

The Oshawa Express

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Your Independent Local News Source

Vol 2 No 25

APRIL 25 2007

Region taxes increase \$72 in Oshawa

By Courtney Duffett
The Oshawa Express

Oshawa residents are looking at about a \$72 hike on the regional portion of their property taxes.

Regional council approved a 4.86 per cent budget increase for 2007.

Oshawa alone is looking at about a 6.95 per cent increase based on a \$280,000 home.

"Staff worked very hard to meet the guidelines," said Regional Chair Roger Anderson.

The 4.86 per cent tax increase is made up of three components — 3.06 per cent is from general

purposes, 1.30 per cent is waste management and 0.5 per cent is for transit.

"We definitely met and bettered the guideline," says Paul Richards, director of budgets and economic studies for Durham Region.

Richards added that the general

purpose budget increase of 3.06 fell under the original proposed guideline in January of 3.5 per cent, which was great, he says.

Calculated on an assessment basis, Oshawa residents will have the lowest increase in their regional portion of taxes at \$72, compared to Clarington residents

who will have an increase of about \$129 based on a \$280,000 home.

Anderson says the money will help towards roads, disposal costs, the new Courtice Water Pollution Control Plant, homes for the aged and more, adding he's happy with the final outcome.

Public meeting draws support for ward vote

By Jessica Verge
The Oshawa Express

Too little, too late was the consensus at a public meeting held last week to discuss Oshawa city council's decision to revert back to a general vote in the next municipal election.

"This meeting should have been held before the election," said Oshawa resident Russ Rak before a crowd of approximately 90 people (although the city was prepared for around 300 attendees) and

See OSHAWA Page 8



Photo by Jessica Verge/The Oshawa Express

Saving the earth one sapling at a time

Shania Rodrigues plants a tree to take home with mom, Shilpa, and dad, John, as part of Earth Day celebrations held at G.L. Roberts High School and the South Oshawa Community Centre.

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School board head seconded to province

By Courtney Duffett
The Oshawa Express



Patricia Manson
Director of education

Jones says the Board is already beginning the process of finding a new director of education. He believes the board will benefit from a new leader after four years.

Jones says the cost of finding a new director of education will come in at about \$20,000 — a sum he says is very reasonable.

The board will be searching in a very narrow field, someone with experience and who is qualified within the province with supervisory credentials.

The director of education for the Durham Catholic District School Board has been appointed to the province to help with literacy.

Patricia Manson leaves behind her four-year post as director of education at the school board to begin her new job with the province at the end of this current school year.

She will not be returning to the board.

"It creates an opportunity for a new face to come in," says Oshawa trustee Fred Jones. "And I think that will be good for the board."

Oshawa trustee Joe Corey says Manson will be working in numeracy and literacy at the province, adding she did a great job at the board in that area.

"We are honoured we had such a brilliant individual to be seconded to the province in that position," Corey says.



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EXPRESS Police briefs

Six arrested in Oshawa drug bust

Durham police have arrested six adults and are facing a variety of charges including possession of crack cocaine.

On April 18, members of the Oshawa Community Resource Unit were involved in an ongoing investigation related to drug activity in downtown Oshawa. Police observed five males and a female leaving a residence on Simcoe Street South in Oshawa and arrested them.

Police also seized 1.5 ounces of crack cocaine with a street value of about \$4,500 and two grams of marijuana with a street value of \$20 and about \$1,100 in cash.

A 21-year-old male of Stevenville Drive in Scarborough, a 31-year-old male of Jarvis Street in Oshawa, a 19-year-old male of Bayly Street in Pickering, a 26-year-old male of Bay Mills Boulevard in Toronto, an 18-year-old male and 19-year-old female, both of Whitehall Court in Oshawa have been charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The female and three of the males have also been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-683-9100 ext. 1747.

Explosion and fire leads to drug charges



A local man is facing drug charges after a drug lab exploded at an Oshawa townhouse.

An Oshawa man is facing drug charges after an alleged drug lab exploded and caused a fire at a townhouse complex.

On April 20 around 9:15 p.m., police and fire officials attended a Glen Street address in south Oshawa after several explosions were heard inside a residence at the townhouse complex.

Upon arrival, emergency officials discovered a large fire and a male suffering from burns. He was transported to Lakeridge Health Oshawa where he was treated and released.

Police assisted by the Ontario Fire

Marshall's office (OFM), executed a search warrant at the resident and discovered a small marijuana growing operation inside the townhouse. While inside, OFM seized 50 marijuana plants in various stages of growth and turned them over to police.

The townhouse sustained extensive damage in excess of \$100,000.

A 41-year-old of Glen Street in Oshawa has been charged with production of a substance, arson and disregard for human life, production of cannabis resin and possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.



Harmony Road from King Street to Florell Drive, City of Oshawa

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FOR HARMONY ROAD

WORKS DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Region of Durham is continuing with the reconstruction of Harmony Road from Florell Drive to Rossland Road East in the City of Oshawa. This project includes the construction of storm sewer, sanitary sewer, watermain, service connections, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, and restoration of the pavement and intersection improvements.

The contractor, Kapp Contracting Ltd., commenced construction between King Street and Florell Drive on Monday, April 2. Initially, one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on a paved surface, while the contractor will occupy the east curb lane/boulevard to install the new watermain. During the construction period, traffic delays can be expected, but the contractor will maintain driveway access to local residents.

Remaining road works between King Street and Rossland Road East are anticipated to commence in May, upon the re-opening of local asphalt/concrete plants. The outstanding works include paving on Harmony Road from Vincent Massey School to Regent Drive; intersection improvements at Rossland Road; and the completion of retaining walls, sidewalks, topsoil/sodding, tree planting, etc.

The Region realizes that the construction work will be disruptive. We sincerely appreciate your understanding in this regard and will make every effort to complete the construction work as quickly and efficiently as possible. Should you have any questions, please contact either Bill Reid (ext. 3517) or Greg Gummer (ext. 3427) at the telephone number or address below.

Regional Municipality of Durham Works Department
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby ON L1N 6A3
Telephone (905) 668-7711 or 1-800-372-1102
www.region.durham.on.ca

City, region absenteeism better than average

By Jessica Verge and Courtney Duffett
The Oshawa Express

Firefighters miss more work than any other City of Oshawa employees.

In 2006, the absentee percentage for fire services is 3.86 while the average for all City employees is 3.65 per cent. The public works department is second highest for absenteeism with an average of 2.8 per cent.

This means that the average employee at the City of Oshawa misses 3.65 per cent, or 9.49 working days in a year (260 days, excluding vacation and public holidays). The figure is less than the national average of 9.7 days but greater than the Ontario average of 8.8 days.

But these figures come as no surprise to Dan Carnegie, Oshawa's director of human resources.

"When a firefighter has a cold or a headache, they can't always shrug it off and go in to do their job like some office workers can," says Carnegie. "When your job involves fire suppression and emergency response to medical issues you need to be able to function at a high level."

He says absenteeism can be expected when

workers spend most of their shift outside, subject to extreme heat or cold, have labour-intensive jobs and often work overnight.

"Our public works employees can work extremely long and difficult hours while snow plowing or collecting refuse," says Carnegie.

Garth Johns, commissioner of human resources for the Region of Durham, agrees.

While Johns says the Region doesn't record the average amount of absences for an individual department, he believes absenteeism for workers with more physically demanding jobs, such as those in the fields of public works or emergency services, would be higher than someone with an office job.

The average of absenteeism for Region employees is 3 per cent, which Johns says is normal for the industry.

He says 3 per cent at the Region is equivalent to approximately \$5 or \$6 million.

"People do get sick and that's the cost of doing business," he says.

Johns also says there is no clear pattern for predicting when employees will be absent. While summer tends to see fewer employees taking time off, he says March and May of 2006 had a lot of absences and doesn't believe seasons have an affect on the statistics.

But when attendance becomes a problem, Carnegie says the City has a plan for dealing with employees who miss too much work for no legitimate reason.

Since 1992, the City has had an attendance management program, which requires management to meet with employees with absentee issue to discuss their attendance history. Carnegie says they try to help employees identify patterns of absences and encourage individuals to manage their attendance better.

After three months, the employee's attendance is reviewed again.

Carnegie says the goal of the attendance management program is remediation but it can lead to dismissing an employee, which the City has done in the past.

However, employees with perfect attendance are also singled out.

In 2005, 75 (or 11 per cent) of the City's 688 full-time employees made it to work every day. While 2006 numbers aren't finalized, Carnegie says approximately 86 employees (or 12.5 per cent) had perfect attendance.

Johns believe it's also up to the employer to create a positive environment to encourage staff to work. "Generally, the employer wants to make sure his staff is happy," he says. "If staff enjoys work, then they'll make the effort to come in"

Wood burning chimineas not allowed

Oshawa residents looking to add some heat to a cool night better not turn to an outdoor wood burning fireplace for warmth.

Any open fire, including an outdoor wood burning fireplace or a chiminea, is prohibited in the City of Oshawa without a permit.

According to Susan

King, acting chief fire prevention officer, Oshawa Fire Services commonly receive calls from residents complaining about their neighbour's chimineas as the smoke and smell can be an annoyance to those living nearby, especially for people with respiratory conditions and other medical conditions.

King says if it's the first visit fire services had made to a residence about the chiminea, they will request the fire be extinguished. On the second visit a fine will be issued.

Wood burning chimineas, like the one pictured at right are prohibited in Oshawa.



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Weighing in on water woes

Water is becoming a very valuable commodity.

On the international level, a shortage of water is becoming a huge problem in many countries around the world. And global warming is speeding up that process.

Nationally, governments are creating laws to ensure that fresh water in the Great Lakes is not diverted elsewhere. There are moves in the mid-U.S. to divert some of the fresh water from the Great Lakes basin for agricultural and other uses.

Locally, water is becoming more costly. The Region of Durham has just increased the cost of water usage for local property owners by 5.1 per cent, more than double the rate of inflation. Fresh water is becoming a pricey resource.

Locally, a Grade 10 student at O'Neill Collegiate has come up with a brilliant idea – one that won him a local science fair award through the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa. His idea, pretty simple really, is to reuse water.

Simon Yin, 16, came up with a filtration system that can treat shower or bath water and then recycle that water for use in toilets. This would allow water to be used twice before it hits the municipal water treatment plant, an onerous process of cleaning the water.

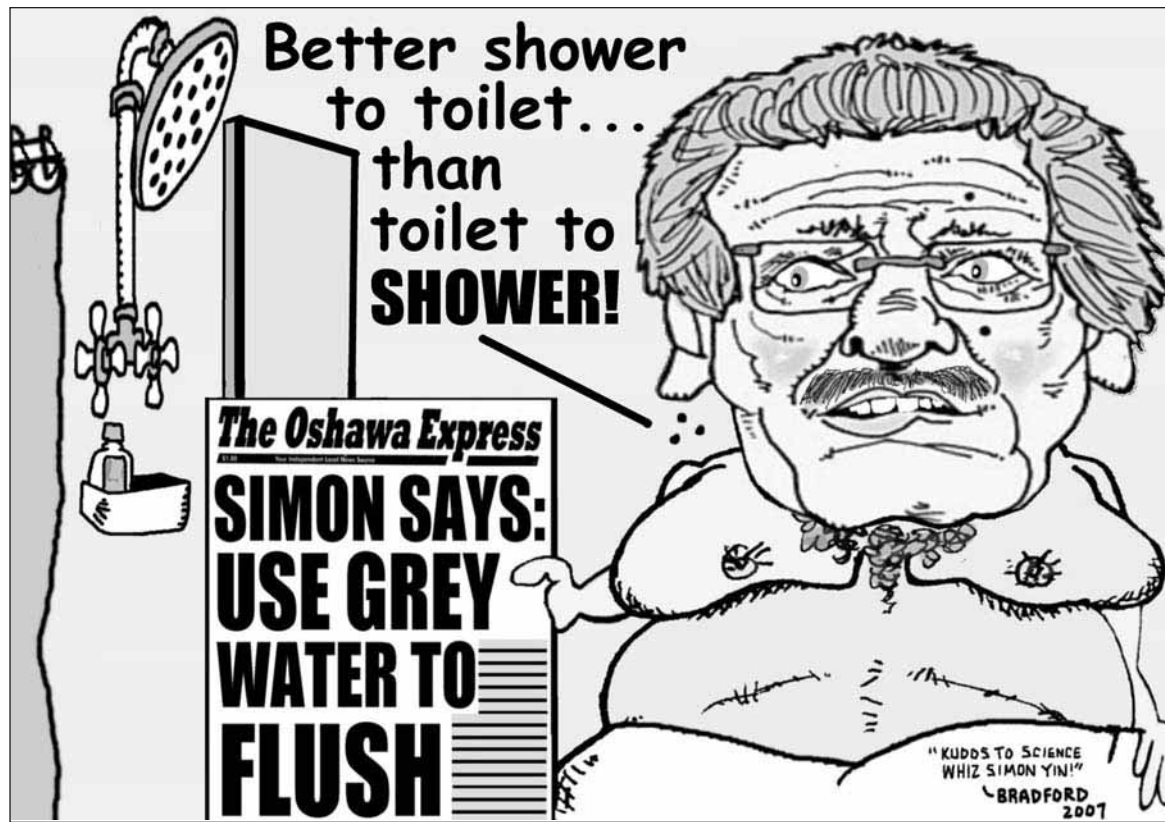
His science model incorporates one of the environmental principles of reusing a resource. It takes energy and resources to treat water, so why not use it twice before having to treat the water. There is a savings in energy, manpower and consumption. There would be less energy needed by the water filtration plant, perhaps less manpower needed at the filtration plant and a savings on chemicals and other substances needed to treat the water.

