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Hurrying Hart in Durham



SABRINA BYRNES / METROLAND

OSHAWA -- Pickering's Richard Hart competed on Glen Howard's team in the BDO Canadian Open curling event, at the General Motors Centre on Jan. 26. The event features many of the top men's teams in Canada. The open continues through this weekend. For more on the event, see Sports in today's paper. Watch the video story of online editor Bruce Froude curling with Randy Ferbey @ durhamregion.com

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Ajax-Pickering Salvation Army leader dies at 65

Dick Crosby had 'a real heart of compassion'

KRISTEN CALIS
kcalis@durhamregion.com

AJAX-PICKERING -- The community is mourning the loss of a man who dedicated much of his time to those in need in Ajax and Pickering.

Dick Crosby, the former co-ordinator of community and family services for the Salvation Army of Ajax and Pickering, died on Jan. 24 at the age of 65 at North York General Hospital. He survived pancreatic cancer six years ago, but it returned and spread, eventually leading to his death.

Often referred to as the leader of the Salvation Army in Ajax, Mr. Crosby retired last October after nine years of service.

"He had a real heart of compassion for the people of Ajax and Pickering," said Patricia McInnes, pastor of Hope Community Church, which operates the local Salvation Army.

According to Grant Waddell, Hope Community Care Centre administrator, Mr. Crosby was born in London, England and served in the British Army before he moved to Canada with his family, where

he worked in the computer industry. Later in life, he began his position at the Salvation Army, where he attracted a strong group of dedicated volunteers and made the House of Hope (the Salvation Army's Ajax location) "a welcoming, non-judgmental and compassionate environment, where the needs of those less fortunate could be met in a dignified way."

Mr. Crosby took the lead in expanding the food bank and added new programs, including comput-

er upgrading and resume assistance, which helped people get back on their feet.

Counselling services were added along with assistance for parents who needed a little help with camping fees, Mr. Waddell said, and through Canadian Tire, the Jumpstart program was added to further assist children's programs.

Mr. Crosby forged lasting relationships with neighbouring food banks and helping agencies, and

always looked for new partnerships to ensure the food bank was stocked. He and his family were also key team members during the annual Christmas Kettle campaigns.

"Dick will be fondly remembered by volunteers and clients alike at the House of Hope as a faithful follower of Jesus, who spent his days reach-

ing out to people in need and giving them a hand up," Mr. Waddell said.

Ms. McInnes knew him to be a committed man of great patience with a very giving heart who gave extra-mile service.

"It was a heart for God and hand to man," she said.

There will be visitation only. It will take place on

Sunday, Jan. 30 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 35 Kings Cres. in Ajax.

Donations in honour of Mr. Crosby can be made to: The Salvation Army House Of Hope, 37 King's Cres., Ajax, ON, L1S 2L8.

Mr. Crosby is survived by his wife Judi, their daughters Gemma, Chloe, and Sam, and their son Simon.



METROLAND FILE PHOTO

AJAX -- The community is mourning the loss of Dick Crosby, former co-ordinator of community and family services for the Salvation Army in Ajax, shown here in a November 2006 photo. He died of cancer on Monday.

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Upset Ajax crime solver wants his reward

Crime Stoppers only pays tipsters who remain anonymous, man who found stolen property learns

CURTIS RUSH
newsroom@durhamregion.com

AJAX -- Brett Maynard of Ajax restores old barns for a living. Late in December, while working near Cobourg, he stumbled upon something unusual at a vacant, boarded-up farm.

He saw something large covered with a tarp. When Mr. Maynard, 43, peeled back the cover, he found a Kubota mini-excavator with the stickers taken off. Yet he was still able to make out the name of Blake Construction on the arm.

He phoned his partner and asked him whether he would have stored his equipment in such a strange location. It wasn't his partner's. But the partner remembered hearing that a man he knew -- Tim Blake,



LUCAS OLENIUK / TORSTAR

AJAX -- Brett Maynard, of Ajax, discovered \$100,000 worth of stolen property in a barn in Cobourg. He reported the find to Crime Stoppers and the property was returned to the rightful owner. Mr. Maynard was denied a reward from Crime Stoppers because he revealed his identity instead of remaining anonymous.

the owner of a Cobourg construction company -- lost more than \$60,000 worth of equipment in a theft a few weeks earlier.

His partner told Mr. Maynard to

call Crime Stoppers because they offer cash rewards up to \$2,000. He did.

"I was put on hold for 15 minutes and then I was cut off," Mr. May-

nard said. "I thought I would call police, thinking they were the same thing. Two officers showed up. Tim Blake showed up and confirmed it was his equipment."

"Case closed," the police told him.

Minutes later, Mr. Maynard phoned Crime Stoppers back with the officer's badge number and information. The Crime Stoppers operator provided him with a personal identification number and asked him to call in a week, Mr. Maynard said.

But when he called back, Mr. Maynard was told he was ineligible for a reward because he was no longer anonymous.

"I said, 'Well that doesn't make much sense. I don't care if I remain anonymous.' And she said, 'I'm sorry, but that's how the policy works.'"

Once you give up your anonymity, you are no longer a Crime Stoppers tipster, Toronto Crime Stoppers coordinator Darlene Ross confirmed.

There is no option. That's why the call centres have no call display.

"That compromises the program," Ms. Ross said. "This pro-

gram works on nothing but anonymity."

She said people who give up their anonymity "then become a witness, not an anonymous tipster."

"If people found out that we were paying people and we knew who they were, that would take away people's trust in the program," Ms. Ross said.

Added Crime Stoppers spokesman Lorne Simon: "Once you give your name, we end the call."

The policy bothers Mr. Maynard, who said he is upset, but not so much about losing a claim for \$2,000.

"It's the principle," he said. Mr. Maynard feels if it were not for him, this case might have not come to such a good conclusion.

"I saved an insurance company thousands of dollars in a payout, I saved the company from a huge deductible and I saved the investigators from having to continue to investigate."

"And I did it on my own time," Mr. Maynard added.

"It's wrong."

-- Curtis Rush is a reporter for the Toronto Star

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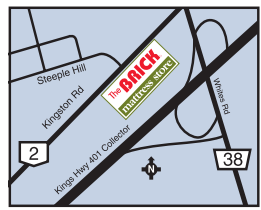
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Youth centre looking for Ajax-Pickering talent

AJAX-PICKERING -- Teens who love to sing, dance and otherwise share their talent are invited to try out for an Ajax-Pickering talent competition.

The Talent by Nature competition will be held April 16 and will feature teens 14 to 19.

Auditions will be held at Dunbarton High School, 655 Shepard Ave. in Pickering, on Feb. 3

and Feb. 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. and performers are asked to prepare a five-minute piece, which could be dancing, singing, drama or otherwise.

