

The Pickering NEWS ADVERTISER

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Region looking to challenge Pickering action

*Pressure from citizens
causes committee to
scrutinize land deal*

By **Carly Foster**
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Pressure from residents angry over a controversial land transaction in Pickering has resulted in an about-face from the regional planning committee.

The Region will now look into whether it has any legal standing to challenge a City of Pickering move that saw agricultural easements converted to inhibiting orders. While planning control remains with the City, the land is no longer protected in perpetuity and can now be developed.

More than a dozen mostly Pickering residents and environmental groups packed Tuesday's meeting, where they spoke of shock at the City's move and pleaded with the Region to look into the deal.

"How can I, or my neighbours, ever again place faith in the use of easements, if the City of Pickering is permitted to proceed with what looks remarkably like a sale of the agricultural preserve easements to the landowner-developers?" asked Rosemary Speirs, a Pickering resident and vice president of Ontario Nature.

Isabel Thompson agreed. "Imagine our horror and disappointment when the City of Pickering reneged on the deal... putting us back into a dreadful position," the Whitevale resident and long-time activist said. "It made a mockery of the whole business of the council signing these papers."

In 1999, the provincial Conservative government decided to sell the land it owned in the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve. Before doing so, the Province, Region and City of Pickering agreed to place agricultural easements on the lands to

♦ See Chairman, Page 7

THE PICK OF THE CHICKS



PICKERING — Keara Mayorga, left, and Mya Brau were pulled along in a wagon decorated as a basket with flowers in the Easter Parade that started at the Pickering East Shore Community Centre last weekend. The parade was organized by Branch 606 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Pickering.

Chairman angered by project deferments

*Pickering pollution
control plant part
of budget woes*

By **Carly Foster**
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Angered that \$38.5 million in water and sewer projects are being deferred for years despite increasing user rates, the Regional Chairman blasted works department staff

at a recent meeting.

"What the hell happened that all of a sudden (these projects) can't happen?" Roger Anderson asked. "It's absolutely unacceptable. If the press wasn't here, I'd say something else."

The works department has pushed back dozens of projects from its four-year forecast, mostly due to two projects "cannibalizing" the budget: the \$158-million Courtice water pollution control plan (WPCP) and \$60-

million expansion of the Duffin Creek WPCP, said John Presta, director of environmental services, during a presentation to works committee Wednesday.

The Courtice project has been plagued by delays, including completing the environmental assessment satisfactorily to the federal government, said Cliff Curtis, commissioner of works. The contract to design and build

♦ See Pickering, Page 5

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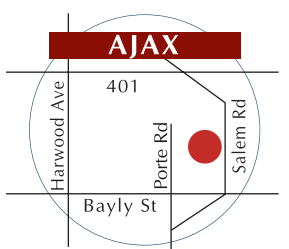
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Catholic school board employees suspended

Internal investigation launched for two senior officials, board won't say why

By Mike Ruta
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Two senior Catholic school board employees have been suspended indefinitely pending the results of an internal investigation.

Mary Ann Martin, chairwoman of the Durham Catholic District School Board, in a Wednesday interview confirmed that Conrad Ethier, controller of plant, and Harald Niessner, supervisor of construction, were suspended on Mar. 24. She said director of education Patricia Manson is in charge of the investigation.

"Right now the reason why they were suspended is being looked into," Trustee Martin said.

While she declined to say why the employees were suspended, Trustee Martin said "there was no mention of any alleged wrongdoing."

Both employees work in the facilities management department. Mr. Ethier oversees the construction of new board buildings, additions and renovations, and is responsible for plant maintenance and operation services, community use of schools and the development and control of the board's operations/maintenance budget. Mr. Niessner is responsible for contract services including roofing, paving, landscaping and portables.

A report is being prepared for trustees and Trustee Martin said whether or not it becomes public depends on the report's outcome. Later in the interview she suggested it would not.

"Right now it's just between the board and the employees. It's not for public discussion right now and I doubt that it will be," she said.

Ms. Manson on Thursday would not answer any questions about the matter.

"On the advice of our legal counsel, and out of respect for the employees involved, we're not going to provide any details on our course of action," she said.

Remembering fallen firefighters

Pickering to name streets after those who die in line of duty

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

PICKERING — To recognize the sacrifice firefighters make for Pickering residents, the City will be naming streets after those killed on the job.

Council unanimously passed a motion to recognize firefighters who have been killed on the job or as a result of a job-related injury. It was similar to a motion passed in January concerning war veterans.

"The firefighters I chatted with on this were certainly cognizant of the steps we had made to name streets after our war veterans and asked that firefighters be added to that policy," said Ward 2 City Councillor Doug Dickerson. "At the end of the day, after listening to them I couldn't think any less."

Coun. Dickerson introduced the

motion.

"I've seen dedication that is second to none in our firefighters," he said. "We would be doing them an honour and us the honour of allowing us to name streets after them."

The rest of council agreed.

"When you think of a firefighter you see 9/11 — individuals who walk into a building knowing they might not walk out," said Ward 1 Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner. "But our firefighters, whether here or elsewhere, don't stop for a moment to think of the outcome."

Coun. Brenner said it would not only recognize the commitment firefighters make every day, but also the sacrifice of their loved ones.

Ward 3 Regional Councillor Rick

Johnson supported the motion, but would like to see it taken further.

"We did the right thing in naming streets after war veterans," he said. "I would hope if we have a firefighter who lost his life in the line of duty we would name something more significant after them, like a building or an arena."

Ward 3 City Councillor David Pickles hopes the policy won't have to be used.

"It's a very good testament to individuals who do put themselves in the line of duty... I do hope the situation arises very infrequently where a street would have to be named after a firefighter who dies in the line of duty," he said.

Mayor Dave Ryan agreed.

"I'll only say I hope and pray we never have to name a street after them," he said.

Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean suggested adding police officers, who are regional employees, to the motion but Coun. Dickerson said he wanted to speak with police first.



Doug Dickerson

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Town centre has fun and games

PICKERING — Pickering is offering basketball, break dancing, movies, pool, video games, air hockey, and band music for teens next week.

The City is hosting the What's 4 Teens event 13- to 19-year-olds on Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The event is in the centre court at the Pickering Town Centre and teens receive a free photo membership ID card that gets them into all the City's free teen programs and events.

There is also competitions for prizes.

To register, call 905-420-4660 ext. 2185, or sign up the day of the event. For more information, visit www.cityofpickering.com/teen.

Wacky sticky science in Claremont

CLAREMONT — Explore the weird, sticky, and wacky world of science.

The Claremont branch of the Pickering Public Library invites seven- to 11-year-olds to get messy and discover the blast they can have with science. The

event is Saturday, April 2 at 2 p.m.

Kids are encouraged to wear old clothes since they could get messy.

No registration is required for the event, but for more information call 905-649-3341.

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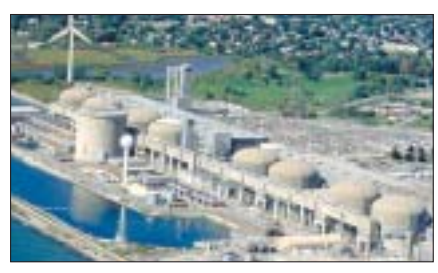
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- ✓ We continued to make good progress towards returning to service the 515-megawatt Pickering A Unit 1. The unit is currently on schedule to begin commercial production in the fall of 2005.



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Schools, libraries come together for online learning

DURHAM — Click in with the library. The Ajax and Pickering Public Libraries have launched the new Public Libraries United with Schools (PLUS!) website,

designed to be an easier resource for school-age children, teachers, and parents. The site's goal is to encourage reading and the sharing of information about library resources,

while providing teachers and parents with tools to help educate children through online research and partnerships with schools. Located at www.my-plus.ca, the site was developed co-operatively by the two library systems and funded by a grant from the Heritage and Libraries Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

Among the features are book genie, an interactive session that lists books by grade and genre and an online tutorial for the library's catalogue and research database.

Pickering plant's incineration facility being upgraded

◆ Pickering, From Page 1

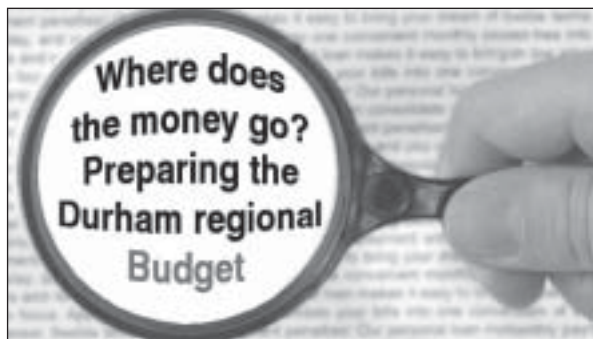
the huge facility to serve Clarington, Oshawa and Whitby is going out this month.

The Duffin Creek plant in Pickering is having its incineration facility upgraded, as land application of sludge is phased out, and it is costly and bad for the environment to ship it to landfill, Mr. Curtis said. Durham and York regions are sharing the cost.

"Other than major increases in user rates, or debenturing, we have no sources of funding," Mr. Curtis said.

But Mr. Anderson said that is not an excuse.

"The Region has been increasing user rates, beyond even what staff have



asked for, to make sure it could afford capital projects down the road," he said, adding that it's not a case of the department not having enough revenue from development charges and building permit revenue.

Water and sewer costs are not on the tax rate, but are based on a user pay system: What you consume, you pay for. The Region's waters and sew-

ers serve 135,000 customers.

Mr. Anderson said

councillors will have a hard time going back to their constituents and telling them projects are being delayed but their rates will continue to go up. In 2005, water rates will go up 6 per cent, and sewer rates 12 per cent, for an average increase of around \$40.

The chairman asked for a detailed report on how many forecasted projects have actually been

completed over the past few years. Only portions of the 2005, \$34.2-million water and \$115-million sewer budgets were passed at the meeting, including operations, capital projects dealing with roads and the cement lining program.

Everything else will be reviewed when the report comes back at the next works committee meeting April 20.

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EDITORIAL

Residents deserve chance to appeal City's actions

Bring on the lawyers. The Region's planning committee members have decided to scrutinize the deal Pickering worked out with developers in its Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve at the end of January. They are trying to determine if the Region has legal standing to challenge Pickering's move to convert easements on the land to inhibiting orders and have asked the Region's lawyers to examine their jurisdiction in the matter.

At first regional politicians balked at such interference in a local issue, to the point where two councillors abstained from voting at a previous planning meeting, scuttling a vote on a motion by Ajax Mayor Steve Parish to start this process.

But it was a different story with the presence of a dozen or so residents, mostly from Pickering, expressing their dismay at the City's actions, while imploring regional planning committee members to take action. This time it was a unanimous vote, including Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan.

Still, Pickering politicians all along have maintained the Region has no say in the matter. Regional Chairman Roger Anderson pointed out regional politicians decided when the easements were placed on the land, it was Pickering's decision to make. Yet, that doesn't hold much weight for the residents angry at Pickering for, as they see it, going back on a promise in 1999 to protect the land from development, in perpetuity.

With the deal sealed in Pickering, opening up the land to possible development, completed without public input, the residents on hand for Wednesday's regional planning meeting were asking for intervention from another level of government. And, in the end, for residents of Pickering, the Region's scrutiny is a good way to have checks and balances on the local level. Without public input, this contentious decision to convert the easements is solely in the hands of local politicians.

There has to be accountability. In this case, it would seem the Region could be the sober second thought for a move that will have tremendous and long-term impact on Pickering's future. And the municipality is not just the land it inhabits, the municipality is really its inhabitants. And many people in Pickering want the deal scrutinized further.

If the City has done nothing wrong, they have nothing to fear from the Region challenging their decision.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

School bus drivers hurt by work to rule

To the editor:
Re: Durham District School Board elementary teachers current work to rule.

Here we go again. I'm fed up with the teacher's union holding everybody hostage until they get their way.

I drive a school bus in Durham Region. Bus driver's rely heavily on school bus charters to supplement our income. Now that the work to rule has started, the bus charters have almost come to a halt. Just to let you know, bus drivers do not get paid for PA days, we haven't received an increase in pay since I started four years ago, we don't get paid benefits and we don't get paid for Christmas, March or summer breaks.

During the last work to rule, I watched as children on my bus cried that they would not be able to perform a play they had been working on, their sports teams were abolished and field trips cancelled and this went on until you got your way. I wish we could all stomp our feet and get what we want. You are hurting a lot of people, especially the children.
Can you say "union" — I wish we had one.

Mary-Lynne Lunn, Pickering



OFSAA gold or bust for Monarchs

Boys squad wants to live up to No. 1 ranking

To paraphrase an old Elvis Presley song, it's now or possibly never for the St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs in their quest for provincial boys' high school hockey gold.

The Pickering-based squad and 19 other teams are currently vying for the Holy Grail of Ontario high school sports — an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) championship — in Windsor this week.

The two-time Durham Region champion Monarchs are the pre-tournament favourite as the number-one seeded 'AAAA' team at the 57th edition of the high school hockey showcase, which got underway on Wednesday. But, the \$1-million question is: Will they still be at the top of the heap when the tournament ends on Saturday?

Monarchs' head coach Mike Dion hopes so. He expects his team to leave it all on the ice as this year's OFSAA tournament represents the best chance for his strong boys' hockey program to achieve provincial glory.

Dion is nothing else if not a realist. With this year's team being a veteran-laden squad, with virtually everyone graduating, there's a sense of urgency to bring the championship banner back to the Whites Road institution this week-end.

"This will be our last kick at the can for at least three years," predicts Dion, adding that it could take three or four years to rebuild the team into its current powerhouse status.

If being a veteran team with graduation looming isn't enough motivation for the Monarchs, last year's shortfall at



Al Rivett
sports editor

OFSAA surely should.

Last year's OFSAA playdowns in London left the Monarchs with a bitter taste that they hope to atone for at this year's edition. In 2004, St. Mary achieved a similarly high seed — ranked third — but the high seeding didn't equate to success last year. After going undefeated and making it out of its pool, St. Mary was upset by a lower-seeded Orangeville Bears squad in the quarter-final game, thus falling short of expectations.

"We have a lot of unfinished business at OFSAA," said Dion, following the Monarchs' Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA) championship series victory over the Uxbridge Secondary School Tigers earlier this month. "A lot of guys think we fell short last year, so we want to go back and make some noise."

Monarchs' team captain Ryan Eickmeier put it even more succinctly earlier this month: Gold is the goal at OFSAA.

"We feel we have something to prove there," said Eickmeier, a centreman, referring back to last year's result.

Al Rivett's column appears every third Friday. E-mail arivett@durhamregion.com.

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Chairman agrees Region has no say in land deal

◆ Chairman, From Page 1

protect them from development. But part of that memorandum of understanding stated planning control rested with the City. Because the Region agreed to that very fact, it cannot do anything about the deal, said Regional Chairman Roger Anderson.

"We did look at it then, it was debated," he said. "We took it to council, they supported that Pickering could do with the land what they see fit."

But residents, upset that the deal is now done — and was negotiated behind closed doors without public consultation — are turning to the Region for help.

There could also be a huge loss to taxpayers if the land is allowed to be developed, as it could be worth \$300,000 an acre, said Brian Buckles of Green Door Alliance, which helped broker the original easement deal. The City has been promised more than \$60 million from developers if a legal challenge to have the land removed from the Greenbelt is won, and the properties are built on — a far cry from the more than \$400 million the land will be worth, he said.

