo has earned a spot on the Skate Canada Development Team for the next year. Chong and Barnes join other top junior skaters at a camp this summer, with the date and location yet to be announced.

"We're very excited about being on the national team," says Barnes.

This year marks the fifth year Chong and Barnes have been paired together. They were put together by their respective coaches and hit it off almost immediately on the ice.

"It's been great," says Barnes. "Personally, we get along really well. We're close and you don't often see that with other dance

pairs. I love skating with her."

The chemistry between them, says Barnes, has made the partnership work. He points out that they're able to joke around but, at the same time, take their training and competitions very seriously.

This summer the duo will continue to train six

days a week at the Scarborough Skating Club as they prepare to move up into junior dance for the 2004-05 skating season.

"We're hoping for some international assignments somewhere," says Barnes.

In addition to Jon and Carol Lane, the duo is also coached by Juris Razgula jevs.



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AJAX - There two opportunities to try out for Basketball Ontario's elite bantam development team.

A session is being held at Father Leo Austin High School, 1020 Dryden Blvd., Whitby, on Wednesday, May 26, beginning at 6 p.m. It is open to boys who are under 13 as of Jan. 1, 2004. The tryout runs from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The cost is

\$25 (\$35 for non-members of Ontario Basketball).

The other night is June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ajax High School.

For more information, check out the Basketball Ontario Web site, www.basketball.on.ca, or contact regional coach Dean Hutchcroft at 905-668-1879 or Mike Chesson at 905-668-4258.

Impact wrestles with gold

DURHAM - At the 2004 Senior National Championships, Team Impact members found their fortunes in the Greco-Roman discipline to be favourable, indeed.

Both Mike Francis (66kg) and Ainsley Robinson (74kg) of the Durham club won gold at the Fredericton, N.B. event.

Francis won his first

match by pin and didn't allow a point in the other two. As for Robinson, a pair of 12-0 victories was followed by an 11-1 win in the final over the defending national champion.

In the freestyle competition, Paul Harrison took fourth spot in the 74 kg category, while Robinson placed fifth. Francis split his four matches.



Gaining control

PICKERING — Dunbarton High School Spartans' Natasha Nur-mohamed, at right, battles for control of the ball with Courtice Secondary School's Shayne Jarvis-O'Connor during action at the Dunbarton Senior Girls' Soccer Tournament at the school last Friday afternoon.

Jason Liebrecht/ News Advertiser photo

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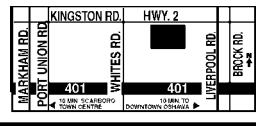
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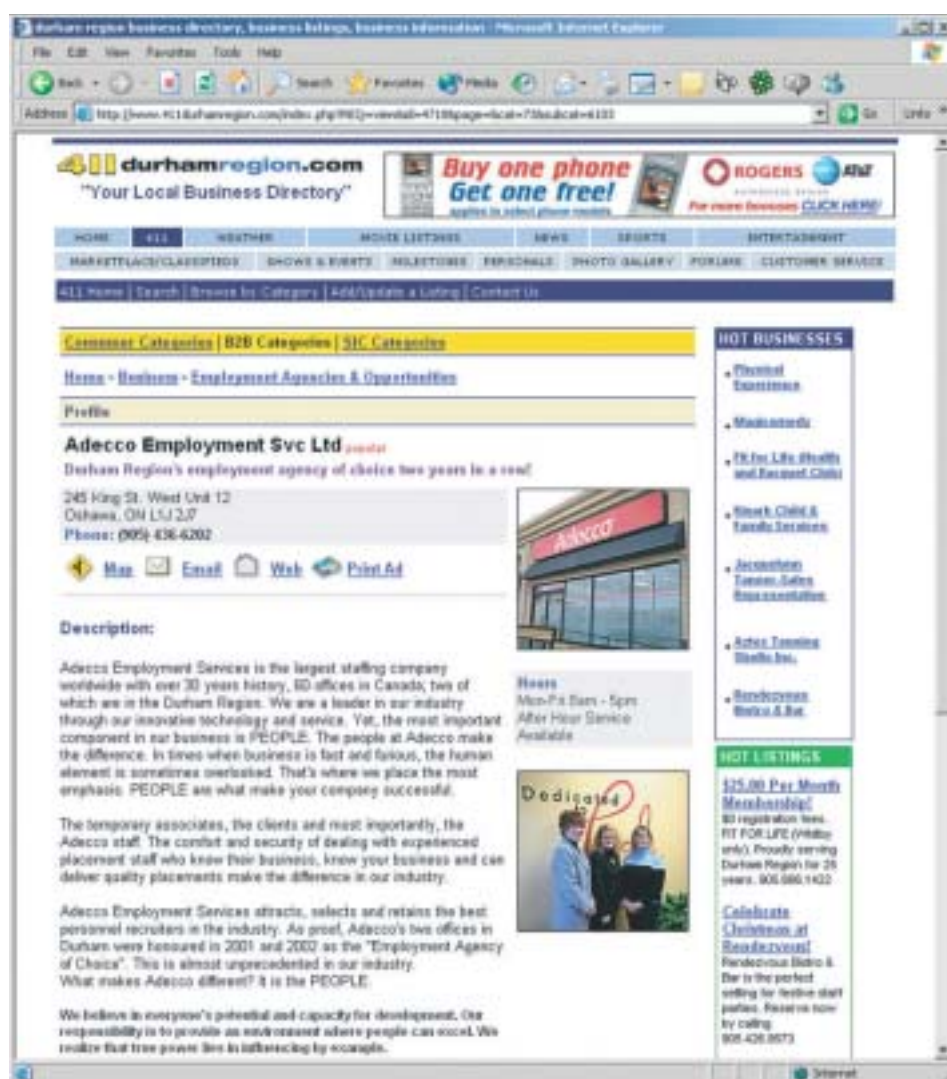
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Natural

\$299



Captain Economy
4 Drawer Unit

\$319



Ambassador Bed
Solid Panel Unit

\$291



Spyder Iron Bed
Black Only

\$177



A-Frame Futon
Complete

\$168



3'
Silver
Futon
Bunk

\$344



Electric Bed

\$1273

COUPON

Any **4 FREE CHOICES**

- Bed Frame
- Mattress
- Pad
- Bed Rails
- Comforter
- Lawaway
- Pillow
- Set-up
- Disposal of old set
- Percalé
- Set of Sheets
- Local Delivery

**WITH ANY MATCHING
MATTRESS SET PURCHASED**

OR

COUPON

**NO
GST &
PST**

**WITH ANY MATCHING
MATTRESS SET PURCHASED**

40 FACTORY OUTLETS ACROSS ONTARIO INCLUDING...

AJAX



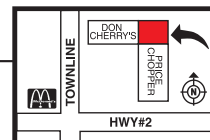
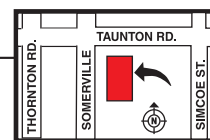
85 Kingston Rd. E
905-619-1315

OSHAWA

79 TAUNTON RD. W.
905-433-1052

COURTICE

1414 KING ST. E.
905-436-3368



Since
1978

the
Sleep Factory



PHONE
ORDERS
ACCEPTED

**WE MAKE
ANY SIZE
MATTRESS
SET UP AVAILABLE**

**DISPOSAL OF OLD
SET AVAILABLE
FREE 6 MO.
LAY-AWAY**

HOURS

Mon. - Wed. 10-6
Thurs. - Fri. 10-9
Sat. 10-6
Sun. 11-4