The talent competition is a part of the Take the Lead program which provides grants and partners teens with adult mentors from local community groups to

help make events happen.

Talented by Nature consists of Deienne Burke, Kizzie Gross, Esere Ejumodo, Tanisha Anderson, and Tiffany Anderson.

For more information e-mail talentedbynature@hotmail.com, call 905-839-3845, ext. 346 or visit Talented by Nature on Facebook.

COMMUNITY

Tamil vigil set for Pickering

Durham residents invited to candlelight ceremony Sunday

PICKERING -- Durham residents of all backgrounds are invited to attend a candlelight vigil in Pickering Sunday.

The Durham Tamil Association is holding the vigil to bring attention to the suffering of Tamil women and children in their homeland, who continue to suffer in the aftermath of civil war.

It takes place Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. at the East Shore Community Centre, 910 Liverpool Rd. S. For more information call 905-428-7007 or visit www.durhamtamils.com.

FOOD

Public invited to taste creations of culinary students

OSHAWA -- Durham College's first culinary skills students will be showing off their skills to the public at Bistro Max, a student-operated restaurant and classroom at Maxwell Heights Secondary School in Oshawa.

Students will open Bistro Max to the public for a 10-week period in February, March and April as part of the program. The menu will be \$15 per person. Students use Maxwell Heights for practical lab work, but will move to Durham College's Whitby campus when the expansion is built. For more information, or to make a reservation call 905-721-2000 ext. 2488 or e-mail bistromax@durhamcollege.ca.

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WE THINK...

Tax cuts boost business in Durham Region

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty came home for a visit this week, but had a message for the nation: corporate tax cuts are the quickest route to help return Canada to prosperity.

Mr. Flaherty paid a visit to manufacturer AGS Automotive Systems in Oshawa, one of the Canadian companies which has benefited from the series of timed tax cuts under Mr. Flaherty's watch as federal finance minister. AGS co-president Joe Loparco noted the tax relief helped it through the worst times of the global recession, and positions it for future investments in the firm -- which means new jobs -- as additional scheduled tax cuts are implemented.

Overall, says Mr. Flaherty, Canada's combined business tax rate of 25 per cent -- several provinces, including Ontario, have all committed to parallel reductions in their corporate tax levies up to 2013 -- will further enhance Canada's reputation as a stable and progressive place for global business investment.

Tax cuts are generally perceived as counter-intuitive in a time when federal and provincial governments face huge budget deficits because of the monetary policies adopted at the height of the global financial crisis in 2008. But

historic trends show that corporate tax savings tend to result in greater levels of investment in equipment, systems and new business prospects, which lead to the creation of new jobs. Here in Durham, the automotive manufacturing sector and ancillary industries that supply it was hit hard by the global recession but are emerging lean and ready to respond to the changing market.

It's true, too, that Canada has fared particularly well with steady fiscal stewardship under the federal Conservatives and Mr. Flaherty. Our banking system is robust, unemployment is improving incrementally (it currently sits at 7.6 per cent), and the economy is slowly improving.

The combination of corporate tax cuts to encourage business investment and an improving economy will help position companies in Durham more effectively, create conditions for further growth and reclaim some of the remaining jobs lost between 2008 and 2010.

Mr. Flaherty's visit to Durham to talk up the corporate tax cuts was no fluke of scheduling. His message was one for the nation, but there's no place like home when you've got good news to share.

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If Facebook's founder can get hacked, so can you

There was quite a lot of glee bouncing around the Internet Wednesday when the story broke that Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook fan page had been hacked.

The sentiment among folks who have criticized Facebook security in the past is it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

According to popular technology site CNET, a bug allowed unauthorized access to a number of public Facebook fan pages. Apparently French President Nicolas Sarkozy was affected earlier this week. Facebook says the bug has been fixed.

Now, the average user can't really do anything about bugs, but there are a number of frankly old-fashioned schemes that regularly compromise accounts that most people should be wary of.

Phishing is a classic example. You receive an official looking e-mail or Facebook message letting you know your account has been compromised and if you



Reka Szekely

click on the link, it'll all get fixed.

By clicking, the user is taken to an official looking website and asked to supply their account information, where it is promptly stolen.

This technique is frequently used to compromise not only Facebook accounts, but bank accounts, PayPal accounts, accounts for subscription-based games like World of Warcraft and more.

To avoid this, don't follow e-mail links and go to official websites to change your account information.

Be leery of calls for help from friends. Something like this is common: 'Hi, I'm embarrassed to be e-mailing you but I was travelling abroad in Antarctica when I was attacked by a pack of rabid penguins who stole all my money and valuables. Please help by sending money and I'll make sure to pay you back.'

Again, you see these scams via e-mail as well and it means the friend who sent it to you has had their account compromised by scammers. If there's genuine concern that a friend or family member has been stranded abroad, simply call them or their family. Chances are they haven't left Canada.

If you're not using Facebook for business, one way to protect yourself is to limit the number of friends you have to people who you actually interact with in real life.

Then make yourself unsearchable on Facebook under the privacy settings, preventing strangers from finding you.

Be extremely picky when approving apps. Scammers love to use apps like the "dislike" button solely to steal information. In fact, do a bit of Googling before approving any app.

When it comes down to it, the fact that I might get hacked is not a reason for me to stay away from social media. I've had my debit card compromised more times than my Facebook account.

But just like the offline world, a little caution and skepticism goes a long way online.

For more information on Facebook scams and how to protect yourself, check out my blog this weekend on durhamregion.com.

-- Reka Szekely's social media column appears every Friday in this space. Contact her on Facebook, Twitter (@rszekely) or e-mail at rszekely@durhamregion.com

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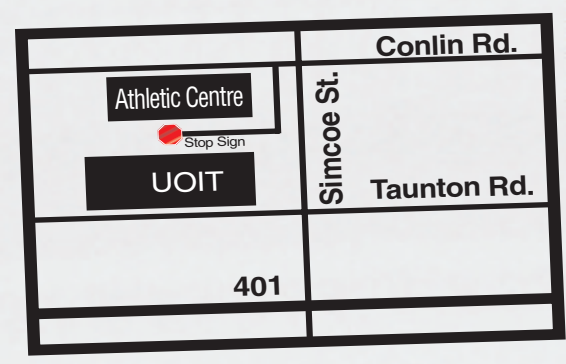
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Durham on track for 3.15-per cent tax increase

Councillors reject looking at impact of lower increases

KEITH GILLIGAN
kgilligan@durhamregion.com

DURHAM -- Regional councillors overwhelmingly turned down a proposal to look at a property tax increase of less than 3.15 per cent.

Durham's finance committee recommended the 3.15-per cent increase for the 2011 budget. That works out to a \$70 increase for a home assessed at \$308,600.

