

The Pickering News Advertiser

46 PAGES ♦ Metroland Durham Region Media Group ♦ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005 ♦ Optional delivery \$6 / Newsstand \$1



ON THE RISE
Band comes out on top at battle
Entertainment Page 13



Sports Page 8

VERSATILITY
Dakota offers plenty
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[Briefly]

Christian women plan sweet sounding and tasting meeting: Perk up your morning with coffee and discussion next week.

The Ajax-Pickering Christian Women's Club is putting out the invite for its February morning coffee meeting, featuring the sweet sounds of Lisa Vegter of Pickering, while Janice Beurling brings Hilary's Special Honey. Guest speaker Eileen Goodman of Thornhill discusses her busy life and her unchanging strength.

The meeting runs 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, Feb 24 at the Annandale Golf and Country Club, Church Street South, at Bayly Street, in Ajax. Admission is \$8 at the door or \$5 for first-time guests. Call Janet at 905-427-3072.

Pickering Naturalists meet: The Pickering Naturalists is studying gulls at its March meeting.

Richard Joos, a bird band with the Toronto Bird Observatory, will join the group to study Little and Ross's gulls in Churchill, Manitoba. Joos has been researching an Arctic ecosystem associated with the feeding habits of the gulls. The meeting begins at 7:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 3 in the library at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School, corner of Rosebank Road North. For information, call Heather Jessop 905-837-1775.

The group's March outing is for birding along the Toronto waterfront. Meet John Stirrat at 10 a.m. at the corner of the Pickering GO Station parking lot, before driving to Humber Bay East Park. The session is Saturday, March 12. Call Mr. Stirrat in advance at 416-284-7744.

Meet the midwives: Sages-Femmes Rouge Valley Midwives invites the public to learn about midwifery.

The midwives can support women during delivery at their home or at either of the Rouge Valley Health System's two sites, in Ajax and Scarborough. Midwives provide care at no cost to women through pregnancy, labour, birth and postpartum. An information session is Monday, Feb. 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pickering Ontario Early Years Centre, 1822 Whites Rd.

Anyone interested is asked to register. Call 905-409-6447.

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Historic home faces demolition

North Pickering community fighting again to save home of Rebel leader

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING — One of Pickering's most historically important buildings is facing demolition — again.

Public Works issued a dozen notices last week to tenants living in homes on the federal lands in north Pickering to vacate, including Laurie and Gary

Barclay who live in the Tullis cottage. (Public Works manages the properties for Transport Canada, which owns the land).

The home on Seventh Concession Road, just west of Brock Road, was designated as a heritage property in December by Pickering council.

The Barclays received their latest eviction notice Feb. 16 and are to be out by June 30. They had previously received and fought one in 2001.

"Not as bad as the first time," is how Ms. Barclay described her feelings. "The first time was absolutely devastating."

The letter refers to an inspection

done some months ago that found it would be costly to make necessary repairs and upgrades.

"The landlord has determined that it is uneconomic for the landlord to incur these expenditures, along with the ongoing maintenance costs of the premises. The landlord is now taking steps to obtain vacant possession of the leased premises for the purpose of demolition," the letter reads.

Gail Cross, spokeswoman for Transport Canada, could not comment on any specific property. She said the decision on the properties was based on a business case analysis.

"(We've) come to the decision that

it is not cost-effective to (keep them tenanted)," she said.

The problem many have with the decision is the resulting loss of history.

The Tullis Cottage was built in 1840 by Reverend George Barclay, the first Scottish settler of Pickering Township. He held several offices in the community, as well as playing a large role in the Rebellion of 1837. The Barclays owned the home until it was expropriated by the federal government in the early 1970s, but even after that the Barclays continued to occupy it.

"The Barclays were one of the key

♦ See Move, Page 2

HARE'S TO YOU CLASS



Ron Pietroniro / News Advertiser photo

PICKERING — Adrian O'Driscoll, co-ordinator for the Toronto and Region Conservation authority's Watershed on Wheels program, shows off a rabbit pelt during last weekend's Paw Prints Educational Hike event in the Frenchman's Bay area. Families at the seminar learned about local wildlife and then ventured out to look for wildlife tracks and habitats.

Pickering's consultants suggest less is best for nuclear sirens

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING — The City's consultants say as few as six nuclear alerting sirens could do the job that Durham Region's consultants say would take 29.

A consultants' report was given to members of council recently, suggesting far fewer sirens would be needed to meet the provincial requirements for an alerting system within three kilometres of a nuclear station.

"Although seven sirens appear to be the minimum number required, there is the possibility that a certain percentage of the sirens may fail to operate properly... In order to meet this specification, more sirens are required. Aercoustics (an engineering firm) suggests that a total of 11 sirens would be appropriate to address this design specification if redundancy is still required," the report reads.

Tom Melymuk, division head of corporate projects and policy with the City, said the number could be further reduced if the location of the sirens were switched.

"Six sirens will meet the standard based on the peer review," he said.

The different recommendations stem from the level of background noise used by each consultant.

"What I understand is (the differ-

♦ See Dickerson, Page 4

Pickering restaurants fined for violations

About 3,000 premises checked by health department in 2004

By David Blumenfeld
Staff Writer

DURHAM — The latest list of establishments convicted of storing or serving food in a manner not consistent with accepted public health practices has been released.

The Durham Region Health Department is required by the Province to conduct a Food Safety program — including the regular inspection and monitoring of some 3,000 food premises in Durham Region — to reduce the risk of food-borne illnesses. Establishments must comply with certain prac-

tices or risk prosecution.

"It's to ensure that the food is going to be safe that the public's going to be consuming," said Ken Gorman, the health department's director of environmental health.

"The really good restaurant and food operators are going to be good because they want to be good. We have lots of them out there. Others may not be as diligent."

Mr. Gorman said the number of convictions in 2004 was comparable to 2003. He said 45 were convicted last year, compared to 54 the previous year. Charges range from failing to store foods at the proper temperatures to failing to store food on racks or shelves.

Bobby C's Dockside at Port Darlington Marina was convicted in November

2004 of eight charges laid over a two-day period in March 2004. Since then, inspectors have given the restaurant a clean bill of health, owner and operator Kayle Tronstad said.

"Since last year, they've come in and been nothing but blown away. Yeah, we got dinged pretty good, but in our view we run a really good ship," Mr. Tronstad said.

Mr. Tronstad said six of the eight charges were first-time offences, and that some of them had to do with the building being 30 years old, such as cracks in the dry wall. Not once has the restaurant received a phone call about someone getting ill from eating there, he added.

"People see that we've got eight charges and they think there was raw chicken all over the floor. That's what's

more damaging, the fact that the general public doesn't know the fullest extent of what it is they do come in and look for, the little things," he said.

Mr. Gorman said all the establishments on the list had the opportunity to change the way they prepare, store or serve food before being charged. More time is given to correct construction or maintenance concerns, but food handling issues are rechecked within 24 to 48 hours, he said.

"We invest a lot of time trying to tell people the reasons why so they have a full understanding of what the expectations are. The end result is, we're not there every day. It becomes incumbent upon that individual to take that knowledge and ensure that they're

♦ See Six, Page 4

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Move afoot to save Pickering heritage home

◆ Move, From Page 1

Pickering families," said Pamela Fuselli, chairwoman of Heritage Pickering.

She said the single-storey Ontario classic is worthy of heritage designation not only because of its architectural elements, but also because of the Barclay family.