This student is on to something. This is only one little step in a bigger picture, but ideas are how things start rolling. It may be just an idea now but perhaps a company can pick up the idea, develop a proper filtration system and bring the whole concept to market.

Then, the government could make this water reuse proposal part of the building code, forcing developers to incorporate the process in to new houses. Existing homeowners could then retrofit their homes.

You can read about Simon Yin and his idea on page 14 of this newspaper. There are also some tips on water conservation that are offered by Region of Durham officials. These tips can save homeowners money and, ultimately, help the environment.

Water is a valuable resource. We who live in Ontario are blessed by an abundance of fresh water, with the largest freshwater lakes in the world – the Great Lakes – right outside our front doors. Let's protect our valuable resource.



Letters

Rotary Club says thanks

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Oshawa - Parkwood, please accept our sincere thanks for your support of our Annual Gala and Silent Auction on Feb. 15.

We were delighted to have a full house this year at the Oshawa Golf

Club. The atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation of the winners of the reverse draw and silent auction bidders.

Your generous donation of one-quarter page of advertising has helped us to continue our fundraising efforts for the new R.S. McLaughlin Cancer Centre at

Lakeridge Health Oshawa. Our charitable donations to our community are entirely funded by donations such as yours.

Thank you for your continuing support of Rotary.

Members of Rotary Club of Oshawa - Parkwood

Keep the current ward system

Dear Editor:

In my opinion, much of the buzz relating to the support of a general election system is full of ambiguous undertones.

The media and spin-doctors continually refer to the referendum as providing us with clear support of a general voting system. The process has been flawed from the onset including confused wording and no real justification of why there was a need to revisit the old system. Reminder: 16,000 people voted for general vote, 9,000 voted to retain the ward system, 70,000+ were non-participants. This referendum is hardly a clear indication of support as it really only constitutes 15 per cent.

The present council had the priv-

ilege of being elected under ward system voting - a system that has worked well for Oshawa in providing representation from all parts of this diverse city. Councillors were elected to represent the needs their constituents (wards) and to make decisions in the best interests of Oshawa as a whole.

There are however those on council who appear deftly uncertain of what system they in fact support. They publicly say they believe the ward system is superior but they cannot support this citing the direction of the electorate - 15% of eligible voters have helped decide this for them. They have all but forgotten the 9,000 votes to retain the ward system as well as the 70,000+ unheard. Somewhat confusing.

In saying so, these councillors

not only jeopardize their personal integrity but they further confuse the public. To clarify, they were elected to make the best decisions for the city, have expressed confidence in the ward system, but will decide on a general vote system as they are told by the 15% voiced in the referendum. Confused?

I would move that the next referendum question pertain to the capping of council's salaries. With full certainty on the result on that particular referendum, you could bet council would vote it against.

Confused yet?

Keep the ward system - it works.

John Malish
Oshawa

YWCA searching for past Women of Distinction recipients and nominees

Dear Editor:

The YWCA Durham Women of Distinction 25th Anniversary Gala is less than a month away. It will take place on May 10 at Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility in Ajax.

This yearly event pays tribute to the women of Durham and this year we will also celebrate the nominees and recipients for the past 24 years as well.

But we need the help of all the readers of The Oshawa Express to remember the women, perhaps you nominated one of them or you know of someone who was nominated several years ago.

We especially need help in locating the Young Women of Distinction for the past 24 years. They are out there in the community, some still in university or college, some with careers, some with businesses and

some with children of their own.

If you recall a name or two and know where they live, call 905-723-2538, ext. 207 or email wod@ywcadurham.org.

Thanks for you help,

Joyce Marshall,
YWCA Durham
Women of Distinction
Committee

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Economic outlook bright: report

Oshawa is one of only two Ontario cities expected to rank in the top half of Canadian cities slated for economic growth in 2007, according to one organization.

The Conference Board of Canada, a non-profit group that addresses economics trends and public policy, says Oshawa and Toronto will be the only Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) in Ontario to see a high economic growth.

The Conference Board reported this in their spring 2007 Metropolitan Outlook, which is published every six months.

While the group found that Oshawa's manufacturing sector is still struggling, it reports that improvements in the service sectors and strong population growth will boost Oshawa's

gross domestic product (GDP) to 2.7 per cent in 2007 from 2.1 per cent in 2006.

"Despite modest gains this year, it will be 2008 before the manufacturing sectors in Ontario CMAs find a solid footing," said Mario Lefebvre, director of the Metropolitan Outlook Service, which publishes the report.

Toronto will also see growth in GDP to 2.5 per cent in 2007 from 2.1 per cent in 2006. However, the Conference Board says this is well below Toronto's economic potential.

The Conference Board expects even more growth for both Oshawa and Toronto in 2008, both posting the strongest growth of all 20 CMAs covered in the spring 2007 Metropolitan Outlook over the period of 2008 to 2011.

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA):

An area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a census metropolitan area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

One of the ways of measuring the size of an economy, it is the value of all goods and services produced within an area in a given period of time.

Police board member resigns

A member of the Durham Regional Police Services Board, executive director Fred Kaustinen, is resigning to pursue other interests.

"These past seven years have been an incredible experience, serving the Police Services Board, the citizens of the Region of

Durham and the truly impressive members of the Durham Regional Police Service," said Kaustinen. "We have one of the safest communities in the country, in large measure because we have one of the finest police services and we have great community partners. Durham, Chief

(Vern) White and the DRPS, and our Police Services Board are now nationally recognized for leadership in community safety."

He added the Board can now grow with 'new blood' and wants to pursue educational and other interests.

"It's been a truly

enriching experience here," Kaustinen said.

Police Services Board Chair Terry Clayton said, "Fred has made a truly invaluable contribution to our community, our police service and our Board. We respect Fred's decision and wish him well in his future endeavors."



Paramedics play for charity

From left, paramedics Derak Lantz, Jason Stockdale and Mike Fryer present a cheque to Andrea Russell, director of major gifts for the Oshawa Hospital Foundation, for \$4,200 to be donated to the R.S. McLaughlin Cancer Centre. The funds were raised during a hockey tournament the paramedics organized.

In case of emergency

Durham Region wants local residents to be prepared for national emergencies.

The Region is inviting the public to visit their emergency preparedness mall displays at the Oshawa Centre and Pickering Town Centre from May 6 to 12 in celebration of National Emergency Preparedness Week.

The displays will provide residents with information about steps they should take to be prepared for any emergency.

The event is held nationwide each year in May and emphasizes the importance of planning for emergencies, both natural and man-made.

It is designed to raise public

awareness of the measures that should be taken to plan ahead and to be prepared for any emergency event.

The Durham Emergency Management Office (DEMO) exercises the Region's emergency plans on an ongoing basis throughout the year in conjunction with emergency services and the municipalities in the Region. DEMO also produces a pamphlet, Are You Ready, on the public role in emergency preparedness.

The pamphlet is available free of charge at www.region.durham.on.ca/demo.

It can also be obtained by calling DEMO at 905-430-2792.

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The Oshawa Express
Carrier of the Week

The Oshawa Express wishes to acknowledge and thank our Carrier of the Week for their dedication and commitment to the delivery of the newspaper.

Laura Green

Grade 5 student, 10 years of age. My favorite hobbies include skating, playing the piano and reading. I like delivering The Oshawa Express because I like learning about working values, earning my own money and getting to know the neighbourhood.

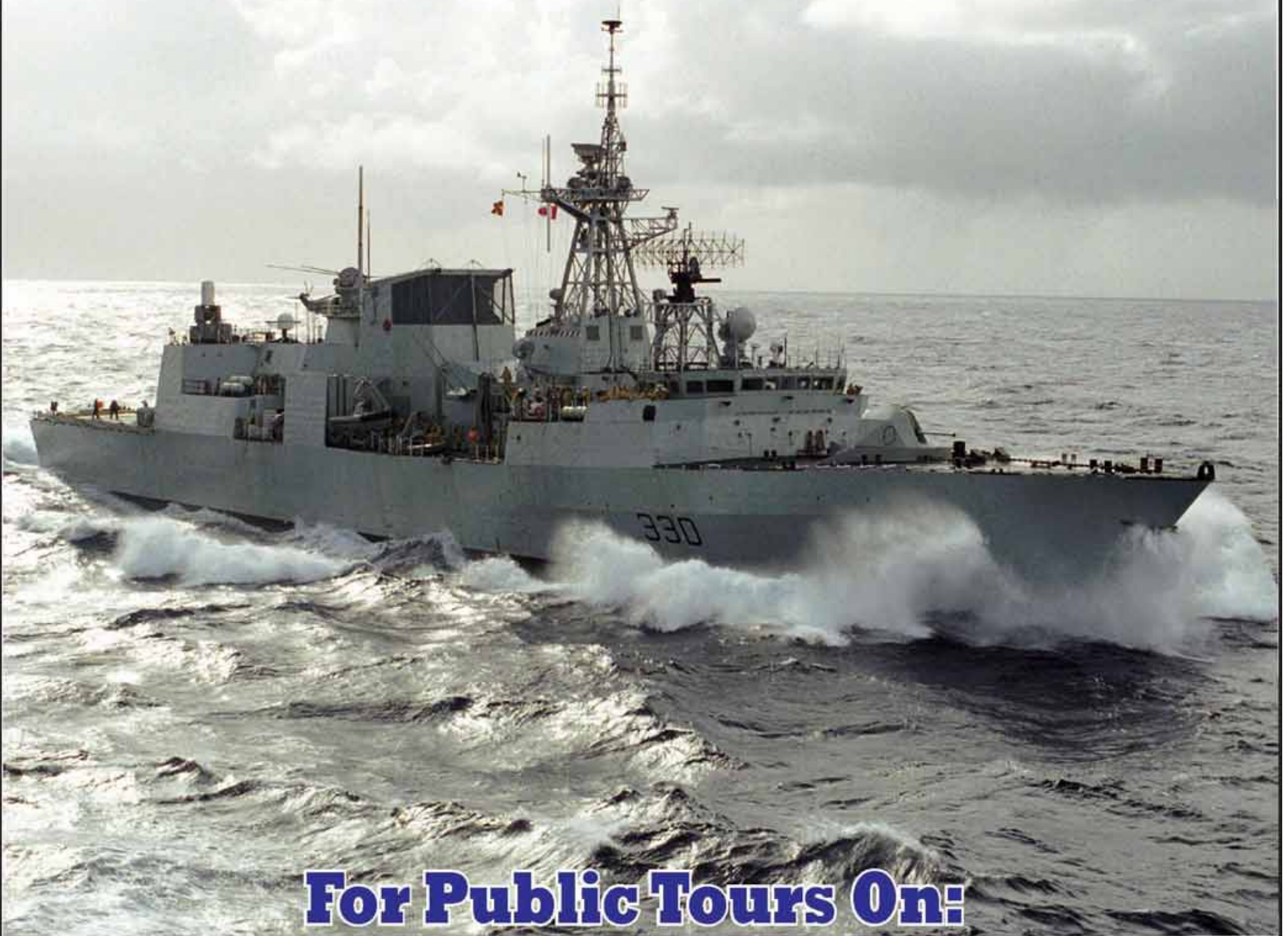
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Back from left: Principal Lynn Merriman, OSSTF Branch President Paul Wayling, Vice Principal Phil Matsushita. Front from left: Jessica MacNeil, Justin Lek, Stephanie Spooner.