During the Regional council meeting Wednesday, Oshawa Councillor John Aker wanted staff to look at what the ramifications would be with budget increases of 2.5 per cent, two per cent and 1.5 per cent.

Inflation is about 2.4 per cent, "interest rates are at an all-time low, which is good for the economy. Energy rates are reasonable. It's a natural setting for prosperity," Coun. Aker said.

Increasing taxes will negatively affect the economy, he said.

Asking staff to report on what the impact of the lower tax increases would be "doesn't commit us to anything. At least we'll have something to look at," Coun. Aker noted.

Agreeing with him was Oshawa Councillor Nancy Diamond. "If we start high, we'll never get low. If we start at the assumption of an increase, there's no incentive for staff or us to reduce costs."

Ajax Mayor Steve Parish opposed the amendment, saying lower taxes one year will mean higher taxes the next.

"This is about us doing the hard task. Staff says with 3.15 per cent, we're not getting anything more. We're getting the same," Mayor

Parish said.

When the budget comes back for final approval, councillors will have the opportunity to remove items, Mayor Parish said.

"You can't say let's not increase taxes and we'll get everything. That is absolute bull," Mayor Parish said.

Pickering Councillor Jennifer O'Connell agreed with Mayor Parish.

"We have no idea what we're cutting. My fear is we'll cut something essential and we won't know what it will be until later on."

If the cutting means a road isn't repaired or a sewage pumping station isn't built, "man up and say so," Coun. O'Connell said.

Durham commissioner of finance Jim Clapp said lowering the proposed tax increase would mean a reduction in services.

"This budget gets you a little bit more on police and transit. To cut to 1.5 per cent, Mayor Parish is absolutely correct. You won't get the (bus) route adjustments in

Ajax-Pickering. You won't get to the 70 per cent waste reduction target. You won't get the ambulance response times you want," Mr. Clapp said. "Departments and agencies wanted a whole lot more than what we wrestled this down to."

Brock Mayor Larry O'Connor noted, "To raid one reserve to keep taxes down, I think that is a foolish way to go. We really need to look at the big picture before going and doing something foolish."

Only Oshawa councillors Aker and Diamond, and Oshawa Mayor John Henry voted to look at the impact of lower tax increases.

“If we start high, we'll never get low. Oshawa Councillor Nancy Diamond



METROLAND FILE PHOTO

OSHAWA -- Durham Regional taxpayers could be facing a 3.15-per cent tax increase on the regional portion of their tax bills this year. Regional taxes pay for things such as reconstruction of regional roads, including Ritson Road.

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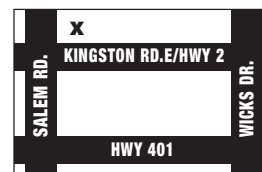
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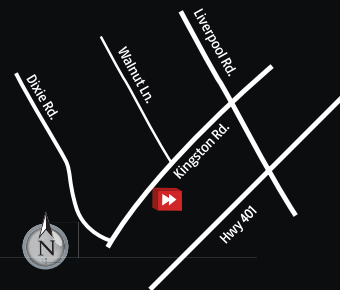


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Finance minister visits Durham to discuss benefits of tax reductions

CRYSTAL CRIMI
ccrimi@durhamregion.com

OSHAWA -- Standing in front of a conveyor belt of truck bumpers, Canada's finance minister highlighted the benefit of corporate tax cuts: jobs.

Jim Flaherty, Canada's finance minister and Whitby-Oshawa MP, was at a media event in Oshawa Wednesday morning to discuss how putting money back into the hands of job creators is helping keep Canadians employed, using AGS Automotive Systems' Oshawa manufacturing plant as a local success story.

"They've given us the confidence that Canada is a place to invest from a long-term point of view," said Joe Loparco, co-president at AGS Automotive, just after the event. The corporate tax cuts marginally helped the company through the recession's impact and allowed it to retain jobs, he said. Coming out of the economic downturn, it will also help it make new investments, which will help create jobs, he added.

Currently, Canada has a great reputation for international investment, Mr. Flaherty said.

In 2007, the federal business tax rate in Canada was more than 22 per cent, he continued. Since then, it has been reduced to 16.5 per cent this year, and next year, will meet its goal of 15 per cent. Along with the federal cuts, the majority of provinces, including Ontario, have committed to reducing business taxes to 10 per cent by 2012/2013. Such efforts are helping to create the brand of Canada having a 25 per cent combined business tax rate in most of the country, he added.

"This has been noticed internationally in the Wall Street Journal and other places, looking at Canada and saying this is one of the best places to do business and invest in the world," Mr. Flaherty said.

Canada has managed to keep

its financial systems in order and although it went into a brief recession, it came out strong, he continued.

And while some, specifically the opposition, are saying that now is the time to increase corporate taxes, others are telling them to stay the course, according to Mr. Flaherty.

"We know that higher taxes mean fewer jobs in Canada," he said, referencing the 100,000 jobs expected to be created as a result of the tax reductions. "New and existing jobs would be at risk if we were to raise those taxes."

Page 6 - Today's editorial



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Rotary Club of Ajax Recollections

The Rotary Club of Ajax will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary on Thursday, March 17, 2011. The club, in conjunction with the News Advertiser will be publishing a special anniversary publication to promote this milestone and is requesting input from the public.

If you have any stories or photographs relating to the Rotary Club of Ajax over its 60 year history they'd like to read and see them. Your recollections could include memories of Rotary sponsored trips, the Rotary Music Festival or good times at Rotary Hall and in Rotary Park, Ajax. Any mementoes would be appreciated too.

Please send your Rotary Recollections or images along with your name and contact info to: Rene Soetens at: rene@con-test.com



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Faiths join together in Durham

Durham groups come together to celebrate World Religion Day

KRISTEN CALIS

kcalis@durhamregion.com

DURHAM -- People of different religious backgrounds across Durham Region came together as one on Sunday.

Nearly 300 people of more than 12 different denominations attended the World Religion Day celebration at the Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex Hall in Clarington Jan. 16. The event was hosted by the Durham Multifaith World Religion Day committee.

Various religious groups set up booths, as did Durham Regional Police Services, and speakers shared their beliefs on acceptance in the world. Groups such as Devi Mandir performed songs



SABRINA BYRNES / METROLAND

CLARINGTON -- The Anointed Joy Liturgical Dancers performed a dance for guests during the annual World Religion Day celebration, held at the Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex

and dances to celebrate their religions' unique cultures. A number of Durham politicians were also in attendance, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent his regards in a letter, saying Canada draws strength from diversity.

The message of this year's celebration was to promote the inclusion of people with physical disabilities in the world and among all religions.

"Social exclusion must be turned to social inclusion," said

Dr. Jehan Bagli, the founding president of the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec.

Zoroastrianism is an ancient, monotheistic religion that was the dominant religion of the Persian Empire.