"It meets just about every criteria for designation. It could be the house or the family," she said.

The only home on the lands that the federal government has designated as a heritage property is the Bentley House, now the office of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority.

Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Holland has also taken up the cause.

"We have so little local heritage left... There's a number of properties in northern Pickering that present an opportunity to preserve Pickering's heritage," he said.

He has written a letter to and met with Transport Minister Jean Lapierre.

"We need him, essentially, to intervene," he said. "I don't expect to get anything definite until Thursday."

Mr. and Ms. Barclay have lived in the home for 20 years, raising four of their five children there. Ms. Barclay is upset not just at the prospect of losing her home, but also a part of her family's and Pickering's history.

"In our case it's because they want to demolish this home," she said.

"We would walk away from it if the house was saved."

Ms. Crossman said the government is interested in working with local groups but that wouldn't change



The former home of George Barclay, one of the leaders of the 1837 Rebellion, is slated for demolition following an order last week from Public Works.

the decision regarding the vacating of the properties.

"We would consider heritage significance, but that would not in any way affect our decision regarding tenancy," she said.

Mr. Holland is hoping that before there are any further evictions that ministry officials sit down with the City and the heritage committee to discuss the historical significance of homes on the federal lands.

Pickering councillor wants other animal service options considered

PICKERING — Bill McLean doesn't want to wait until Whitby separates from PAW before Pickering has an alternate plan in place.

The Pickering Ward 2 regional councillor and member of the Pickering-Ajax-Whitby (PAW) Animal Services Committee wants City staff to investigate alternatives to PAW while they meet with staff from the Town of Whitby about continuing the partnership.

"We should seek out some other actions in the event that these talks collapse," he said at Monday's executive committee meeting.

Whitby wants the 20-year-old contract between itself, Pickering and Ajax revisited, believing it should get an administrative fee since the service is operated out of its municipality.

"I'm hearing they want to continue but they want to reopen the contract," Coun. McLean said in an interview Thursday. "It's a partnership and we all benefit in one way or another. Whitby benefits by having it in its town."

He wanted staff to report back on the talks with Whitby, as well as the alternatives, by the end of March, but other members of the committee

thought that was too soon and Mayor Dave Ryan suggested May. They agreed staff would report back at the end of April.

Some alternatives Coun. McLean suggested are

having Pickering offer the service on its own, contracting it out, or partnering with Ajax. He would prefer working with Ajax.

The PAW contract is up at the end of the year.

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Career options explored as teen girls experience engineering life through university program

Ajax student Samridhi Handa takes part in McMaster initiative

By Joshua May
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — McMaster University has engineered a career initiative for female students across Ontario.

On Feb. 5, more than 150 high school students travelled to Hamilton to witness, first-hand, the prospective career of engineering. 'Women in Engineering Experience' was a full-day show featuring guest speakers, discussions with engineering students and alumni, lab tours, a fireball show and a design competition with members of the winning team each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship.

"This is a really important event for anyone considering engineering as a

career," said Samridhi Handa, a Grade 12 student at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate in Ajax. "Talking to students about the program and getting a general idea of what college life is really like were all a part of the experience. If I attend (McMaster University), I will definitely be involved in programs such as these."

Ms. Handa, who was astounded by how advanced the McMaster laboratories were compared to her own high school facilities, found the tour of the campus to be the best part of the experience. Examining the intricate labs and holding discussions with university students, Ms. Handa has a better grasp on what she faces in the coming years and is excited about moving forward in her educational endeavours.

The 'Women in Engineering Experience,' now in its third year, advises student participants on the benefits of an engineering career. Students from

45 public and Catholic high schools attended, with the event running for more than eight hours.

"It's remarkably easy for our students to get involved in this event," said Shane Stagg, physics teacher at J. Clarke. "(McMaster) sends us all the forms and pertinent information required to attend. We simply relay the message to our students. (McMaster) has done an excellent job in organizing the entire event."

Mr. Stagg is pleased the informative experience exists for young females as it presents an opportunity to uncover a potential career. However, he was disappointed only one student attended, declining from three last year.

McMaster is a leader in such engineering fields as biomedical engineering, engineering and management, information technology, manufacturing and materials science, process control and photonics.

Durham police officers have Powerful ally

Computer system helped with Durham's six homicides in 2004

By Jillian Follert
Staff Writer

DURHAM — When it comes to the benefits of technology, Durham Regional Police Chief Kevin McAlpine says you can't argue with the numbers.

Out of six Durham homicides in 2004, six were cleared by investigators using the Major Case Management System, a massive central computer known more commonly as PowerCase.

"It wasn't the only tool they used, but in six out of six cases it was a factor," the chief says. "It's something we use every single day for all kinds of investigations. The system is an amazing asset."

Last week, Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter announced an amendment to the Police Services Act that makes PowerCase mandatory for Ontario's 60 police services, a move Chief McAlpine says is long overdue.

The system, which took eight years and \$32 million to create, automatically scans reports for similarities, such as addresses or licence plate numbers, that could link a single perpetrator to crimes in different jurisdictions.

Work on the system began in 1997, after Justice Archie Campbell determined that a lack of coordination and communication hampered the work of the Green Ribbon Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional group of police officers investigating the murders of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy.

One of his key recommendations was a common automated case management software application to be used in investigating homicides and sexual assaults.

"Durham had officers on the Green Ribbon Task Force and on Justice Campbell's steering committee, so this

is an issue we are very familiar with," Chief McAlpine said.

"We started using the system in 2002 because we realized how important it was. Now everyone is going to be using it, which will make it even more effective."

While about half the province's police services were already using PowerCase prior to the announcement, many smaller ones were unable to manage the cost of training and software. Police services will now be responsible for internal administrative costs only, with \$5 million in annual ministry funding earmarked to cover the rest.

While some have criticized the cost and called the technology a departure from traditional police work, Chief McAlpine said he wouldn't want his investigators to be without it.

"You use the old-fashioned police work to get the information that goes in the system. Then the system does things no human being could do... it keeps track of all the little nuances and similarities," he says. "We haven't had a big multi-jurisdictional case to use it for yet, but when we do I know it will be a huge advantage."



Kevin McAlpine

Pickering could be hearing wedding bells

Pickering looking to join Province's civil marriages program

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING — Paying property taxes, meeting with a councillor and saying 'I do' — are just a few of the things residents can do at the Pickering Civic Complex.

Well, getting married there isn't a reality just yet, but it might be in a few months.

City clerk Bruce Taylor briefed Pickering council on the concept at a recent management forum and said all the lakeshore municipalities in Durham are supportive of the idea, but so far only Clarington has passed a bylaw to opt into the provincial program.

In September, the Province changed the Marriage Act to allow municipal clerks, or a designate, to solemnize marriages and help take the load off Ontario's justices of the peace.

"The reason the Province got into this was because the marriages carried out by justices of the peace are not going to be carried out anymore," Mr. Taylor explained, adding, "We would be performing non-religious marriages. They would be totally civil."

Mr. Taylor attended a conference in the fall where the program was explained in more detail. He said participants were advised to choose someone who is used to dealing with the public and who has no religious affiliation (no deity can be mentioned during the ceremony), such as a retired teacher, police officer or civil servant.

"That is the type of person you would want to get," he said, as everyone in the chambers looked at Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean, a retired Toronto police officer.

Mr. Taylor painted a picture of how he thought it could work for Pickering. "I could see this being held in the council chambers," he said.