Back from left: OSSTF Branch President Doug Arcsott and Principal Mary Shea. Front from left: Meaghan Metcalfe, Julian Liebrechts and Lindsey Harper.

Generous Oshawa students awarded

Local Durham District School Board students were recognized for their significant contributions to their schools or communities.

DDSB in partnership with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 13 (OSSTF), held its 23 annual Secondary Student Recognition Night in which 15 Oshawa students were recognized for their extraordinary efforts.

The event is held each spring to honour up to three students from each of the Board's secondary schools. The students were chosen by their teachers.

Each student was given a plaque in honour of the occasion.

Eastdale College and Vocational Institute's Senior Wind Ensemble was on hand to provide entertainment and refreshments were available for all the guests following the presentation.

Eastdale students Lindsey Harper, Julian Liebrechts and Meaghan Metcalfe were recognized at the ceremony.

Harper was recognized as an outstanding individual and a high achiever whose strong, dynamic leadership, confidence and achievements inspire others to higher performances. Harper is the top one per cent of her class and willingly helps others to succeed. Harper is Minister of Social Affairs, a member of the Student Leadership Camp committee and is

active in the student led advisory mentor program for Grade 9 students.

Liebrechts, an honour roll student provides a positive role model for younger students to emulate. Metcalfe excels academically and is in the top one per cent of her class. She has been a contributor to Student Council and Ambassadors, was Club U.N.I. president and helped to organize the school's multicultural fair. She is active in Eastdale's Arts program, playing Dorothy in this year's production of the Wizard of Oz.

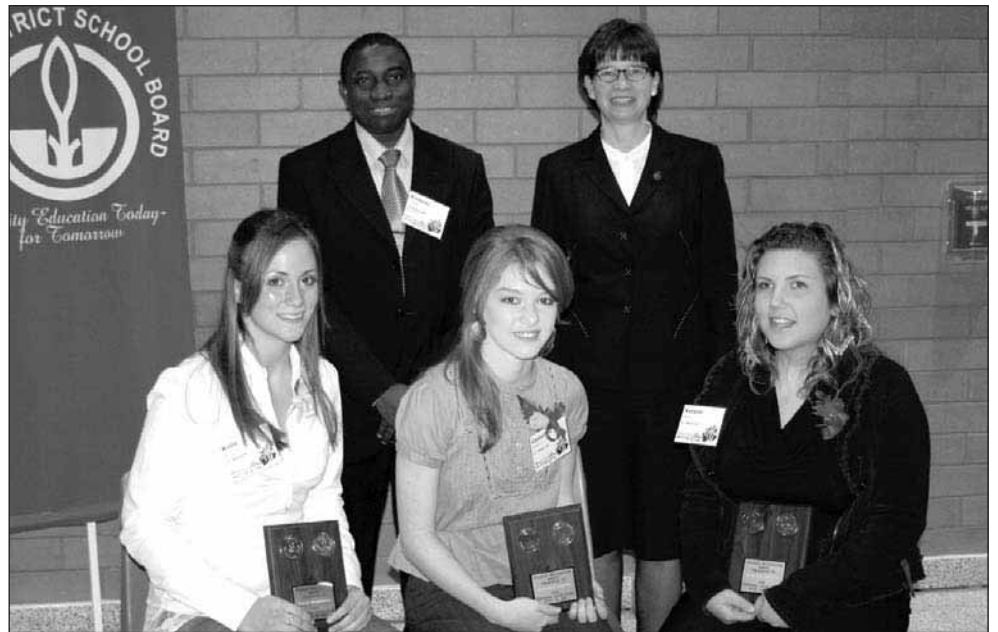
G.L. Roberts Collegiate and Vocational Institute also recognized three students including Natalie Musial, Katie Woodcock and Christine Younie.

Musial's involvement with Student Council and her veteran savvy as a Saturn Camp Counsellor have clearly demonstrated a willingness to work towards improving student life.

Woodcock is an outstanding athlete, who participates on many school sports teams, while finding time to excel in baseball, where she plays at the Junior National level. She is a role model for many other students.

Younie is a Grade 11 student and is actively involved with Student Council as the Athletic representative.

O'Neill Collegiate and Vocational Institute recognized Benjamin Descoulds, Jia (Alan)



Back from left: G.L. Roberts CVI Principal Ian Skinner and Vice Principal Pauline Langmaid. Front from left: G.L. Roberts students Katie Woodcock, Christine Younie and Natalie Musial.

Guo and Lauren Stephenson.

Descoulds is an inspiration to his peers and strives to help his fellow students achieve their best and regularly tutors others in math on his lunch hours.

Guo gives his time and talents as a library volunteer, School Reach Team member and as a tutor at a local elementary school. He is also a volunteer for Amnesty International and the AIDS committee.

Stephenson is an inspiration to others and dedicates her time at home as well as a singer-songwriter with the O'Neill chapter of School

Alliance of Student Songwriters. She is also a member of the baseball team and two LOSSA championship hockey teams.

Oshawa Central Collegiate Institute recognized Justin Lek, Jessical MacNeil and Stephanie Spooner at the event.

Lek is a talented athlete who participates on the wrestling and lacrosse teams. He also volunteers with Central's Senior Associated class and has provided support for several school events as a school ambassador.

MacNeil's dedication and natural athletic abilities shine through as a member of the cross country, soccer, track and field and swim teams.

Spooner has been an active member of the school's basketball, volleyball and baseball teams. She is also a member of Central's Ambassador program and intramurals class, playing a role organizing charitable and spirit events.

Madison Le Mesurier, Jordyn Radke and Sydney Saville were recognized as top achievers at R.S. McLaughlin Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

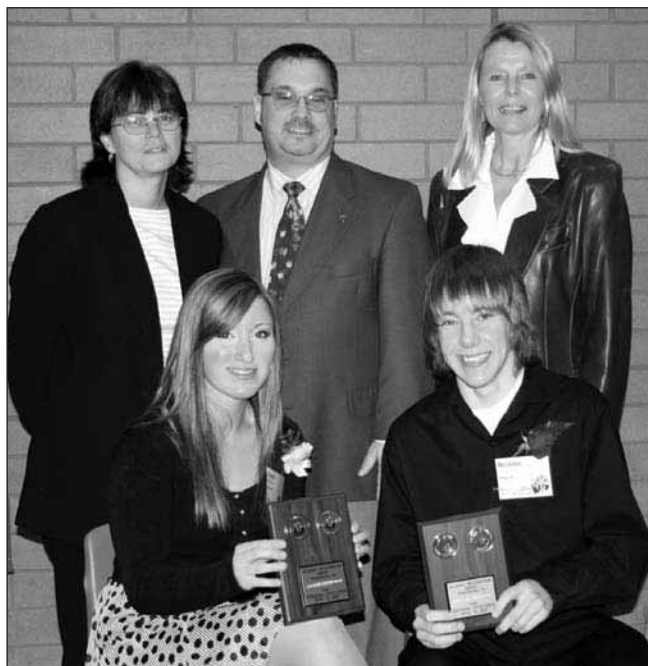
Le Mesurier has been involved in school musicals, the field hockey team and student parliament and has worked with others in organizing this year's graduation event. She is a natural leader who shows both foresight and insight.

Radke is a great athlete, honour roll student and outstanding leader. He is a member of the track and cross country teams and knows how to lead by example. He is friendly, enthusiastic and hardworking.

Saville is a participant with the Library Club, Culture of Peace, Ambassadors, Binnfeill and Student Parliament. She is playing a major role in the creation of the school's Gay Straight Alliance and helps deliver anti-bullying presentations to Grade 9 students.



Back from left: R.S. McLaughlin CVI Principal Karen Allan and OSSTF Branch President Jan Matthews. Front from left: Madison Le Mesurier, Jordyn Saville, Jordyn Radke



Back from left: O'Neill CVI Principal Shelley Van Driel, OSSTF Branch President Craig Wildman, School Community Council Chairperson Debbie Leaper. Front from left: Lauren Stephenson and Benjamin Descoulds

Money found, money gained?

Opinion



Jessica Verge

It's a question that's been asked time and time again: if you found some money that wasn't yours, would you a) do your best to find the person to which it belongs or b) quietly pocket the money and walk away.

It seems option 'b' is a popular choice, at least it was for the person who walked off with the \$60 belonging to a friend of mine last Thursday night. This friend was using one of those convenient self-checkout systems at a popular Oshawa big box store, requested \$60 cash-back with her purchase and absent-mindedly walked off without taking her money.

Unfortunately, when she realized her mistake and returned 10 to 15 minutes later, the cash was gone.

Turns out you can't rely on the kindness of strangers.

What would you do in that situation? You see \$60 sitting there in the dispenser and no one is watching. Would you take it or turn it in to customer service?

Most of us have come across a \$10 or \$20 bill in the street. I once found \$20 in the parking lot of a shopping plaza late at night while walking home with friends. I'm not ashamed to admit, I kept it. Whoever owned the bill was long gone and if they did realize they'd lost \$20 I doubted they'd return to that exact spot to retrieve it.

However, in the situation of money sitting in the cash-back dispenser, it's pretty likely the person to which the money belongs would realize their mistake and come back hoping it'd still be there. And because it happened in a store, it's easy for the next customer to use the machine to turn their findings in.

But they didn't. Not that it was much of a concern to the store's assistant manager, who

refused to check the security cameras, saying if it's a customer there's nothing they can do. When asked about the possibility that it was an employee, the assistant manager just said he hoped it wasn't.

As well, the employee supervising the self-checkouts at the time saw nothing, though as she was busy chatting with some friends at the time.

Also, \$60 is not exactly small change, at least not for most of us. Whoever took the money must have understood that a \$60 loss would be a big deal for the person losing it. I wonder if they took the time to think about how upset they'd be to lose \$60 themselves?

I hope the culprit really needed the money. Actually, I hope karma exists and that they use it to buy a sweater that gives them a nasty rash or a meal that results in diarrhea. I don't want to sound too vindictive but I hope what goes around comes around.

And to that culprit, who stole \$60 from a cash-back dispenser last Thursday evening, I believe karma can be reversed. My friend would like the money if you'd like to return it.

Get your immunization

Durham's health department is recognizing National Immunization Awareness Week from April 22 to 28.

The health department wants to remind local residents that immunization is the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.

The health department encourages individuals to review their immunization record to keep up-to-date with the recommended vaccinations needed to stay healthy and safe.

"Maintaining a current record of immunization is important because it helps to keep track of past vac-

inations and when boosters are due," said Danielle Peirce, a public health nurse with the health department. "Vaccination requirements change throughout childhood, adolescence and adulthood, so it's vital to keep your vaccination record up-to-date. In addition, a record of immunization may be required when starting a new job or travelling."

The health department is providing copies of the Canadian Paediatric Society's publication, Your Child's Best Shot: A Parent's Guide to Vaccination, to local

libraries for lending. "Immunization programs have resulted in the decrease of some diseases," said Peirce. "However, experience has shown that when immunization levels drop, diseases may return. Our community depends on all of us to maintain current immunization against vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, pneumonia and pertussis to ensure ongoing protection for everyone," she added.

For more information call 905-666-6241 or 1-800-841-2729.

Business tips at meeting

A local business coach will take the podium at the next monthly meeting of the Durham Home and Small Business Association.

The Durham Home and Small Business Association (DHSBA) will welcome Peter Miller of Essential Communications, which teaches budding entrepreneurs how to run a

business. Miller has shepherded hopeful business owners through Durham Region's Self-Employment Benefit program and will share his insights May 2.

The DHSBA will also focus on Peter and Lucy Cluff of Critical Path Business Solutions, which provides on-line management and mentoring resources for managers and

small business owners who seek to set up jobs and motivate employees.

The meeting takes place at the Whitby Centennial Building, 416 Centre St. S. Registration and networking begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and is free for first-time visitors.