Dr. Bagli said excluding people with disabilities is nothing short of segregation and discrimination.

Speaker Beverley Davis of the Baha'i Community of Brampton, who has a physical disability herself, explained religion provides a sense of identity and a framework for the creation of a peaceful society.

"It's events such as these that are building a peaceful society," she said.

She said men and women are spiritual beings and the soul is not affected by disabilities.

Joe Dalrymple, a member of St. Paul's United Church in Bowmanville, thought the idea of accessibility was a good and inclusive message, but he most-

ly came to let members of the Islamic Centre of Clarington know that they are accepted in the community, despite an unfortunate incident in the early fall when the mosque was vandalized.

"My primary reason for being here is because I was very sad to read this Muslim group had difficulties," he said.

A member of the Islamic Centre's board of directors confirmed that the damage is estimated at about \$7,000 since the entire sign, which was taken down from the base, has to be replaced.

"I just think that's so offensive," Mr. Dalrymple said.

The goal of the Multifaith Community of Durham Region is to raise awareness of the world's religions and to find the similarity between faiths, work together to increase cross-cultural understanding and to strengthen mutual respect among all of the faiths in Durham.

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Ajax pledges \$500,000 to hospital MRI campaign

REKA SZEKELY
rszekely@durhamregion.com

AJAX -- The campaign to bring an MRI to the Ajax-Pickering hospital got a big boost when the Town of Ajax committed to donating a half-million dollars.

The money comes from the Town's slots revenues and is a big boost towards reaching the \$5 million target. Ajax will donate \$125,000 annually over the next four years to the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation.

Before council made the decision to donate, politicians heard from Romas Stas, associate chief of staff at the hospital, and radiologist Mark Prieditis.

Dr. Prieditis said there are a variety of important uses for MRI machines, including diagnosis for brain diseases such as multiple sclerosis, vascular diseases, cancer, spine probes and joint probes.

"Our waiting lists are growing and patients have to travel too far especially when they're acutely ill,"

said Dr. Prieditis.

He said most hospitals the same size as the Rouge Valley Health System's Ajax campus already have an MRI machine.

In December, the Province announced the government would fund the operation of the MRI once the community raised the funds to buy it. Dr. Prieditis said staff are trained and ready to operate the equipment when it arrives.

"We can quickly and seamlessly provide excellent service."

Mayor Steve Parish said he recalls having to go to Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto when he needed an MRI.

"I can tell you there is a great need for an MRI in the Ajax-Pickering hospital," he said.

With the gift from Ajax,

the foundation has raised 47 per cent of the money necessary to buy the MRI.

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The sirens provide a means of warning residents, who may be outdoors, in the highly unlikely event of a nuclear emergency or other large-scale emergency.

Regular testing of the public alerting sirens will be carried out on specified dates and times in the spring and fall. Residents will be notified in advance.

Should residents hear the sirens outside of these test dates, they are advised to **GO** inside and turn on the radio or television, **LISTEN** to media reports, and **FOLLOW** advice from the Province on how to proceed. Residents are reminded that the sounding of these sirens does not require immediate evacuation.

For additional information, please contact the Public Alerting Information Line at **1-866-551-5373** or visit the Public Alerting Project section of the Region's website at www.durham.ca.

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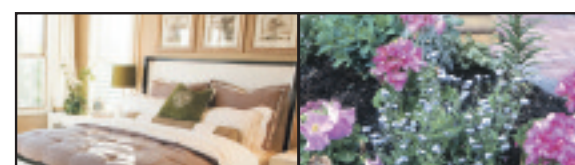
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Make Entertaining the Focal Point of Kitchen Design

"No matter where I serve my guests, it seems they like my kitchen best."

This saying has adorned wall plaques in many people's kitchens, and for most individuals the sentiment is quite true. The kitchen tends to be the gathering place for the family. When thinking about renovating the kitchen, it pays to have entertaining in mind.

It is widely known that improvements to kitchens and bathrooms often reap the greatest return on investment. When making changes to the kitchen, paying attention to the trend of kitchen entertaining can make the room even more valuable -- should a homeowner choose to sell at a later point in time. Gearing renovations around kitchen entertaining also can make the space desirable for current homeowners.

Here are some renovation decisions to consider that can make the kitchen an ideal gathering spot for family and friends.

- **Space:** The best kitchens for entertaining are roomy and feature an open floor plan. For homeowners who have limited space, the first decision may be to expand the kitchen by building an extension on the home or taking down a wall. Many homeowners find that spacious eat-in-kitchens are preferable over a small kitchen and formal dining area. So if a dining room abuts the kitchen, remove the wall to create a large kitchen space.

- **Multiple islands:** Instead of one large island, consider two islands. They are less cumbersome, making it easier for guests to easily traverse the kitchen. One island can be set up with a prep sink and wine cooler, while the other can feature a countertop-

mounted induction stovetop for convenience and safety. A few tall stools around the back of one island can provide seating while prepping, or for simple conversation.

- **Company cleanup:** Think about large sinks that can accommodate tall pots and pans, such as a double-basin apron sink. Drawer-style dishwashers can be installed so that delicate china and glassware can be washed separately from grimy pots. This segregated style means homeowners can save money by washing smaller loads as needed.

- **Gathering niche:** A butler's pantry or another alcove equipped with beverage center enables guests to gather in an area away from the main cooking and preparation space.

- **Breakfast nook:** Cozy banquette seating nestled next to a picture window is a great spot for early-morning coffee or when overnight guests trickle down for a hearty breakfast. Decorative brick or stone -- or even a fireplace next to the nook -- completes the warm and fuzzy feel of the area.

- **Large table:** Homeowners who do a lot of hosting can benefit from a table that seats many. Purchase a large table or one that can be expanded with a drop-in leaf.

- **Hidden appliances:** The kitchen should be decorated according to homeowners' preferences. Key appliances such as dishwashers, refrigerators and even ovens can be masked with cabinet facing, so they blend right into the rest of the cabinetry. A larger refrigerator with features for entertaining, such as room for platters or bakery cakes, is ideal for the host and hostess. A separate beverage drawer eliminates the need to open the refrigerator repeatedly, plus it's at a great

height for kids looking for juice boxes.

- **Lighting:** Homeowners should consider many different lighting sources. Pendant lights over islands illuminate these work stations. Recessed lighting under cabinets can brighten countertop areas that tend to be

dark. A chandelier or bold fixture over the table shows off the amazing meal.

Because the kitchen is such a gathering spot, renovations to this room should reflect how much foot traffic and use the kitchen gets.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



How to Hire a Professional Organizer

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Along those same lines, individuals might hire a professional organizer to help them establish and maintain a sense of order they find difficult to do on their own.