He added the cost would be between \$350 and \$400 and ceremonies should be allowed only a few days each week, such as Wednesday to Friday from 1 to 9 p.m.

"The suggestion is still that we do it during the week when we already have security here," he said.

He also stressed the service would be available to everyone.

"If we get into this, be aware we have to perform same-sex marriages," he said. "The people we appoint need to be made clear they'll have to do it."

Mr. Taylor said performing the ceremony would not be "a huge thing,"

estimating there would be only two or three marriages performed each month in the first years of the program.

A report is coming to council in mid-March.

"This isn't something we're going to do overnight," Mr. Taylor said.



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Six Pickering eateries fined by health department for food violations

♦ Six, From Page 1

doing things safely," Mr. Gorman said. The health department is also required to enforce the Ontario Tobacco Control Act, which regulates the sale of tobacco to individuals under 19 years old. A zero-tolerance policy is in effect, he said. "The legislation has been around for a long time, and so now when we do our test shopping, if you sell to a youth you will be charged," he added. Restaurants charged in Pickering are as follows: Santos Restaurant/Bar, 1050 Brock Rd., Unit 14 & 15, Pickering: Use food preparation equipment not of readily cleanable form (charged June 2, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine); operate food premise, maintained in manner adversely affecting sanitary condition (charged June 2, convicted Aug. 23,

\$215 fine); fail to protect food from contamination or adulteration (charged June 2, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine); operator fail to ensure equipment surface sanitized as necessary (charged June 2, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine) Manchu Wok, 1355 Kingston Rd., Pickering: Operator fail to ensure equipment surface washed as necessary (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine); operator fail to ensure wall of food-handling room kept clean (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine); fail to sanitize utensils as often as necessary (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine); fail to protect food from contamination or adulteration (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$215 fine). Golden Griddle Restaurant 1815 Liverpool Rd. Pickering: Operate food premise maintained in manner adversely affecting sanitary condition

(charged Aug. 10, convicted Oct. 25, \$235 fine); Fail to protect food from contamination or adulteration (charged Aug. 10, convicted Oct. 25, \$235 fine); Fail to protect food from contamination or adulteration (charged Aug. 10, convicted Oct. 25, \$235 fine); Use food preparation equipment not of readily cleanable form (charged Aug. 10, convicted Oct. 25, \$235 fine) Bun King Bakery, 1848 Liverpool Rd., Unit 6 Pickering: Use food preparation equipment not in good repair (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$340 fine); operator fail to ensure equipment surface washed as necessary (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$340 fine); operate food premise — equipment not arranged to permit cleaning (charged June 30, convicted Aug. 23, \$340 fine) Coffee Club, 1970 Brock Rd., Pickering: Fail to clean utensils as often as necessary (charged July 30, convict-

ed Oct. 25, \$235 fine); operator fail to ensure equipment surface washed as necessary (charged July 30, convicted Oct. 25, \$235 fine); fail to have test reagent available at place of sanitization (charged July 30, convicted Oct. 25, \$235 fine). Shoeless Joe's, 1725 Kingston Rd., Pickering: Fail to protect food from con-

tamination or adulteration (charged Aug. 3, convicted Oct. 25, \$425 fine); operate food premise maintained in manner adversely affecting sanitary condition (charged Aug. 3, convicted Oct. 25, \$425 fine) For a complete list of restaurant inspections and tobacco retailer convictions, go to www.region.durham.on.ca.

Movie night in Pickering marks Black History Month

PICKERING — The Pickering Public Library is getting in on the celebration. In recognition of Black History Month, the library, with support from the It Takes a Village Family Resource Centre, is offering a movie night Feb. 24 followed by a discussion. 'Kirikou and the Sorceress' takes to the screen, with the

story following tiny Kirikou, who is born into an African village upon which the sorceress Karaba has cast a terrible spell. The spring has dried up, the villagers are being ransomed and the men of the village have been eaten up by the sorceress. Kirikou sets out on an adventure-filled voyage to rid the village of Karaba's curse

and understand the cause of her wickedness. The event is in the central library branch auditorium from 6:30 to 9 p.m. It is free and refreshments are served. Registration is not necessary and all are welcome. For information, call 905-831-6265.

Dickerson wants other options explored

♦ Dickerson, From Page 1

ence) had a lot to do with their assumption of the ambient noise level in the zero- to three-kilometre area," Mr. Melymuk said. The sirens have been a controversial issue for the community. Last spring, more than 300 residents came to a public meeting to voice their concerns over the sirens, with some referring to them as archaic technology. Mr. Melymuk believes having such a significant reduction in the number of sirens might alleviate the concerns. "When you have fewer sirens it would be easier to find locations that would have less of an impact," he said. Ward 2 City Councillor Doug Dickerson, who represents the area where the sirens would be located, brought up the report at Monday's executive committee meeting. He said he would not accept 29 siren locations and isn't satisfied with the reduction to a possible six.

"Either someone has lost their marbles or never visited Bay Ridges or West Shore or they have no idea what a siren does," he said. "If they look a little bit harder I can take them out and show them a maximum of three locations."

He still believes there are other options than the sirens purchased by the Region (and paid for by Ontario Power Generation) at a cost of about \$600,000.

Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean agreed.

"I'm still not happy with the units themselves," he said in an interview. "I really do believe there has to be better units out there."

He was pleased to see the number of sirens reduced, but wants further



Doug Dickerson

investigation.

"I'm not going to agree (to seven)," he said. "I want to hear more, see more and have further investigation done."

Coun. McLean also had questions about why the consultants did a peer review without the project's request for proposal, which lays out the specifications.

"It's important if they do a peer review that they have all the facts," he said.

The next step is a conversation between the Region and the City about the report, as well as to discuss locations.

Ivan Ciuciura, director of emergency management with the Region, said Thursday he hadn't seen the report yet, so he could not comment.

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Relocation of Two Heritage Houses
 The Ministry of Transportation is accepting proposals from interested individuals for the relocation of two (2) heritage structures located in the Municipality of Clarington. The houses will be made available to private individuals for relocation and restoration at their own cost. Details of the structures are available on-line through the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario website (www.hips.com/ACO). The houses are described there as:
 1) **Cole Farm House** located at 5681 Acres Road, Clarington
 2) **Werry House** located at 5531 Bethesda Road, Clarington
 Copies of the proposal documents (referred to as an RFP) are to be given out at the viewings or mailed to individuals who request them.
 Interested individuals must attend the **mandatory viewing on March 5, 2005** as follows:
 5681 Acres Road, Clarington – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 5531 Bethesda Road, Clarington – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 The viewing is to provide information on the houses' condition and the proposal process and only those individuals attending will be eligible for consideration.
 Further information is also available by contacting the **Ministry of Transportation** at **416-235-5541**.


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Mike Pochwat/ News Advertiser photo

Blowing off steam

PICKERING — It was pyjama day last week at the Petticoat Creek branch of the Pickering Public Library. This balloon blowing activity was one of the many events for Cala Alfonso-Francis and other local kids nine to 12 years old.