"In 30 years of involvement with public policy issues, no issue has upset me as much as Pickering's handling and release of the ag preserve easements," Mr. Buckles said.

In a unanimous "Yes" vote — including Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan — the committee asked regional lawyers to look into the deal. At a March 8 planning meeting, the motion was lost after Mayor Ryan voted "No" and two councillors abstained from voting.

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Prepare for Spring with a smoke alarm change

DURHAM — When the clocks spring forward this weekend, April 3, the Ajax Fire and emergency services says it's also a good time to check your smoke alarm.

"Once they've changed the time on their clocks, we urge every homeowner to take a moment to check or change the batteries in their smoke alarms" says Ajax Fire Chief Randy Wilson. "Maintaining your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors is more than just a matter of common sense, it could be a matter of life and death."

If you can't remember the last time you checked or replaced your smoke alarm, it is probably best to replace them. It is estimated that there are more than 16 million smoke alarms in Canadian homes. But, according to the Ajax department, firefighters across the country agree that a large proportion of these alarms are no longer in working order.

"A smoke alarm with dead batteries, or no batteries at all, is completely useless," says Chief Wilson. "A properly working smoke alarm could save your life, and your loved ones."



Clocks go ahead this Sunday a.m.

Before you turn in Saturday night, don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m. on April 3, giving us an extra hour of light in the evenings. Clocks revert to standard time on the last Sunday of October.

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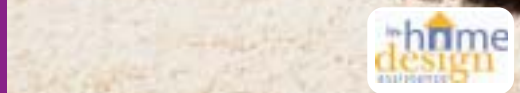
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A little incentive goes a long way

Donation to help Ajax-Pickering hospital expansion reach its goal

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

AJAX — The hard work of a group of Pickering Ontario Power Generation employees is going to benefit the health of the residents of Ajax, Pickering and Whitby. Through an incentive agreement, MDS Nordion turned over \$350,000 to OPG, which donated the money to the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering Foundation. The funds are earmarked for the hospital's nuclear medicine facility.



Katie Cronin-Wood

"It's another great step to helping close the \$13.7 million capital campaign, which is nearly complete. Obviously \$350,000 at this stage in our campaign is a huge boost," said Gord Simmonds, chairman of the Vital Links campaign.

Although he said every donation is important, Mr. Simmonds agreed getting one of this size helps a lot.

"That's a lot of small donations bundled up in one cheque," he said.

The funds were created through a partnership between MDS, a supplier of isotopes used to prevent, diagnose and treat disease around the world, and OPG, which provides the company with cobalt-60 harvested at Pickering for use in the creation of the products.

Five years ago MDS Nordion asked OPG to covert

selected reactors to produce cobalt-60.

As part of the contract, MDS Nordion agreed to contribute an incentive bonus to a charitable organization of OPG's choice.

The project came in on time and under budget so all OPG had to do was select the charity.

"We contribute to a number of charities. We've had a good relationship with the Ajax-Pickering hospital so we thought it would be fitting at this point in time

to donate it (to its campaign)," said Pierre Charlebois, acting chief nuclear officer at OPG.

The donation is in addition to the \$1 million OPG gave the hospital four years ago to help fund the OPG Nuclear

Medicine Clinic in Ajax.

"OPG does not believe in operating in a vacuum when it comes to communities that host our facilities," Mr. Charlebois said. "We're committed to them and as part of that commitment, we believe in giving back and in trying to make a difference."

The money is going specifically to help in the purchase of a second gamma camera, which is used to do lung, bone, cardiac and other scans, for the clinic.

The donation benefits everybody, said Katie Cronin-Wood, director of community relations.

"At the end of the day those families are going to have a better hospital to come to," she said.

The redevelopment will feature a new emergency

department, a 30-bed complex continuing care unit, nine new in-patient mental health beds, expanded diagnostic imaging and a cardiac diagnostic unit. It is

expected to cost \$59.1 million.

Construction is to start next June.

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2005 Regional Business Plans And Budgets

FINANCE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to give notice that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham intends to review and adopt or amend and adopt the 2005 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Budgets on April 13, 2005 for Regional Operations, the Police Services Board, Outside Agencies, Provincial Downloaded Pooled Services Costs, Solid Waste Management and related 2005 Regional Property Tax Rates.

The review and adoption or amendment and adoption of the 2005 Business Plans and Budgets and related fees and charges will occur at the regularly scheduled Regional Council meeting which commences at 10:00 a.m. in the Regional Council Chambers located at 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario.

Comments from the public are welcome in writing or by attending the Council meeting and presenting oral comments. Written comments may be forwarded to the Regional Clerk at the address indicated below. For inclusion in the Council agenda, receipt of written comments by noon Thursday, April 7, 2005 is requested. For further information regarding the Regional Council meeting, please contact the Regional Clerk at 905-668-7711 ext. 4243.

Further information regarding the 2005 Business Plans and Budgets and related fees and charges is available at no cost upon request by contacting the Budgets, Economic Studies and Risk Management Division of the Region's Finance Department at (905) 571-3311 ext. 6221.

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OPG generates \$42-million profit

Turnaround has company officials 'pleased'

By Keith Gilligan
Staff Writer

DURHAM — A year after posting a \$491-million loss, Ontario Power Generation is back in the black.

The company announced net income of \$42 million in 2004, despite a drop in revenues of \$616 million over the previous year.

"We're pleased with last year," says OPG spokesman John Earl. "Last year, we saw as a transition year. It's a move to what we consider a progressive company."

Much of the loss for 2003 was attributed to provincial government's decision to close its coal-burning plants by 2007. OPG had to write off the value of the coal-burning assets in 2003.

"During 2004, we had more production from our nuclear and hydroelectric assets, we increased our investments to enhance the reliability and cost competitiveness of our generating assets and we continued to make substantial contributions to the customer-rebate program," acting president and CEO Richard Dicerni said in a press release.

Mr. Earl stated the nuclear and hydroelectric stations produced more energy last year, while fossil-fuel burning facilities were used less.

"We added baseload and there was less need for the peaking plants," he said. The fossil-fuel facilities are used when demand rises.

"So the fuel costs were considerably lower," Mr. Earl stated. "We didn't have to use as much fuel."

The customer rebates the company has to pay were also down last year. The rebates under the Market Power Mitigation Agreement cost the company \$1.154 billion, compared to the 2003 total of \$1.51 billion.

Lower average energy prices were the reason for the drop in rebate payments.

In 2005, the company's books could look even better, as a new electricity-pricing structure comes into effect on April 1.

"The price for electricity actually came down," Mr. Earl said of the 2004 results. "There was a slight drop in how much we receive for electricity. The price in 2003 was higher."

"More generation and lower fuel costs did help contribute to our profit in 2004," he added.

Another contributing factor to the profit was an \$80-million tax recovery. Without the recovery, the company would have lost \$38 million.

OPG's cash flow was also aided by the lower rebate payments. Last year, cash flow from operating activities was \$226 million, up from \$97 million in 2003.

Last year is "a reflection of what we'll see in 2005, the continued improvement in the company," Mr. Earl stated.



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Province goes back on physiotherapy changes

Seniors, children, long-term-care residents covered

By Jillian Follert
Staff Writer

DURHAM — A sudden about-face by the Province means it will be business as usual for some Durham residents in need of physiotherapy, and a financial scramble for others.

As of April 1, OHIP will reinstate coverage for seniors over 65, children under 19, residents of long-term-care facilities, and people of all ages who need the treatment in their home, or after an overnight hospital stay. Recipients of Ontario Disability Support and Ontario Works will also be covered.

The change follows last year's announcement by the McGuinty government that physiotherapy would be delisted for all Ontarians, except seniors requiring home care, long-term-care residents and people on disability.

Heated criticism prompted Health Minister George Smitherman to announce last week that coverage will now be reinstated for certain residents, with adults between 20 and 64 as the most notable exceptions.

"There is concern about people in that category, because not everyone has extended coverage," says Amy Maebrae-Waller, a spokeswoman for the Durham branch of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association. "Treatments can be very expensive and add up over time. We're worried that people might just forgo physio treatments because of the cost."

Ms. Maebrae Waller works as a physiotherapist at Lakeridge Health Oshawa and in the community, and says an average treatment costs about \$50. In some cases, patients need as many as 100 treatments per year.

While some will be left high and dry by the new rules, officials at Durham's long-term-care and home-care organizations are breathing a sigh of relief.

While it was not clear whether at-home physiotherapy services provided by Durham Access to Care would have been delisted under the initial changes, director Janet Harris says they are pleased with the new model, stressing that physiotherapy is a vital service for those recovering at home.

"It's a favourable thing for our clients who need physiotherapy in their homes," she says. "Whenever there are big changes, it's challenging for us to educate the community. Now, we can just go about our business as usual."

Judy Heffern is also happy to maintain the status quo. As director of the Region's Long Term Care Division, which operates four long-term-care facilities, she says physiotherapy is an important service that residents can't be without.

"This will have a big impact on some people, but for our residents, nothing will really change," she says. "For us, it's a good news story."

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Speakers discuss depression's myths and realities in program

Experts talk about symptoms, solutions

DURHAM — Community Care Durham's COPE mental health program will unveil the myths and realities of depression as part of its upcoming Distinguished Speakers Event. Unmasking Depression will take place April 5 at the Anandale Golf and Country Club starting at 7 p.m. It will feature speakers Dr. David Goldbloom, professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto and senior medical adviser at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; and Karen Liberman, executive director of the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario. Admission is free, however donations will be accepted for the mood disorders association.

The event will explore how common depression is, who gets it, what the symptoms are, what can be done about it and where to go to get help. It will also explore the story of a survivor, who overcame a decade-long battle with clinical depression.

"We are privileged to have Dr. Goldbloom and Karen Liberman as our speakers," said Derrick Keene, COPE manager at

Ajax-Pickering. "Not only because of their experiences in treatment and recovery, but also to provide a rare opportunity for the community to receive valuable information from an expert and particularly by some who have survived this type of illness."

For more information, call Community Care Durham Ajax-Pickering at 905-837-0017 ext. 229.



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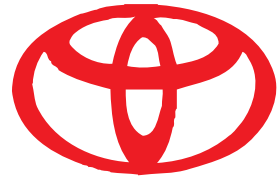
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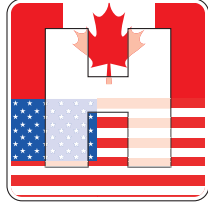
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U.S. health care not perfect, but no outcry to try Canada's public system

Durham Region Media Group staff reporter Keith Gilligan spent three days in Rochester, New York examining the American health-care system. This is the first in a four-part series looking at the positives, negatives and challenges faced by patients, residents, health professionals and politicians alike, comparing the Canadian system to the U.S.



Rochester hospitals grapple with fallout from closures, insurance challenges

By Keith Gilligan
Staff Writer

When it comes to the American health-care system, the horror story Canadians are most familiar with is a person losing everything to pay a hospital bill.

While we have universal, public health care, Americans have the private, free-market system. And, while everyone in Canada has health-care coverage, about 40 million Americans don't have any health-care insurance. That means those without coverage have to pay out of pocket when they use the system.

Neither system is perfect — long wait times in Canada versus millions without health insurance in the U.S., but good luck to anyone who wants to change each country's respective system. Speaking to the Families USA Annual Health Action Conference in January, New York Senator Hillary Clinton recounted how she and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, put forward a proposal to overhaul the American system.

"I know that just a little over 10 years ago we tried to have a conversation about health care, and it was a difficult conversation, and I bear the scars to prove that," Senator Clinton said.

Dr. Raymond Mayewski is the medical director for clinical services at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester.

"Take away choice from an American citizen, you will have real trouble," he says.

On this side of the border it's a different story. A Canadian politician pushing for an American-style system here would probably be criticized for favouring a two-tiered system and likely find himself looking for work after the next election.

.....

On this day in February, about five inches of snow has fallen in Rochester. For us Canadians, that's almost 13 centimetres.

On the sidewalk in front of Strong Memori-

al, two anti-abortionists are walking back and forth. It's unusual to see anti-abortionists, or pro-lifers, marching in February, according to Teri D'Agostino, director of public relations and communications at the hospital. Usually, Easter is a big time for anti-abortion protests.

Part of the University of Rochester Medical Center, Strong is a massive institution, with more than 700 beds, to go along with a Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, the School of Nursing, and the Aab Institute of Biomedical Sciences. The hospital has 1,500 physicians with admitting privileges and 2,000 nurses.

Strong has been in Canadian news lately, related to a recent tragedy. When the Windsor Wildcats girls' hockey team was involved in a deadly bus accident in January, victims were taken there.

About one million people live in Rochester and the surrounding communities. Like a lot of Canadian cities, the health-care system in Rochester has undergone a realignment in the past few years.

"One of the interesting things here in Rochester was the closing of two acute-care hospitals," Ms. D'Agostino says.

St. Mary Hospital had 180 beds and closed in 1997, while Genesee Hospital, with 320 beds, closed in 2001. "It took a lot of hospital beds out of the community. It put enormous pressure on the rest of us," she adds. "Capacity management is very important."

While St. Mary closed as a hospital, it's now being used as a hospice, nursing home and place for those who've suffered a brain injury.

"Genesee was a hospital with a mounting debt. It couldn't maintain the confidence of its medical staff. There was a downward spiral. It was a victim of competition really," Ms. D'Agostino says.

Staff at Genesee "dispersed into the community. Doctors and nurses went to other hospitals. Everybody picked up the radiology technologists. The staff was absorbed."

New York Governor George Pataki has set up a commission to study the closing of hospitals in New York.

"We oppose that," Ms. D'Agostino says. "Rochester has gone through the painful experience of closing two hospitals and it didn't save a cent. All the other hospitals had to reopen their emergency departments. They had to open beds they weren't licensed for."

"Closing hospitals doesn't save a cent. Patients don't go away. Other hospitals have to invest" money to meet higher needs.

"The volume doesn't go away," agreed Kelly Luther, with Strong's social work department.

.....

Like many Canadian hospitals, Strong's emergency department is overcrowded. It



Keith Gilligan/ News Advertiser photos

Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester faces different pressures than similar hospitals in Durham Region. Administrators at Strong say other hospital closures in the area have shown no savings overall to its health system.

has a capacity of 75,000 patients a year, but about 80,000 patients are coming into the emergency department annually.

"We're pushing the limits of physical space," Ms. D'Agostino states. "It's a lovely department, it's just kind of tight."

"We had to double up cubicles. We outgrew our emergency department the day it opened in 2001," she notes.

'(Closures) took a lot of hospital beds out of the community. It put enormous pressure on the rest of us.'

TERI D'AGOSTINO

The department had undergone an expansion just before the Genesee hospital closed. "If we had any inkling Genesee would close, we would have built a bigger one. We would have built it for another decade," Ms. D'Agostino says.

Ms. Luther says patients can be three or four days in emergency before getting upstairs to a bed. "They're cared for there (in emergency)," she says.

At Strong, if someone shows up needing medical care, "we take everyone. We do that. We're a public, non-profit hospital," Ms. D'Agostino says. "Our responsibility is to service the safety need. We don't turn away based on the ability to pay."

.....

Nancy Adams, executive director of the Monroe County Medical Society, says a new problem is arising.

"Health-care costs are increasing in double digits," she says. "There's a concern we'll see more and more people without health care."