Call 905-728-2899.

Oshawa residents uninformed: Longworth

OSHAWA From Page 1

10 of council's 11 members.

Rak's opinion was shared by many who attended the meeting, which the city held to provide an open forum for residents to voice their opinions over the change from a ward vote to a general vote.

Last November, council put a referendum question on the municipal election ballot asking residents if they would prefer to do away with the current system of voting by ward and return to the general vote that existed prior to 1985.

Although many agreed the meeting should have been held before the

question was posed to voters, there was also a common feeling that council should listen to what the voters said, even if it means returning to a general vote.

"We want to know what's going on," said Oshawa resident Phyllis Wild, who didn't feel that she was provided with enough information before the election.

Longtime ward system supporter Bill Longworth, who fought to introduce ward voting in 1985, used the meeting to share his dissatisfaction with council's handling of the issue.

"Oshawa city council made a mockery of this thing," he said, adding that the public never expressed dislike for the ward system and, therefore, there was no reason for the referendum question. "People were never told the

rationale for a change."

Longworth also called the question itself "convoluted and backward."

Like Rak, Longworth felt residents weren't given enough information about the question prior to finding it on the ballot.

"Why didn't these people want you to have the information you needed," he said of council.

Other residents voiced their concern over representation in a general system.

"If we move to a general system, who do I call," asked Shoshannah Wagenberg, who wondered if she was just to randomly pick a name or call all 10 council-

lors and hope to be called back.

"When the ward

system came out you got to know your councillor," said resident Patricia Barta, who feared that would change with a general

vote.

But not everyone was opposed to the general vote.

One local business owner and resident, who asked not to be named, said he believes most of the decisions council makes affect the entire city and individual ward issues are a small part of what they do. He said he felt the public meeting was unnecessary and that council should listen to the voters.



Bill Longworth was one of a dozen Oshawa residents to speak at a public meeting held last week.

Because Oshawa's voter turnout was less than 50 per cent, the results of the referendum are not legally binding. However,

the majority of council is in favour of listening to the few voters who did come out and adopting a general vote.

Longworth says if this happens he will appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board to get the decision overturned.



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Stefanie is a 16-year-old girl from Germany, who will be coming to Canada in August for a high school year. She enjoys dancing, playing piano, and reading, and describes herself as nature-loving and humorous. Are you the host family she needs to make her year a success?

For more information as to how your family could get involved in this exciting volunteer opportunity by hosting Stefanie or another student like her, contact our local coordinator:

Geoff at: 416-830-9371 or

Our head office at 1-800-263-2825



A mini-marathon is all in a day's work

By Courtney Duffett
The Oshawa Express

Anita Ferreira runs a mini marathon when the bell rings every morning at 8:50 a.m., until the bell rings again at 11:40 a.m.

No, Ferreira isn't a marathon runner, rather the educator of 19, highly energetic 4 and 5-year-old children.

Ferreira is a junior and senior kindergarten teacher at Grandview Public School in Oshawa.

"I've taught a long time," says Ferreira, "and my favourite thing is teaching the little ones." Ferreira likes the idea of playing and learning at the same time and enjoys singing.

In her class, there is a song

for almost everything they do, whether it is saying good morning, cleaning up or learning a lesson.

"It's all about who I am," she says. "It's a lot of fun."

The Oshawa Express sat in on a day with this kindergarten class to see what Ferreira's day is like.

She says every day is the same, fast paced and busy.

When the bell rings, the kids have to come in and sit down and read a book or chat with a friend while awaiting the morning announcements.

On this day, the class was learning about frogs. Everything they did was in relation to frogs, including writing poems, feeding the baby frogs, making frog puppets or learning about the life span of a frog.

While some kids were at their individual centres, others were constantly asking their teacher questions, or for help, or to go to the bathroom.

The Oshawa Express approached the kids at the centre with the baby frogs in the tank. When asked what they thought of the little frogs, the kids shyly answered that they were "cute." One child thought it would be cute to name one of the three frogs Brownie.

Soon enough, it was time to go to the gym for some daily physical activity. Here, the kids got the chance to run around and play with the parachute.

When they returned to class, the kids continued on with their lesson on frogs.

Before recess at 10:30, the kids had the chance to eat a small snack.

Healthy choices is what Ferreira calls it. She wants to



Mitchell is practicing his painting, while learning about frogs.

make sure her kids are bringing healthy snacks to school.

Recess may be time for the kids to take a break, but not for Ferreira. Her and her daily parent volunteer spend that time preparing either for the next assignment or for the next day, including marking or preparing homework books, creating assignments or cleaning up the classroom.

"All the parent helpers work so hard, which I'm grateful for," says Ferreira. "So I don't

have to haul it all home with me."

After recess, the kids are back to work. If they finished with their lesson, they can paint, read or play.

It may have only been a half-day of school and work for the kindergarten kids at Grandview PS but for Ferreira, she goes home to her own kids knowing she gets to do this all over again tomorrow.

But she says she wouldn't want to be doing anything else.



The kids learned about the letter V and all about velvet. Anita Ferreira is helping Cody (left), and Carter (right), glue their velvet strips on to their letter V's.



Above: Katarina, Carter, Alexa and Nicholas are looking at the three baby frogs, trying to decide what their names should be. Right: Colin (behind) and Blake (front), are writing stories about frogs.



Photos by Courtney Duffett/The Oshawa Express

The Silver Rain Symphony Ball!



Photo by GSR Studio Inc.

The Oshawa Durham Symphony announces its premier ball "Silver Rain" to be held at the Tosca Banquet Hall, Thursday May 3, 2007. Dress is formal. Admission \$175 each.

Cadets in full regalia greeting at the door, photographers, and cocktails before a gourmet five course dinner. Silent Auction and Live Auction. Orchids for all the ladies. Terry Johnston, Radio Show Host will be the M.C. Champion Ballroom Dancers will commence the dancing, as well as champion Latin American Dancers accompanied by a live orchestra.

For reservations please call Lisa Weiss, Chair 905-433-3939

Accessibility topic of forum

A group of Oshawa residents is spreading the word about accessibility.

Members of the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee (OAAC) were at the Oshawa Centre to raise awareness about making the city barrier free.

The OAAC, a citizen committee that advises and assists the city in developing strategies to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities, gave residents the opportunity to stop by an informational display about Ontario's disability legislations, accessibility issues, community resources and how the city has improved accessibility in the

community.

"The OAAC would like citizens to know they have representation at Oshawa City Hall," said committee chair Scott Pigden.

The OAAC is also holding an accessibility forum at the General Motors Centre on May 7.

The forum will feature workshops, exhibits and speakers from 8:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.

The cost of attending is \$35 and includes lunch and refreshments.

For more information about the forum, contact committee co-ordinator Heather Elston at 905-436-5636 ext. 2288 or email helston@oshawa.ca.



From left, councillor April Cullen gets a tour of the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee's informational booth from members Linda Tamburro and Frances Tanner, with her guide dog Maisey.

Cancer Awareness Month

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City in brief

'No parking' signs to be added to Ormond Drive

Residents in the Ormond Drive area might see a change to parking regulations in their neighbourhood.

Some Oshawa councillors are recommending that the rest of city council approve their decision to prohibit parking on the southeast corner of Ormond Drive, north

of Flagstone Court and west of Clearwater Court, and on the southwest corner of Ormond Drive, east of Birchview Drive and north of Greenhill Drive.

Installing 'No Parking Anytime' signs is recommended due to the curvature of Ormond Drive in these

spots and the decreased sight-lines they cause

The cost for implementing these signs is \$400, which is covered in the 2007 operating budget of the development services department.

Four-way stop for Thornton and Conlin roads

Drivers tired of waiting to move north or south through the Thornton Road and Conlin Road intersection can look forward to a four-way stop.

Following concerns expressed about safety, city staff took a look at traffic volumes, collision data and sightlines at the intersection

and found a four-way stop is warranted. Conlin Road and Thornton Road carry approximately 6,500 and 3,500 vehicles per day, respectively, volumes which staff expects will increase as development continues in north Oshawa and as Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of

Technology grow.

During a three-year period ending January 2007, staff reported 14 collisions at the intersection. Of the 14 collisions, 9 resulted in severely damaged or demolished vehicles.

Installing a four-way stop will come at a cost of \$1,000.

New church to be erected on Harmony Road

Vacant land at the Harmony Road and Beatrice Street intersection will be the new home of a Jehovah's Witness congregation.

A church will be constructed on a 3.5-acre (1.41 hectares) portion of 925 Harmony Rd. N., on the east

side of Harmony, for the Harmony Heights Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The church will measure 8,741 sq. ft. with 452 seats and 99 parking spaces. It will also include a dwelling for the church's minister.

According city of Oshawa staff, the development will advance the acquisition of the Harmony Creek valley lands and lands for the future Beatrice Street East extension.

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<p>\$17,995</p> <p>2007 Dodge Caliber - Auto, Loaded, 20km</p>	<p>\$13,495</p> <p>2005 Honda Civic - Auto, 4DR, 80km</p>	<p>\$13,995</p> <p>2006 Pontiac G5 - Auto, Air, CD 34km</p>	<p>\$20,995</p> <p>2005 Ford F150 4x4 4-Dr, pwr sunroof, fully loaded, 118km</p>

Nuke plants not harmful to health: study

The Pickering and Darlington power plants do not cause health problems for Durham residents, according to the local health department.

A recent report on the health effects of radiation and health in Durham Region 2007, studied by Durham Region Health Department, grouped health indicators into categories according to their association with radiation.

These indicators were used to assess whether there were higher than expected rates in time periods after the nuclear plants began operating, consistent with when health effects might occur after radiation exposure.

"This study compared communities in Durham Region with Ontario and used Halton Region and Simcoe County as comparison areas," said Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, an epidemiologist with Durham Region Health Department. "Local municipalities were grouped as Ajax-Pickering, Oshawa-Whitby, Clarington and north Durham to assess whether 18 cancer groupings, five types of congenital anomalies, or stillbirths were higher than Ontario rates. "We found that patterns of health indicators in Ajax-Pickering and Clarington were similar to those in the comparison areas. Given the extremely low levels of radiation exposure from the nuclear stations, it is unlikely that any health effects would occur," Pietrusiak added.

Pietrusiak explains that if a person travels on a two-hour airplane flight, that person will be taking on twice as much radiation than if the person were living in Pickering for one year.

The report provided an overall picture of radiation and health in Durham Region by combining information on local health indicators, the scientific literature on health effects of radiation and public radiation doses as determined by Ontario Power Generation's environmental monitoring program. The 2007 report is an update to the Health Department's 1996 study on radiation and health, which reached similar conclusions.

Copies of the report are available for downloading at www.region.durham.on.ca.

For more information on the health effects of radiation, call Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-7711 or 1-800-841-2729, ext. 3071.

Money, garden tips needed for newsletter

One local organization is inviting its members to share some knowledge.

The Durham Home and Small Business Association (DHSBA) is asking members to share tips and advice in the group's newsletter. They're looking for accountants wanting to share their top 10 tax tips or landscape designers who can outline how to put a garden to bed in winter.

To contribute, contact Heather O'Connor, promotions and marketing director at info@dhsba.com. For more information about the DHSBA call 905-728-2899 or visit www.dhsba.com.

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD — BOUNTEOUS

(BOUNTEOUS: BOUN-tee-us: Giving freely; generous.)

