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YOUR COUNCILLORS WORKING FOR YOU!

Our Ward 3 Newsletter • Spring 2022

905.420.4605



Message from your Councillors

As we look forward to Spring and Summer, we also look forward to a more normal return to life following the toll COVID-19 has taken on many of our residents and businesses. We wish you all the joy of spending time with friends and families and venturing out to your favourite local venues. For the most up-to-date COVID-19 news in Durham Region, please visit: <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/novel-coronavirus-update.aspx>.

In the 2022 budget, Pickering had the lowest tax increase amongst Durham municipalities and second lowest budget levy increase in 20 years. We were able to create robust, responsible, community, and service improvements, and are delighted to share with you the community progress being made on your behalf.

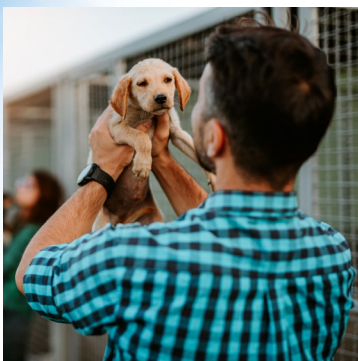
Welcoming New Residents

As your Council representatives we usually have many opportunities in Pickering to engage with residents, but COVID-19 has recently curtailed this. We welcome all new residents to the City, including those in our growing Brock Road, Seaton, Altona and Finch communities. We will continue to reach out to new residents and work on community elements such as parks, roads, recreational facilities and transit, which help complete new neighbourhoods. We hope to see you in-person soon, but you are always welcome to contact us with any comments or questions.



**WE
STAND
WITH THE
PEOPLE
OF
UKRAINE**

New Pickering Animal Shelter



Happy person adopting a puppy to join their new forever family

Many of us enjoy our pets and have an affinity for all animals. City staff are finalizing long-term lease details with Transport Canada to construct a new animal shelter on the lands adjacent to the current animal shelter located on Highway 7 in Brougham. The new animal shelter will incorporate specific spaces for nursing moms/orphaned kittens, group spaces to socialize cats, stimulating dog areas and runs, adoption rooms, rooms for education and training; and sustainable initiatives such as growing our own greens for the small animals. In the design process, City staff will propose the use of state-of-the-art building technology such as geothermal heating, solar power generation, a green roof and all-wood construction.

The City already partners with the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville to provide animal shelter services and is in discussions with other Durham municipalities to investigate additional agreements for providing animal shelter partnerships.

Accessible Parks & Playgrounds

In 2022, we are improving 4 parks in the City to accommodate accessibility needs including, Southcott Park which is adjacent to St. Wilfrid Catholic School. Additionally, the replacement of equipment and safety surface installation (engineered wood chips) in Valleyview Park beside Westcreek Public School will take place. The play equipment will meet accessibility standards and maintain some ground level accessible components.

Some of the works will include equipment replacement to meet the *Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act (AODA)* standards, rubberized safety surfacing, curb replacements where required to achieve accessible access, and other site improvements for accessibility needs.

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

Our Evolving City

As many residents are aware, there are provincial policies that guide development in growing urban centres close to transit, such as Pickering. Change occurs as a result of societal factors such as aging population, sustainability, housing market conditions, and employment. The Provincial government has designated Pickering as an urban growth centre, and directs cities on matters such as population growth, density, intensification, and transit improvements. The City incorporates these requirements and consults with residents to get your input and comments as we develop our community planning initiatives and review development applications.



Councillor Butt on the Sixth Concession Greenwood with the east section completed and the west section approved for construction.



Councillors Pickles and Butt touring the recently renovated Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre.

Landowners have the right to submit development applications. The City is required, under Provincial law, to undertake a rigorous review process to determine if a proposed project is permissible. Residents have an opportunity to provide input at all stages that require Council approval. There are active applications with intensification and urbanization proposed along Kingston Road, as well as our City Centre.

With any development in these areas, we request mixed use – residential zoning to have an overall downtown theme, which would allow for jobs, retail and services, and a walkable transit-focused community. Such development projects would be phased-in over many years. We look forward to continually receiving your input as we consider development applications.

It is important for residents to get accurate information on planning policies, planning processes, and specific development applications. For user friendly information on planning policies and processes, please visit <https://letstalkpickering.ca/Development>. For information on current development proposals, and information on past and upcoming public consultation meetings, please visit: <https://www.pickering.ca/en/business/developmentprocess.aspx>

Seniors - Facilities and Programs

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 geared to seniors such as cooking, fit fusion 55+, guitar, and pickleball. We have completed major renovations including significant improvements at the Chestnut Hill Development Recreation Complex. Continued advancements with street amenities like the addition of benches, tables, gardens, and public art have been enjoyed by many at Esplanade Park. Visit <https://www.pickering.ca/en/city-hall/NewsletterArchive.aspx> for our 55+ Aging Well Together Newsletter for more information on free weekly phone-in programs, free fitness programs, trivia and more.

With COVID-19 reducing the amount of get-togethers and interactions with our active seniors, we have still been able to enjoy many informal chats together. These have often taken place at outdoor amenity spaces; such as the treasured Esplanade Park located at City Hall. We look forward to returning to our normal environment and interacting with all of our young-at-heart seniors. We hope to join you in the many scheduled events, programs and facilities. We are always up for a game of tennis, pickleball, lawn bowling, or any of the other available activities that are offered.

We hope you will join us for Artfest in Esplanade Park on May 28, June 4, and June 11 where you can enjoy browsing through an open-air market while experiencing the sights and sounds of artistic expressions. Looking forward to the summer months we are also excited that Summer Concerts are back in person for 2022 and will begin Sunday July 3. Sunday afternoon concerts will be held in Esplanade Park and Thursday evening concerts will be at Millennium Square. For a full list of dates and programs please visit <https://www.pickering.ca/en/discovering/festivals-events.aspx>

June is Seniors Month and staff are currently putting together a month of special programs and events. Be sure to check the website at <https://www.pickering.ca/en/adults-55-plus.aspx> for more information.

Supporting Local Businesses



Councillor Pickles with Rowan, Manager at recently opened Jabel Fine Foods.

We are big supporters of our local businesses; making regular visits, and calling both business and property owners. You may have seen our Facebook posts promoting our local businesses. Some plazas over time are being revitalized; while some are becoming more mixed-use, having a combination of both retail/commercial and housing. If you have followed the recent planning meetings you will be aware that Council approved requirements related to planning and redevelopment applications. This will ensure the protection of retail/commercial tenants to have the opportunity to be an essential element in our growing community. To learn more about the applications, please visit the City's website at <https://www.pickering.ca/en/city-hall/current-development-proposals.aspx>

Customer Care Centre

Many residents often ask who they should contact at the City with a question or concern. The City has a terrific Customer Care Centre. This is an excellent service and staff are very helpful, in either helping you directly or directing you to the appropriate contact. They are located on the main floor inside the front doors of City Hall and at the contacts below. Questions or Concerns? Connect with our Customer Care team, Monday to Friday (8:30 am - 4:30 pm), at 905.683.7575, customercare@pickering.ca or [pickering.ca/livechat](https://www.pickering.ca/livechat). Of course you are always welcome to contact us.

Social Media

Please ensure you get accurate advice on matters by using reliable government social media sources. Too often we are finding non-government social media sites are providing inaccurate advice and information on matters ranging from COVID-19 to municipal planning and development.

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