

# Reaching Out Across Ward 3



**David Pickles**  
Deputy Mayor, Regional Councillor - Ward 3

*In this newsletter, we bring you news about a few matters of interest in the City. We are interested in hearing your views. As with many of the residents I represent, my wife and I are raising a family, own a home, and pay a mortgage, home expenses, and property taxes. We too want a safe and vibrant community and value for our property taxes.*

*As my family celebrates Christmas, I hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season*

*according to the faith and tradition you celebrate. Visit [davidpickles.com](http://davidpickles.com) for other items of interest in the City.*



**Shaheen Butt**  
City Councillor - Ward 3

*This year, I have had the honour of serving the residents of the beautiful City of Pickering. I have met many residents and have listened to their concerns as well as their praise for the City we live and work in together. I am committed to continuing to work towards improving the quality of life for residents of all ages and to working with the City's diverse community to make our City the best place to live, work, and play!*

*I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season. May you all make wonderful memories as you spend time with your loved ones and may all your hopes and dreams be fulfilled.*

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## Please Drive Safely

A common concern we receive is traffic and pedestrian safety, including speeding. We want to remind you to think of our children and families and to drive safely. The maximum speed limit on all Pickering local and collector roads in residential areas is 40 km/h and is posted as such. All other roads are 50 km/h (and may not be posted), unless otherwise posted at a higher speed limit. Also, help keep our neighbourhoods safe by not drinking or being distracted by using electronic devices while driving.

## Keeping in Touch with You

We continue to reach out to you to hear your views through hard copy newsletters, eNewsletters, websites, email, attending community events, resident open houses, and coming door-to-door to many of your homes this year. Please feel free to contact us. Details above!



Councillor Butt joined the TRCA and City of Pickering staff to help plant over 340 trees and shrubs in a Ward 3 neighbourhood.

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## New Seaton Community Coming!

Over the years, a number of different concepts for these lands have been proposed. In 2006, a plan called the Central Pickering Development Plan was completed by the Province. This Plan calls for the development of the urban community of Seaton having up to 70,000 people and 35,000 jobs on the east side of the West Duffins Creek.

Travelling along Taunton Road, you can see that over 100 homes are under construction on the south side of the road. Residents will start moving in during the spring of 2019. What you can't see is the trunk sanitary sewer pipes and water distribution pipes that are being installed deep underground throughout the Seaton lands. You will notice periodic road closures to accommodate this servicing.

Water and sewer trunk mains are also being extended north to allow servicing of the Employment Lands/Pickering Innovation Corridor. This includes over 800 acres that are located on either side of Hwy 407ETR. The City is currently in discussions with a number of businesses who are interested in acquiring land in the Innovation Corridor to bring their businesses (and jobs) to Pickering. Stay tuned for announcements.

A priority of ours, and of the City, has been the attraction and retention of businesses and jobs in Pickering. Besides bringing needed jobs and opportunities to Pickering residents, businesses provide revenue to the City to support infrastructure, facilities, and delivery of services to residents. Such revenue from business can help offset revenue that would otherwise come from property taxes from residents such as you and us.

## Hwy 407/Whites Road Interchange

The Hwy 407ETR and Whites Road interchange is one of two new interchanges planned for in the Seaton community. This interchange will provide safe, reliable, and convenient access to the Seaton Employment Lands/Pickering Innovation Corridor. The other interchange will be at Sideline 22.

Construction is currently underway and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2018. As well, you will soon see construction of the extension of Whites Road (generally along Sideline 26) from Taunton Road to the Hwy 407ETR interchange with a similar completion date.

## Tax Grant for Low Income Seniors (65+) and Low Income Persons with Disabilities

We are pleased to support the new City of Pickering annual property tax grant for eligible low income seniors and low income persons with disabilities who own and occupy their own homes. The grant for 2017 was \$200 and is expected to be around the same for 2018.

Eligibility requirements are a combination of both taxpayer and property status. Low income seniors or disabled taxpayers are eligible to apply if they are 65 years of age and in receipt of or qualify for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) as provided under the Old Age Security Act (Canada) or they are disabled and in receipt of or qualify for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

For additional information on our tax grant and deferral programs, please contact the Tax Section at: 905.420.4614 or visit [pickering.ca/cityhall/grantsanddeferrals](http://pickering.ca/cityhall/grantsanddeferrals)

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

During the process of setting budgets and establishing tax rates, Council is always in a position of balancing residents' desires to maintain existing assets (e.g., roads, recreation complex, libraries) and undertaking new projects (e.g., sidewalks, facilities, playgrounds) while at the same time trying to minimize increases to property taxes. Although these are always difficult decisions, we are pleased with what have been able to accomplish with the funds available while continuing to have Pickering's residential tax rate at a very competitive position relative to its Durham lakeshore neighbours.

Many of our roads and facilities have seen significant improvements this year. The total average Pickering property tax increase this term of Council (2015-2017) has been about 1.9% per year, which is below the rate of inflation.

The 2018 City budget discussions are beginning early in the new year. If you have any comments or suggestions for the upcoming budget, we would be happy to hear from you and we invite you to attend the budget meeting scheduled for February 15, 2018.



Councillors Butt and Pickles on site of infrastructure construction in Seaton.

## Amazon HQ2/Pickering Airport

At the October Pickering Council meeting, Council considered an economic development department report on attracting Amazon and other major businesses to Pickering. Amongst the staff recommendations was support of an airport in North Pickering, subject to a federal aviation needs study and the applicable environment assessments. The Amazon report, including the airport recommendations, passed at Council in a 5 to 2 vote with the two of us, your Ward 3 Councillors, voting against it.

We support economic development and the attraction of businesses to Pickering to bring jobs and revenue to Pickering and there are businesses that we are working with to come to Pickering. However, in 2014 Councillor Pickles brought a motion at Pickering Council, which was adopted by Council, requesting a business case, an environmental assessment (EA), and a public consultation process be completed prior to any decision by the federal government on an airport. Although the federal aviation study is under way, it has not been completed; as well, the EA and public consultation process have yet to begin.

Ultimately it is the federal government that will make the decision on an airport. It is our view that all residents should have the benefit of all pertinent information available to them – the business case, the EA, results of public consultation, and any other available information – to assist them in making an informed view before the federal government makes a final decision on whether or not to proceed with a Pickering airport.

We would like to hear your comments whether for, against, or undecided.



Councillors Pickles and Butt visited all the Ward 3 parks this summer to ensure cleanliness, safety, and good equipment. They also had the pleasure of chatting with many residents!

## Where do our City of Pickering tax dollars go?

