



dpickles@pickering.ca
davidpickles.com

YOUR COUNCILLORS WORKING FOR YOU!
Our Ward 3 Newsletter • Winter/Holiday 2021



sbutt@pickering.ca
buttw3.com

905.420.4605

COVID-19 UPDATE

The roll out for Vaccine Booster Shots and for vaccinations for Children 5-12 in Durham Region has started. Visit [durham.ca/covidvaccines](https://www.durham.ca/covidvaccines) for the most updated priority groups and to view the Region's Data Tracker.

On November 3, 2021 the Ministry of Health expanded third dose eligibility to most at risk of serious illness from the virus. Individuals can **obtain an enhanced vaccine certificate with scannable QR code**.

Durham Region residents who meet **current eligibility requirements** can book an appointment at a community immunization clinic. Walk-ins will be accepted for first dose clients only. All individuals requiring second and third doses must book an appointment. You can view locations and updates here:

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/novel-coronavirus-update.aspx>

Ontario will slowly and incrementally lift all remaining public health and workplace safety measures, including the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination and wearing of face coverings in indoor public settings. This phased approach will be guided by the ongoing assessment and monitoring of key public health and health care indicators, such as the identification of any new COVID-19 variants, increases in hospitalizations and ICU occupancy and rapid increases in transmission to ensure that public health and workplace safety measures are lifted safely.



**ONTARIO EXTENDS
COVID-19
BOOSTER SHOTS
TO THOSE 50 AND
OLDER**

Ontario is opening COVID-19 booster shots to people over 50 in time for holiday socializing — and to head off the new Omicron variant. Those 50 and older can begin booking and getting their boosters starting Dec. 13 providing they are 168 days beyond their second dose. Please visit [durham.ca/covidvaccines](https://www.durham.ca/covidvaccines) for the most updated priority groups. All previous newsletters are posted at [davidpickles.com](https://www.davidpickles.com), including roles and responsibilities of different levels of government.



Season's Greeting!
COUNCILLORS' MESSAGE

It's that time of year again when we enjoy gathering with family and friends to celebrate the season. We celebrate in a variety of ways according to our own faiths and traditions.

This holiday season, let us all reach out to those around us. Let us look for those who might need that extra helping hand or just a smile.

We wish you all a time of peace, merriment, relaxation and joy this holiday season!



STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE CONCERNS OF PICKERING AND DURHAM REGION!

Seniors Update - Young at Heart

We are creating new activities and programs for all residents including seniors, as we all want to be as active and engaged as possible. We have many unique programs such as cooking, fit fusion 55+, guitar and pickleball geared to seniors. We are completing major renovations at Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Centre and have done many small but important improvements and are continuing with street amenities like the addition of benches, tables, gardens that we have seen many enjoying and public art in Esplanade Park. Visit <https://www.pickering.ca/en/city-hall/NewsletterArchive.aspx> for our



55+ Aging Well Together Newsletter for information on free weekly phone-in programs, free fitness programs, trivia and more.

Although, due to COVID-19 we have missed the many get-togethers and interactions we have with our active seniors. We have still been pleased to have many informal chats often outdoors in parks, like our much enjoyed Esplanade Park at City Hall. We look forward to returning to our normal environment and interacting with all of our young at heart seniors.

We are also excited about the new Senior's and Youth Centre at the new City Centre that will feature a wide variety of amenities and programs for all ages. We were personally pleased to support the next steps for the new Senior's and Youth Centre at our recent Council meeting. It is a proposed 65,000 square foot, two story building designed for active and passive participation for all ages. The proposed seniors' services will include programs, classes, games, events and workshops for a diverse range of skills and interests in the field of sport, recreation, leisure and art, specifically designed for the 55+ age group. Programming will include pickleball, badminton and walking basketball, fitness programs, dance programs, technology programs, social activities and art classes in a brand new arts studio. Our proposed new Performing Arts Centre and Central Library are located adjacent.

Pickleball Anyone!