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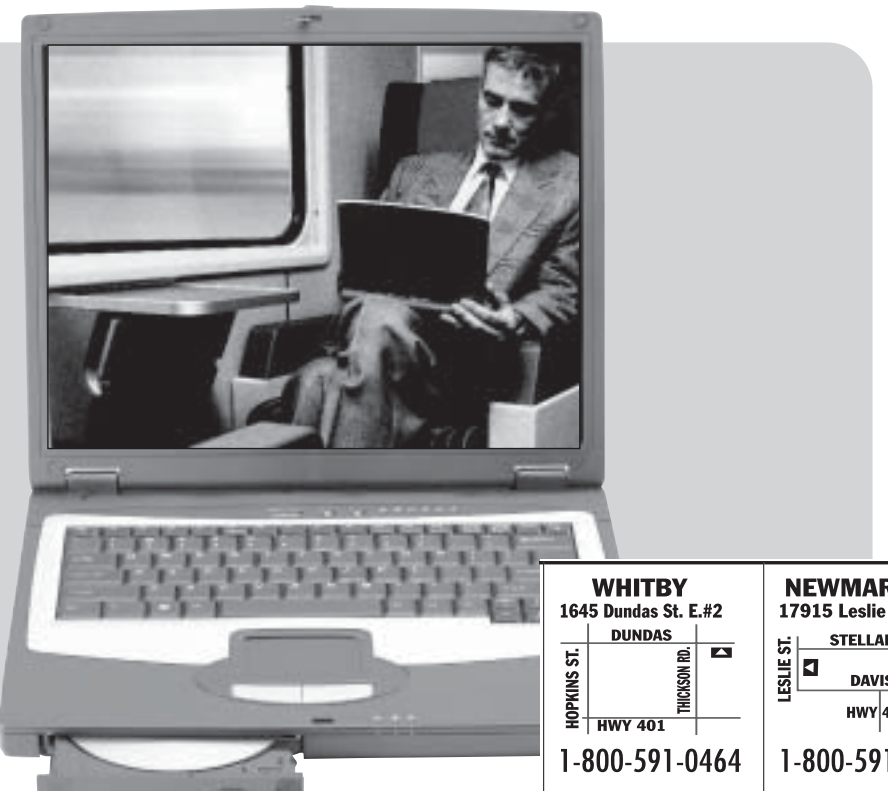
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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

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EDITORIAL

Road repairs in Pickering are needed right now

Durham's economy runs only as well as traffic can get through the region

Those potholes you've been dodging in your vehicle across Durham Region aren't the only road hassles you'll have in the coming years.

According to a four-year roads forecast just released by the Region's works department, much-needed work on Durham's regional roadways will have to be deferred for years to come.

And that's just not acceptable, according to Durham Region Chairman Roger Anderson.

Nor should it be acceptable to individuals and businesses across Durham.

As the Region grows, so does the need to improve and expand our roads, especially east-west links across Durham.

We've been forced to be patient and wait as the Province dithers along on the much-anticipated Hwy. 407 extension. With environmental assessments planned and the customary provincial budget crunch never-ending, it could be nearly a decade before the 407 goes from Brock Road to Hwy 35/115. There's little we can do, other than have Mr. Anderson, in his role as president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, make clear to the Province how much the 407 extension is needed.

Meanwhile, there are serious gaps in our regional roads which must be filled in, especially with a regional transit system set to begin in 2006. The Region has budgeted \$41.4 million for this year, but a million doesn't go far when it comes to roadwork.

Most of the work that will happen will be in the Region's west end. Taunton Road, between Lakeridge Road and Valleywood Drive, and between Church Street and Westney Road, will be worked on as will Brock Road.

However, the intersection of Thicketon Road and Consumers Drive in Whitby, the realignment of Victoria Street in Whitby and work on Taunton Road between Simcoe Street and Ritson Road in Oshawa, has been set aside for now.

The defence against not doing more now is simple: We don't have the money. Works commissioner Cliff Curtis said that, to hit every project on the wish list, another \$70 million would have to be added to the roads budget. That would make it as vast as the police budget.

Perhaps the only answer, beyond raising taxes to provide more for roadwork (a non-starter), is to look for more revenue in the upcoming federal and provincial budgets. The feds release their budget today, and, if Paul Martin makes good on his election promises, it will include an increase in gas tax revenue. The Province will follow along in a month or so and should also provide gas tax cash that is sorely needed.

Durham's roads are the arteries along which our economy runs. We can't afford to let them get clogged up and break down.

CLICK AND SAY

This Week's Question: *With many Durham restaurants charged by the Region for health violations, will it make you think twice about dining out in the near future. Yes, No?*

Cast your vote online at
infodurhamregion.com

Last Week's Question: *Do you think the Province should follow the recommendations of the Rae report?*

Votes cast: 75
No: 53.3%
Yes: 46.7%

IN THE COMMUNITY



Pickering Popsicle

Lothar Malcher of Pickering sent us one of his 'winter scenes' as he prefers to them, taken along the lakeshore, just east of the Pickering nuclear station.

Do you have a photo to share with our readers?

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Marriage' is sacred

To the editor:

I am writing in defence of keeping the term marriage exclusively for the union of one man with one woman, as it has been since thousands of years ago.

It is essential for the building of families, where children are nurtured and given healthy values, to pass on from one generation to the next.

Marriage has been the foundation of our society.

To include same-sex couples in this union would change the structure of society and cause a negative impact on children, individuals, and families.

I do support the rights of individuals to equal benefits and I hope that a term that is mutually satisfying can be found to cover their needs and privileges.

But please keep the term marriage for the union of one man with one woman to the exclusion of all others.

Anne Rode
West Hill

Special-education report missed input

To the editor:

Re: 'Building a better education program,' Feb. 20.

More professional development in a variety of areas does not translate into an improvement in programming for children with special needs. More personnel who deal directly with the kids and flexible, quality programming leads to better support for children with special needs.

John Hawley
Pickering

We need to help welfare recipients

To the editor:

Re: 'Most powerless, vulnerable need social assistance,' Feb. 11.

Through your article people have now gained an appre-



Neil Crone enters laughing

Finally, "I'll have to go with you," she explains, with a smile that does nothing to alleviate my unfounded guilt and leaves no question in my mind that this woman knows any number of very sensitive pressure points within the male physiology.

Still, I am in, and it is wonderful. We turn down a hallway lined with dripping galoshes and immediately the ancient scent of socks, washable paint and Plasticine carries me back decades to when these halls were my world. I want to suddenly lose my bristling tour guide so I can be alone with my reverie.

I want to go into a classroom and find my old desk, see if any of my stuff is still in there. I dismiss the thought of locking her in the janitors' cupboard. She would undoubtedly re-

ciation of the reality of social assistance and dispelled the myth of the welfare 'fraudster.' The next step is to increase support for programs that get people back to work.

I work with people who experience barriers to employment, such as: attitudes towards people with disabilities, lack of job experience/skills, long-term unemployment, recovering from addiction, surviving abuse, no Canadian work experience, and age.

People who experience barriers may require specialized supports to get back into the workforce and often find themselves recipients of social assistance, and, as the Minister of Community and Social Services stated in your article, there are not many supports to assist clients in obtaining and sustaining employment.

With a tight budget, the Durham regional social services staff do an incredible job of connecting clients with training, employability skills and jobs. Having had the pleasure of working with the Region in a very successful pilot program that found jobs for Ontario Works clients, I have seen the staff's commitment and dedication to help clients get back on their feet.

However, the 11,630 Durham-area welfare recipients cannot be served by the existing staff and programs, no matter how dedicated.

We need our business, government and community leaders to connect the dots between clients and the services that provide a hand up, not a hand out, and make real differences in people's lives.