Average mark 29 words

Time limit 40 minutes

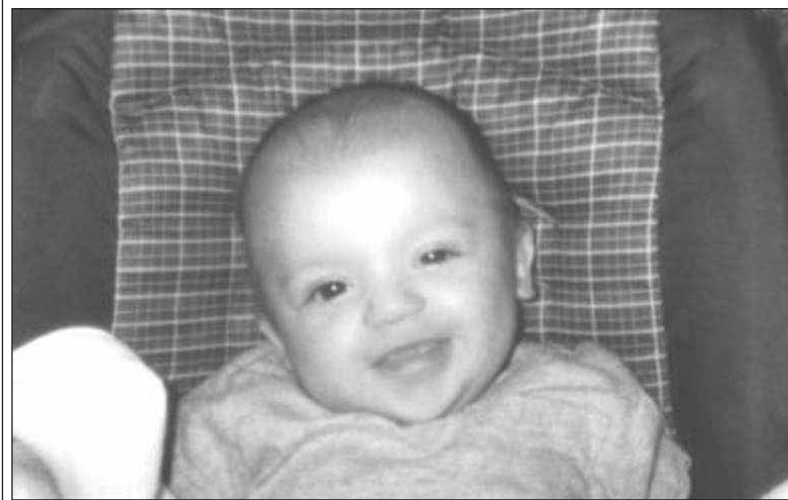
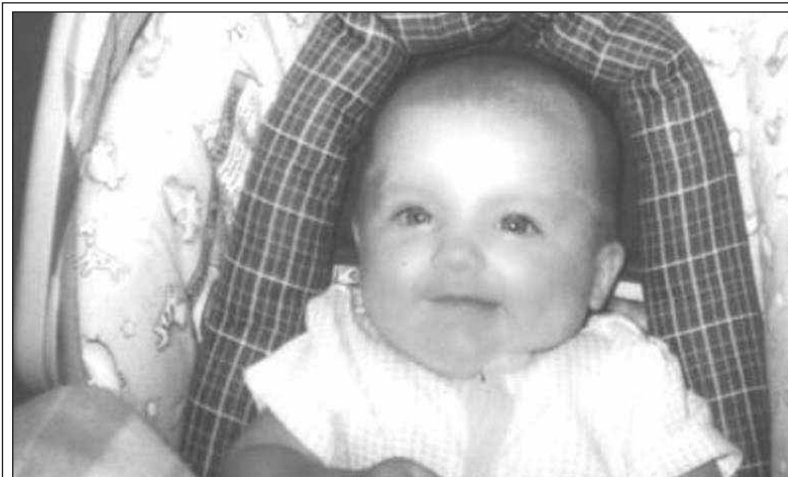
Can you find 43 or more words in BOUNTEOUS?

See Last Week's answers Page 19

Express echo baby



To have your child included in *The Oshawa Express* Echo Baby, please send a photograph of your child (infant to 2 years) to:
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 Or Email:
news@oshawaexpress.ca
 This is a free service. Photos will be available for pick up at this location.



Emmalee Rideout (top) and brother Jesse (below), 4-months old, enjoy each other's company along with their parents Jesse and Tanya.

The Oshawa Express would like to remind its readers to still send *Express Perfect Pet* pictures in to run bi-weekly to the Echo Baby feature.

Hotel Lancaster



By Jennifer Weymark
 Archivist
 Oshawa Historical Society

With spring finally here and summer fast approaching, many families

begin to plan their annual summer holiday. For some this may include a road trip and staying in hotels along the way. The hotel has long held an important place in the plans of those traveling.

Early records show that the Crown made land grants available on some 200 acres of land around Skea's Corners, what would become Oshawa, in 1828. Richard Woon obtained some of this property and in around 1855, he built the Commercial Hotel.

Located on King Street West, it was a small hotel but adequate for the needs of the town's people and travelers at that time. John Cornelius Woon obtained the hotel from Richard Woon and upon the death of John Cornelius Woon in 1898, the hotel was willed to his nephew, John B. Cummins. John Cummins did not own the property long before selling it to Van Buren Woodruff in 1900. At this time the hotel boasted of having 20 large, airy and well appointed rooms, steam heat and being lighted by electricity and gas. The rates were from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per

day and the service and menu were the best.

Van Buren Woodruff leased the property to John Smith in the early 1900s. John Smith set aside a sample room for the commercial salesmen to display and sell goods to the town's people to attract more business to the hotel.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Cooper family of Oshawa purchased the hotel and operated it until 1923. From 1923 to 1936, the hotel was owned and operated by the McTaggart family. Under the ownership of the McTaggart family, the hotel underwent some renovations. Around 1929, the building was extended out to the street line, a distance of 6 feet, and 2 new store fronts were added. The extension offered an enlarged space in the dining room and an arched entrance was added to the lobby. The ceilings downstairs were fire-proofed and the front of the building was fitted with copper store fronts with plate glass and also the roof was redone with Spanish red tiles.

In 1936, Charles Lancaster and his family purchased the hotel. The Lancaster family had spent a lifetime in the hotel business in such places as England, Montreal, Toronto and Oshawa. When the

Second World War ended, Charles Lancaster's sons, Charles Jr. and Reg, returned from the Canadian Army and took over the operation of the hotel.

The Lancasters made some major changes to the property during their ownership.

Besides additions to the building and the purchasing of additional property for parking, the name was changed in 1957 to the Hotel Lancaster.

In 1964, Reg Lancaster passed away and his brother-in-law, Ralph Knox joined the hotel to continue the family operation with Charles Jr.

In 1975, the Hotel Lancaster was sold and the new owners were John Pasemko and John Shach. The hotel was demolished five years later in 1980 and today the Michael Starr building is located at this site.

The photograph shows the Hotel Lancaster in 1980, shortly before it was torn down in August of that year.



The Stars Say...



ARIES: March 20 to April 19
Since your words can move mountains, why not have a heart to heart talk with a loved one. Start a new savings account or make more deposits in the one you have now. Buy something special.



TAURUS: April 19 to May 20
Networking can result in a beneficial career contact. An interested party thinks you are great and conveys this message. Be prepared for unexpected news on April 30. Join a gym.



GEMINI: May 20 to June 21
Formulate plans for the future and come up with new ways to increase your income over the next two months. Spend leisure time with your partner, but also take personal time for yourself.



CANCER: June 21 to July 22
Enjoy warm relationships with groups and friends. Why not invite a friend to dinner? Work on improving your everyday habits and routines. Enjoy a lucky day on April 30.



LEO: July 22 to August 22
Professional and career interests are spotlighted. Try not to spread yourself too thin, since everyone wants a piece of the action. Pursue your heart's desire.



VIRGO: August 22 to Sept 22
If married, avoid a spur-of-the-moment argument with your partner on April 28. Single Virgos could attract an unusual type of person. Find new ways to simplify your life. Plan a trip.



LIBRA: Sept 22 to Oct 23
Partnership finances are front and center for the next few weeks. Be thrifty and resourceful when budgeting or making new financial plans. You have a deep desire to understand what life is all about.



SCORPIO: Oct 23 to Nov 22
Take a good look at your personal and business relationships. Are they meeting your needs? An excellent time to deal with the public, try to be open to the other person's point of view.



SAGITTARIUS: Nov 22 to Dec 21
This week's planetary energies favour a new love interest, a romantic getaway or a trip to a far away place. Tackle your to do list, then move on to bigger projects around your home. Replace electrical appliances.



CAPRICORN: Dec 21 to Jan 19
Your social life heats up over the next few weeks. Visit a casino, take up a new recreational hobby or interest or shower attention on a child. You could run into someone from the past.



AQUARIUS: Jan 19 to Feb 19
Do not take risks with money you cannot afford to lose or spend more than you have. Apply for a loan or update your investment portfolio on April 29.



PISCES: Feb 19 to March 20
Energetic, you have plenty of get up and go to achieve your goals. Send e-mails, write a short story or go out in the community and network. Begin a new health and fitness program.

This Stars Say is provided by Joan Ann of Oshawa. For personal readings, call 905-725-9179 or visit her website at www.astroconsultation.com

Travel with care

Police warn of train track hazards in safety blitz

CN Rail is urging motorists to play it safe around train tracks.

As part of Rail Safety Week, which began on Monday and runs until April 29, CN police officers will be conducting safety blitzes in approximately 100 locations across Canada and the United States.

Officers were in Oshawa yesterday on Wilson Road, south of Bloor Street, and today on Wentworth Street, west of Stevenson Road, until 10 a.m.

The blitz focuses on alerting motorists of the importance of safety at crossings and the dire consequences of trespassing on railway property.

While the blitz targets motorists, CN is also encouraging pedestrians to be cautious around train tracks.

"Don't let a shortcut cut your life short," said CN police chief Serge Meloche.

Meloche wants to remind motorists and pedestrians that anyone who trespasses on CN Rail property can be fined. Trespassing includes: walking, playing or running on or beside railway tracks; driving a bike, a car, an ATV, a snowmobile, or any other vehicle on or beside railway tracks; taking a shortcut across railway tracks or railway property or entering railway yards at any time.

In 2006, 58 people died in Canada as a result of trespassing incidents while there were 28 fatalities due to crossing collisions.

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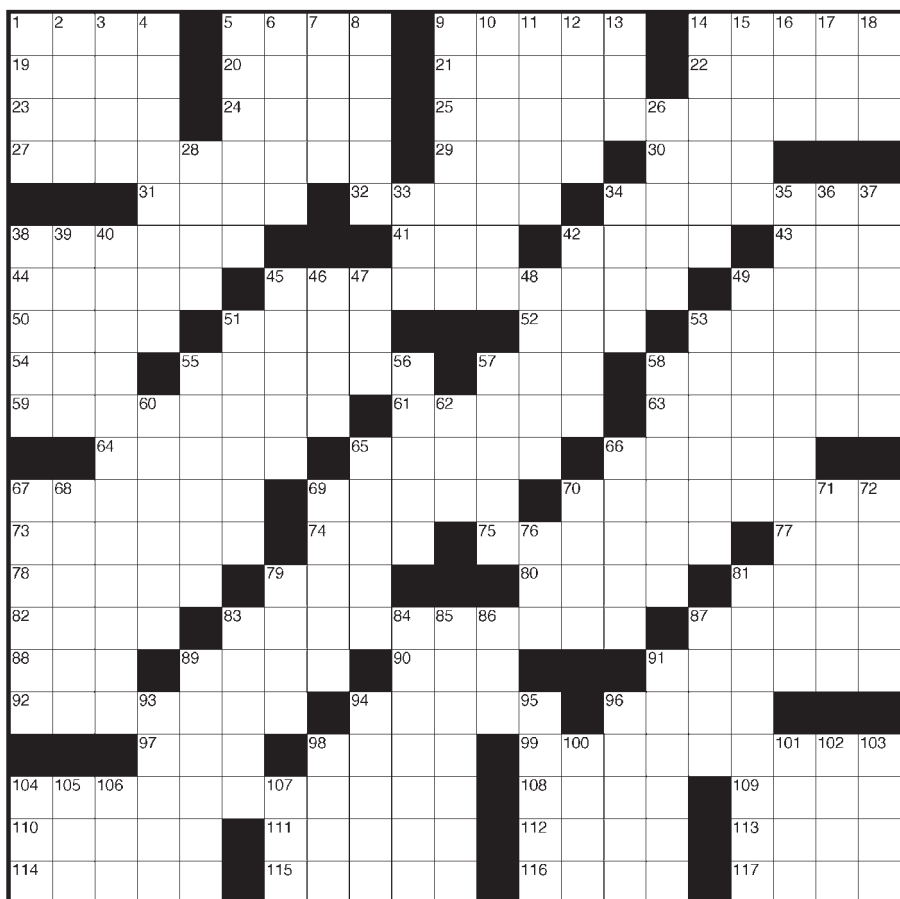
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THEME CROSSWORD



PRIZE: Bring in your completed and correct Express Crossword puzzle before the answers run in the following Wednesday edition and you will receive an Express mug. Limit is one mug per person for the year. Last week's answers page 19. congratulations to Malcolm Brown for completing last week's crossword. Congratulations to Trish Hill for completing the crossword in the April 18 edition of The Oshawa Express and to Thomas Ruddy for completing the crossword in the April 11 edition of The Oshawa Express newspaper.

BY THE NUMBERS

ACROSS

- Thrust
- May honorees
- Code originator
- Model-building wood
- Lay asphalt
- Over again
- Advantageous position
- Zones
- "Roast Pig" essayist
- Shuttle inits.
- Tennis pro's income?: 2 wds.
- Sherlock's strong suit?
- Recipe instruction
- Presidential nickname
- First president of Sierra Club
- Mrs. Cruise
- Handsome guys
- Shady retreats

DOWN

- Raced
- Story
- Gung-ho
- Texas port
- Prayerful bug
- Broadcasting
- Middle: prefix
- Best actress, 1999 and 2004
- Karloff's "Frankenstein" role
- Former
- Make a new bow
- Plaintiff
- Air quality agcy.
- Trust in
- "Tempest" role
- Hall-of-Famer Dawson
- Droop
- Pompous person
- Mature

- Diamond, perhaps
- Observed
- Calif. neighbor
- Not anybody
- Subject of Friday night warning to teens?: 2 wds.
- Conjunctions
- 1970 Beatles tune "___ It a Pity?"
- Venus de ___
- Degradable lead-in
- Sired, biblical style
- Day or term preceder
- City and river in Illinois
- Take down on paper
- Wodehouse's Wooster
- Licorice-flavored liqueur
- Sierra ___

- Identical creatures
- ___ Row ("Porgy and Bess")
- Sen. Thurmond
- Warp's complement
- Conjunctions
- Famous cookie-maker
- Use portage techniques?: 2 wds.
- Obscene profits?: 2 wds.
- Golfer's concern
- Actress Moreno
- Brag
- Based on eights
- One in Weimar
- Damon or Dillon
- Painful places
- Submachine guns
- Competitor's advantage
- "Too bad!"

