



Museum's triumphant Warhol exhibit — ARTS, E1

WATERLOO REGION RECORD

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SATURDAY,
JANUARY 10, 2009

SERVING KITCHENER, WATERLOO, CAMBRIDGE AND THE TOWNSHIPS

The **R**ecord.com

Jobless shock

Area unemployment rate jumps to highest level in 12 years

By Matt Walcott, Record staff

KITCHENER — You don't need to tell Josh Reinhardt that the local unemployment rate has spiked. The former Kitchener Frame Ltd. employee has been looking for a job for two weeks and he's ready to give up and move to Nova Scotia.

"Slow, pretty much non-existent," Reinhardt, 40, said yesterday when asked about job prospects. "Anything that's out there, what they're offering for a wage is not enough to feed a family or pay the mortgage."

Reinhardt, a Kitchener resident who worked at the former Budd Canada plant for 12 years, was checking out training opportunities at the Kitchener Frameworks job action centre for former employees.

The unemployment rate in the Kitchener census metropolitan area hit 7.7 per cent in December, up from 6.5 per cent in November, according to figures released yesterday by Statistics Canada. Not since 1996 has such a large portion of the local workforce been out of a job.

► **Jobless** continued on page A2

The area's employment picture



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Unemployed Kitchener Frame worker Jamie Ryan talks about his options with counsellor Marcy Moore at Kitchener's Frameworks Action Centre.

7.7% Jobless rate in area (Dec. '08)	6.6% National jobless rate (Dec. '08)	21,700 Jobless in this area (Dec. '08)	7,400 Jobless in this area (Dec. '07)
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In 2008, these companies closed area plants:

- Kitchener Frame
- Cambridge Stampings Inc.
- Ledco Ltd.
- Pittsburgh Glass Works
- International Automotive Components

Shrinking pension funds may keep many at work longer

By Rose Simone, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — Goodbye freedom 55. Hello freedom 71?

Faced with shrinking pension funds, many people will work longer than they anticipated, according to academics, business and union representatives in Waterloo Region.

Joan Fisk, president of the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, said many companies and institutions are faced with having to pour millions into topping up pension plans just when the economy is going sour and they can least afford it.

"It's a huge issue now, and I think it will continue to bubble up even more," Fisk said.

Many companies plan to phase out defined benefit pension plans altogether, she said.

► **Pensions** continued on page A6

WEEKEND EDITION

WORLD

Pirates get \$3M for oil tanker

Pirates give up Saudi oil-laden supertanker after receiving \$3 million US. **World, A8**

PERSPECTIVES

Parish nurses offer vital service

Unique positions focus on the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of aging seniors. **News, A12**

LOCAL

Regional police foil thieves

Trio of 'sophisticated' crooks fooled shop's security sensors with tinfoil. **Local, B1**

SPORTS

Local athletes head south of the border

Area teens accept offers from schools statewide to follow their dreams of playing in the big leagues. **Sports, C7**

ETCETERA

Doon Village legacy lives on

Amid the urban sprawl, a historic community is fiercely protective of its heritage. **Etc, D3**

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\$1.65 PLUS HIGHER OUTSIDE THE REGION
GST=\$1.73

Police widen Pigeon King probe

By Chuck Howitt, Record staff

WATERLOO — Waterloo Regional Police and the RCMP have widened their investigation into a Waterloo-based pigeon-breeding scheme that left hundreds of investors with losses totalling as much as \$40 million.

Four officers — two from each force — are now working on the case full time to determine whether fraud charges

should be laid against Pigeon King International and its owner, Arlan Galbraith.

One officer from each service began conducting a review of the case in June last year, when Pigeon King International declared bankruptcy.

"We've now determined that we want to gather evidence to determine whether charges should be laid, so we've both kicked in one more (officer) to expedite things," said Staff Sgt. Wally Hogg of

the regional police.

The investigation is being headed by Hogg and Sgt. Paul Thompson of the local RCMP detachment. Hogg said the investigation may include breeders in the United States although officers still have to determine the legalities of such matters and whether to enlist the help of police south of the border.

► **Pigeon King** continued on page A2

OPP officers' hats get modern makeover

By Melinda Dalton, Record staff

CAMBRIDGE — Ontario Provincial Police cruisers had already gone retro. Now, the OPP headgear has switched.

Beginning yesterday, officers stopped wearing the wide-brimmed Stetson-style hat that has been part of the uniform since 1997. In its place is the peaked cap traditionally worn by most police forces.

► **Hats** continued on page A6