Faelyne Templer
Ajax

Trip back in time to old school spoiled

Like a lot of us, I suspect, when my adult life becomes frustrating or confusing, I sometimes look back and try to take some direction, or at least comfort, from my childhood. A stroll through my old neighbourhood, with its happy ghosts and vivid emotional geography, almost always sets me back on track.... Almost always.

I hear the real present-day voices of children at play, and I see that I am very near my old public school. It is recess. I begin to walk toward the playground to see if I can still find myself among them, but the cold hand of reality stops me. I am in a dark hat, sunglasses and long overcoat. I look like a predator, for God's sake.

I take the more prudent course of entering the school through the front doors and introduce myself to the office staff. I was once a student here, I stammer to the stone-faced secretary with the soul-piercing eyes. I wonder if I could have a quick peek around? These words are not two seconds out of my mouth when I realize how indictable I sound.

There is a pause, during which my scrutineer, I am certain, is wishing she hadn't left her Tazer in her purse.

sist and, I admit, reluctantly, there is no guarantee I could take her.

My dismay is heightened all the more when we come to a remembered stairwell and there, in the exact same spot it was 30-odd years ago, is the Lost and Found hamper.

I know that, somehow, if I could just dig long and hard enough through that pile of mittens and tuques and dog-eared shoes, that I would, somewhere near the bottom, discover those long-ago days when I thought no further ahead than recess and lunch.

I feel her glare on the back of my neck and realize I have been standing and staring for too long. Suspiciously long. I want to personally throw the switch and spark up every pedophile who ever lived for ruining this moment. This rare and innocent moment.

I open my mouth to try to explain to her that I only wanted to find me, say hello for a moment and let me know that everything was going to be OK... but I am stopped short by what sounds like a handheld electrical tool warming up in her jacket pocket.

Neil Crone, actor-comic-writer, saves some of his best lines for his columns.

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We welcome letters that include name, city of residence and phone numbers for verification. Writers are generally limited to 200 words and one submission in 30 days. We decline announcements, poetry, open letters, consumer complaints, congratulations and thank you notes. The editor reserves the right to edit copy for length, style and clarity. Opinions expressed by letter writers are not necessarily those of the News Advertiser. Due to the volume of letters, not all will be printed. Fax: 905-683-0386; e-mail: tdoyle@durhamregion.com. The newspaper contacts only those whose submissions have been chosen for publication.

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ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS AT CITY HALL

DATE	MEETING	TIME
Feb. 23	Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Feb. 28	Management Forum Meeting	1:30 pm
Feb. 28	Executive Committee	7:30 pm
Mar. 7	Council Meeting	7:30 pm
Mar. 21	Management Forum Meeting	1:30 pm

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

2005 INTERIM TAX NOTICE

First Installment of the
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February 25, 2005

If you have not received your Tax Notice, please telephone the Civic Complex at 905.420.4614 (North Pickering 905.683.2760) or Toll Free 1.866.683.2760. Our office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Questions regarding your property assessment?

- Please note that property assessment is the responsibility of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and that all assessment related inquiries should be directed to them at 1.866.296.6722.
- Additional information regarding property assessment can be found on MPAC's website: www.mpac.ca

days before the due date for your payment to reach our office. **Note: Your tax account is credited when payment is received at our office, not the day funds are withdrawn from your bank account.**

- By mail. To avoid the late payment penalty fee, please ensure that your tax payment is mailed five days before the due date. Cheques post-dated for the due dates are acceptable. **Note: Your account is credited when payment is received at our office, not the post-marked date.**
- After hours "outside" drop box at the City municipal building on or before the due date.
- By telephone/computer banking. Please check with your financial institution for details. Please allow five days before the due date for your payment to reach our office. **Note: Your tax account is credited when payment is received at our office, not the day funds are withdrawn from your bank account.**

Failure to receive a Tax Notice does not reduce YOUR responsibility for the payment of taxes and penalty.

A late payment fee of 1.25% is added to any unpaid taxes on the first day of default and on the first day of each month, as long as the taxes remain unpaid. The penalty and interest rates are set by City by-laws, pursuant to the Ontario Municipal Act. The City does not have the authority to waive penalty and interest charges.

Tired of standing in line to pay your taxes?

Please note that the City of Pickering offers the following payment options and encourages you to try these convenient alternatives. You can pay your taxes:

- At participating financial institutions. Please allow five

You have a voice in Pickering's 2005 Budget Process

Pickering's city budget is a blueprint for how your property tax dollars will be spent. It spells out the priorities for the municipal services and programs that you have come to depend on each and every day.

The City's 2005 budget process has been planned to provide residents with an opportunity to provide their comments on the proposed 2005 capital budget program.

To provide your comments, please access the City's website (cityofpickering.com) in the key highlights section.

In addition you can write to the following address at:

Budget 2005
 City of Pickering
 Pickering Civic Complex
 One The Esplanade
 Pickering, ON L1V 6K7

What you've been waiting for...

Training Tips for
FAT LOSS

Saturday, February 26 at 10 am

Training tips to help you feel stress-free, strong & toned!



Recreation Complex Members: \$5
 Non-Members: \$10
FREE to Fat Off Participants

905.683.6582
 cityofpickering.com/recreation

PICKERING RECREATION COMPLEX

Old Timers Hockey Day
IN PICKERING

Sunday, March 6, Noon - 7 pm
 Pickering Recreation Complex Arena

FEATURING:

- NHL Player Celebrity Autograph Session
- NHL Old Timers vs. Pickering Firefighter Team
- NHL Old Timers vs. KX96 Celebrity Team
- Finland Lasers vs. Pickering Panthers European Travel Team

GENERAL ADMISSION Tickets \$10

Event proceeds to Minor Ice Sports Groups

Special thanks Pickering for the last 10 years from ...
Bobby Baun, Frank Mahovlich & Brian McFarland

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

Pickering Ringette	905.420.4061
Durham West Girls Hockey	905.471.6124
Pickering Hockey Association	905.839.9862
Skate Canada Pickering Skating Club	905.420.4117
Rebound Sports	905.683.3476
Pickering Recreation Complex	905.683.6582

cityofpickering.com/greatevents

Four years ago, Charles Collins promised his lovely wife that he would not just sit and watch TV when he retired.

Charles is a stroke survivor who has decided to keep active and make the most of each and every day.

Charles' humour and good nature has allowed him to meet some great people and develop new friendships at the Rec Complex.

Charles' advice is to laugh and look for the up-side in every situation. Time takes care of the rest.



Charles accepts his award from City Councillor Doug Dickerson



Carbon Monoxide - Silent but Deadly

Carbon Monoxide mixes evenly in air so detectors can be mounted at any height but it is recommended they be mounted between knee and chest height (sleeping height). Make sure they are not blocked by furniture, drapes or other obstructions. If you have a combination smoke/Carbon Monoxide detector mount it on the ceiling where smoke will reach it.

For more information contact the Pickering Fire Services at Phone: 905.420.4628 or email: fire@cityofpickering.on.ca or visit our website at cityofpickering.com

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Cops for Cancer Try-A-Tri & Head Shave

Saturday, March 5, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
 Pickering Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road
 Free Family Event, Spectators Encouraged!

Try-A-Tri, It's Simple . . .
 Register a team of 3 and raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Registration fee is \$10 per competitor

Each Team Will
 Swim 16 lengths in the pool * Ride a stationary bike for 10 km *Run 3 km on a treadmill * Collect a minimum of \$100 in pledges

Head Shave
 Register with the Canadian Cancer Society and raise pledges. Head shaving commences at 1:00 pm on Saturday; you can register at 12 noon the same day.