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Flushing money down the drain



Every time a 20L toilet is flushed, it uses about as much water as this jug contains.

By Courtney Duffett
The Oshawa Express

Flushing the toilet just got more expensive for homeowners.

Durham Region recently increased water and sewer usage rates by 7.8 per cent with sewer representing an increase of 10.4 per cent and water up 5.1 per cent.

The Oshawa Express spoke with Durham Region's water efficiency coordinator Glen Pleasance for ways to keep a handle on the water bill.

Toilets are the biggest consumer of water usage in a home.

As well, the largest source of indoor leaks are also toilets, says Pleasance. He says leaking has a percentage of between zero and 10 per cent, depending on the home and the item that's leaking.

"Nine out of 10 times, leaking toilets are not made aware of and are hard to distinguish," says Pleasance. He says leaking is something everyone can get a handle on. He suggests adding a couple drops of food colouring to

a toilet tank. If the water in the bowl changes colour within a couple of hours, then you know you have a leak.

Prior to 1986, Pleasance says most homes had 20 litre toilets.

From 1986 to 1996, homes used 13L toilets and homes built after 1996 have 6L toilets.

"It's a great reduction," says Pleasance. He adds switching from a 20L toilet to a 6L toilet saves 14L of water every time the toilet is flushed.

Pleasance says new dual flush toilets are being introduced to the market. About six per cent of Canada's market uses them. Pleasance says dual flush toilets are well known in places like Australia.

"Dual flush toilets save about 25 per cent more water than a conventional 6L toilet," says Pleasance. They have two buttons on the top – one releases 3L of water for liquid waste and the other button releases 6L of water for solid waste.

Pleasance says washing machines and showers are the next highest water

using items in a home.

Toilets use about 35 per cent of indoor water usage, washing machines use between 25 and 35 per cent and showers use 15 per cent water consumption.

Top loading washing machines use more water than front loaders, says Pleasance. He adds front loaders have been on the market for about 10 years in North America and use 40 per cent less water.

The minimum flow rate of water in a shower is about 9.5L per minute. He says water usage varies depending on the length of the shower.

Pleasance says dishwashers are very efficient compared to most other household appliances as they only use about two to three per cent of water.

Pleasance says that the Region of Durham's website has a study that tests toilets, which is called MAP testing (Maximum performance testing), which tests and lists toilets by the amount of water they use. The list is available to residents by logging on to Durham Region's website at www.region.durham.on.ca

Conserving water Teen finds solution for water waste

By Courtney Duffett
The Oshawa Express

A local student has found a way to conserve water at home.

And his invention earned him first place in his division at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology science fair.

Simon Yin, 16 and a Grade 10 student at O'Neill CVI, has created a way to reduce water consumption in the home by filtering shower water and using it to flush toilets.

Yin took part in the science fair at UOIT, winning first place in Intermediate Biology Science for the water filter he created.

He says the water filtration project is based on the idea of recycling used water to reduce the total residential water consumption

"It's a filter system built to filter

water," he says.

Yin started planning the project after attending an Environmental Day at UOIT in November 2006.

As part of the Youth Science Foundation first year science promotion program, the university encouraged the students to submit a proposal addressing environmental issues.

"My project was recognized as one of the best projects at the science fair,"

Simon Yin

cial awards – one from the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the other from UOIT.

"Since water shortage is a big environmental problem, I decided to submit a proposal regarding how to reduce residential water consumption," Yin says. "My project was recognized as one of the best project at the science fair."

In addition to winning his first place award in his division, he also won two special awards – one from the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the other from UOIT.



Above: Simon Yin placed first in his division at a recent science fair for creating a filtration system to conserve water consumption in a home.

Below: This poster describing the project was on display along with Simon Yin's filtration system.

UOIT
CHALLENGE INNOVATE CONNECT

UTILIZING GREY WATER AND ASSOCIATED FILTER TREATMENT
Simon Yin¹
Mentors: Catherine Hunter² and Laura Benninger²
O'Neill CVI¹, University of Ontario Institute of Technology²

Abstract

Grey water is used residential water that could be reused for toilet flushing and gardening. Many sources of grey water include bath/shower, hand basins, laundry, washing machines, dishwashers, and showers. Grey water has already been used broadly around the world. The two major advantages of using grey water includes reducing the fresh water consumption and the amount of waste water going into the sewer system.

The key challenge of this project is to design a filter system that would purify the bath water entering the system. Different materials would be used to eliminate various substances in the bath water.

Four 2L and 4 water bottles were used to build the filter tanks. Ammoniumchloride, activated carbon, Electrostatic Ju & Dust Filter, Cheese Cloth, Hummer Evaporator Pad, and fine sand were used to build filters. The 4 tanks were connected with rubber tubing. Bath water was put through the system to test the result.

The clarity of the bath water was improved significantly. Visible materials such as hair appear to filter product.

The filter system was successful in cleaning bath water. A filter could be put into to ordinary residential use in Oshawa and help reduce the water consumption. Grey water filtering is going to be the part of the sustainable development in the future.

Introduction

Grey water is by definition water from bath/shower, hand basins, laundry, washing machines, dishwashers, and showers. Grey water has been used widely around the world as part of sustainable development. There are two "in" water consumption, and it reduces the amount of wastewater going into sewer system. Residential grey water use focus mainly on gardening and toilet flushing. There are many water sources in a home, but not all of these sources produce water suitable for second use. The primary goal of this project is to design a filter that would perform the job of purify bath water to an acceptable level, which clearly means that the filtered water need to be free of odors and visible obstacles such as hair and dirt and it must be clear, so that the concentration must be low enough to cause the most healthy. In addition, the cost of the filter is kept as low as possible to ensure that it could be publicly distributed with a minimum cost.

Methods

Apparatus: Four 2L pop bottles, four 500-mL water bottles, Rubber Tubing, sealant, adhesive, Aqua Clear[®] Ammoniumchloride, activated carbon, Electrostatic Ju & Dust Filter, Cheese Cloth, Hummer Evaporator Pad, and fine sand.

Materials: Bath Water

Procedure:

1. Drill a hole 7.5cm from the bottom of each 2-L pop bottle
2. Cut the 2-L bottles
3. Cut each 500-mL water bottle from the bottom
4. Cut a hole 1cm down the top section of each 500-mL bottle
5. Insert the top sections (upside down) of the 500-mL bottles on top of the 2-L bottles
6. Cut out three rubber tubes of 20cm
7. Insert the rubber tubes 0.5cm into the 2-L bottles and the 500-mL bottles through the drilled holes
8. Appropriately and seal all connection ports with the adhesive and the sealant
9. Cut out two round Hummer Evaporator Pad of diameter 6cm and put them on top of each other into one of the filter tanks (diagram 1)
10. Put the Ammoniumchloride, the fine sand, and the activated carbon each in a little round bag (diagram 2)
11. Put these three bags into the other three filter tanks
12. Run the bath water from the top and test the result.

The Proposed Filter System

Diagram 2: Filter bag made of air and dust filter

Results

Diagram 3: The filter bag made from a 2-L pop bottle and a 500-mL water bottle

Diagram 4: The bath water becomes clearer as it goes down each filter. The filtered water is much clearer than the unfiltered bath water. The appearance of the filter is very obvious. There are no suspended particles in the filtered water and hair is stopped in the first stage by the Hummer Evaporator Pad. The product is also free of odor. Generally, the result is satisfactory.

Conclusion

This grey water system could be applied publicly. It is not complicated at all to build and the quality of purifying bath water is satisfactory. Hopefully this system could be installed in every house in Oshawa and help reduce residential water consumption.

I have learned a lot from this project. One of the most useful things I have gained is the process of conducting independent science research. The first step is to research for related works that are done by other people and learn from them. The next step is to design my own experiment of product. The third step is to test the product and modify it so it would meet the expected requirements. The last step is to conclude the research with a complete report so other people could benefit from the experiment. And if possible, one extra step could be added in the end, which is how to put the product into massive production.

I hope in the future, the filter system could be improved based on more. It might be more powerful and the grey water come out of it could be used not only to flush toilets, but also be used for other purposes such as gardening, washing clothes, bathing or even drinking and cooling. A great amount of water would be saved if this becomes possible and there will be much less stress put on our environment.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my mentor who helped me a lot during the research. Also I would like to thank the student mentors, Laura Benninger, and Catherine Louise Hunter who helped me along the way. My appreciation also goes to Mr. Field, my science teacher at O'Neill, who helped me with advices and equipments. Without their help, I would not have been able to come this far.

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The Oshawa Express

APRIL 25 2007



Photo by Jessica Verge/The Oshawa Express

Grease is the word

Julia Segal and Connor Schauffler (seated in the car, from left) take a ride as Rizzo and Kenicki in Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School's production of Grease. The play opens this Friday at the school, 700 Stevenson Rd. N. For ticket information, call 905-723-5255.

Halifax rockers come to Oshawa

A celebrated Halifax independent rock duo is bringing their unique sound to Oshawa this month.

Hailing from Nova Scotia, The Superfantastics are touring Eastern Canada to promote their debut full-length album, Pop-Up Book. They'll stop in Oshawa at The Velvet Elvis on April 27.

Comprised of guitarist Matt MacDonald and drummer Stephanie

d'Entremont, who share the job of vocalist, The Superfantastics offer a mix of melodic pop, gritty rock and country folk.

They've been rated one of the best new local artists by Halifax's Coast magazine and also won the title of best merchandise thanks to their '80s-style slap bracelets, hand-made by d'Entremont.

For more information about the band, visit www.thesuperfantastics.com.

Have a laugh for Oshawa health care

A local organization is offering a night of comedy for a good cause.

The Oshawa Community Health Centre is holding a comedy night and dance fundraiser on May 25 at the CAW Local 222 union hall, 1425 Phillip Murray Ave.

The event will feature Yuk Yuk's comedians Gerry Dee and Chuck

Byrn plus door prizes, raffle tickets, table snacks, a light evening buffet and a DJ and dancing until 1 a.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$224 for a table of eight.

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Heather Chalmers at 905-723-0036 ext. 239 or visit www.ochc.ca.

EXPRESS Around Town

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Live entertainment this Saturday, 9:30 p.m.
Every Sunday open stage with Glen Bensley, 8 p.m. until midnight - 15 Simcoe St. N. Call 905-576-6139.

Wed April 25

Effective Communication: More Than Just Words
- The New Globe Restaurant, 60 Athol St. E. Todd Skinner, CEO of the Growth Coach will speak at this monthly meeting of the Durham Business and Professional Women's Club. Networking begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$30. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Joan Ann at 905-725-9179 or email bpwdurham@netscape.net.

Tues May 1

The Durham Trillium Quilters' Guild presents Karen McCleary - Durham District School Board, 400 Taunton Rd. E. in Whitby. The guild will welcome Karen McCleary, a quilting teacher who has led classes at various quilt guilds, quilting shops and the Creative Sewing Festival. There will also be a mem-

ber show and tell, and light refreshments. The meeting is open to the public. 7:30 p.m. Call Dolores Hopps at 905-720-1811 or Anne Murray at 905-576-7833.

Wed May 2

Spring Turkey Dinner - Harmony United Church, 15 Harmony Rd. N. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under. 6 p.m. Call 905-725-8463 for tickets.

Sun May 6

Chocolate Lovers Luncheon - Holiday Inn Oshawa. The Alzheimer Society of Durham Region is hosting this all-you-can-eat dessert buffet to raise funds for their organization. The luncheon will also feature a fashion show by Finishing Touch by Nancy and singer Meredith Cutting. Tickets are \$50. Call 905-576-2567 or visit www.alzheimerdurham.com.