The new year has arrived and once again thousands of people are adding "get organized" to their list of New Year's resolutions. For many, come February or March such resolutions are long since forgotten, and the messes that sparked the resolution in the first place remain largely untouched. Relying on the services of a professional organizer can help individuals to finally conquer clutter and other organizational tasks.

When choosing a professional organizer, there are some things to keep in mind.

- Not all professional organizers provide the same type of assistance. Some organizers only help corporate clients, while others may have certain niches, like organizing closets or filing systems. It's important to ask prospective professionals what their areas of specialty might be.

- Meeting with professional organizers can help narrow down the one that will work best. This can be done over the phone or by e-mail. Some professional organizers offer free, in-person consultations. Others may charge for a consultation but credit the fee to the first bill if they're hired.

- Professional organizers may have a pricing plan in place, and others may be flexible. Some charge by the hour, while others use a per-project rate. Upon learning about the organization project needed, the organizer will be better equipped to give a rate.

- To begin searching for a professional organizer to fit your needs, contact the Professional Organizers in Canada.



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Month in the arts

Mike Ruta

Entertainment Editor
mruta@durhamregion.com
durhamregion.com

On Stage

To Feb. 5

Ajax Community Theatre. presents *Gaslight*, a thriller by Patrick Hamilton, at the Village Community Centre theatre, 55 Sherwood Rd. W., Ajax. 289-892-4132, info@ajaxcommunitytheatre.com.

Feb. 10 to 26

Whitby Courthouse Theatre. 416 Centre St. S., Whitby, presents *Suds*, a musical soap opera. Tickets available online, at the door or at LaFontaine, 100 Brock St. S., Whitby, 905-430-3774.

To Feb. 12

Oshawa Little Theatre. 62 Russett Ave., Oshawa, presents *Play On!*, a comedy by Rick Abbott. oshawalittletheatre.com, 905-723-0282.

Feb. 18, 19

Oshawa Little Theatre. 62 Russett Ave., Oshawa, presents *Glee at OLT*, a musical. oshawalittletheatre.com, 905-723-0282.

To Feb. 26

Class Act Dinner Theatre. 104 Consumers Dr., Whitby, presents the world premiere of *What is Susan's Secret?* www.class-act.ca, 905-668-2229.

To March 26

Herongate Barn Theatre. 2885 Altona Rd., Pickering, presents the Canadian premiere of Katy DiSavino's *Nana's Naughty Knickers*, a comedy. Sunday performances are matinees (show at 2 p.m.). 905-472-3085, www.herongate.ca.

Performances

Feb. 2

General Motors Centre. 99 Athol St. E., Oshawa, presents Alan Jackson at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, visit www.generalmotorscentre.com, call 1-877-436-8811 or visit the GMC box office or the United Way Information Kiosk at the Oshawa Centre.

Feb. 4

Town Hall 1873. 302 Queen St., Port Perry, as part of its Concert Series, presents Carol Welsman. Tickets are available at the Town Hall 1873 box office, by calling 905-985-8181 or by visiting www.townhall1873.ca.



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PICKERING -- Braithwaite and Whiteley, above, and special guests Gary Kendall (bass) and Mike Fitzpatrick (drums) from the Downchild Blues Band perform at The Waterfront Bistro in Pickering on Feb. 18. The show is part of the Music By the Bay Live concert series. See item below for more information.

Robert McLaughlin Gallery. 72 Queen St., Oshawa, presents First Fridays, a concert series on the first Friday of the month. The initial First Friday show features Gibbran. Concerts are at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. Cash bar. The concerts are free, however donations will be accepted for War Child Canada. www.rmg.on.ca.

Feb. 12

The Greenbank Folk Music Society. presents *Swamperella* at 8 p.m. at Greenbank Centennial Hall on Hwy. 12, Greenbank. Tickets are available at Blue Heron Books, 62 Brock St. W., Uxbridge, 905-852-4282, P O E Design, 146 Queen St., Port Perry, 905-985-0060, or by calling 905-985-8351 or 905-852-7578.

Feb. 13

Ajax Public Library. Main Branch. 55 Harwood Ave. S., presents Music on a Sunday Afternoon: My Funny Valentine Concert at 2 p.m. in the Rotary Room. An afternoon of jazz featuring the Paul Butler Jazz Band with vocalist Gary Faulkner. Tickets are \$5 each and available at the Main Branch. Free refreshments.

Lynn McDonald Presents. Jazz at Jesters, with a 7 p.m. performance by the George Grossman Band at Jesters Court, 279 Queen St., Port Perry. To reserve a spot, e-mail lynnjazzvocals@yahoo.ca or call 905-809-0388.

Feb. 18

Music By the Bay Live. presents Braithwaite and Whiteley and special guests Gary Kendall (bass) and Mike Fitzpatrick (drums) from the Downchild Blues Band at The Waterfront Bistro, 590 Liverpool Rd., Pickering, at 9 p.m. Tickets are available online or at Wilson and Lee Music Store in Oshawa, the Bistro in Pickering and Durham School of Music in Ajax. www.musicbythebaylive.com.

Feb. 26

The Durham Philharmonic Choir. presents *Creatures Great and Small* at 7:30 p.m. at Hebron Christian Reformed Church, 4240 Anderson St., Whitby. For ticket/subscription information, call June MacLean at 905-728-1739.

At the Galleries

February

SilverStone Gallery. 617 Liverpool Rd. (south of Hwy. 401), Pickering, presents a new group of Durham artists showing and selling their work. The gallery features original paintings, pottery, sculptures and jewelry. Hours: Thursday to Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. www.pineridgearts.org/silverstonegallery.

Feb. 12

Cultural Expressions Art Gallery. and the Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre, with the Town of Ajax, presents its fourth annual Black History Month celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Town of Ajax Council Chambers, 65 Harwood Ave. S. (just south of Hwy. 401), Ajax. Art and artists, a musical retrospective and performances by the Heritage Singers and Soul Influence.

To Feb. 20

Station Gallery. 1450 Henry St., Whitby, presents *Brendan Fernandes: Dada Afrika*. Curator's Walk and Talk Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. 905-668-4185, www.whitbystationgallery.com.

Feb. 26 to April 10

Station Gallery. 1450 Henry St., Whitby, presents *Jane Eccles: Overlap*. Opening reception and artist's Walk and Talk Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. 905-668-4185, www.whitbystationgallery.com.

To March 6

Robert McLaughlin Gallery. 72 Queen St., Oshawa, presents *Peter Smith: You May Find Yourself*. Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. www.rmg.on.ca, 905-576-3000.

To March 20

Robert McLaughlin Gallery. 72 Queen St., Oshawa, presents *Jessica Field: Parabolic Behaviours*. www.rmg.on.ca, 905-576-3000.

Screenings

Feb. 8

Ajax Public Library, Main Branch. 55 Harwood Ave. S., pres-

ents a Movies Without Borders screening of *Mad Hot Ballroom* (mostly in English, some Spanish) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Rotary Room. Register by calling 905-683-4000 ext. 8813 or by e-mail at libraryinfo@townofajax.com.