East Side Mario's will be on site all day selling burgers and dogs, all proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. Children from 6 to 12 years of age can participate in **FREE activities**; **free child supervision** is also available for children 6 months to 8 years of age.

Pickering Sports Medicine and Wellness Centre will provide complimentary massages to competitors and spectators who make a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society. **Thackeray Chiropractic** will scan for muscle imbalances and body stress.

Canadian Cancer Society,
Durham Region Unit - 1.800.668.7830,
 905.430.5770 or email: msaloni@ccsont.org



MARCH BREAK CAMPS

Ages 3 - 12 years • March 14 to 18, 2005

HALF DAY MINI PIDACA (AGES 3-5 YEARS)

(All Children Must Be Toilet Trained)

Mini Pidaca provides children with a learning and cooperative experience in arts & crafts, music and singalongs, indoor games, theme days and special events. This camp is a great way for children to participate in enjoyable activities while interacting with other children their age.

SPORTS CAMP (AGES 5-12 YEARS)

This camp is ideal for the active camper who is interested in learning indoor soccer, floor hockey, basketball, indoor games and many other team events. Special events and theme days will be planned throughout the week. Daily swim will be provided with qualified lifeguards. Location: Pickering Recreation Complex.

ARTS CAMP (AGES 5-12 YEARS)

Campers will have the opportunity to develop new skills and express themselves through a variety of activities: drama, art, creative games, crafts and special theme days. A daily swim with qualified lifeguards on duty will be available for all campers at the Recreation Complex.

EXTENDA CAMP PROGRAM REGULAR DAY CAMP PROGRAM

7:00 am to 9:00 am & 3:15 pm to 6:00 pm

9:00 am to 3:15 pm INCLUDES BUSING

CALL 905.420.4621 FOR REGISTRATION AND BUSING DETAILS

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Richard Sabourin, past-president of the Durham West Girls' Hockey Association, says he knew girls hockey had cemented its place in the sporting community when he began to notice boys hanging around arenas while the girls played. In the past, he noted it was always the other way around.

Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

In Brief

FEBRUARY 23, 2005

[Hockey]

Double silver for Panther atoms

PICKERING — The Pickering Panthers atom AE team is riding high after recent successes in both tournament and post-season action.

The Panthers' silver medal performance at the Oshawa Church Hockey League 30th Heritage Invitational was the second in as many weeks and followed a second at the Tournament of Friends event in Burlington the weekend before.

In the Oshawa tournament, Pickering clinched silver with a 5-2 win over the Stuffville Clippers. The Panthers also beat Brampton 7-4 and tied the host select team 3-3. Scoring for Pickering were Matthew Yarde (four goals, two assists), Darren Binder (2g, 2a), Connor Bess (3g), Dylan Vieira (1g, 2a), Cameron Hudson (1g, 2a), Matthew Coppia (3a), Keaton Eldridge (2g), Jamie Romaniuk (1g, 1a), Matthew Woitzik (1g, 1a), Evans Knoll (2a) and Cameron Guenther (2a).

The week before in Brantford, Pickering won three of five games but both losses came to the tournament hosts, Brantford Church Saints, including a 3-0 setback in the final. Binder had a strong tournament offensively, picking up three goals and four assists. Other scorers were Eldridge (3g, 1a), Connor Sullivan (1g, 2a), Yarde (1g, 2a), Bess (2g), Woitzik (1g, 1a), Vieira (2a), Coppia (1g), Hudson (1g), Brandon Kirkup (1a), Romaniuk (1a) and Guenther (1a).

In league playoff action, the Panthers swept Belleville in the preliminary round and now await the winner of a series between Whitby and Clarington.

Other team members are Jason McNeil, Karl Hintze, and goaltenders Peter Nicol and Brandon Eno. Dave Nicol coaches the team, assisted by Dave Binder and Goober Romaniuk. Team trainer is Martin Woitzik. Team manager is Joanne Vieira. Major sponsors are Si Vous Play Sports and Dr. Jay Petroff, Dental Surgeon.

[Hockey]

Championship for Panther bantams

PICKERING — The Pickering Panthers minor bantam 'AA' rep hockey team put in overtime, as well as a shootout, to secure the championship at a tournament in Lake Placid, New York recently.

The Panthers trailed the Humberview Sharks of Toronto 3-2 before scoring with a mere 15 seconds remaining to tie the final. A 4-on-4 overtime frame ensued, with neither time able to score in the extra frame. Next came a shootout, with Panthers goaltender Michael Evans kicking out the final shot to subdue the Sharks.

The Panthers were unbeaten in preliminary play, posting a 5-1 victory over the Northwood Stars in Game 1 and a 7-1 thrashing of the Prince William Panthers of Virginia in Game 2. In Game 3, the Panthers played to a 1-1 tie with the Humberview Sharks.

The Panthers defence — led by the efforts of Brendan Wetering, Curtis Henderson, Kyle Inglis, Shane Del Zotto, Kyle Sawyer and Dillon Bess — did a great job keeping the goals-against to a minimum for the tournament. Goaltender Kyle Bradley shared the undefeated streak with solid performances between the pipes.

The Pickering bantams outscored the competition 17-6 during the tournament with scoring evenly distributed among forwards Luke Pollard, Jessie Vella, Nick Baun, Brody Caggiula, Jimmy Ianiero, Blair Kimble, Anthony Valerio, Cameron Farrell and Adam McNeil.

The Panthers return home to face the rival Ajax Knights in the second round of league playoffs.

Alan Kimble coaches the team, assisted by Derek Bess. The trainer is Lorne McNeil, assisted by Mark Vella. Terri Caggiula's the manager.

[Tennis]

Love is in the air

PICKERING — Sign on for a summer of love with the Glendale Tennis Club.

The club holds registration at the Pickering Recreation Complex, 1867 Valley Farm Rd., on Thursday, March 3 from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The club offers a variety of lessons, leagues, and a junior program. For more information, call Nancy Campbell at 905-839-8901.

Girls leading the charge

They're no longer just spectators in Ajax and Pickering arenas; they're the main attraction

This is the first in a three-part series looking at the growth of women's hockey in Durham Region.

By Al Rivett
Sports Editor

DURHAM — Richard Sabourin recalls the singular moment when girls' hockey in Ajax and Pickering had finally arrived.

Surprisingly, the Durham West Girls' Hockey Association's (DWGHA) strong growth and its overall success played no part in his revelation.

It was something much more profoundly simple. For the past-president of the association, a scene at a local arena represented a paradigm shift in terms of the acceptance of girls' hockey.

"Young girls have been following young boys to arenas for years and years," says Sabourin. "But, at a bantam girls' game there were a number of boys who had followed the girls to the arena. It really made me smile. When you see the evolution of the boys coming out to the girls' game, you know it's here to stay. When you go to the girls' games and there are six or eight 'AAA' boys who follow around the girls, to me that's huge."

The scene at the arena underlined for him how far the distaff side of the sport, as well as the local association, had come. At one time, Sabourin recalls, girls' playing hockey was viewed as somewhat of a social taboo.

Not any more.

"Ten to 15 years ago, someone would have found it socially odd for girls to play hockey. Now, nobody sees it as different or strange."

Spurred on by the prominence of the Canadian women's hockey team and their success on the international stage, especially since being added as a full-fledged Olympic sport in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan, girls' hockey has taken flight across Cana-



da, and especially within the DWGHA, which has served Pickering and Ajax for the past 12 years, says Sabourin.