Grief Support Group - Mount Lawn Memorial Gardens, 21 Garrard Rd. at Hwy. 2 in Whitby. Held the first Sunday of every month for those currently experiencing grief or wishing to support a loved one through a difficult time. Attend once or often. No cost, no obligation. 2:30 p.m. RSVP recommended. Call 905-665-0600 or visit them online at www.mount-lawn.ca.

Sun May 13

Richard Lloyd and Edgar Breau with special guests The Bonus Numbers - The Velvet Elvis, 221 King St. E. \$10. Doors open at 8 p.m. Call 905-433-1866.

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Susie Shopper

The Oshawa Express knows how busy a household gets with feeding children, helping with homework and taking them to their after-school sports. We've enlisted the help of an Oshawa resident Susan Bocale who is married with four children, works full time and is a volunteer in her community. Not only is her time stretched, but the family bank account is too! She'll advise you on the best buys of the week, as well as a few helpful tips for the home.



Independent Grocer

Hothouse Red, Yellow or Orange Peppers - \$1.49/lb
 Pork Loin Chops - \$1.49/lb
 Fresh Tilapia Fillets - \$6.99/lb
 Habitant Soup - 99¢
 Coke, Pepsi - 3/\$10

A&P

Perfect Pork Loin Chops or Roast - \$2.99/lb
 Salmon Fillets - \$3.99 each
 Extra Large Hot House Tomatoes - 99¢/lb
 Fresh Chicken Thighs and Drumsticks - \$1.49/lb
 Kraft Delissio Rising Crust Pizza - \$4.44

Food Basics

Stouffer's Pastaria - 97¢
 Nestle Spring Water - \$3.77
 Lean Ground Beef - \$1.49/lb
 Red Crimson Grapes - 95¢/lb

Zellers

Habitant Soup - 97¢
 Nestle Water - \$2.47
 Crest Toothpaste - 39¢

Loblaws

English Cucumbers - 79¢
 Seasoned Pork Tenderloin - \$2.99/lb
 Fresh Atlantic Salmon Portions - \$2.99
 Campbell's Soup - 2/99¢
 Coke, Pepsi - 3/\$10

Real Canadian Superstore

Coke, Diet Coke - \$3.99
 Seasoned, Boneless, Skinless Chicken

Breasts - \$2.44/lb

Sobeys

Green Asparagus - \$1.47/lb
 Pork Loin Combo Chops - \$1.49/lb
 Maple Leaf Prime Value Pack Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts - \$5.99/lb

Shopping the day sales can be frustrating, both because line-ups are usually long and sometimes sale items are sold out quickly. Pick a day mid-week when the line-ups have usually subsided and stock has been replenished.

Tip of the Week: It only takes a little bit of baking soda and water to keep silverware in top notch. To polish tarnished silverware quickly and easily, place tin foil in the bottom of the sink, folding the edges to make it resemble a baking sheet. Add baking soda and a little bit of water. Soak the silverware in the mixture for a couple of minutes or until it becomes clean. Rinse off the baking soda in water afterward.

If you have a tip you'd like to share, send it to Susan at The Oshawa Express, news@oshawaexpress.ca.

Advertorial

Tips for a Healthy Lawn

Warm weather is on its way. Here's how to keep your lawn in great shape as the temperature rises.

Mowing

- Weekly mowing is essential as by mowing regularly less of the grass blades are removed each cut so as not to shock the lawn. Also raise the cutting height as the temperature rises to avoid the lawn drying out. Sharpen blades regularly and bag the clippings during times of heavy growth and mulch to avoid thatch buildup. By doing this the lawn will be thick and healthy.

Watering Recommendations

- Water early! Watering early in the morning means less water is lost to evaporation. Avoid watering at night, as the lawn remains wet for a long period of time, which can increase the incidence of fungal disease.

- Water 2.5 cm (1 inch) per week including rainfall. A lot of people over water but experts agree that you only need 2.5 cm of water including rainfall to maintain a healthy vibrant lawn. Watch the weather and use a rain gauge or cup to measure how much water your lawn has received. Free rain gauges are available from most municipalities.

- Water less frequently and for longer periods of time. This will reduce the risk of lawn disease, encourage deeper lawn roots and reduce the ideal growing conditions for most weeds. Try to water twice a week using a sprinkler that allows the lawn to slowly soak up the water.

- Don't forget to water garden plants and new trees as well. Hand watering works best for gardens and planters while new trees need the equivalent of two buckets of water each week. Applying mulch to gardens is an excellent way to stop the soil from drying out between watering as it helps avoid evaporation.



- If you have an in ground sprinkler make sure it is set to water just before dawn and don't have it come on every day, only once or twice a week. Also make sure the heads are aimed correctly to avoid wasting water on driveways or the road.

Courtesy of The Gardener
www.thegardener.com

Soapbox car revs up for AutoFest 2007

The Oshawa Express soapbox car for AutoFest 2007 is well under way as carriers and local supporters are preparing for the Motor City Car Club's big race.

Oshawa Express carriers Cody Ryall and Spencer Northcott, along with the help of Barry Lennox from Re/Max First Realty and Motor City Car Club member Rick Seeley, have been building a soapbox car to enter into the derby at this year's 14th annual AutoFest 2007 to be held in August at Lakeview Park in Oshawa.

"I am proud to be a member of the Motor City Car Club," says Rick Seeley. He adds that the club is not only about cars, but also about our community.

The Oshawa Express, the newspaper of record for the event, is charged with building a soapbox car and racing in the derby, among other tasks such as promotions.

"I'm very excited to be involved in The Oshawa Express pit crew for the soap box derby in the upcoming race at AutoFest," says Northcott. "I'm so glad I was invited to be a part of this racing team in August."

The Oshawa Express derby car will also be on display at the AutoFest show.

"Coming into this project, I was thinking it was going to be all work and no fun but then we started putting it together like a puzzle," says Ryall. "My favourite part of the car is that we get the chance to choose the design for it," he adds.

As the leading newspaper and a major sponsor for AutoFest 2007, The Oshawa Express will provide a host of other goodies for the three-day event, which runs from Aug 23 to 26.

AutoFest, hosted by the Motor City Car Club, showcases pre 1976 high performance automobiles including hot rods, antiques, muscle and classic cars and trucks from all over North America.

All proceeds from the event are either donated in cash or to be used for hospital equipment at the Grandview Children's Centre.

The show will see about 1600 to 1700 vehicles and about 30,000 car enthusiasts over the three days.



From left, Oshawa Express carriers Cody Ryall and Spencer Northcott get to work putting the frame of the soapbox car together.



From left, Cody Ryall, car club member Rick Seeley, Spencer Northcott and Cody's dad Randy Ryall continue work on the first stage of building the car while Oshawa Express advertising director Kim Boatman looks on.



Spencer Northcott works on the second stage of soapbox car building while Cody Ryall, background, left, and Rick Seeley's son Matthew look on.

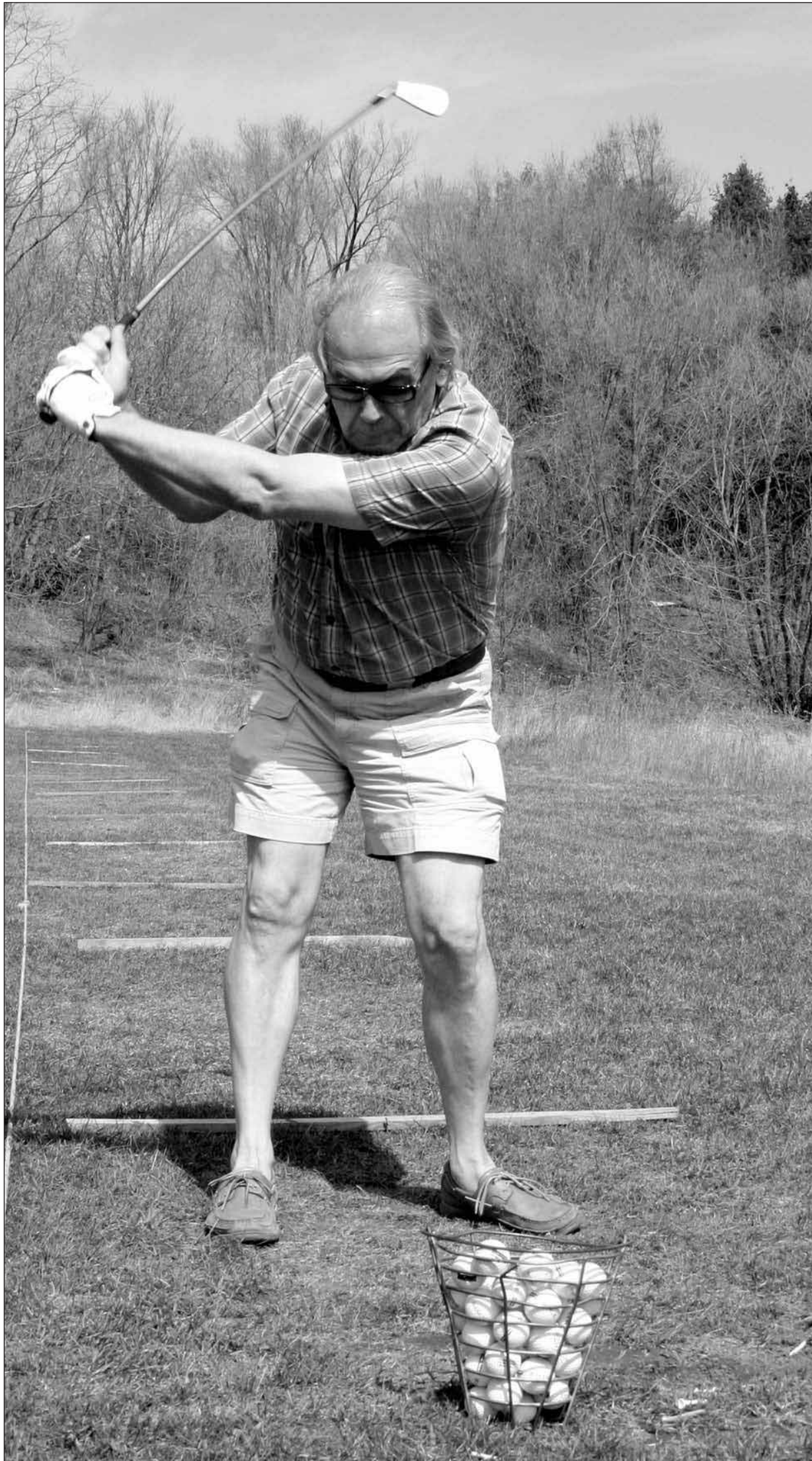


Photo by Courtney Duffett/*The Oshawa Express*

Gone golfing

Gord Wylie is happy golfing season is finally here. He just started practising this weekend and wanted to get some shots in at Oshawa Creek Family Golf before hitting the course. He's been golfing for about 50 years and says it's relaxing. He's happy that his wife will be taking up golf this year and hopes to get out on the course with her a couple times.

Coach, athlete head to OCAA Hall of Fame

An Oshawa coach and athlete will be inducted into the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

They are a part of 26 coaches, athletes and builders that are being recognized this year.

The OCAA Hall of Fame is dedicated to the recognition of extraordinary contributions and accomplishments within collegiate sports in Ontario. Honoured members include athletes, coaches and builders of the association.

The 26 athletes are made up of six coaches and five builders will be recognized in the third OCAA Hall of Fame Ceremony on May 2 including two from Durham College - Leslie Pellerin (Seeley), athlete, and

Gerry Pettit, coach.

Other schools include Algonquin, Cambrian, Centennial, Confederation, Georgian, Humber, Lambton, Loyalist, Mohawk, Sheridan, Redeemer, St. Clair, Seneca, Fleming, Niagara, Fanshawe and OCAA builders Dough Gellatly and Loretta McKenzie.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, this year's OCAA Male and Female Athletes of the Year will be honoured at the ceremony.

For more information on an inductee or the event itself, call OCAA Marketing and Communications Coordinator Scott Dennis at 416-426-7041 or visit www.ocaa.com.

Dodgers hosting barbeque event

The Oshawa Dodgers are kicking off the baseball season with a barbeque.