"As a system we have to address that until the whole system gets fixed a little better."

"Most people with health care have it through their employer," Ms. D'Agostino adds. "One of the real issues for employers is the double-digit increase in benefits. Kodak used to cover the whole ride. It was a very comprehensive package."

"Most are pushing the costs over on em-

ployees," she notes, adding that those having to pay extra do tend to "use the plan more wisely."

Ms. Luther says, "There are employers who aren't able to offer coverage. There's the income-based plan, which is Medicare and Family Health Plus."

There's Medicare, which is supposed to cover those without insurance, and then there's Medicaid, which is for those 65 years and older or with a disability.

"New York has a very rich Medicaid system," Dr. Mayewski notes. "You don't have to make a lot to qualify."

"In other states, there's a higher level to qualify, so you see a lot of patients with no insurance. If you're just above the poverty level, you don't qualify. The biggest problem is the individual worker in a small business doesn't have insurance. Like a paint shop or a garage."

Somebody making between \$16,000 and \$20,000 a year would be "above the maximum for Medicaid."

For people without insurance or who are under-insured, "often they don't get the health care they want," the doctor says.

That can lead to patients showing up at a hospital in poorer health.

"It's fair to say there's a lack of access," Dr. Mayewski says. "Then they come in with severe kidney disease because they didn't take care of themselves."

"They're generally in worse shape than those who have government insurance or seek medical care."

Ms. Adams notes patients without insurance "tend not to seek health care until an emergency, show up, and they're very sick."

That creates a "sense of frustration for physicians. They don't want to put out fires, but hook them up with long-term care."

The Medicaid program also lacks appeal for many doctors.

"Right now, many doctors don't participate in Medicaid," Dr. Mayewski says. "The reimbursements are 30 per cent of that of a private plan. With Medicaid, they get \$18. A private plan would pay \$48."

Next: Wait times in Canada versus America: the great equalizer.



'It's fair to say there's lack of access. Then they come in with severe kidney disease because they didn't take care of themselves. They're generally in worse shape than those who have government insurance or seek medical care.'

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Province sets growth plan for Golden Horseshoe

Durham Region part of 'busiest and most urbanized' area in draft plan

By David Blumenfeld
Staff Writer

DURHAM — With almost 4 million more people set to call Ontario home in the next 30 years, an effective growth strategy is essential.

And with Durham Region one of the fastest-growing areas in the province, it became a suitable venue Wednesday, March 16, for Ontario's Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal to discuss the recently released discussion paper, *Places to Grow*, which sets out a vision and direction for planning growth and infrastructure investment in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

"Growth is inevitable. Growth is desirable. Growth is something we need to nurture," Minister David Caplan told Regional officials at a luncheon organized by the Whitby Chamber of Commerce at Royal Ashburn Golf Club. "We have to create the future that we want for ourselves and for our children. We can't simply let it happen."

Mr. Caplan said the plan will help the Province identify growth areas across Ontario and enable it to properly plan for future population growth and employment in a bal-

anced way, taking into account the geography of various regions. It encompasses planning for sustainable growth on green fields, the preservation of park and farm lands, and the control of urban sprawl.

Furthermore, it focuses on what Ontarians want: stronger, more liberal communities, a prosperous economy and clean environment. It also strives to avoid other outcomes, such as traffic congestion, air pollution, economic stagnation and a deteriorating quality of life, Mr. Caplan said.

"The key point is, municipalities will still be responsible for local planning," he added. "What the growth plan does, however, is provide provincial leadership. It enables the government to consider the larger picture and plan for growth in a coordinated way over the entire region."

In the plan, Durham is part of a sub-area that includes the Greater Toronto Area — one of the busiest and most urbanized areas in the Greater Golden Horseshoe that will play a major role in accommodating

some the millions of people who will inevitably call Ontario home. Mr. Caplan said that 100 jurisdictions worldwide that have used this model, and they have reported a 20-per cent infrastructure efficiency savings.

"For that reason alone this is a good plan and a good idea for us to move ahead," he added.

Whitby Mayor Marcel Brunelle, chairman of the Region's works department, said a major issue in Durham is roads, particularly the extension of Hwy. 407 and addi-

tional widening of Hwy. 401.

"Going in and out of Toronto's west side, there's about 117 lanes of traffic. Coming in and out of Durham, there's about nine. Minister... we need transportation into this city or we're choking," he said.

In reply, Mr. Caplan said the best strategy to end urban sprawl and gridlock is to create opportunities for businesses and jobs in Durham. Upgrading and expanding GO Transit will also help alleviate the pressure, however expansion of Hwy. 407 is a decade away, he said.

Horse industry rides to tax victory with provincial promise

By Joshua May
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — The Ontario government has responded to the long face of the equestrian community.

Following an outcry by the horse-oriented industry to the new assessment criteria of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the Province has announced changes to its legislation in an effort, it says, to provide consistency, fairness and clarity to horse farm owners. The new agreement, developed by MPAC and equestrian stakeholders, aims to help relieve the financial burden suffered by hundreds of farm operators that had their property taxes skyrocket after MPAC reclassified

their establishments as commercial properties rather than residential or agricultural.

"Without these changes, the equestrian industry would be over in Ontario," said Marc Desautels, owner of Durham Equestrian Services and Custom Equine Services in Durham Region. "Not only will it help our industry to remain afloat, but it also allows us to put money back into the economy and keep people employed. This is a good thing for everyone."

Retroactive to Jan. 1, 2004, properties used for breeding, raising, maintaining and caring for horses will be assessed alongside a various assortment of other farm activities. Farms offering trail rides

and riding lessons, as well as other land intensive recreational activities, including golf courses and ski hills, are defined as residential. However, retail activities such as tack shops and other related businesses will receive a commercial classification.

"This allows for a fair playing field for our industry," said Mr. Desautels. "The proposed tax hikes of 50 to 60 per cent were just too astronomical for our businesses to absorb. Without the continued help of the press, the equestrian community and the public, none of these changes would be possible."

MPAC, which had begun reclassifying land under legislation set

forth by the Ministry of Finance, was ordered by the Province in February to discontinue and given 30 days in which to work out a new deal with stakeholders.

"The new criteria for assessing horse farms represents an appropriate balance between fair treatment for horse farm owners and consistency with other types of properties," Greg Sorbara, Ontario's finance minister, said in a press release. "We remain committed to continuing to work with MPAC to find further ways to improve the quality and consistency of property assessments in Ontario."

For further information on the new assessment criteria, call MPAC at 1-866-296-6722.



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Town Hall Meetings:

The town hall meeting originally set for March 31 has been rescheduled to the following:

Date: Friday, April 8, 2005

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Meeting Room #3, McLean Community Centre, Ajax

Topic: Any federal issues of concern to you

An additional town hall meeting will be held April 22 in Claremont to discuss the Pickering Airport Lands. Information is as follows:

Date: Friday, April 22, 2005

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Claremont Community Centre

Topic: The Pickering Airport Lands

Other Notes:

Anonymous flyer

Some constituents have been confused by a flyer circulated throughout Ajax-Pickering by an anonymous group calling itself "Concerned Canadian Parents." This flyer has Mark Holland's name on it, but it is **not from Mark**. Mark strongly disapproves of the intolerant statements contained in this flyer. For more information, please visit Mark's website: www.markholland.ca

E-mails to Mark

Please address any e-mails for Mark to hollam@parl.gc.ca. Due to the high volume of correspondence, replies may take some time. Priority is being given to those who identify themselves as constituents by including their complete postal addresses.

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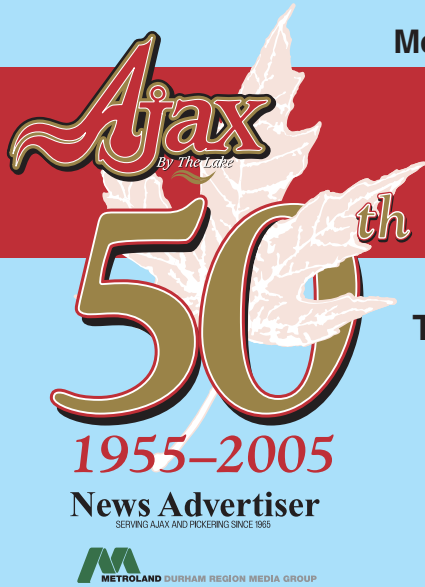
any hard packed patches and rake out old thatch to allow the grass to "breathe". Top up with a specially formulated soil for lawns such as C-I-L Triple Mix Plus. It contains composted manure, peat, as well as fertilizer for improved root development.

Over seed your lawn every year. Mark Cullen, one of Canada's leading gardening experts, recommends over-seeding your lawn each spring with a quality grass seed. "I do this every spring to help fill in bare spots in my lawn. Over seeding helps reduce weeds too, said Cullen."

Fertilize 4 times every year. Many people only fertilize their lawn in the spring, however your lawn needs a steady supply of nutrients throughout the season to stay green and healthy. In particular, don't forget the fall fertilizer application. It's one of the most important feedings. Cullen recommends applying fall fertilizer in September or October to strengthen your lawn over winter and give it a jump-start in the spring.

Control broadleaf weeds. Weeds compete with grass for soil nutrients... and they usually win. If your lawn only has a few weeds, you can pull them by hand. But if your lawn is over-run with weeds, then Cullen recommends an application of Lawn Weed Out in May, June or September to bring weeds under control.

Control insects. White grubs, chinch bugs, leather-jackets, ants and many common insects could destroy your lawn if conditions favour them. If necessary, apply a lawn insect control product such as GrubOut.



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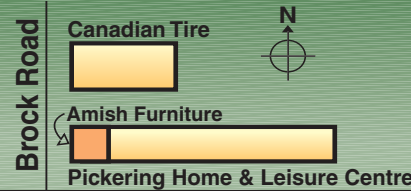


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Easter weekend showed true signs of inspiration from above, blessing us with glorious weather to give gardeners and golfers true hope that we'll be spending more time outside.

Crocus' have begun to bloom in many gardens which are in protected areas. This week is a perfect time to plant pansies and violas in containers (usually mid April heralds the planting of these flowers in the gardens). Some colourful perennials that like cooler weather are also available right now, such as primula, bellis, dianthus, helleborou and yes the outdoor shrubs, evergreens and trees have begun to arrive at your local garden centre.

With the time springing ahead this weekend there will be one extra hour of daylight after work to accomplish a few simple gardening activities. Some of the "to do" items that should be on your list is a taking general walk about on your property and assess any winter damage to your plants that might need addressing. Winter snow loads will some times pull over larger evergreens, ice or heavy snows may cause some weak branches on your trees to break, hungry rabbits may have been nibbling on your rose canes, fruit tree bark and shrub twigs, winter sun and/or winds may have de-hydrated some of your evergreens or rhododendrons or hollies. While you're on this

little walk it's also a quite time to reflect on any new plants or gardens you may want to add to your yard, or a new deck, patio, hot tub, garden shed, patio furniture set that may have to be budgeted for this summer.

Protecting trees, shrubs and roses that are prone to insect or fungus damage during the summer months can start this week as well. It is now time to apply dormant oil/ lime sulphur combinations to the plants that are susceptible to diseases... Many plants in the garden can also use a trim or thinning during this dormant period just before the plants re-awaken. Maples and birches have a heavy sap flow this time of year and are not on the recommended pruning list for now. Fruit trees, clematis vines, hydrangea shrubs, rose of Sharon and butterfly bushes all could be trimmed according to their needs this week. Ornamental grasses can also be trimmed down to six to 12 inches from the ground to allow new growth to begin soon.

Lawns will also begin to awaken soon...this week is a good time to tend to your lawn before it fully thaws out. Give it a good raking to remove dead grass blades and accumulated thatch.

Gardening with Gusto By: Rick Pecman
General Manager, Pine Ridge Garden Gallery



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The spring season is now upon us and the phrase most synonymous with this time of year is "Spring Cleaning." Spring is when we turn off our home's heating unit and open the windows to welcome the ambiance of spring, full of warm sunshine, blooming flowers and chirping birds. For most of us, a spring cleaning is essential to achieving that "fresh air" feeling in our homes.



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Spring cleaning helps us get rid of the harsh winter and prepare for the upcoming months of beautiful and enjoyable weather. However, with most of us living a very busy lifestyle it may seem like a rather daunting task to get organized. Instead of putting this chore off for another day there are other options available to get help you get organized and clear the clutter. Liz Ferguson has been running a house cleaning business for five years and has recently introduced a new branch of her business called Organizing Matters. "Organizing Matters is a professional home organizing business that will put your home in order and leave you feeling stress free!" says Liz. "And you'll finally have that free time you've been looking for!"

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Anonymous anti same-sex marriage flyers anger MP

Phone calls and e-mails pour into Ajax-Pickering office, offended by material

By Danielle Milley
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Mark Holland is trying to get to the bottom of who has been circulating flyers across Canada attacking MPs who support same-sex marriage.

The flyers have come from Concerned Canadian Parents, a group that operates from a post office box in a Toronto convenience store. Mr. Holland, the Ajax-Pickering MP, said his office has received hundreds of phone calls and e-mails from constituents about the material.



Mark Holland

"The majority of those were from those who found the flyer offensive," he said.

Mr. Holland found out in mid-March that his riding, as well as parts of the two neighbouring ones, had been covered with them.

The flyer says the same-sex marriage legislation will destroy the Canadian way of life and damage families. It mentions Mr. Holland specifically as a supporter of the bill and includes a comment card for people to return to their MP.

Mr. Holland's office has received about 200 cards back and he said they were split 50/50 between those who want him to change his position and those who don't.

Although he disagrees with the group's message of intolerance, he respects their right to state that message.

"I am 100 per cent behind free press and free speech," Mr. Holland said. "(But) you've got to say who you are. Don't be cowardly and hide behind anonymous flyers."

The group has also taken out large ads in major newspapers.

"This is a very expensive campaign," he said.

No one knows where the group is getting its money from — whether it is a charity, a political party, or some other source — he added.

On Tuesday, Mr. Holland made a statement about the group and the flyers in the House of Commons. He said other MPs have discussed it as well in caucus and outside of the house, add-

ing even MPs who support the legislation are upset.

Mr. Holland stated that he is also bothered by the fact that some residents believe the flyers are from him. He added some of the calls are from people upset that he would publish something like that.

"One of the challenges is making people aware that this isn't from me," he said.

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The word of truth is out there to aid multicultural job seekers

Resource centre helping youth find careers

By Joshua May
Special to the News Advertiser

DURHAM — Youths are receiving a nudge in the right direction at the Word of Truth Community Resource Centre (WTCRC) in Pickering.

As part of the federally-funded initiative Skills Link Employment Program, multicultural adolescents throughout Durham Region are learning vital communication and working skills designed to aid youth in uncovering careers in the working world.

“Young people today face tremendous barriers with finding a job, especially those of a multicultural background or who are new to the country,” said Leyland Gudge, director of the program. “People of different heritages are often discriminated against in the working world. What we’re trying to do here is build the skills and confidence of our program’s participants to ensure they can overcome these obstacles if and when they occur.”

An initiative dedicated to providing employability skills with a

strong emphasis on overcoming barriers to employment, the program is a non-profit, community-based social service and is the brainchild of the Word of Truth Christian Centre in Pickering.

A six-month project that includes training seminars as well as a work placement near the culmination of the program, the five-days-a-week initiative applies to anyone between the ages of 16 and 30 who is currently attending school and not on employment insurance.