Feb. 9

Ajax Film Circuit. presents a screening of *Waste Land* from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Ajax Cineplex Odeon, 248 Kingston Rd. E. (at Salem Road). Tickets are \$7 in advance at all Ajax library branches and \$7.50 at the theatre. Visit the Ajax Film Circuit table in the lobby. No membership is required to see the films.

Feb. 19

Black History Month Film Screening. at 1 p.m. at the Ajax Public Library's Rotary Room, 55 Harwood Ave. S. A free screening of *For Colored Girls* (14A). For ages 14 and up. Register in person, by calling 905-683-4000, ext. 8811 during regular library hours, or by e-mail at libraryinfo@townofajax.com. Registration begins Jan. 31.

At the libraries

Feb. 5

Celebrate Black History Month. at the Pickering Central Library, One The Esplanade, Pickering (2 to 3 p.m.) and at the Petticoat Creek Branch, 470 Kingston Rd., Pickering (10:30 to 11:30 a.m.). Journey along the Underground Railroad with stories, activities and a craft. For the whole family.

Feb. 11

Pickering Central Library. One The Esplanade, Pickering, presents Open Gaming Night at your library today and Feb. 25 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Open gaming in the auditorium every other Friday night with a gaming system set up on the big screen. See what there is to play as each month will be different. Also room to play board games, card games, chess and more. Take your own game or try one that the library has available. All ages welcome.

Feb. 12

Ajax Public Library, Main Branch Rotary Room. 55 Harwood Ave. S., presents a Valentine's Day Party at 2 p.m. An afternoon of stories, treats and crafts celebrating Valentine's Day. All book lovers are welcome at this free, drop-in family celebration.

Gaslighting Bella at Ajax Community Theatre

Thriller comes to stage this weekend

MIKE RUTA

mruta@durhamregion.com

AJAX -- Award-winning actor Shari Thorne is afraid of her stage husband, but that's a good thing. Thorne plays Bella Manningham in *Gaslight*, running at Ajax Community Theatre Jan. 27 to Feb. 5.

Bella is married to Jack Manningham, played by Oshawa's Geoff Coulter, and it's not a happy union as he is a despicable human being who's trying to drive her insane.

"She's desperately trying to hang on to her sanity," says Thorne, a two-time winner at the Association of Community Theatres-Central Ontario Theatre Festival Gala Awards (THEAs).

The Ajax resident says when she takes the stage with Coulter, "he scares me."

Gaslight, written by Patrick Hamilton, was a hit when it debuted in 1938 and is set in London in 1880. A 1944 film version starred Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

The play is the origin of the term 'gaslighting,' a kind of psychological abuse in which the perpetrator makes the victim doubt their own memory and perception.

Thorne says she's wanted to play the character for years after reading the script. She seems to have a special fondness for thrillers and dramas.

"I do comedy as well but I really, really enjoy a good drama or thriller because I find there are so many different layers you can bring out about the human psyche," Thorne says.

There's a lot she doesn't want to say about the play because it will spoil it for the audience. But the seemingly serene home atmosphere we encounter as the play opens certainly doesn't last long. Jack Manningham is trying to push Bella over the edge.

Thorne describes him as a "narcissistic sociopath."

"He can be extremely charming, but he's extremely deceitful and will stop at nothing to get what he wants," she says.

"Psychopathic or sociopathic personalities have a way of manipulating your mind so that they can destroy your self-esteem," Thorne says.

The cast also features Christie

Bartram Charron and Bill Baker of Whitby and Uxbridge's Carmel Warman.

True to her word, after *Gaslight*, Thorne is going to lighten things up for her next role in *Bell, Book and Candle* at Herongate Barn Theatre in Pickering, opening May 27.

Comedy or drama, Thorne says the theatre allows her to be a kid

again.

"It's my sandbox; this is where I play," she says. "I'm five years old and I can do whatever I want."

Ajax Community Theatre is in its second season at the Village Community Centre theatre, near Church Street and Kingston Road.

The group welcomes those who are interested in volunteering in a wide range of areas, from helping out on play nights to creating sets. Learn more about ACT at www.ajaxcommunitytheatre.com.



PHOTO BY DAVE EDWARDS

AJAX -- From left, Geoff Coulter, Carmel Warman (background), Shari Thorne and Christie Bartram Charron rehearse a scene from *Gaslight*. Ajax Community Theatre presents the thriller to Feb. 5.

About the event:

- DATE** To Feb. 5
- TIME** 8 p.m. (2 p.m. on Jan. 30)
- ADDRESS** 22 Sherwood Rd. W.
- WEB** www.ajaxcommunitytheatre.com
- TICKETS** info@ajaxcommunitytheatre.com, 289-892-4132

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Pickering students' art, photography displayed

Art show reception Feb. 6

PICKERING -- Photography and visual arts students at a Pickering high school

are showing their work in the city. Artistic License features the work of senior photography and arts students at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School.

The show runs Feb. 6 to 23 at the Pickering Civic Complex, One The Esplanade, Pickering.

"The show exhibits a wide range of the unique styles and ideas of each individual artist," states a press release.

"The visual art students' pieces are both traditional and modern forms of art. The works created are done in many different mediums including painting, sketching, photography, sculpture and mixed media.

Each student chooses a theme for the

majority of the work they have done in the course such as conceptual photography, illusions, interior design or works inspired by their musicians and interests."

View the work weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There is an opening reception Feb. 6 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Award presentations are to take place at 2 p.m.

The show is a partnership between the school and the City of Pickering.



RYAN PFEIFFER / METROLAND

Sarika's song of thanks

PICKERING -- Sarika Navanathan sang during an annual Tamil thanksgiving festival at the OPG Information Centre Jan. 14. The free event featured demonstrations of Tamil thanksgiving traditions and cultural programs.

AJAX PICKERING NEWS ADVERTISER

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CURLING

Norway's Ulsrud opens Canadian Open with a splash

OSHAWA --Thomas Ulsrud and the Norway team he skips certainly made a statement early at the BDO Canadian Open curling event in Oshawa.

The team that made a name for itself with flashy pants and fine play at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver was doing much of the same at the General Motors Centre Wednesday night, once again showcasing gaudy leg wear, while winning the opening draw.

The winning part didn't come easily, however, as Ulsrud needed five points in the final three ends, including a steal of two in both the eighth and ninth, to take a 6-4 decision from Brandon's Rob Fowler.

The win gave Ulsrud an early edge on Edmonton's Kevin Martin, who fell 7-6 to Toronto's John Epping in extra ends.

Martin and Ulsrud, who squared off in the Olympic gold medal game, won by Martin, are in a tough pool in Oshawa that also includes world champions Jeff Stoughton of Winnipeg and Peter Corner of Brampton.