Pickleball has been of growing interest. You can play indoors at Eastshore Community Centre and George Ashe Library and Community Centre. Outdoor courts are available at Village East, Rick Hull Memorial Park, Claremont Memorial Park, and Amberlea Park. We have personally worked with pickleball representatives and staff to create additional indoor play in the Banquet Hall at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Centre when renovations are complete in the new year as well as at the Senior's and Youth Centre when completed. New outdoor courts will also be incorporated in new parks in Seaton and Duffin Heights as they are developed. We are exploring more opportunities, for further information please visit <https://www.pickering.ca/en/living/pickleball.aspx>.



New Pickering Long-Term Care Home

Plans are advancing on a proposed new Durham Region owned and operated 200-bed long-term care home in Pickering. This is part of the Ontario Government's commitment to add 30,000 new long-term care beds in the next decade.

The Region's application for a new long-term care home to be located in Seaton, along Whitevale Road West of Brock Road, in Pickering was accepted. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will allocate 200 long-term care beds to the Regional Municipality of Durham subject to the approval of the project and meeting all the conditions set out in the Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007 with respect to licencing and operation of the beds and other conditions stipulated by the Ministry along with final project approval from Regional Council. The design application considered the challenges associated with an aging population that can be difficult to place and has been refined as part of the business case to reflect construction cost escalations, changes in infection prevention and control (IPAC) and other standards resulting from the pandemic and design changes for measures to reduce operational carbon emissions through enhanced energy efficiency that were not reflected in the original plan. Discussions are continuing with the Ontario government on funding.

In Durham Region, there are 19 long-term care homes, of which 4 are Region of Durham municipal homes, 2 are non-profit/charitable homes, and 13 are for-profit (although Sunnycrest is now being managed by Lakeridge Health).

Pickering Cycling

Many of us enjoy travelling in and exploring the City on our bikes. Cycling brings a different perspective to the City by taking trails, parks and roads. The City approved its new Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP) which addresses Active Transportation, including upgrading the existing cycling network. Staff have proposed a 2022 Budget line item to begin the process of upgrading cycling facilities to meet current standards. The target area for 2022 will be the Waterfront Trail system (approx. 11.5 kms from Toronto to Ajax) and next should be the City Centre. The intent is to improve the cycling experience with; better signage, identifying cycling lanes with additional line markings as required, and safer intersection crossings for cyclists with the installation of crossrides. See you on the trail!

Update: Anti-Black Racism in Pickering

The Pickering Anti-Black Racism Taskforce works in partnership with the City of Pickering, residents, service providers, businesses and other stakeholders to enhance the shared experience of diverse Black communities in Pickering through initiatives that promote civic engagement, education, employment, health, justice, inclusive governance, and youth engagement. Following the release and endorsement of the PABRT's work plan in September 2021, three community initiatives were successfully implement in fulfillment of its mandate.

As part of the City's Culture Days program, PABRT hosted two outdoor community events. The "Soca Wellness Social" on October 2nd integrated three wellness styles—Caribbean dance, High Intensity Interval Training, and Yoga-based guided meditation—to create a holistic wellness program that promotes health and wellness. This event was followed by "Music: A Ray of Hope" on October 9th, featuring a diverse lineup of performers to bring live entertainment to the Pickering community. Performances included steel pan soloists, the Dance Caribe Dance program and an ASL sign language performance.

Most recently, the PABRT successfully hosted "416 Meets 905", a youth-focused open mic night in collaboration with Shakkoi, Pickering-based poet, author and self-expression coach, and R.I.S.E. (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere), an award-winning, grassroots organization dedicated to empowering Black youth. During this event, local youth showcased their talents through song, dance, and poetry to a peer-based community audience. The event was the first of its kind to be hosted in Durham Region and helped to create safe and inclusive platform for youth expression rooted in self-knowledge and self-reflection and youth engagement.

Looking forward, the PABRT is focused on growing the taskforce with applications for new members due on December 17, 2021. More information is available on: pabrt.ca

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