“Programs such as these are extremely valuable for they offer free life skills to a discriminated group of people,” said Adrian Davis, participant of the project. “However, it should be known that this is not an exclusive project and that many similar initiatives exist in numerous cities and provinces throughout the country.”

Andrea Officer is one of the 15 individuals chosen to participate in the program. The 29-year-old is hoping the job and life skills she has

acquired since joining the program in February help her to achieve her working world dreams.

“I hope to one day be a part of the sterile supply processing industry,” she said. “With the help of this program, I was able to uncover skills I never even knew I had. It’s never easy getting a job, especially in a region such as Durham where minorities are not as accepted as they are in a marketplace like Toronto. Hopefully this will offer me more of an opportunity to succeed.”

With its participants graduating in July, the WTCRC is already preparing summer seminars and is open to all applicants.

For more information or to offer possible work placements to participants, call 905-839-4953.



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo
Andrea Officer speaks at the recent opening of the Skills Link Employment Program Launch at the Word of Truth Community Resource Centre. Andrea is a past participant of the program.

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Residual Waste Disposal Environmental Assessment (EA) Study

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

WORKS DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Durham Region seeks public input at workshops on how to consult the public during the Region’s waste disposal Environmental Assessment

Residents are invited to attend one of three Public Workshops being hosted by the Region of Durham Works Department to discuss and obtain input on how the public and stakeholders are to be consulted during the EA study. This series of workshops is a follow-up to the two previous sets of workshops in which residents participated in discussions on how to choose a preferred waste disposal technology(s) to manage post-diversion residual wastes and how to identify a preferred site for a long-term waste disposal facility. The Region is conducting these workshops as part of a Residual Waste Disposal Environmental Assessment (EA) Study and feedback obtained from residents will be used to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference.

Workshops will include presentations and opportunities for facilitated discussion. Interested residents are encouraged to register for one of the following Public Workshops:

Tues., April 19, 2005
Township of Brock
Cannington Community Centre
91 Elliot Street

Wed., April 20, 2005
Town of Ajax
Ajax Community Centre
75 Centennial Road

Thurs., April 21, 2005
Municipality of Clarington
Courtice Community Complex
2950 Courtice Road North

To register for Public Workshop #3, call Barb Boffey at: (905) 668-7721 ext. 5490 or email: EAresidualwaste@region.durham.on.ca.

Public Workshop #3

Agenda:	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction/Presentation
	7:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	Workshop
	9:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Workshop Wrap-Up

Issues for Consideration:

- Best ways of informing the public about the study
- Best ways to gather feedback from the public on the study
- Participants in the study – who should participate?
- Methods for enhancing public participation in the study

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- under the “Highlights” tab click on “Residual Waste Disposal Environmental Assessment Study”

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Transition program leader earns high praise

By Jason Chamberlain
Special to the News Advertiser

AJAX — Special-needs students at Ajax High School are getting an opportunity to work in the community, thanks in large part to Ronda Franco.

One such student is Melissa Custodio of Ajax. Melissa suffers from aphasia, a disease that impairs speech. With Ms. Franco's help, she was able to get a work placement at Zeller's in Ajax.

Melissa's mother, Maria Custodio, is proud of her daughter's success and is grateful to Ms. Franco for her role in it.

"She's very good," said Ms. Custodio. "She teaches them how to make resumes, how to present themselves. They talk about hygiene, and sexuality. She's gently bringing these things into their world, things we all take for granted."

Ms. Franco is the co-ordinator of the Ajax High School Transition to Work program. The unique post-secondary program allows special needs students to learn valuable job-related skills in a classroom setting, and then to take those skills out into the community.

"On Mondays we're in the classroom, and we teach them things like job readiness skills, how to speak to your employer, how to write a resume, how to look for a job," said Ms. Franco. "The rest



A.J. Groen/ News Advertiser photo
Ronda Franco, co-ordinator of the Ajax High School Transition to Work program, is a good neighbour to student Melissa Custodio.

Good Neighbours

of the week we're at Cullen Gardens. We do landscaping, grounds maintenance, and we clean the miniatures and set them up for display."

Once Cullen Gardens closes for the winter, students find their own, local placements. It's up to the students to decide where they would like to work. Once students have made their choice and provided contact information, Franco gets to work arranging the placement.

"We've had students at bakeries, Home Depot, grocery stores, and nursing homes," said Ms. Franco.

Franco's duties extend beyond classroom teaching and finding placements.

"I'm the contact for all of the parents,

and for the placement supervisors. I organize graduation, and if students need additional support outside of the school, like occupational therapy or physical therapy, I organize that as well."

There's a lot of work involved, but Ms. Franco enjoys it.

"It's satisfying when the students learn, when they recognize that they've had a great day at work. And it's satisfying when an employer recognizes that these people, with all the difficulties that they face, are still valuable."

The program is open to high school graduates who have a social, learning or physical disability.

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To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: April 1 - 7.

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Imagine that...

LARP brings fantasy to real life

By Jillian Follert
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Cradling an impressive homemade bow and arrow, Gemma Snaith searches for the right words to describe an unusual hobby.

"It's like a combination of improv acting and camping," she muses. "That's how I usually explain it to people who've never heard of LARP, and think it's crazy that I spend my weekend running around the woods in a costume."

Those unfamiliar with LARP — short for live action role playing — usually outnumber those in the know, so it's not surprising that skepticism abounds.

Now 18, Ms. Snaith remembers her own suspicions rising when a friend in her Grade 11 class at Henry Street High School, first mentioned nights spent simulating sword fights and spell casting, deep in the forest north of Oshawa.

"I thought it sounded weird and scary," she admits. "But also kind of interesting.... I wanted to see what it was about."

What she discovered was a storybook come to life.

People from all walks of life play the parts of warriors, monsters, fairies, dwarves and sages, in a world where reality takes a back seat to colourful costumes and duct-taped swords.

LARP, a mostly underground phenomenon that has steadily grown in popularity since the early 1990s, takes original role-playing board games like Dungeons and Dragons, and moves them into live-action mode.

None of this "my character shoots your character with an arrow," stuff. Weapons are actually drawn, monsters lurk in the shadows and play takes place in the darkened woods, instead of a suburban living room.

True to their roots, many of the games have a distinct medieval fantasy vibe, but newer genres set in futuristic cities and vampire realms are equally popular. Elaborate props and costumes are keys to setting the appropriate tone.

To that end, it's not unusual to see players decked out in authentic chain mail, prosthetic elf ears, fake beards, vampire fangs or full-body make-up. Ms. Snaith's own collection of LARP effects includes cat ears, a leather corset, greyish-blue body makeup, and mock weapons carefully crafted from PVC, foam and layers of duct tape.

While no two games have identical rules and conduct, Jared Hindle, a 21-year-old Whitby resident and long-time LARP enthusiast, says there are some basic tenets: Organizers typically lay out the initial premise and decide on major plot arcs, while players guide their characters under a complex point



Jared Hindle plays the role of Anduin Cleric of Clovis in LARP, short for Live Action Role Playing, a game that brings old-fashioned board games like Dungeons and Dragons to real life. The theatrical games are played deep in the woods.

system that determines strengths and weaknesses. Common rules include an over-16 age restriction, and a ban on drugs and alcohol at events.

"One of the hardest things for people just learning about LARP is the idea of staying in character for a long period of time," Mr. Hindle says, noting that most events last full days or entire weekends, where even time spent sleeping is

considered "in game."

"You're tempted to react to things the way you would, not the way your character would. It's more challenging than acting out a character in a play, because you don't know what the other people will say or do next. You're always improvising."

To make staying in character easier, most people opt to play personalities similar to their own,

choosing to exaggerate one or two qualities.

Ms. Snaith says playing a shy cat-like warrior is a definite reflection on her own quiet nature, while Mr. Hindle's benevolent cleric is a testament to his nice-guy reputation.

Until recently, both players were able to get their LARP fix close to home, frequenting a fantasy game called Underworld that enjoyed permanent residence on a 250-acre wooded property in Enniskillen.

But disagreements over game management proved too stressful for organizers, causing the event to shut down. Now, Durham players are scattered, forced to travel to Hamilton or Barrie for fantasy set-ups, or to navigate the multi-genre confusion of Toronto's LARP scene.

"It was great when we had our own game in Durham," Ms. Snaith sighs. "I love LARP so I'll go to Hamilton or Barrie, but I miss having something close by, where a lot of the players were from around here."

Edward Watt, co-creator of Underworld, says he also liked running the event in Durham, where people seemed more open-minded than their urban counterparts. He recalls one morning when the entire group stopped for breakfast at a greasy spoon in full costume and make-up, only to be greeted with genuine interest and curiosity from fellow diners.

"People in Durham seemed more open and positive about the concept of make-believe and escapism, whereas in Toronto people were more hesitant and suspicious," he says. "When people would approach us and ask if we were in theatre, in Toronto we'd

simply say 'yes,' but in Durham we could try to explain what it was that we did."

Explaining what they do and defending their hobby to worried parents, negative media reports and suspicious property owners is a full-time job for most LARPers, something that Mr. Hindle has finally gotten used to.

Instead of explaining what LARP is not — a cult, an opportunity for Satan worship, or a keg party in the woods — he focuses on what it is.

"I can't even list all the benefits.... One of the biggest things for me is that it helped me make new friends and become more social," he says, adding that he now counts hundreds of players from across North America among his friends. "It's also educational. I had to do a lot of research to play my characters well.... I studied religion and mythology, and I even learned to read and write in Runic."

For Ms. Snaith, social benefits are also key, but nothing beats the stress release of losing herself in a new personality. To prove this point, she jumps up, sword in hand, and strikes a practised battle stance before bursting out laughing.

"This looks kind of stupid, but getting past the point where you worry about making an idiot of yourself is part of the experience," she says. "Once you can do that, you just feel totally free."



LARP Facts

* LARP is played around the world. Vampire games are especially popular in South Africa, Nordic countries hold an annual LARP conference called "Knutepunkt," and a pan-Europan LARP called Dragonbane took place in Sweden last summer.

* The first documented LARP-style game was played by members of the Society for Interactive Literature, at Harvard University in 1983.

* Googling "LARP" will get you about 957,000 hits.

* One of the biggest LARP events in Canada, the annual "Grande Bataille de Bicolline," hosted by Quebec's Bicolline group, averages 2,000 players.

* In 1982, author Rona Jaffe wrote the novel *Mazes and Monsters*, which depicts role-playing games as a dangerous obsession. It was later made into a TV movie starring Tom Hanks as a young man who has a psychotic episode and becomes lost in a fantasy game world.

* The Live Action Role Players Association is a worldwide non-profit group dedicated to promoting LARP. They organize forums, write educational material and publish two magazines; *Metagame* and *The LARPer*.



Gemma Snaith thought LARP sounded "weird and scary... but interesting" at first.

ENTERTAINMENT

infodurhamregion.com

Famous family returns to Durham

Tom Thomson's art, family heritage on display at Ajax centre, starting Monday

By Joshua May
Special to the News Advertiser

DURHAM — The Thomson family is returning to its Durham roots. The Durham West Arts Centre (DWAC) in Ajax was selected by the Art Gallery of Ontario as one of 25 venues across the province to be hosting the 85th celebrations of the exhibition of the Group of Seven. The Group of Seven is the famous collection of Canadian painters dedicated to capturing the wilderness landscapes of the nation, and Tom Thomson was the inspiration for many of the group's post-impressionistic pieces of artwork. And his paintings, as well as his ancestry, will be on display for all Durham residents viewing pleasure from April 4 to Sept. 23 at the DWAC.

"Tom Thomson is probably the most recognizable and influential artist to Canadians everywhere," said Angie Littlefield, executive director of DWAC. "People will be blown away at just how heavily his works can be traced back to this area. The majority of residents don't even know that he was born in Durham Region or that his family lived here for more than 40 years."

Via hard work, perseverance and a stroke of good fortune, the DWAC will unveil the works of Mr. Thomson in a show entitled 'The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage' featuring original works of Mr. Thomson as well as fellow family members Margaret, Fraser, Henry and George Thomson.

Historical panels illustrated with family photos will line the walls of the centre this coming April as visitors are able to trace the ancestry of the Thomson family from Tom's grandparents roots of the



Photos courtesy of the Durham West Arts Centre
The Thomson family home near Claremont, above, is still lived in today. At left, the artist, Tom Thomson, as a young man, with this photo taken when he was approximately 18 to 20 years old.

Isle of Skye and the Aberdeen area of Scotland, to their emigration to Canada and the family's tales of involvement in the Upper Canada Rebellion, the Civil War and even their connection to the nation's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

"(Obtaining this show) was a long and arduous process especially due to our fairly new presence in the community," said Ms. Littlefield.

"However, through our number of historical panels, paintings by both Tom as well as his family members and even a power point slideshow, we're hoping to teach residents of Durham Region to take pride and identify with artists from their neck of the woods. We feel we're repatriating Tom Thomson by holding this exhibit."

Born Aug. 5, 1877 in a stone house on the 9th Concession of Claremont in Durham, Mr. Thom-

son was an avid fly fisherman, woodsman, musician, and a skillful commercial artist who proved to be a catalyzing force behind the formation of the Group of Seven. Creating a great many pieces of artworks that consisted of distinctly bold, vividly-colored canvases of symbolic landscapes throughout Canada, the group painted from the 1920s straight through to the 1960s and were a living tribute to Mr. Thomson's artistic expression.

"Everyone in Durham should come see this exhibit. It's an important, historical look at one of the most prominent families to ever reside in the region," said Ms. Littlefield.

In Ontario's Algonquin Park on July 8, 1917, Mr. Thomson was found dead, his canoe capsized and his body floating in Canoe Lake. An injury to the head and no water found in his lungs, Mr. Thomson was 40 years old, engaged to be married and at the height of his painting career when his body was discovered. The cause of Mr. Thomson's death is still a mystery to this day.

For more information on the Thomson exhibit, call 905-686-7697 or visit dwac.ca.

Thomson exhibit event listing

AJAX — The Durham West Arts Centre (DWAC) will host 'The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage' exhibit from April 4 until Sept. 23, with tentative special Thursday events that include:

- April 14: A public opening of 'The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage' exhibit featuring continuous tours;
- April 28: 'The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage' book signing with Angie Littlefield;
- May 26: Guest speaker Bob McGary will host a fishing lecture in

regards to Durham and the Thomson family history;

- June 30: Angie Littlefield will discuss what the Thomson family read;
- July 28: 'The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage' bus tour will take passengers throughout Durham Region to visit various sites the family has been inspired by and, or lived at;
- Aug. 25: Guest speaker Ian Bell will host a popular historical music lecture relating to the Thomson family and their heritage;
- Sept. 22: Closing ceremonies for 'The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage' exhibit.

Criminals, sexy dames and crooked cops congregate on the big screen in 'Sin City'

The following movies open up in theatres this weekend:

Sin City

Directed by: Frank Miller, Robert Rodriguez, and Quentin Tarantino
Starring: Bruce Willis, Jessica Alba, Clive Owen and Mickey Rourke

Rated: 18A

An adaptation of Frank Miller's stories based in the fictional town of Sin City, follows three intertwining storylines. Sin City is filled with criminals, crooked cops, and sexy dames, some searching for vengeance, some for redemption, and others for both. Marv, played by

Mickey Rourke, is on a mission to avenge the death of his true love who was killed while lying next to him asleep.