In other opening draw action, Coldwater's Glenn Howard, which features Pickering's Richard Hart as third, cruised to an 8-2 five-end win over Sarnia's Mark Bice after scoring five in the first end. Saskatchewan's Pat Simmons downed Newfoundland's Randy Ferbey 6-5, while Alberta's Kevin Koe doubled Bradford's Dale Matchett 6-3.

The lone local entry in the tournament, an Annandale rink skipped by Mark Kean, had to wait until Thursday for its first game, which ended in a 6-3 loss to Winnipeg's Mike McEwen.

In other Thursday morning matches, Jake Higgs beat Wayne Middaugh 7-5, Don Walchuk downed Jim Cotter 7-3, Simmons edged Bice 6-5 in extra ends, and Stoughton easily handled Corner 6-2.



RYAN PFEIFFER / METROLAND

AJAX -- Luca Gasparotto, 15, will be travelling with Canada's U17 national soccer team to Jamaica in February.

Gasparotto a world traveller

Ajax teen off to Jamaica to qualify for U17 World Cup

BRAD KELLY
 bkelly@durhamregion.com

AJAX -- A trip to Jamaica next month to help Canada try to qualify for the U17 World Cup may just be a precursor to a much longer trip away from home for Luca Gasparotto.

The 15 year old from Ajax leaves Feb. 5 with his national soccer teammates bound for Florida for a training camp, then off to Jamaica where they open the CONCACAF U17 World Cup qualifying tournament against Barbados on Feb. 17, followed two days later with a game against Honduras. A successful run at the qualifying tournament will earn Canada a berth at the World Cup hosted by Mexico in June.

In some friendlies leading up to the qualifier, Canada did well against the U.S. and Costa Rica, leaving Gasparotto optimistic leading into the qualifier.

"We held our own and we played well so I'm

pretty confident that our team will do really well," he predicts.

Beyond that, Gasparotto's family is going through the process of completing the paperwork to make him eligible to join the AC Milan academy soccer program in Italy. If all goes well, he will leave for Italy in August where he will attend school, train and live with the academy team.

It's quite an accomplishment for a kid who started playing with the Ajax Soccer Club Strikers at the age of six.

"At an early age I found I could kick a ball and I realized I was pretty good at soccer so I stuck with it," he says of the early beginnings.

He progressed through the ranks to play on the U14, U15 and U16 provincial teams, where he has served as captain. His big breakthrough came in April of last year when the Ontario team played a two-game series against Quebec. The Canadian team coach admired the way he played and sent an invitation to join the national team's training camp. He was also scouted and recruited to attend an AC Milan pre-season training camp last August, where he trained six hours a day. His play in Italy was impressive enough to garner an invite to join the academy this year.

Despite his lofty credentials, he was still humbled to get the call last week to play for Canada at the World Cup qualifier.

"I didn't really know what to say. I was surprised and happy. It was a great feeling."

The fact he is a year younger than his Canadian teammates -- he's 1995-born while the others are 1994 -- doesn't faze him in the least.

The fact that he will be missing a month of his Grade 10 studies at Ajax High School while in Jamaica is more of a challenge. He's had to put the time in with his teachers in advance to gather up the work in order to stay on top of things. He says the coaches with the national team set aside time each day for players to concentrate on their studies.

"It's hard with school," he admits. "Catching up and missing all the school and juggling and balancing my school life and my soccer life and my personal life. It's challenging."

"You always have to keep on top of your school."

It wouldn't be a surprise if his best subject were geography. Gasparotto has seen the much of the world already through soccer, visiting France, Italy, Switzerland, California, Florida, Jamaica, Costa Rica and Martinique.

Annandale curlers making their mark

Local connections to BDO Canadian Open in Oshawa

JIM EASSON

Annandale's Corey Gaudette rink won the A side of the bantam boys' zone play at West Northumberland Curling Club (formerly Dalewood) Jan. 15-16.

Gaudette had Nathan Scott at lead, Alex Wagner at second and Joe Flett at vice with coach Chuck Gaudette. The Zone win advanced them to the Regional Jan. 22-23 at the Peterborough Curling Club where they won the A side there too. The team now advances to the Provincial finals slated for Tweed March 2-5.

The Ontario Police Curling Championship is being hosted at Annandale Jan. 26-30.

Teams will be competing to see who can represent the province at the Canadian finals slated for Truro, Nova Scotia March 26 to April 2. Three of the nine teams entered represent the Toronto Police.

The Annandale team of Ben Bevan, Carter Adair, Jake McGhee and Corey Gaudette with Jennifer McGhee coaching, are looking forward to the Canada Winter Games which are to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from Feb. 11-27. The team will compete during the Feb. 19-26

window.

Annandale member Alex Bianchi is coach for the winning Clancy Grandy rink in the Pepsi Ladies Junior Provincials. Playing out of the Kitchener-Waterloo Granite, Grandy's team is made up of Sarah Wilkes, Laura Crocker and Lynn Kreviazuk. The team, including coach Bianchi, is heading to the M and M Meat Shops Canadian Juniors slated for Calgary Jan. 29 to Feb. 5.

The Robbie Burns Mixed Funspiel was held at Annandale on Saturday, Jan. 22. The bonspiel was full and had a waiting list. The next bonspiel on the calendar is the ladies Cupid, skins format, to be held on Saturday, Feb. 12.

The Annandale men's team of Mark Kean, with Chris Van Huysse, Patrick Janssen and Tim March are in the BDO Canadian Open at the Oshawa GM Centre running Jan. 26-30.

Team Kean will also head to the 2011 Ontario Provincial Curling Championship Dominion Tankard to take place in Grimsby from Feb. 7-13.

Team Glenn Howard will be looking to defend its Ontario title there.

They won it last year and get a bye directly into the championship.

This Ontario champions team consists of Glenn Howard with Pickering resident Richard Hart at vice, and Brent Laing and Craig Savill playing front end.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

KINGSTON -- The Ajax-Pickering Raiders Peewee team won a tournament in Kingston, prevailing in a shootout in the championship game.

HOCKEY

Raiders Limestone City Cup champs

Ajax-Pickering Peewees win final in shootout

KINGSTON -- It was an exciting start to the New Year, as the 98 Peewee Ajax-Pickering Raiders gave their family, friends and fans a championship finish in the Kingston Limestone City Cup Tournament.

The Raiders came out in winning fashion to beat the top-ranked Gloucester Rangers 7-1. Round-robin play, which included games against Ottawa Valley Silver Seven

and the Mississauga Senators, had the Raiders top the leaderboard with a record of 2-1-1.

"The boys earned everything they got this weekend by working hard and playing together," remarked head coach TJ Hill, reflecting on the team play over the weekend. "They are a great group of kids and it is a pleasure to coach them."