The event is in support of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation on May 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For a minimum donation of \$2.50, guests will receive a hamburger or hot dog, drink, and a bag of chips.

The money raised will be used to support medical research to find the cure for the more than 170,000 Canadians suffering from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Dodgers player Matt Tosoni suffers from ulcerative colitis, making this cause very special to the organization.

The majority of the team will be on-hand volunteering.

In addition, this year's home opener is May 20, also being known as Troy May Memorial

Day, when the Oshawa Dodgers will be retiring Troy May's No. 20 at Kinsmen Stadium.

Paul Quantrill will be on hand to throw out the first pitch.

The Durham Police band The Heat will be providing musical entertainment and a ceremony dedicated to May with special guest speakers.

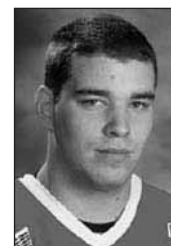
The fundraiser on May 12 will be at the new M&M location in Oshawa at the corner of Harmony Road and Taunton Road.



Hockey team grows



Derrick Bagshaw



Justin Allen

The UOIT Ridgebacks have welcomed two more members to the men's hockey team for next season.

Derrick Bagshaw, currently playing in the OHL with the Erie Otters, will be joining the team as a defenceman.

And Justin Allen will be joining the team as a right

winger.

"For the athletes, playing for the Ridgebacks in the first ever season next fall is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said head coach Marlin Muylaert. "Very few athletes will be able to say they were the first to ever wear the varsity jersey. These athletes are a part of UOIT's quest to bring a championship home to UOIT and the Durham Region."

The Ridgebacks will be playing out of the Campus Ice Centre, the new NHL twin pad ice arena on campus.

The ice center has a capacity for about 750 fans in addition to a great view of the games from Shagwell's Restaurant, which looks over both rinks.

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April 18th Word Jumble Answers

sine	spine	pone	ness
snip	peon	ponies	noes
snipe	peso	pons	noesis
sone	pine	pose	noise
spies	pion	posies	nose
spin	poise	posse	open

April 18th Crossword Answers

S	A	M	P	L	E	D	E	B	B	E	D	C	A	P	S	A	M	
P	U	E	R	I	L	E	C	R	A	F	T	A	P	O	S	T	L	E
O	T	T	O	M	A	N	H	O	S	T	S	T	O	P	H	A	T	S
T	O	O	M	A	N	C	O	O	K	S	A	L	L	U	R	I	E	S
S	O	O	R	I	C	E	M	I	L	L	I	N	E	R	Y			
T	O	O	M	U	C	H	T	O	O	S	O	O	N					
A	P	P	E	N	D	I	X	K	U	N	G	E	A	R	S			
C	O	Y	C	A	L	C	L	A	R	E	T	F	A	T	C	A	T	
D	U	L	L	E	S	S	H	E	B	A	K	A	C	H	I	N	A	
C	R	E	E	I	N	A	N	E	A	V	A	I	L	D	I	T		
T	O	O	G	O	O	D	T	O	B	E	T	R	U	E				
A	N	A	P	L	O	W	S	T	O	N	T	O	C	U	S	S		
C	O	R	S	A	I	R	F	E	Z	E	S	T	R	O	P	H	Y	
A	I	E	L	L	O	S	P	I	D	E	R	U	R	I	T	O	N	
D	R	A	Y	B	A	R	A	T	R	O	L	L	O	P	E			
T	O	O	H	O	T	T	O	H	A	N	D	L	E					
A	R	C	H	I	B	A	L	D	O	T	I	C	A	B	S			
M	A	H	O	M	E	T	T	O	O	T	O	D	I	V	I	N	E	
E	V	I	L	E	Y	E	S	A	B	O	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	D
B	E	V	E	L	E	R	S	T	A	L	E	C	R	A	N	K	E	D
A	D	E	Y	D	S	N	A	D	E	R	S	E	N	S	O	R	Y	

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McRAE, Reta F. (Hooper)

Entered into eternal rest at Extencicare, Oshawa on Saturday April 21, 2007. She was predeceased by husband Chris and son Mike. Survived by daughter Patty and husband Don, grandchildren Michele (Gord) and Mike (Donna) and by 3 great grandchildren Sarah, Ryan and Trevor. Survived by two brothers Stanley and Harold Hooper and predeceased by Jack, Charles, Austin, Cecil, Walter and George. Reta will also be greatly missed by her many nieces and nephews and her special friend Lynda. Relatives and friends payed their respects at McINTOSH-ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME, 152 King Street East, Oshawa on Sunday. A service was held in the chapel on Monday April 23, 2007, interment Thornton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a donation in memory of Reta to a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

MORTON Erika Lynn

Suddenly, at her home in Oshawa on Sunday, April 15, 2007, Erika, (nee Schwarz). Loving mother of Joshua Morton. Dear daughter of Joseph and the late Gail Schwarz and loved sister of Brian and Tracey. Fondly remembered by Autumn, aunts, uncles and friends. Relatives and friends were received at the McINTOSH-ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME, 152 King St. E., Oshawa (905-433-5558) on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 and a service was held in the chapel. Interment Thornton Cemetery. Donations made in memory of Erika to Pinewood Centre, 300 Centre St. S., Oshawa, Ontario L1H 4B2, would be appreciated by her family.

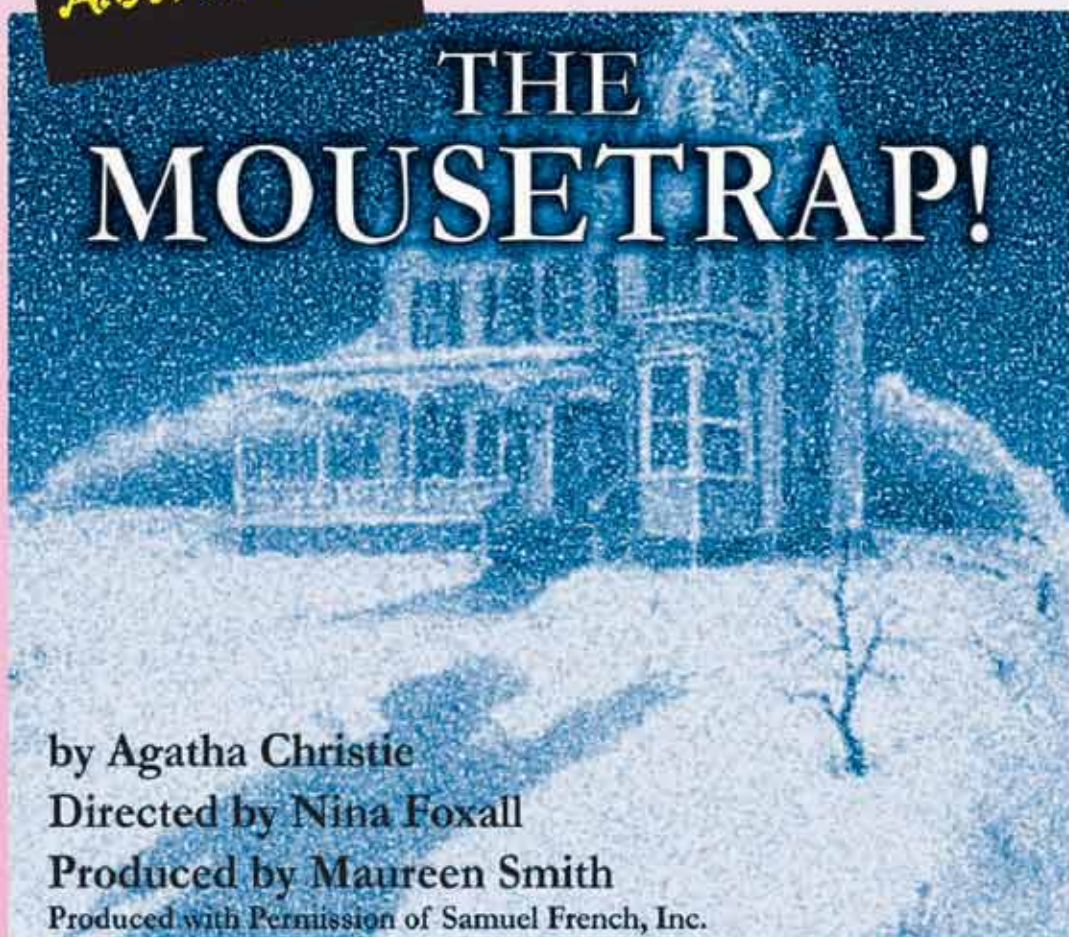


ROSNIK Lorraine Nellie

Peacefully, at Community Nursing Home, Port Perry, on Monday, April 23, 2007. Lorraine, in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Steve Rosnik. Loving mother of Sylvia Spiers (Bill) of Port Perry, Barbara Martin of Ajax, Beatrice Chapman (Bob) of Whitby, and the late Joyce Fry and Steve Rosnik. Survived by her daughter-in-law Brenda Rosnik. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Relatives and friends were received at the McINTOSH-ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME, 152 King St. E., Oshawa (905-433-5558) on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 and a service was held in the chapel. Interment Thornton Cemetery. Donations made in memory of Lorraine to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by her family.



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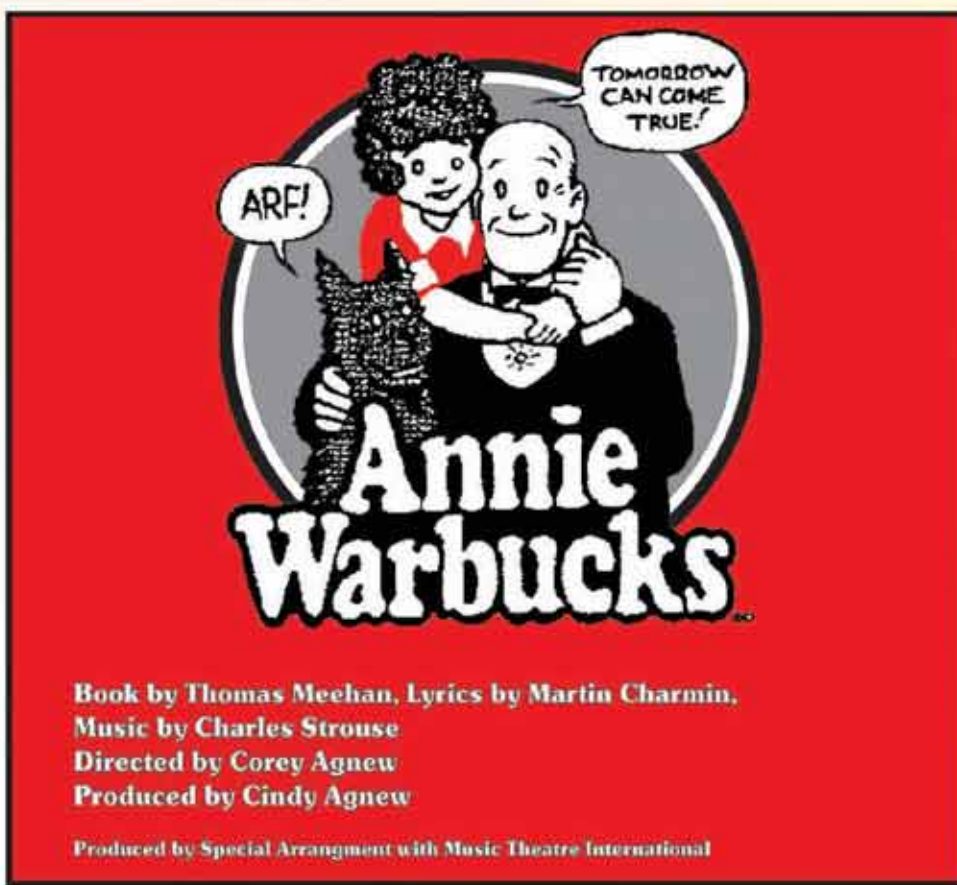
Tickets are \$18.00 and are available at the United Way Star Assist Kiosk at the Oshawa Centre or online at www.oshawalittletheatre.com

ANNIE WARBUCKS

May: 31, 2007

June: 1, 2, 3,
7, 8 and 9

Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the United Way Star Assist Kiosk at the Oshawa Centre or online at www.oshawalittletheatre.com



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Produced by Cindy Agnew

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