Also opening in theatres this weekend is *Beauty Shop*.

FOR FULL MOVIE LISTINGS
durhamregion.com

Arts in brief

APRIL 1, 2005

[Art show]

Church hosts show Friday and Saturday

PICKERING — The Dunbarton-Fairport United Church is being transformed into an art gallery this weekend.

The church is holding an art show Friday and Saturday with the works of 36 artists to be on display at the 'Spirituality and Religion' themed show.

The show takes place from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

The church is at 1066 Dunbarton Rd., west of Dixie Road.

For more information, call 905-839-7271.

[Music]

Rutter mass makes debut

DURHAM — Composer John Rutter's new work, 'Mass of the Children', will be performed for the first time in Durham on April 3.

The Durham Philharmonic Choir will be joined by two youth choirs, She Sings!, of Whitby, and the Young Singers of Ajax. This will provide a combined choir of more than 120 singers.

They will be joined by an orchestra and soloist Kelly Coubrough and Giles Tomkins, both Pickering natives.

The youth choirs will also perform selections on their own.

The concert will be held at College Park Church, 1164 King St. E., Oshawa, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students) and are available at the door, or in advance from members of the choirs. Tickets are also available at Wilson and Lee Music Store, 87 Simcoe St. N., Information United Way in the Oshawa Centre and Cathy's Gold, 78 King St. W., Bowmanville.

Broadway show sold out

DURHAM — The final concert for the season of the Oshawa-Durham Symphony Orchestra has sold out.

The April 2 concert features the music of Broadway, in particular the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber, with guest soloist baritone Michael Hope, a distinguished concert and recording artist.

The concert sold out this past weekend, said ODSO board secretary and box office director Elinor Kidd.



Bruce Willis in 'Sin City'.

Eight Durham bands ready to battle at final

Winning Bandwarz group gets \$1,000, recording time after April 16 showcase

DURHAM — The final lineup for the Bandwarz 2005 showcase is set. The Uxbridge band, The Lemmings, captured a spot by winning the Easter weekend competition. It will join the other bands which have won

the weekly battles, Emphatic, Flight, Lost Cause and Summer Hero at the April 16 showcase. Rounding out the lineup will be three bands which got the highest scores after the top weekly winners. These bands are Autumn Avenue from Baltimore, Torsion from Oshawa and the Free Press, based in Toronto, with two members originally from Oshawa.

These eight, independent bands will compete for top prize April 16 at Le Skcratch, 200 John St. W., in the Midtown Mall, Os-

hawa. It will be broadcast later on Rogers TV,

The winning band receives \$1,000 in cash, recording time at Warden Studio, a prize package from Alcatraz Skate and Snow, a media kit package from Duarte Communications and more.

Tickets are \$10 in advance at Alcatraz, Stevenson Road South, or \$12 at the door on April 16.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with the show starting at 5 p.m.

For more information on Bandwarz, visit www.eclipseconcerts.com.

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See your local Toys "R" Us store for a list of participants and times and while you're there, pick up a free copy of our 2005 Toys "R" Us Baby Catalogue.

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The Durham Region Health Department will offer Men C vaccine to students at school clinics. Information packages and consents will be distributed to **students** at schools in advance of scheduled clinics:

- ◆ **Secondary school clinics for students born between 1985 & 1990 will conclude in May.**
- ◆ **Grade 7 students, who are scheduled to receive hepatitis B vaccine at school clinics in April or May, will also be offered Men C vaccine at the same time.**

If a student who is **12 or 15-19 years of age** is not able to receive the Men C vaccine on the school clinic date, he/she can also access the free vaccine from a family doctor or at a medical clinic.

The Health Department will also be holding meningitis C community vaccination clinics in May and June. Clinic dates, times and locations will be announced during the next few weeks.

Check www.region.durham.on.ca for further details or call **Durham Region Health Department 905-723-8521 ext. 2195**

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SPORTS

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INSIDE

Local members of the Durham Synchro Club swam to medals at the recent provincial championships. Page 31



Ron Pietroniro/ News Advertiser photo

Monarch hockey boys undefeated at provincials

Top seed in the hunt with wins over Chatham-Kent, Orangeville, tie with Fort Francis

PICKERING — The St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs are still undefeated at the provincial high school boys' hockey championships in Windsor.

The number-one seeded Monarchs played their third of four pool games at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) 'AAAA' Hockey Championships on Thursday afternoon, playing to a 1-1 tie with the 17th-seeded Fort Francis Muskies from northern Ontario. The Monarchs opened the scoring in the first period on a goal by Jason Krasnowski, with assists to Daniel Silva and Ryan Jackson. The Muskies tied the game in the second stanza. There was no scoring in the third period.

The Monarchs completed pool play on Thursday night, with a game against the eighth-seeded St. Thomas More Knights from Hamilton, with the result unavailable at press time.

The Monarchs won both of their pool games on Wednesday. St. Mary started with a 5-2 victory over the 16th-seeded Chatham-Kent Golden Hawks. The Monarchs led 3-0 after the first period and were up 5-1 after the second stanza. Jason Krasnowski scored twice, with singles to Brain Gonsalves, Joe Assenza and Ryan Jackson. Adding assists were Krasnowski, Matthew Thompson, Ryan Eickmeier, Chris Paul, Assenza, Kyle Foster, Daniel Silva and Adam Morra.

Silva was the hero for the Monarchs in Game 2 against the ninth-seeded Orangeville Bears. Silva scored with a scant two seconds remaining in the game to lift St. Mary to a 3-2 victory. Orangeville led 1-0 after the first period, and 2-1 after two periods. Assenza and Justin Moy also scored for the Monarchs. Assists went to Gonsalves, Silva and Eickmeier.

Games continue on Friday, with the gold-medal game slated for Saturday.

Moving the mesh

AJAX — While it may be spring, it was still a great day for hockey on an Ajax street recently. Taylor Noble moves the mesh as goaltender Jenny Burke tries valiantly to block the shot. The hockey game was played on Lewin Crescent.

St. Mary still in hunt for provincial gold

Monarchs' hockey girls emerge from pool play undefeated

PICKERING — The St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Monarchs varsity girls' hockey team is making a strong bid to get back to the gold-medal game at the provincial playdowns in Orillia.

The Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA) champion Monarchs — unseeded in the 20-team Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) championships — has arrived in the semifinal game after defeating Notre Dame of Burlington 2-1 in the quarter-final playoff contest on Thursday afternoon.

The Monarchs will meet fourth-seeded Oakridge Secondary School from London in the semifinal game, to be played this



morning (Friday). A win there would put St. Mary in the running for a third consecutive OFSAA gold medal, with the championship game slated for 12:30 p.m. today.

The other semifinal pits top-ranked St. Jean de Brebeuf of Hamilton against eighth-seeded St. Mary's Secondary School from Cobourg.

The St. Mary girls received an automatic bye into the quarter-final game against Notre Dame.

Erin Small and Cristin Allen scored for the Monarch. Notre Dame defeated Havergal of Toronto 3-0 on Thursday morning to advance to the quarter-finals.

The Monarchs earned a playoff berth after sweeping through pool play to emerge in first place in Pool 'D'.

St. Mary started play on Tuesday morning with a 3-1 victory over Paris District.

Erin Small, Stephanie Walsh and Sarah Stephen scored for the Monarchs.

Next, they edged Loyola from Peel Region 2-1. Walsh and Chloe Masse were the goal scorers.

In their final preliminary game, the Monarchs edged second-seeded Birchmount Park of Toronto 2-1. Masse tallied both goals.

Meanwhile, the other representative from LOSSA at the provincials — the 10th-seeded

Dunbarton High School Spartans — dropped its playoff game on Thursday morning, losing a close 4-3 decision to second-seeded Birchmount Park of Toronto.

Nicole Zorn, Stephanie Nakamura and Jenn Wakefield scored for Dunbarton against Birchmount Park.

Dunbarton posted a 1-1-1 record in pool play to finish second in pool 'E', thus earning a playoff berth.

In pool play, the Spartans defeated Loretto Abbey of Toronto 4-0 in Game 1. Wakefield scored a hat trick to lead the Spartans. Zorn had the other marker. Dunbarton suffered a 1-0 loss to top-ranked St. Jean de Brebeuf of the Hamilton area in Game 2. In their final pool game, the Spartans played to a 3-3 draw with Aurora High School. Wakefield notched a pair of goals, and Alana Fettes netted the other.

Local girls swim to eight medals

DURHAM — Three local girls dominated the Ontario Provincial synchronized swimming championships and brought back eight medals to Ajax and Pickering.

Katie Cornish and Julia Maclean of Ajax, and Alaina Wade of Pickering represented the Durham Synchro Swim Club in different programs such as team, duets, solo and figures.

In the team competition, the Tier 7 team with Cornish, finished in third place for the bronze medal, while the Tier 6 team with Maclean and Wade brought home the gold medal.

For the duet category, Maclean claimed the gold medal for the Tier 6 team with the help of partner Carrie

Mouck of Toronto.

In solo, Maclean won her third gold medal in Tier 6, and Cornish posted a third place finish for the bronze.

For figures competition, Cornish claimed her third bronze medal of the meet and Maclean finished in second place to win the silver medal.


The club's next meet is the all-important 2005 Eastern/Atlantic Divisional meet in Nepean, Ontario, where Durham swimmers will compete against the toughest competition from Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes for berths to the National Championships in May.

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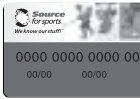


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 You must have a typing speed 25-30 WPM and be flexible for all 7/24 shifts for positions in Pickering April and May.
Bring with you:
 Your resume
 SIN Card
 Void Cheque for direct deposit
 2 working references

ACCREDITED HOME Inspection Training Course - recognized by National Association of Certified Home Inspectors (NACHI). Registering now for DAY & EVENING classes (12 seats max). Flexible payment plan. Career opportunities's available. Call toll free: 1-866-697-0117. Sponsored by: Certified Adult Training Services.
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DURHAM COLLEGE TRAINING COURSES - Are you looking to start a new career or upgrade your skills to advance your current occupation? Durham College has full time computer administration upgrading courses to enhance your microsoft skills, as well as project management courses for training in this fast growing high paying occupation, or qualify you to write your PMP. Funding through EI, OSAP, ODSP, WSIB, to qualified. For more info. call Colin McCarthy 905-721-3336. www.durhamc.on.ca

525 office help **525** office help

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hard-Co Construction is seeking a self-motivated, organized individual to assist the estimating staff with general contract administration. A strong knowledge of personal computer software such as Word and Excel a necessity. Prior construction experience an asset.
Please fax resume to 905-668-3584

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 We appreciate all responses, but regret that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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 Providing quality care since 1974, STOREY HOMES is expanding their mixed-modality programming within the Toronto and Durham Regions.
 STOREY HOMES is seeking skilled, enthusiastic and caring couples/individuals to provide live-in care and support to troubled youth within our established network of program homes. Excellent remuneration, support and respite relief.
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 Or fax to (905)434-1775

SERVICE MERCHANDISING REP

Full-time position available. Required to call on Rona Big Box stores in Ontario. Entry level position. Salary, car allowance, benefits. Must be comfortable with simple hand tools. We will train. Must be flexible to travel. Occasional overnight or weekend work required.
 Reply with a brief resume to:
McDonald Sales & Merchandising
 Fax to: (905)855-8559
E-mail to: joinus@mcDonaldsales.com

PICKERING TOYOTA
 requires the following
 • Experienced Service Advisor
 • Part-time Evening Receptionist
 Call Wayne Turner
 905-420-9000

JUNIOR ESTIMATOR

Hard-Co Construction is seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated individual to estimate and coordinate small excavating, sewer and road projects. Experience in interpreting plans and specifications and preparing quotes. We offer an excellent opportunity for advancement in a growing company.
Please fax resume to 905-668-3584

505 careers

REAL ESTATE STUDENTS
 Phase 1, 2 & 3, Career guidance, ongoing training and support, Coldwell Banker Case Realty, Gene (416)751-6533

509 drivers

AZ DRIVERS required for local and U.S. runs. Call: 905-852-3013 or fax: 905-852-9113
DRIVERS wanted for Day/Night shift. Call (905)831-2345.

GENESIS
OWNER/OPERATORS
 (Singles & Teams)
 • dedicated Shreveport, Louisiana from Kitchener & Windsor
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1-888-230-9250

510 general help

\$\$\$ PAID WEEKLY!! Company needs part-time/ full-time help processing unclaimed bank accounts. Call 1-866-883-0780, 24 hours.
FULL-TIME PRODUCTION position available. Experience preferred, great co-workers, great boss. Apply Jefferson Dry Cleaners, 1645 Dundas St. E. Whitby.

Adult Route Operators

for home delivery of the Toronto Star in Whitby, Ajax or Pickering. Earn \$800 to \$1200/mo. part-time. Call 1-800-804-9663 noon-8 p.m. www.canadiandeliveryservice.com/careers

APPRENTICE REQUIRED, for counter top manufacturer. Full time. Call Tony (905)983-5472
AUDITIONS. Discover your Talents! Models, Actors, Singers, +size Models welcome. You could be next! All ages. (416)849-1478

AVON

Ajax Pickering Sales Reps needed.
 Call today for more information
 Pauline
 1-866-888-5288

BRAKE PRESS OPERATOR - Courice based manufacturer looking for permanent afternoon shift operator to work 3:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Starting wage \$12.90/hr. Manufacturing experience required. Benefits after 3 months. Not on bus route. Fax resume to (905) 436-1893 or email val@carogwall.com

MODELS & ACTORS NEEDED

Extremely busy principal tv/film/modeling agency is seeking men, women and kids, 4 yrs and up for tv commercials, music videos, print & catalogue work etc. IF accepted, agency will cover training and reg. fees. BBB Member. Projects featuring our talent:
 • Bell Canada Print - Buffalo Jeans Print
 • Axe Body Spray Comm. - Tragically Hip Video
 • Hugo Boss Fashion Show
 • Toronto 416-482-5392
 • Whitby 905-665-3199
 • www.maxagency.com

PARTS PICKER/ASSEMBLER

required for busy Hydraulic hose company.
 > Must be fluent in English
 > Forklift certification an asset
 > \$11.00/hr.
 Please fax resume to: 905-686-4385

EXPERIENCED CLEANING CO. hiring for specialty cleaning positions. Experts in carpet cleaning, floods, duct cleaning, hard floor maintenance. Experience with truck mount an asset. MUST HAVE vehicle & good driver's license. Base salary, percentage + bonus + benefits. Certification recognized. Must be flexible in working schedule. Willing to train. Call (905)686-9272
EXPERIENCED TELEMARKE-TER required no selling, full time, \$11.00 per hour to start, call 1-866-291-4045.
EXPERIENCED WOOD DECK crew required to work in and around the GTA. Send resume to: 1976 Notion Rd., Pickering ON L1V 2G3 or call (705)761-7779 and leave detailed message.

NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Want a career in sales, not just a job?

You:

- Are a results-driven achiever
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- Would rather sell a service... instead of high tech.

We:

- As per selling power magazine, ranked #20 of the top companies to sell for
- Are an 800 million (US) dollar international company listed on the NYSE and specializing in the uniform image business for small to major companies in all industries
- Care about our people and promote from within
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- Have in-depth training and ongoing support
- Offer competitive salary (\$40K+), commission, quarterly bonus, car/cell allowance and full benefits.