In the final game against the Ottawa Valley Aces, the Raiders came back from a 2-0 deficit with regulation play ending in a 3-3 tie. After five overtime minutes of play, the score remained tied. Excitement mounted on the ice

and in the stands as both teams prepared for the shootout. The Raiders won the shootout, ending the tournament victorious.

Team members include Robert Dancey, Eric Scholz, Robert Carmichael, Reade MacInnis, Riley Teigen-Katsumi, Jordan Assenza, Noah Power, Liam Andrews, Christian Tsukamoto, Arnaud Vachon, Craig Rushton, Evan Alexiou, Keegan Parsons, Cameron Murphy, Liam Morgan, Tiger McDonald and Bryce Keats. Coaches include TJ Hill, Mike Snetsinger, Dave Snetsinger, Kyle Aitken and Matt Craig. The team's manager is John MacInnis.

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Carrier of The Week

Today's carriers of the week are Naomi and Jennaia. They enjoy playing soccer and Dancing. They have received a dinner voucher compliments of McDonald's, Subway and Boston Pizza.

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OSHAWA, 945 Simcoe St.N. 2-bedroom \$820/month inclusive. No pets. ALSO 293 Montytrave 2-bdrm, no pets \$820. ALSO 208 Centre St.S. Oshawa, luxury 2-bedroom, \$1000/month plus utilities. 905-723-1647, 905-720-9935.

WHITBY 3-BEDROOM main in triplex. New carpeting, paint, en suite washer/dryer, parking. Non smoking building, no pets. \$1170/monthly inclusive. First/last. Feb 1/2011. (905)427-9437.

OSHAWA, One Bedroom, Simcoe and King. 3rd floor apartment. Appliances, laundry, secure intercom. No parking, \$640 plus electricity. Quiet, respectful tenants only please. Call (905)986-4889.

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PICKERING, 401/WHITES Newly renovated 1-bedroom basement. Separate entrance, shared laundry, 1-parking, \$700/mo. inclusive. No smoking/pets. Suit mature single. Avail. Feb/March. (905)839-3053

WHITBY PLACE 1 & 2 bed. Landscaped grounds. Balconies, laundry & parking. Access to Hwy. 401 & public transit. Near shopping & schools. 900 Dundas St. E. (Dundas St. & Garden St) 9 0 5 - 4 3 0 - 5 4 2 0 www.realtor.ca

OSHAWA, BOND/SIMCOE Large 1-bedroom apartment \$775/month. includes heat, hydro, central air. Modern luxury apt. Hardwood floors. Students/pets welcome. No credit check. Available Feb 1st. (905)922-4911.

WHITBY, 2 bedrooms from \$970 all inclusive. Close to all amenities. Office hours 9-5, Monday - Friday. (905)430-1877

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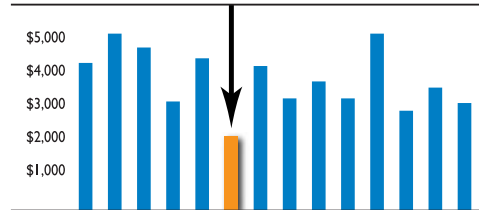
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Pickering skaters start season with a bang

PICKERING -- Skaters at the Pickering Skating Club have been working hard and dedicating many hours on the ice in preparation for the first test day of the season.

The STARSkate program encourages skaters to develop more advanced figure-skating skills in various areas such as skating skills, free skating, dance and interpretive skating.

Skating skills are exercises skated to prescribed music, containing edges, turns and field movements designed to expand on the fundamental movements for skaters of all levels.

In free skating, skaters learn how to execute jumps, to spin in a variety of positions and to

incorporate those and other skills into a program of a specified length using connecting steps and music interpretation.

Dance teaches timing, musicality, rhythm, interpretation, structure as well as basic skating skills such as edges, flow, control and unison.

Interpretive skating encourages creativity and movement to music, and allows skaters to explore the performance aspect of skating without focusing on technical elements.

Each test has a mandatory standard that must be met in order to succeed on the test.

Preliminary-baby blues -- Meaghan Hall, Faith Lewis, Cassandra Neilsen, Kaitlyn Robson

Junior bronze-swing -- Haylea Lambert

Junior bronze-fiesta tango -- Ashley Hamburger

Junior bronze-willow waltz -- Alison Dudu, Lea Kreutz

Senior bronze-ten fox -- Alexandra Scott

Senior bronze-14 step -- Alexandra Scott, Stephanie Scott

Senior bronze-European -- Arline Killam

Junior silver-Harris tango -- Holly Branigan, Sydney Vandersluis

Junior silver-American waltz -- Sydney Vandersluis

Senior silver-paso doble -- Alexandra Rehnke

Skills preliminary -- Haylea Lambert, Amy Wu

Senior bronze -- Christina Hazell

Junior silver -- Holly Branigan, Emily Emerson

Senior silver -- Alissa Kuksis

Elements preliminary -- Alison Dudu, Natalia Savor, Ryan Thomas Spensor, Emily Wardle

Senior bronze -- Holly Branigan

Junior silver -- Kailey Trewartha

Free skate preliminary -- Natalia Savor, Emily Wardle

Senior bronze -- Emily Emerson, Alexandra Joknic

There are various levels in the Starskate Test Stream for each discipline from preliminary to gold. Achieving gold is a prestigious accomplishment. It takes

many years of hard work, dedication and discipline to develop the skills necessary to achieve a gold test.

Pickering Skating Club had three skaters achieve gold tests during this test day:

Natasha Calizon achieved gold in dance-Viennese waltz; Emily Emerson achieved gold in dance-Viennese waltz; Alexandra Joknic achieved gold in dance-quickstep.

Pickering Skating Club welcomes all skaters of all ages and abilities. Registration is on going throughout the season.

Drop by the arena at the Pickering Recreation Complex or register online at www.skatecanada-pickering.com.

SWIMMING

Pickering Swim Club hosts Winter Swim Fest meet

PICKERING -- More than 100 swimmers from the Pickering Swim Club competed at the 2011 Winter Swim Fest that was held on Jan. 22-23 at the Pickering

Recreation Complex.

A total of 10 teams from Ontario competed representing the GTA, Belleville, and Peterborough (Trent).

A total of 348 best times were swam during the meet and a total of 2,148.12 seconds were taken off by these swimmers in their events.

Philip Kay took the most seconds off (92.16 seconds) of those who competed for the Pickering Swim Club.

There was one club record in

the 100m Individual Medley brought down by Warren Mayer, swimming a 1:13.89.

The Club record was previously held by Michael Foster.

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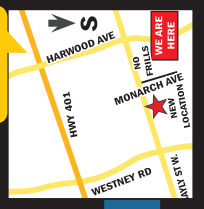
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