Since its incorporation in 1993, the association has been a success story on the local sporting landscape. From its early beginnings, under the stewardship of inaugural president Art Carefoote and a dedicated group of volunteers on its executive, the association has been on a steady upward trajectory in terms of the number of participants.

In 2004-05, the association offers hockey to more than 800 females at the house league or rep level, including 28 house league teams, 16 rep teams and five select squads along with 12 senior women's teams.

"It really has been straight line growth," says Sabourin, who gave way to current president Don Fraser this year in order to organize his Durham West peewee 'AA' team's trip to Finland this year. He served as the head of the DWGHA for the previous four years.

Sabourin reports that, based on per-capita population in Pickering and Ajax, the DWGHA is the largest association in Canada.

The support of the two municipalities, says Sabourin, was crucial to Durham West's ability to launch its hockey program and

expand it over the years.

"They've bought into the fact that girls' hockey should have as many hours on a per-participant basis as boys," says Sabourin. "In the past five years they've recognized gender equality in ice time."

"Other associations have had to take municipalities to court over it. But I give (the municipalities) a great deal of credit for recognizing it without any fighting. Without the ice time, you can put all the senior national hockey on TV that you want, but you can't deliver your program."

'We have tons of ice and we're very aggressive with our ice time that we give the kids.

Because of that, we've attracted some good players.'

DINO CAGGIULA

And, because of ice time availability, the DWGHA was able to throw open its doors to any and all female players, says Sabourin.

"Our number-one priority was inviting as many participants who wanted to get into the sport as possible. In fact, in 12 years, we've never turned away a single applicant," he says, adding that the association has made provisions to help those players from low-income families.

Building on the foundation of ice time and its burgeoning numbers, the DWGHA turned its attention to developing a program that would deliver excellence on the ice. And, the association and its coaches have succeeded in spades. Between 2001 and 2003, the association's rep teams captured a number of provincial titles, making it the winningest association in Ontario.

"We develop fun and excellence year after year," says Sabourin. "Are we perfect? Of course not, but we strive for excellence in all our programs."

Not only is the grassroots hockey in the association prosperous with a strong house league program, the elite hockey within the organization has been exemplary. Sabourin

says the DWGHA continues to have an arms-length relationship with the Telus Lightning of the National Women's Hockey League. And, this year, the Durham West intermediate 'AA' squad competes in the Provincial Women's Hockey League, which has teams for players ages 21 and under from across the province.



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

Lindsay Hill and the Durham West Lightning junior reps, taking on the Bluewater Hawks in recent action, are an example of the strong base of women hockey players developing in Durham.



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo

Panthers waxed from playoffs

Fall to Markham in six games

PICKERING — It's all over for the Pickering Panthers. The Panthers were knocked out of their opening-round OHA Ontario Provincial Junior 'A' Hockey League series against the Markham Waxers, four games to two.

Pickering dropped three close games on the weekend, the final two by the same 5-3 score.

Going into the series, coach John Winder felt confident his team matched up well with the Waxers. The teams ended the regular season in a fourth-place tie, both collecting 63 points.

"It's really disappointing. We were such even teams and we didn't seem to catch the bounce we needed," Winder says, pointing out in the last two games, Pickering gave up empty-netters.

"When it's that close and you don't score and they come and get an empty-netter, it's disappointing,"

he states.

On Friday, Markham doubled the Panthers 6-3.

Heading into the weekend, Pickering held a 2-1 series lead, thanks to a 5-4 win last Wednesday.

"It ended a great season," Winder adds. "We had the arena full. The kids got to experience what it's like to have a packed house and they're cheering for you."

Next up for the Panthers are the exit interviews with the players, he adds.

Winder says Mike Rapson won't be back next year because he'll be overage, while goalie Ryan Daniels will be heading to the Saginaw team in the OHL.

"We'll find out what the boys' plans are and how we can help them achieve them," Winder says.

Scouts have been out all year looking at prospective players and "we have a complete list of names and we'll put together a short list."

Recruits will be contacted to "see what their plans are."

Playing for keeps

AJAX — Frank Forde of Dickson Printing has what Tom George of Upper Deck wants during recent action from the Ajax Men's Basketball League, played every Wednesday at Ajax High School.

Annandale Curling Club mixes it up this weekend in Ajax

Full slate of zone playdowns scheduled

By Jim Easson
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — The Annandale Curling Club hosts a bevy of zone playdowns this weekend.

The Pepsi Junior Mixed, Pepsi Bantam Mixed, OCA Senior Mixed, and the OCA Mixed run Feb. 25 to 27 at the Ajax club.

Annandale entries in the six-team Junior Mixed Zone are the rinks of Tim March, Meaghan O'Leary, Matt Pyne, and Tracy O'Leary, and Kaitlyn Leslie, Patrick Jansen, Kayla Bianchi with Tyler Anderson.

In the 11-team bantam mixed, Annandale's entries are Chantal Lalonde, Peter Tak, Renee Lalonde with Michael Bryson, and Lesley Pyne, Wesley Forget, Leahanne Legrow and Emmett Murphy. Three teams are in

the Senior Mixed Zone, but none from Annandale.

There are seven teams in the Open Mixed and Annandale's entry consists of Warren Leslie, Brenda O'Hara, Dave Hutchison, and Joan O'Leary.

Two other Annandale players are competing, Jason March and Blair Metrakos, but under the Uxbridge banner with the McNight sisters.

Two Annandale Junior Men have another provincial championship under their wing. The Gore Mutual Schoolboy Championship is for students enrolled in a full-time program in the year of competition. Annandale's Tim March and Patrick Jansen curl with Graeme Arnald and Stephen Mathews for Sir Oliver Mowat C.I. in Scar-

borough. The foursome won the Ontario finals, held in Sutton Feb. 17 to 20.

Annandale curlers are faring well in other school curling. Tracy O'Leary and Stacey Hogan won the Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics championship Feb. 11 with Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School teammates Jessica Cane, Courtney Rzepka, and Treena Watson. The team is looking forward to competing in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championship in Timmins this April.

The OCA Colts Zone was held Uxbridge Feb. 7 and an Annandale foursome advanced to the regional Feb. 19 and 20 at the York Curling

Club. Jason March skipped the team of Graham Hill, Blair Metrakos, and Scott March, but the run ended there.

The 13th annual Annandale Ladies Invitational Cash Extravaganza (ALICE) was a success Feb. 12.

Twenty-four teams, including five visiting rinks, competed for the \$400 first prize and qualification for the Melita Sunshine Bonspiel.

The home team of Leslie Bainard, Janet Alexander, April Risto and Diane Leahy finished first.

Annandale teams of Helen Gay and Lesley Pyne took second and third respectively, while in fourth place was Bradford's Kathleen Gorsline team.

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Sat. Feb.26 from 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Sat. Mar.05 from 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Sat. Mar.19 from 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Sat. Apr.02 from 10:00AM - 2:00PM

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Saturday, February 26, 2005

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Summer 2005 House League Registration

Saturday, February 26 – Village Arena 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday, February 27 – Ajax CC 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday, March 2 – A.S.C. Clubhouse 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Micro Ages 4, 5, 6 **\$90.00** **Mini, Club** Age 7+ and **Women's Programs \$140.00**

Spring Tryouts for Rep Teams

Spring tryouts for our rep teams are handled on an individual basis. If you are interested in trying out please review the coach information below and contact the appropriate coach to set up an appointment.