If you are an achiever looking for a career opportunity, send your resume including notable accomplishments to:

**Chris Harnett, Branch Manager,
Unifirst Canada Limited
1175-1 Squires Beach Rd.,
Pickering, ON L1W 3V3
905-426-6755
charnett@unifirst.com • Fax: 905-426-8819**

Visit us at www.unifirst.com



SALES ASSOCIATES

Canada's Number One Home Furnishing Retailer is now hiring Sales Associates for our Whitby Store location, for appliance and electronic sales. Appliance & Electronic sales experience not necessary. However, you must be enthusiastic, personable, presentable and willing to learn. This is a rare opportunity for career-oriented individuals to join the renowned industry leader and earn above average incomes (\$40,000 to \$60,000) in a friendly, stable and profitable work environment. Our benefits include medical insurance, dental insurance, prescription drug plan, generous employee discounts and profit sharing, along with career growth opportunities to those who aspire to management positions.

Please send your resume or apply to:

**Leon's Furniture
1500 Victoria St. E.
Whitby, ON
L1N 9M3
Please quote File # SA-A1**

We thank everyone who applies, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Advertising Representative

Metroland, the area's leader in community publishing needs an experienced Sales Representative for our Coupon Saver Bonus Pack Feature.

The right person will be; self motivated, experienced, career oriented, able to develop new clients and products and never stop learning.

Is this you?

If it is, here's what we can offer you: career growth, base salary and aggressive commission plan, fantastic product and entrepreneurial atmosphere.

Please forward resumes to:

**130 Commercial Ave., Ajax.
L1S 2H5 fax: 905-683-7363
afakhourie@durhamregion.com**



510 general help

FOSTER FAMILIES Wanted. Reimbursement and training provided. Call Nairn Family Homes 1-800-265-0368

FULL & PART-TIME positions. Ajax. Cashier/Stock. Busy fast paced frozen food outlet. Retail/merchandising experience & able to work all shifts required. Fax resume to: 905-683-2655

FULL-TIME CANVASERS needed immediately \$12/hr. +Bonus, (average \$15-\$19.50/hr). No Selling. Please call M. Shulman at 310-TRUE (8783) ext 6637, or send resume to mshulman@truesiarhealth.com

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE company looking for full time helper. 905-985-7840, call after 6 p.m.

510 general help

GARDENING/LANDSCAPE franchise hiring full time landscapers/lawn cutters in Ajax area. Drivers licence with clean abstract an asset. Immediate start. 905-431-4132.

GROWING AJAX sign company required help. Interested candidates must be familiar with vinyl application and assist with sign installations, must have valid license. Fax resume 905-619-3513.

HELP WANTED - General Labourers needed for busy warehouse. Shipping and receiving experience an asset. Please e-mail resume to: ted@londonprofessionals.ca

PHOTOGRAPHER, portrait studio, Oshawa, sales & photography. Good pay. 647-293-3901.

SHINGLERS AND LABOURERS required for local roofing company. Call (416) 418-0085.

510 general help

HOME BASE business system. Join our supportive home based business team and get started immediately! FREE Training Package available. www.JoiningSuccess.com 416-631-8963

JESTER'S COURT is now hiring experienced line cooks and dish washers. Bring resume to 279 Queen Street, Port Perry.

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION company in Ajax requires Lead-Hand and Labourers for interlocking stone, retaining walls, planting and sodding work. Excellent wages and working conditions. Start immediately. Fax resume to 905-686-6642.

LEARN HOW to operate a mini office outlet from home, earning \$3000+ month. www.missionsuccess.ca

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL - Apply in person to 1614 Dundas St. E., Suite 203. Whitby (Dundas / Thickson) on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

ORDER DESK PERSON required for leading building products supply company in Pickering. Job involves various duties related to a computerized service-oriented order desk for contractors. We train on products and computers. Full time plus benefits. 7:00am -4:30pm. Fax resume 416-745-8640 Specify Job #2.

PART-TIME AND/OR FULL-TIME help required for quilt shop & sewing centre in the Whitby area. Salary commensurate with experience. Please fax resume: 905-430-0794

PICKERING Daycare requires full time experienced E.C.E., immediately, with strong leadership skills. Fax resumes to 905-428-8463, (previous faxes, lost in memory on fax machine, please resend).

PRIMERICA, a subsidiary of Citigroup. You can be part of this growing financial services company on a full or part time basis. We are seeking mature, motivated, and hardworking individuals who seek high income potential to represent our company. We offer full training to licensing by the Province; experience not a requirement. This is an exciting career with a dynamic company. Fax resumes attention Jill Roberts at 905-436-5876 or contact me at 905-436-8499 ext. 117.

Registration Officer

Positions Required \$20.00/her Avg. We Train You! Call Tom (905) 435-0280

RESIDENTIAL CLEANERS wanted immediately. Comparable pay, excellent working conditions. Fast-growing company, room for advancement. Permanent position. Not suitable for students. Call 905-723-6242.

SALES MARKETING person. Must be flexible, varying hours, experience in property maintenance preferred. Great opportunity. Call Paul anytime (905)261-6386

SARP SEWER SERVICES is currently accepting applications for the following position: General Labourers. We offer competitive wages and benefit packages. Safety training provided. Fax resume to: (905)683-4668 Attn: Ser DaSilva



**DURHAM REGION MEDIA GROUP
DIRECTORY DIVISION**

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We are seeking a results driven Sales Professional to sell DIRECTORY ADVERTISING to existing clients as well as cold calling new prospects.

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualities:

- ✓ High Energy
- ✓ Strong closer
- ✓ Print sales experience an asset, but not necessary
- ✓ Computer knowledge
- ✓ Personable
- ✓ Team Player

If this sounds like you and you want the opportunity, please forward your resume to:

**THIS WEEK
Attention: Eddie Kolo
865 Farewell St., Oshawa L1H 7L5
or email: ekolo@durhamregion.com**

Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please.

535 hospital / medical dental

Enterphase Child and Family Services is looking for an **INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPIST** to work with our clients on a permanent part time basis.

A psychodynamic orientation is preferred. Ongoing supervision with a psychologist is provided. Candidates should have experience with trauma and its developmental effects on children. Client are drawn from our residential programs and range in age from 4 yrs old and up. Other duties include report writing, clinical presentation and team consultation. Previous supervised training from a children's mental health center or program preferred. P.H.D. candidates will be considered.

Please forward C.V. to jen@enterphase.com. Only qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview

Partners In Community Nursing

Employment Opportunities Durham Region

RN - Full time or Part time Evenings and Weekends

Interested candidates, please forward updated resume to:

**Partners In Community Nursing
Heather Smith
Director of Nursing Services
965 Dundas St. W., Ste. 201C
Whitby ON L1P 1G8**

- Telephone: 905-665-1711
- Fax: 905-665-9961

Nursing & Health Care Job Expo

Wednesday, May 18, 2005, 1-7pm
**Tosca Banquet Hall,
800 Champlain Ave., Oshawa**
Open to Public. Free Admission. Free Parking
Make a "Healthy Career Choice"
For more information or to book a booth
**Call Classifieds @ 905-576-9335
or 905-683-0707**
Email: classifieds@durhamregion.com



540 hotel / restaurant

540 hotel / restaurant

AJAX (Go Station Complex)

Requires an experienced (minimum 2 years)

General Manager

Salary (Range 35-45K) to commensurate with experience.

Fax or e-mail resume to: 905-428-1803 mahen@rogers.com

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510 general help

STAN'S RENTALS is now seeking a small engine mechanic and a courier person. Both positions require a min. of 3 years commercial driving experience. References and drivers abstracts are required. Individuals applying must be physically fit, punctual and able to work Saturday's. Drop off resume to Stan's Rentals, 223 King St. W., Oshawa, or fax 905-723-2977.

515 skilled & technical help

EXPANDING CUSTOM SHOP in Pickering has openings for the following positions: WOOD-WORKER - Experienced in solid, wood/laminate/veneer fabrication. METAL FABRICATOR - Exp'd with punch press. FINISHER - Experience in wood finishing. Fax resume to 905-837-6753.

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER, and labourer required for brick laying crew. Own vehicle required. Start immediately. Call (905)985-4208.

FRAMING CARPENTER - Min. 5 years experience. Own Tools & Transportation. Call 416-431-5996.

HVAC Installer (Residential & Commercial) required. Minimum requirements G2 and 2 years experience. Please fax resume to: 905-683-0817.

LICENSED MECHANIC with own tools required ASAP. Call 905-448-9516 or fax: 905-576-8236.

MECHANIC REQUIRED with Drive Clean Inspector and Repair Certificates. Apply: Active Green + Ross, 534 Risdon Rd. S. Oshawa, Call Chris or Kim 905-728-6221

PICKERING FIRESTONE requires an experienced Tire Technician and Apprentice Mechanics. Please fax resumes to: 905-831-3122.

510 general help

SUPERINTENDENT required full-time for Oshawa apartment complex. Suitable for retired/semi-retired couple. No pets. Fax resume (905)623-2257. Only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

SWIMMING POOL SERVICE Person required, neat in appearance, mechanically inclined, some heavy lifting. Previous experience helpful but not required. Full-time til December. Fax resume to 905-420-7579

URGENT - CLEANERS NEEDED Looking for individuals part time and full time with cleaning experience for great new opportunities with cleaning service for residential clients. \$10 and up per hr. and gas allowances offered. Own vehicle preferred. Serious inquiries only. Call 905-686-5424 now.

Visser's Nursery Ltd. and Sod Farmer an established sod installation company east of Oshawa is looking to add the following employees to our growing team. **SOD LABOURER** The successful candidate will install sod, prepare soil on job sites within the GTA. A valid Ontario driver's license is essential. **DELIVERY DRIVER (G)** The successful candidate will deliver sod and topsoil to retail customers. A valid Ontario driver's license is essential. **AZ TRANSPORT DRIVER** The successful candidate will deliver sod from field to job sites in GTA. Must have 3 years experience driving. Forklift experience is an asset. **DZ DRIVER** The successful candidate will deliver sod to retail customers as well as job sites in the GTA. May be required to do some labour occasionally. Forklift experience an asset. Employment is available from April to December. Please send resume to: 905-263-4089

WANTED: full-time or part-time experienced waitstaff for day & evening shifts, for pub/restaurant in South Ajax. Call (905)428-8790, or apply in person 967 Westney Rd.

WE'RE EXPANDING! Are you sacrificing time away from your family due to lack of flexibility in hours or earnings? Take control of your time and income potential. Call to request an interview with one of North America's fastest growing financial services companies. Full or part time. Training provided. Call Lee Muldoon at 1-877-623-2495

525 office help

OSHAWA GOLF CLUB requires a permanent F/T Accounting Assistant. AP some A/R, minor G/L, banking and backup Reception duties. Please submit resume with salary expectations by fax to 905-723-7194 or email to: info@oshawagolf.com

530 sales help & agents

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR of facility maintenance products, car required, will train, Sexauer Ltd./Intertline Brands. Fax resume 905-852-5311

PART-TIME SALES PERSON required for high-end retail. Would suit professional as second job. Fax resume 905-428-9768 or email info@homelesure.ca

SALES, Advanced Commissions. Work from home, F/T, P/T. No Competition! Established NYSE Company. JoAnne, 905-433-1046.

532 retail sales help

EXPERIENCED SALES REP required full time for upscale furniture store in Pickering. Please fax resume to 905-831-6607 or e-mail pickering@monaca.com

535 hospital / medical dental

DENTAL receptionist required for maternity leave. Ajax. 3 days, 1 evening. Start immediately. Minimum 2 years DENTAL reception experience. Dental assisting experience an asset. Carolyne (905)428-1215, fax resume 905-428-9291.

FAMILY Oriented, friendly Dental practice requires a Caring & Conscientious Part-time Hygienist. Mon & Thursday, 1-3pm. and One Saturday monthly 9-5pm. Call 905-420-3980.

LOOKING for full-time, mature enthusiastic, hard working dental assistants for maternity leave. Includes evenings and Saturdays, previous applications need not apply. Drop resume to 555 Simcoe St. South, Oshawa.

PT DENTAL HYGIENIST req'd for Whitby office. Flexible hours, top wages, Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Professionals only. Please call Dr. D'Souza for interview (905)430-0118

RECREATION ASSISTANT position is now available at Winbourne Park Long Term Care Centre. Applicants should have a degree/diploma in recreation/activation, and have experience working with cognitively impaired populations. Please fax resume: 905-426-6297, Attn: Programs Manager. Deadline Wednesday April 13, 2005.

514 salon & spa help

P/T ESTHETICIAN wanted for Theresa's Touch Day Spa. 924 Brock St. N., Whitby. Please call (905)430-6060

THE FACIAL PLACE WHITBY is seeking part time receptionist, part time aesthetician and make up artist. Call (905)688-8128 or facialplace@bellnet.ca

WHITBY'S NEWEST concept spa Sundrops Studio is looking for exceptional, self-motivated, licensed Esthetician and Registered Massage Therapists to join our dynamic team. If you are looking for an excellent opportunity in a unique, growing environment submit resume between April 1 - 14 to: sundropstudio@yahoo.ca

515 skilled & technical help

AUTO TECHNICIAN, for busy 4 bay shop in Newcastle, own tools a must. Wages based on experience. Medical benefits. Fax resume to 905-987-6918.

DETAILER REQUIRED for busy Whitby shop. Must be team oriented! Experience preferred. Full & part-time positions. Valid driver's licence necessary. Phone 905-242-4917 bwn 11am-5pm



535 hospital / medical dental

RMT, PART-TIME, 6 month contract position available, May-October 2005. Small professional clinic in Bowmanville. Treatment and relaxation practice. Please inquire (905)623-4884

RPN NEEDED for busy walk-in family practise clinic with phlebotomy, injection, ECG experience. P/T, days, evenings, weekends. Fax resume: 905-426-4852.

WHITBY DENTAL OFFICE requires a Level II Dental Assistant. Reception experience an asset. Part time hours, including evenings/weekends. Fax resume to 905-723-7533.

145 industrial / commercial space

RETAIL, OFFICE and commercial units for lease. 600 to 1600 sq. ft. second floor office space available in downtown Bowmanville. Excellent exposure fronting on King St with lots of windows. Building has elevator. Ideal for professional use. 3500 sq. ft. new industrial unit available with amazing exposure to Hwy 401. 18' + ceiling height with mezzanine storage above office space. For more information on these and other availability, please call (905) 725-9991.

150 office & business space

PROFESSIONAL FURNISHED offices (3), show exceptionally well. Reception/admin. functions, internet, phone-system, VM, board and meeting room. Free parking. Whitby-4min. from 401. \$300-\$600. 905-433-0040.

160 business opportunities

BE YOUR OWN BOSS. Family oriented Cate. Located in Medical/Professional building (Whitby). Asking \$59,900. For further information call Steven (416)399-9886.

BEAUTIFUL SALON/SPA for sale/lease. Multi-level fully furnished, fully equipped, modern decor. Great all inclusive rent. Turn-key opportunities. Asking \$29,900. John (289)314-0671.

IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH, Weight, Beauty, & Financial Freedom. Online Direct Marketing Business that Saves Taxes & Increases Monthly Income. CALL 1-877-599-4911 NOW

PARTNER REQUIRED. Commercial cleaning company. East end. \$5K per month plus profits. Investment required. \$12K. 1-888-740-1113.

RETAIL OFFICE/Commercial Unit for lease. Over 1100 sq. ft. plus basement in busy Simcoe St. South Oshawa. Lots of parking, close to 401 and bus stop. Will work for you. Call 905-666-4670 for more info. Available immediately.

100 houses for sale

3+1 BEDROOM, TYRONE, main floor laundry, finished rec room, 2 baths, oak kitchen, heated garage. Appointment only (905)263-8842, OPEN HOUSE: Sunday April 3rd, 2-4pm Liberty, North of Taunton.

NORTH WHITBY, brand new 3 bedroom European model, detached house, premium lot, steps to new plaza, new ice arena high school and French catholic schools, \$269,900. Chand @ (905) 424-8428. Sutton Group Admiral Realty.

OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY April 3, 2-4:30 pm private sale - 4-level backsplit home, 4-bedrooms, vaulted pine ceiling in livingroom, oak flooring, walkout to deck, oak cupboards in large kitchen, chair/natural gas furnace, new paint and carpet, 2 bathrooms, large deck, 92x170' lot, 2 min. north of 401 at 3130 Country Rd. 10 in Welcome near school. Asking \$239,500. Call Neil 905-342-3110.

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165 mortgages, loans

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100% FINANCING OAC. 5 yr. at 4.75% Debt programs, Cash take-overs, Refinances. Self-employed, even poor credit. Call Kevin at 1-800-328-7887 ext. 366.

102 open houses

OPEN HOUSE: Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm. 3 bedroom, landscaped 50ft. lot. 10 Kintyre St., Courtice. www.bythewner.com access #27688, (905)404-2128

105 townhouses for sale

NORTH OSHAWA, brand new 4-bdrm townhome, 3-baths, garage, c/a, c/v, alarm, 5 appliances, custom window coverings, many upgrades. \$254,900. Immediate possession. Call 905-720-1533 or 905-767-5839

145 industrial / commercial space

COMMERCIAL SPACE, Reach Road, Port Perry. 1,200 & 1,300 sq.ft. units. Overhead doors, 16' ceilings. Available immediately. Days 905-985-8507, evenings 905-985-8786.

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170 apartments & flats for rent

170 apartments & flats for rent

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(1) **ATTRACTIVE** renovated 2-bedroom apt Simcoe/Mill, Oshawa, \$795/mo. inclusive. Laundry, balcony, parking. Available immediately. 905-434-2858 1-800-486-9826.

(2) **3-2-2** bdrms, spacious, clean and bright, Oshawa. \$1100, \$825 inclusive. Sep entrances, free laundry/parking, convenient location. Newly renovated. April 15. (416) 892-8864

1 BEDROOM Basement apartment (Whitby). Separate entrance, parking, laundry. Non smoker. Near all amenities. \$600/mo. First/last. Call 905-999-3242.

1 BEDROOM Basement apartment, walk-out. Nice, clean. New kitchen, full bath. Available immediately. \$600/inclusive. Call (905) 839-0315, (905) 213-8078.

1 BEDROOM Basement apartment. Separate entrance. Utilities. Transit, Shopping, Pref. Non smoker. No pets. Available immediately. Brock Rd/Finch. \$675/mo. (905) 427-9994 or (647) 938-0994.

1&2 BEDROOM basement suites. \$750/\$895 all inclusive. Female students or professional preferred. No smoking/pets. Call Nick (905) 424-1219

1-BDRM BSMT APT. Central Oshawa, no parking, avail. May 1st. \$495/mo inclusive, laundry, separate entrance, clean, quiet, no smoking/pets. First/last. (905) 884-6922

1-BEDROOM APARTMENTS. Very clean quiet family bldg., parking, available immediately. Simcoe/Rossland area. \$750. First/last. No dogs. (905) 435-0551

1-BEDROOM APT. 17 Quebec St., \$550/mo in older apartment building. Available April 1/04. Call Stephen 905-259-5796.

1011 SIMCOE ST. N., Oshawa - Large 3 bedroom town home suites with full basements, available for rent. Private fenced yards with mature trees. Close to all amenities. \$999.00 per month. One month free! Call (905) 579-7649 for an appointment.

2 BEDROOM BASEMENT apartment, Olive/Wilson, well maintained, close to all amenities, with all utilities. Available immediately. Call Robert. 416-402-3435.

2 BED. APT. in new legal duplex, walkout to big deck and backyard. Very clean, Oshawa. \$850/uttl. parking included. Avail. immediately or May 1st. Owner has truck to help you move in! Call David (905) 447-3677

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT downtown Port Perry. \$850.00/month + utilities. First, last, damage deposit, references required. Available immediately. Call 905-985-2123.

2 BEDROOM Basement apartment in Pickering. Also, 1 bedroom basement apartment in Ajax (\$600/mo.). Both with parking available. Call 416-828-5478 or 905-427-9922.

2 BEDROOM, in older Oshawa neighbourhood, Masson St., full 2nd floor. No smoking/pets, avail. immediately, parking, \$900/mo. plus utilities. (905) 728-1170.

2 BEDROOM, LARGE, CLEAN, main floor apt. Excellent area, near Oshawa hospital. Eat-in kitchen, includes appliances, parking, & laundry. \$795/mo + utilities. Call Pat 905-263-2228.

2-BDRM APTS, renovated, large & bright rooms, hardwood floors, walking distance to malls, near 401 exit, well maintained, quiet Oshawa neighbourhood, appliances, lots of extras, from \$845/month. No dogs please. April/May. 905-665-0945.

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT with walkout, White's Rd/Hwy 2, utilities, parking, \$750. Single person preferred, no smoking/pets, 1st/last references, required. Telephone (905) 420-2015.

BAYLY/HARWOOD, 1-bdrm self contained basement, 1-parking. No smoking, clean, quiet. Laundry facilities. \$650/mo. + 1/3 Hydro. Call (905) 683-7532.

BEAUTIFUL 1-bedroom upper level of house. Bright, clean, laundry, 1 parking. Suit quiet working person. \$600 plus some utilities. 905-626-8000.

BEAUTIFUL SPACIOUS 1 & 2 bedroom apts., with balconies avail., in clean, quiet, apt building. \$725 & \$875. call 905-721-0831

BEAUTIFULLY FINISHED basement apt., fully furnished, S. Ajax, A/C, large eat-in kitchen, sizable bedroom, 3 pc. washroom, living & diningroom, cable, hydro, laundry privileges, parking space, Shared entry. Suit single person. No pets/smoking. \$750 month, (905) 686-4179

BLACKSTOCK. Large 1 bedroom apartment, separate entrance, private deck, gas fireplace, satellite TV. No smoking, no pets. 905-986-1576

BLACKSTOCK. Wooded setting. Main floor, 2 bedroom, log home, 5 appliances, private entrance, deck. Basement rented. May. \$995.00/incl. (905) 433-0270.

3 BRM APARTMENT in great, friendly area. Near O/C, dish-washer, fridge, stove, free satellite, coin laundry, backyard. Large kitchen & Master. \$990+hydro with first/last OR \$1200+hydro without last month's rent. Hydro approx \$40/month. 905-983-5356 snc

A MUST SEE! Oshawa 2-Bdrm. in 3-unit Adult occupied, clean, quiet building. Private yard, laundry, storage, 2-car prkg. Bus at door. NO pets/smoking. Credit check. References. \$925-inclusive, 1st/last. May 1st. 905-427-2782

ADULT LIFESTYLE BUILDING. 2-bedroom apt in North-Oshawa triplex. \$750+ hydro, first, last, references required. No pets. May 1st. Lynn (905) 925-3200, (905) 436-8886

AJAX - PICKERING VILLAGE. one bedroom, bright basement apartment, private entrance, no smoking/pets. \$750 parking, utilities included. Telephone (905) 427-5838

AJAX - New 1 bedroom walkout basement apartment. Backing on Conservation. Fireplace. Big windows. New laminate flooring. No smoke/pets. \$825 inclusive. First/last. Call 905-442-7944.

AJAX Harwood/401, available immediately, large bright basement, one-bedroom, 700+utilities. No smoking/pets. First/last, credit check, references, OPEN HOUSE 2:00-3:00 Saturday & Sunday 416-797-7539

AJAX SOUTH - one bedroom basement, immediate. \$725 inclusive. Sep. entrance/walkout, parking, shared laundry, no pet/smoking. First/last/references. 905-686-3717.

AJAX SOUTH immediate large 1 bed. bsmt. apt. New carpet/paint, parking, sep. entrance, near 401/amenities, suit quiet single working female. No pet/smoking. References/first/last. \$725/inclusive. (905) 686-6773

AJAX SOUTH, 1-bedroom furnished apt., kitchen, separate entrance, parking. Minutes to lake/401. Suit single professional. Available immediately. \$750/month, (905) 683-0190

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AJAX SOUTH, 1-bedroom furnished apt., kitchen, separate entrance, parking. Minutes to lake/401. Suit single professional. Available immediately. \$750/month, (905) 683-0190

AJAX Westney/Hwy 2. legalised 2-bedroom upper level and/or 2 bedroom basement. All inclusive, sep entrances, parking, laundry, no pets/smoking. 905-686-5297

AJAX, 2-bdrm bsmt. Quiet residential street. Private entrance, 5 appliances, suitable for a single couple or female. No smoking/pets. Avail. immediately. \$975/mo inclusive. 905-428-0396

AJAX, spacious 2-bedroom basement, dining/living room \$1000-utilities included, private entrance, full kitchen, 4 appliances, 1 parking, first/last required. Immediately. (905) 426-7341.

AJAX, spacious 3-bdrm house, 4 appliances, 2-parking, h/w floors, walk-out deck, \$1400-inclusive. Call (905) 426-7341.

AJAX- OXFORD TOWERS. Spacious apartments, quiet bldg, close to shopping, GO. Pool. 2-bdrms \$979, available April/May 1st. (905) 683-8571 or 905-683-5322

AVAIL. APRIL 1ST. One and two bedroom apts for rent. Located 309 Cordova Rd., Oshawa. No pets. Please call (905) 579-2387 after 5 p.m.

BASEMENT APARTMENT - New 1-bedroom, laundry, gas fireplace, own entrance, big yard, parking. \$875/mo. Altona/Sheppard area. Approx. 800 sq. ft. No smoking. Call 416-271-8161.

BASEMENT APARTMENT, with walkout, White's Rd/Hwy 2, utilities, parking, \$750. Single person preferred, no smoking/pets, 1st/last references, required. Telephone (905) 420-2015.

BAYLY/HARWOOD, 1-bdrm self contained basement, 1-parking. No smoking, clean, quiet. Laundry facilities. \$650/mo. + 1/3 Hydro. Call (905) 683-7532.

BEAUTIFUL 1-bedroom upper level of house. Bright, clean, laundry, 1 parking. Suit quiet working person. \$600 plus some utilities. 905-626-8000.

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BLACKSTOCK. Large 1 bedroom apartment, separate entrance, private deck, gas fireplace, satellite TV. No smoking, no pets. 905-986-1576

BLACKSTOCK. Wooded setting. Main floor, 2 bedroom, log home, 5 appliances, private entrance, deck. Basement rented. May. \$995.00/incl. (905) 433-0270.

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AJAX- OXFORD TOWERS. Spacious apartments, quiet bldg, close to shopping, GO. Pool. 2-bdrms \$979, available April/May 1st. (905) 683-8571 or 905-683-5322

AVAIL. APRIL 1ST. One and two bedroom apts for rent. Located 309 Cordova Rd., Oshawa. No pets. Please call (905) 579-2387 after 5 p.m.

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OSHAWA - 2 storey, 2 plus one bedrooms, 5 appliances, no smoking/pets, \$975+utilities. April 15th. 416-209-1449.
OSHAWA - renovated 3 bed. main floor of house. Parking, own laundry, large backyard. Avail. May 1st. \$1200+utilities. Call 416-695-4667.
OSHAWA large 3-bedroom with finished basement, close to Civic Centre, fenced backyard all appliances, near all amenities. No pets/smoking, available immediately. (905)728-4471
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AJAX - clean and quiet. Kitchen, laundry, cable, air, parking, \$500/month. Call Dave (647)283-0272.
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OSHAWA, Simcoe & Bloor. Share furnished apt with 2 males. Near all amenities. Available April 1st. 1st/last, \$400/mo inclusive. Viewing (905)433-4088.
PICKERING, Altona/Hwy 2, clean, large bedroom available in upscale neighbourhood. Includes cable, laundry, internet, parking, near all amenities, TTC and Pickering Transit. \$400/month. Female preferred. (647)882-8237
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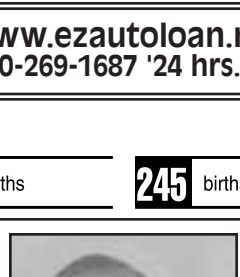
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245 births **245** births



Paul and Nadine Baxter are thrilled to announce the arrival of Liam David, born February 25th, 2005, weighing 7lbs. 6oz. Proud first time grandparents are Linda and Colin Campbell and David and Philippa Baxter of Pickering. Liam is also welcomed by Uncle Alan, Aunt Jen, Uncle Ryan, Aunt Lorrie, Aunt Nicole, Uncle Aaron, Uncle Anthony and great grandparents: Selina, Walter, Max and Phyllis.
A special thank you goes to family physician Dr. John Lee and the staff of Lakeridge Health, Oshawa for the prenatal care and safe delivery of our precious little boy.

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249 coming events **249** coming events

EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE AT THE

4TH ANNUAL
Moms, Pops & Tots Expo


Sunday April 17th
Pickering Recreation Centre
905-426-4676 ext. 222
Call for further info

249 coming events **249** coming events

7th Annual Garden & Landscape Show
April 8, 9, 10,
Civic Auditorium Oshawa
Only 2 booths left!
Gardeners & Crafters welcome.
Reserve your booth today.
Sharon 905-579-4473 ex. 2285
Sponsored by Oshawa This Week

248 birthdays **248** birthdays

APRYLE ROUTLEY HAS TURNED 40!!!



40 is not old if you're a tree! But in Apryle's case, old age is creeping up on her.


Wishing her a Happy 40th Birthday is Myles, Randy, Tyler, Mom, Dad, Bonnie, Ron, Deano, Lynette, Rob (the guy you hit with the phone), Laurie, Melissa and Brittany.

310 articles for sale **310** articles for sale

PIANO Technician available for tuning, repairs, & pre-purchase consultation on all makes and models of acoustic pianos. Reconditioned Heintzman, Yamaha, Mason & Risch, & other grand or upright pianos for sale. Rentals also available. Gift Certificates available. Call Barb at 905-427-7631 or check out the web at: www.barbhall.com. Visa.