BOY TEAMS			GIRL TEAMS		
Coaches	Phone #	Birth Year	Coaches	Phone #	
Blayne Daniels	905-428-0782	1997	Ronnie Bruce	905-428-3513	
Jose Flores	905-426-6378		Mario Bruno	905-665-8362	
Winston McCallum	905-427-9491	1996	Dave Berger	905-619-0763	
Justin Terry	905-428-8072		Lee Harrison	905-683-1912	
Rupert Greaves	905-686-7406	1995	Linda Favacho	905-619-9862	
Bob Zincone	905-427-9003		Joe Capizzo	905-426-5036	
Dario Gasparotto	905-619-9724	1994	Grant Farrer	905-428-7276	
Brian Henchey	905-420-2882		Carol Link	905-683-9123	
Mike Campitelli	905-619-2736	1993	Robert Alonzo	905-428-6506	
Ray Nieminen	905-428-8514		Paul Henderson	905-686-2509	
Paul Ova	905-619-8065				
Derrick Keise	905-426-4844	1992	Mark Edwards	416-737-7507	
Bob Leroux	905-683-7489		Bob Langford	905-427-3968	
			Naso Poposki	905-428-6377	
Ian Evans	905-683-3751	1991	Hugh Crumplen	905-436-6515	
Derek Johnstone	905-427-8794		Ford Luet	905-686-3862	
Mike Roberts	905-686-8476		Jorgen Runas	416-303-5180	
Clive Barriffe	905-683-3603	1990	Alex Bianchi	905-427-7106	
Chris Skyers	905-509-9442		Ray Latimour	905-839-0689	
Steve Callaghan	905-686-2882	1989	Kyle Roberts	905-424-4003	
Diarmuid O'Connor	905-427-3846				
Ferdinand Phillip	416-609-3600				
Wally Kunz	905-655-5351	1988	Tom Croft	905-665-7192	
			Doug Park	905-427-9293	
Alan Harkness	905-576-3724	1987			

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BOWMANVILLE 35 Temperance St 905-697-0553			

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ROA battles its way to the top of the music heap

Ajax group's members say they don't want to be 'flash in the pan band'

By Joshua May
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — The Ajax rock scene is on the Rise.

Forming a mere eight months ago, Rise of Abundance (ROA) is a local group hoping to skyrocket up the success ladder. After only a few practice sessions and performing at select ven-



Jessica Morin runs off the floor of the Air Canada Centre after singing O Canada before a recent Toronto Rock game.

Ajax girl belts out O Canada to crowd of 17,000 plus

Told she's youngest to sing national anthem at ACC sports event

By David Stell
News Editor

DURHAM — It was 17,240 to 11, but tiny Jessica Morin of Ajax beat the odds at the Toronto Rock, Calgary Roughnecks pro lacrosse game recently.

Told by staff at the Air Canada Centre that she was the youngest ever to sing the Canadian anthem at a sports event there, 11-year-old Jessica went out on the floor in front of thousands and felt all eyes turn to her as the lights in the building dropped down to a single spotlight on her at the centre of the field.

"Walking out there I was a little nervous," she says. "But when I started singing, I had fun."

Jessica is no stranger to the ACC, with her father Rob Tyler, one half of Two For The Show playing Rock games as the team's hosts. She knows many of the staff and hangs out with the cheerleaders, who gave her hugs for support before going on.

Still, she got goosebumps, she said, when she heard her name announced as the singer. When the spotlight closed in on her alone, the experience started to feel totally real.

"You couldn't see faces, but you could still see people," she said. "I was looking around, but I kept looking at the flag."

Afterwards, she received a lot of applause, and then praise off the field.

"People on the elevator recognized me and were telling me I did a good job," she said.

Her family was there with her, and her dad the performer summed up his impression.

"She soared," Tyler said simply.

He pointed to team owner Brad Waters as the reason Jessica was given the opportunity. He heard Jessica sing last year and asked her to consider it. He didn't forget, although Tyler didn't bring it up again. During a staff meeting Waters brought it up immediately when anthem singers were discussed for the season ahead.

Tyler videotaped the performance and took it to Jessica's Grade 6 class at school where she got a lot of applause again, she said. St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic School students had prayed for her each morning leading up to the game.

"I felt a lot of support going into it," she said.

ues across Durham Region, the group won a battle of the bands contest in January at the Opera House in Toronto.

"The entire time, with every level we completed, I was sure they'd vote us off."

GUITARIST RYAN WOODS

"I didn't expect (to win) at all," said Ryan Woods, guitarist and co-vocalist. "The entire time, with every level we completed, I was sure they'd vote us off. However, we just kept advancing and advancing until eventually we came out on top. It's an incredible honour to have won (battle of the bands). Having been together such a short amount of time (in comparison to other acts), it's a testament to our musical capabilities."

For its win, ROA was awarded 15 hours of studio recording time and exposure on a Toronto radio station.

"I want this to be a career," said bassist Mike Watters. "Winning the (battle of the bands) was awesome, but staying power is what we really crave. We don't want to be another flash in the pan band."

Comprised of Ajax residents, Woods, 21, Watters, 18, lead vocalist Matt Royal, 20, and drummer Drew Bath, 20, the



Ajax band ROA recently won the battle of the bands competition at the Opera House in Toronto. They are, from left, Ryan Woods, Mike Watters, Drew Bath, and Matt Royal.

group says its style and sound are on musical par with Alexisonfire and that it draws inspiration from such hard-rocking bands as Chevelle, Thrice and the melodic, harmonious sounds of

Dashboard Confessional.

"Every day brings something new. We're just going to be persistent, keep playing the scene and rocking out until our day comes," said Woods.

Describing their band name as a refusal to comply with modern rock music, ROA delivers socially relevant issues in its music, such as the life-diminishing effects of drugs.

Hey, Kids!

Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser is having a contest!

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Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser is giving away an "Experience Fairytopia" prize packs valued at over \$100.

Each prize pack includes 2 adult tickets to Canada Blooms (kids under 12 FREE to the show), a copy of "Barbie Fairytopia", items from the Fairytopia toy line and some special prizes.

To celebrate the launch of "Barbie Fairytopia", Barbie's 5th animated movie, Mattel Canada is re-creating the enchanted world of Fairytopia at Canada Blooms, Toronto's premier flower and garden show, which runs at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (South Building) from Wed., March 9 to Sun., March 13. Explore the beautiful Fairytopia garden, learn all about the magical world of flowers, meet Barbie and more!

Families will also want to visit the "Barbie Fairytopia" Children's Lounge at Canada Blooms on Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13 only. Activities at the Children's Lounge will include fun arts and crafts like fairy wing-making and colouring, screenings of "Barbie Fairytopia" and the chance to experience the Fairytopia toy line and much more!



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Durham Girls Choir will sing in Lindsay

Saturday night concert will include mass choir performance, too

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for students and \$25 for family. For tickets, call Lynn at 905-404-9227.

At a recent silent auction dinner gala, the choir raised more than \$6,000 for its operations.

DURHAM — The Durham Girls Choir has been invited to a choral workshop and concert Feb. 26 in Lindsay.

The workshop will be conducted by Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, founder and conductor of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, of Toronto. The Durham Girls Choir senior choir will take part along with the Haliburton Children's Chorus, the Kawartha Treble Troupe and the Voices of Victory.

All four choirs will participate in the evening concert, singing alone and as a massed choir at Cambridge Street United Church, 61 Cambridge St. N.



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