PIANOS - Clearance sale on all Grand Pianos. Also huge selection of upright, digital pianos. Large selection of used pianos (Yamaha, Kawai, Heintzman etc). Not sure if your kids will stick with lessons? Try our rent-to-own. 100% of all rental payments apply. Call TELEP PIANO 905-433-1491. www.Telep.ca WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

ANTONIA KUYPERS
In Loving Memory of Our Dear Mother
who passed away April 4, 2000



*5 years have passed
The day God took you home
But you did not go alone
For a part of us went with you.
There's always a bridge of memories
That keeps you close to us.
It's called the Bridge of Love.
From here to Heaven above
Remembering you is easy.
We do it every day.
Missing you is a heartache
That never goes away.*

**Forever loved and never forgotten
Till we meet again,
Your Loving Daughter Christiana,
(Janice) & son in law Bill Czerewaty**

256 deaths **256** deaths

HOBBES, Margaret Ellenbeth (nee Bryant) She passed away on Wednesday March, 30, 2005, in her 81st year. Formerly of Kingston and Pickering, she was the beloved wife of the late James Scott Hobbs. She is survived by her children: James Brian, married to Helen Roy, John Peter married to Pearl S. Huang, Margaret Anne Hobbs-Knowles married to Andrew John Knowles, and David Victor married to Susan Hobbs (nee Schmeck). She is also survived by her ten loving grandchildren: Julie, Marc-Oliver, Helen, Emmet, Maxwell, Jeffrey, Michael, Rebecca, Christopher, and Jennifer. She was also the beloved sister of the late James Bryant, A Memorial Service will be held at the **MCEACHNIE FUNERAL HOME**, 28 Old Kingston Road, Ajax (Pickering Village) 905-428-8488 on Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. Should family and friends so desire, donations to the Alzheimer's Society would be greatly appreciated.

ST. THOMAS, William - At Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, Bill St. Thomas of R.R.#2 Burnt River, formerly of Ajax, in his 81st year. Bill retired from General Motors after 26 years of service. Son of the late Edgar and Beatrice St. Thomas. Beloved husband of Mildred Ada (Kemp) St. Thomas. Sadly missed by Bill (Josephine) St. Thomas of Fort Saskatchewan, AB; Sue Ann (Glenn) Squire of Ajax, Judy (Bill) Roach of Port Elgin, Murray (Marie) St. Thomas of Whitby, Rick (Jackie) St. Thomas of Janetville and Patricia (Grant) Lees of Oshawa. Also missed by 19 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Brother of the late Wilbert and Carl. Brother-in-law of Barbara and Jean. Family and friends will be received at the **MONK FUNERAL HOME**, 6 Helen Street, Bobcaygeon (1-866-393-0063) from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. Friday. Funeral service will be in the Monk Chapel on Saturday, April 2, 2005 at 1 p.m. Cremation. Memorial donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the Kinmount Medical Centre would be appreciated. We are pleased to accept messages of condolence at www.monkfuneralhome.com

WELLS, Thomas Richard "Tom" - It is with great sadness that the Wells Family announces the passing of their brother Tom on Friday, March 25, 2005 at Richmond Hospital, Richmond BC. Son of Ruth Wells of Oshawa and the late George "Dutch" Wells. Father of Gregory and Brett Wells of Richmond, BC. Brother of Joanne Wells-Oates (Bill), Port Hope, Pat Aasen (Eric), Oshawa, Bill (Shirley), Stockdale, Dorothy Hargreaves (John), Bolton, UK, Bob (Fiona), Richmond, BC, Marney Carroll (Gary), Courtie, Jim (Carol), Whitby, Jackie Parry (Denzil), Wales, Lori Wells, Toronto, Ed, Burlington. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. His sense of humour and kind heart will be sadly missed by family and friends. The family would like to say a special thank you to their brother Bob who was so helpful and loving with Tom over the past year. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 9, 2005 from 10 am - 1 pm at the Rouge River Community Centre, 120 Rouge Bank Drive, Markham. Messages of condolences can be sent to the family at: Wellsclan1@yahoo.com.

NEW DANBY APT sized freezers \$209. New Danby bar fridges, \$119/up. Also, variety of new appliances, scratch and dent. Full manufacturers warranty. Reconditioned fridges \$195/up, ranges \$125/up, dryers \$125/up, washers \$199/up, new and coin operated washers and dryers at low prices. New Danby Frost-Free Apt. size fridges \$399., new 24" and 30" ranges with clock and window @\$399 Reconditioned 24" ranges and 24" frost free fridges now available. Wide selection of other new and reconditioned appliances. Call us today, Stephenson's Appliances, Sales, Service, Parts, 154 Bruce St. Oshawa, (905)576-7448

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WANTED - ceramic top stove, white preferred, good condition, reasonably priced, call 905-434-0392.

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316 vendors wanted

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- EASY-MOVE ROLLERS

LOWEST PRICE! \$548

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AND NO 8% PST



RCA 27" DIAGONAL TruFlat STEREO TELEVISION

- COMPONENT VIDEO INPUTS
- 3 LINE DIGITAL COMB FILTER

LOWEST PRICE! \$358



WASHER AND DRYER

Inglis HOME APPLIANCES

- 3 TEMP SELECTIONS
- SUPER CAPACITY
- WATER-LEVEL CONTROL

BUY THE PAIR & SAVE!!!

- 3 TEMP SELECTIONS
- SUPER CAPACITY
- AUTO DRY
- DRUM LIGHT

LOWEST PRICE! THE PAIR \$768

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1540 DUNDAS ST. E. DUNDAS E. & THICKSON RD. WEEKDAYS 9-10, SAT 9-6, SUN 11-6 (905) 430-0000 WHITBY

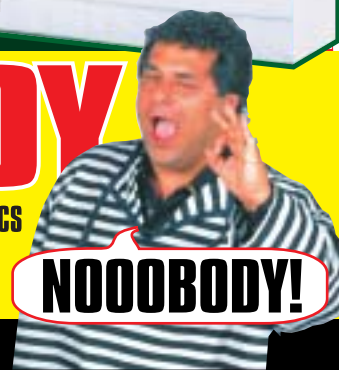


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1255 FINCH AVE. W. NORTH YORK (416) 630-1777
1119 KENNEDY RD. SCARBOROUGH (416) 750-8888
42 CAPLAN AVE. BARRIE (705) 722-7132



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OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND



\$309,900

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 2 & 3, 2-4 P.M.
14 COOMER CRES., AJAX

DOUG TAYLOR**
 905 831-3300

- Premium pie-shaped lot!
- Finished top to bottom
- Hardwood/ceramic flooring
- 4 washrooms, 4+1 bedrooms
- 3 appliances, wood shutters
- Woodburning fireplace, pocket doors
- Central air, central vac
- You won't be disappointed.

View at:
www.dougtaylor.ca



SUN. APRIL 3, 2-4 P.M.
19 BASHFORD DRIVE, AJAX

EVELYN REGAN*
 905 427-6522

ROYAL LEPAGE

Connect Realty
 Independently Owned & Operated

WALKING DISTANCE TO LAKE

Steps to school and parkland. Great family home with family size kitchen, two fireplaces, 3 bathrooms and large yard with deck.



\$449,000

SUN. APRIL 3 1-4 P.M.
391 DELANEY DR.

DANIELLE RODKIN*
 905-728-1600
 Tor. Line 905-427-1177

RE/MAX SPIRIT INC. BROKER

SPECTACULAR JOHN BODDY CASTLEMERE IN AJAX

This house is a show piece. Finished top to bottom. California shutters, ceramics, 5 pc. master en suite. Sunken living room, hardwood, larger windows in prof. finished basement. Upgraded light fixtures, prof. landscaped front and back with outdoor lighting. 2 gas fireplaces and much more.



\$329,900

SUN., APRIL 3, 2-4 P.M.
160 DOOLEY CRES., AJAX

BRAD SOMERVILLE*
 905 683-5000

RE/MAX QUALITY ONE
 Realty Ltd. Broker

NORTH AJAX

This fabulous Torina built 4 bdrm. home on a pie-shaped lot is loaded with upgrades including hardwood flooring, ceramic flooring, upgraded designer kitchen with valance lighting. Large soaker tub and shower stall in the ensuite bathroom. Close to all amenities.



Country Property In The City!

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 2 & 3 1:30 - 4 P.M.
1971 SPRUCEHILL RD., PICKERING

Feel like you're miles away from everything; yet close to schools, shops, GO Train, & 401 & 407 hwy's! This cottage-style 3 + 1 bdrm, 2 wshrm home has a w/o bsmt from the rec rm. w/ gas f/p., in-gmd pool & a huge deck at the back to enjoy this premium, country-style, treed lot of more than 3/4 of an acre. Tons of room to grow & expand. Raise your children in nat'l surroundings w/ climbing-gym, a fenced-in fire pit, and a creek running through the property. 1st rd. E. of Whites Rd along Finch Ave. \$379,700.

Melanie Daigle & Fernando Teves
 Sales Representatives
 Toll Free 1-(888)-560-6972
www.fernandoteves.com

Prudential Vendex Realty



\$399,900

SUN., APRIL 2 2-4 P.M.
521 MCLEOD CRESCENT, PICKERING

KEN COLLIS**
 1-877 663-1054

COLDWELL BANKER

RMR Real Estate

4 + 3 bedroom, 4 washrooms, 3 walkouts including basement, in-law apt., close to Petticoat Creek. Great room sizes, many upgrades, great shape. A must see. Whites Road south to Granite Court, west to Rosebank, south to Toynedale, west to Oakwood, south to McLeod Cres. Your Host Ken Collis Associate Broker 1-877-663-1054.



\$274,900

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 1 & 2 2-4 P.M.
1081 LONGBOW DR., PICKERING

JOHN BODDY

Act now for the popular quality-built home in a high demand neighbourhood. Super clean with a fin. rec rm., eat-in kit., upgraded oak cpbrds., a cozy fam. rm. w/a woodburning fp. This is a must see. www.sellingwithbill.com. Call Bill McLean at 905-686-3300 to view and other great home.



\$349,900

SUN. APRIL 2, 2-4 P.M.
1005 HONEYWOOD, PICKERING

Looking for a well-maintained 4 bdrm. home with ten's of thousands in upgrades? Well here it is complete with 3/4" hardwood, porcelain ceramics, 5" baseboards, gorgeous renovated ensuite, large bdrms. and much more. See virtual tour at www.sellingwithbill.com. Call Bill McLean at 905-686-3300.

BILL McLEAN*
 905 831-3300

RE/MAX FIRST Realty Ltd.
www.sellingwithbill.com



SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2-4 P.M.
21 BRAND CT., AJAX

Call ANDREY STERNICZUK*
 416-305-4614
 1-866-821-3200
andrey@royallepage.ca

ROYAL LEPAGE
 Meadowtowne Realty

Beautiful, executive home on a prestigious court. Open concept design with lots of windows. Parquet floors throughout. Full walkout basement. Interlock front and back. Extensive landscaping. Huge lot. Excellent neighbourhood. Pictures and virtual tour at: www.buyorsellwell.com.



\$279,900

SUN. APRIL 3 2-4 P.M.
25 BAKER DR., AJAX

KEN & SUE SHERBAN*
 905-728-1600
 T.O. Line 905-427-1177

RE/MAX Spirit Inc. Broker

GREAT S. AJAX SIDESPLIT

Everything is done! Just "move-in" to this freshly painted, newly carpeted, air conditioned family home. Lots of hardwood, private yard, 55x117' lot plus plus plus. Dir.: Harwood south to Clemens, east to Baker, watch for signs.



SAT. & SUN., APRIL 2 & 3, 1-4 P.M.
34 AMANDA AVE., BROOKLIN

JULIA LAZAR*
 416 445-8855

KELLER WILLIAMS
 REFERRED REALTY 416-445-8855

OVERLOOKING THE BROOKLIN POND

Absolutely stunning! Brooklin beauty approx. 2700 sq. ft., modern design decor. A Must See! Premium lot overlooks pond. Thousands spent in upgrades. Gorgeous, gleaming hardwood floors, coffered, cathedral & 9 ft. ceiling on main floor. Fabulous open concept with decorative columns. So much more! For more www.brooklinbeauty.com



\$259,900

SAT & SUN APRIL 2 & 3 2-4 P.M.
4 HEMANS COURT, AJAX CHURCH/DELANEY PICKERING VILLAGE

GAIL DUNLOP*
 905 619-9500

Sutton
 Group Heritage Realty Inc.

Fabulous freehold end unit townhouse with huge corner lot. Fully fenced yard with mature perennial gardens. A backyard entertainer's dream! Wrap around deck & a full 2 car detached garage. Hardwood throughout main floor, upgraded kit., fin. basement with fam. room, approx. 1600 sq. ft. of fin. living space. This home has so many upgrades I cannot list them all! Come to the Open House & have a look for yourself, or call Gail for more info.



SAT., APRIL 2, 1-4 P.M.
13 BIRD CRES., AJAX MANDRAKE/SALEM RD. ELEGANT DETACHED IN AJAX

GREG WOODS*
 905-831-2273

COLDWELL BANKER

CASE REALTY LTD.

- Nicely kept 3 bedroom house on a quiet cul de sac, close to schools
- Freshly painted
- Interlock walkway and patio
- Oversized driveway and nicely fenced yard
- Gas fireplace, gas BBQ hook-up
- Just move-in!

Listed at \$264,700.
greg-woods@coldwellbanker.ca



OPEN HOUSE 2 - 4 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
564 OAKWOOD DRIVE, PICKERING

JUST REDUCED TO \$379,000

South Pickering bungalow on large 50 x 212 foot private lot. Possible in-law apartment with separate entrance.

Davis Kuksis*
 Coldwell Banker Case Realty
 416-281-2200



SUN. APRIL 3rd, 2-4 P.M.
8 SABBE CRES., AJAX

DAVID MCINTYRE*
 905 427-1400

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Tribute's Nottingham! Over 4500 sq. ft. complete! Prof. decorated and designed executive home! Shows better than Builder's Model Homes! 2 gas fireplaces! Valued at \$454,800. Call David McIntyre at (905)427-1400 or visit www.durhamhomenet.com NOW!

Visit www.durhamhomenet.com NOW!



SUN., APR. 3, 3:15-5:15 P.M.
1530 PICKERING PARKWAY #110 VILLAGE AT THE PINES!

- Great Pickering location, steps to Pickering Town Center, library rec center, medical centre, etc.
- Large model w/rare family size eat-in kit. incl. ceramic flrs. & Florida ceiling
- Open concept throughout
- 2 parking spots included - Solarium
- Master bdrm. w/ensuite bath
- Asking price \$174,900

SAT. APR. 2, 2-4 P.M., SUN. APR. 3, 1-3 P.M.
1552 DELLBROOK MOVE RIGHT IN!

- Great Pickering location near Valley Farm & Finch
- Many upgrades incl. hardwood & cer. floors, crown moulding etc.
- Fabulous finished bsmt. w/rec. rm. & office area
- Prof. landscaped incl. interlocking brick - Central air conditioned
- Main floor family room with fp. & w/o to huge deck
- Asking price \$282,900

BARRY COX*
 416-286-3993

RE/MAX ROUGE RIVER REALTY LTD.
www.barriecox.ca



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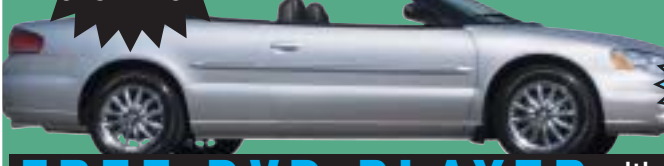
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UP TO \$8000 CASH BACK SPRING INTO A NEW CAR! RIGHT HERE



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0% PURCHASE FINANCING* FOR 60 MONTHS

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2004 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE



\$8,000 CASH BACK
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0% PURCHASE FINANCING* FOR 60 MONTHS
PLUS \$2,000 CASH BACK

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2004 JEEP TJ SPORT



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 or **\$293 MONTH 48 MONTH LEASE \$0 DOWN**
 OR CHOOSE
\$250 MONTH 48 MONTH LEASE \$2,000 DOWN
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