



## October 2021 eNewsletter

Let's say goodbye to summer, but welcome fall with open arms and warm hearts!

As you know I am frequently out and about in the community and at events, but COVID-19 has significantly limited formal events and in-person meetings resulting in lots of virtual meetings and get-togethers. To compensate, like many others I have been out walking, bike riding and dog walking. It's been a great chance to explore, re-discover and share (via Facebook) our trails and park locations that many residents may not be aware of. Check me out on Facebook for these tours and other community news.



## COVID-19 Update

Durham Region Health Department has begun winding down local COVID-19 vaccine mass immunization clinics, giving community members a few more weeks to get their first or second dose at one of these clinics.

Walk-in opportunities for either first or second doses continue to be available at all mass immunization clinics for anyone 12 and older. People are also still able to book appointments at [durham.ca/vaccineappointment](https://durham.ca/vaccineappointment) or call **1.888.444.5113**.

Health Department vaccine clinics are being planned on a smaller scale in the community for those waiting or unable to access mass immunization clinics. These additional clinics will be posted at [durham.ca/covidvaccines](https://durham.ca/covidvaccines).

The City has been diligently following Provincial and Regional COVID-19 orders and guidelines throughout the duration of the pandemic. The Government of Ontario's enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate System is currently in effect, and the City has an obligation to comply with and enforce the Provincial Orders as it relates to our recreation facilities.

As we hopefully come to the end of this pandemic, please get your first and second vaccinations when you can, continue to follow public health directions such as distancing and wearing a mask, visit the [Durham Region](#) and [City](#) social media sites for up-to-date information, and stay safe! Please remember that we are fortunate to have many essential workers out there every day, such as health care workers, transit employees, Regional and City workers, retail and food staff, and many others.

# Good Neighbours

Summer holidays are over, and as we get back into our familiar routines of school, work, activities, etc. I am reminded of the new “normal”, yet there are some issues that remain the same. Many people ask me as a Member of Council, “what is the most common inquiry we get from residents?” I would describe it as the good neighbour/bad neighbour issues. The issues: speeding, noise, litter, long grass/weeds, parking, and not picking up after their dogs. Now, most residents are good neighbours and follow the rules, look after their properties and respect others’ and public property; however, the people that do not cause the rest of us and the City grief. Not only do these neighbours disrupt and frustrate residents, but they also divert City and police resources (taxpayer funds) to pursue offenders and cleanup, while these resources could otherwise be directed to more constructive efforts in our community.

On behalf of all residents, please be a good neighbour, obey the speed limit, don’t park illegally (including blocking sidewalks and driveways), pick up after your pets, maintain your property and don’t litter, and generally be respectful to your neighbours and community. Although it is difficult for police and by-law staff to be everywhere all the time, they are out there doing their best to encourage and take action to protect and support the rules and are there for us despite the conditions they must endure.

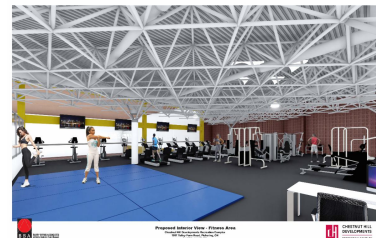
## Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex Update



In September, I had a behind the scenes look with Vince Plouffe our Project Manager at the exciting renovations at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex (CHDRC). As you can see it’s an active construction site now so I have also included the finished artist rendering.

The building is about 40 years old and although there have been updates over the years it really needed a full renovation. COVID-19 shutdowns made it more efficient to move ahead with several works that would have been otherwise staged over a longer time. Many of CHDRC components, systems, and key amenities are aging and in need of a substantial retrofit. Following a concept design and extensive community engagement, the City began the phased construction. The work should substantively be completed and the recreation centre re-opened by the end of this year.

The scope of the project includes a complete gut renovation of the existing change rooms for both members and non-members, extension of the second floor exercise area and related improvements, upgrades to existing finishes throughout the ground floor of the lobby and concourse and consolidation of existing service counters into a single point of service. Additional related work such as lifecycle water main replacements and upgrades to building life safety systems have been incorporated for efficiency.



The public change rooms will be combined into a single universal change room and linked with the existing family change room to create a new single suite. All changing will occur in private change cubicles with zero-sightline partitions to ensure privacy for all patrons. Several universal washrooms will be included in the suite, which is intended for use by all patrons, regardless of age or gender and will meet all current accessibility regulations.

Two new members change rooms will also be created, sharing access to a new accessible-

entry whirlpool, steam and dry saunas. Space constraints made it impossible to provide these amenities in each suite. They will be located in a common access area visible from the pool deck to ensure the visibility and safety of patrons.

## ATX Networks Pickering Grand Opening



On October 5, I was honoured to participate in the Grand Opening of ATX Networks on Sandy Beach Road. As Deputy Mayor, along with Councillors' Cumming and Butt, we were pleased to be part of their ribbon cutting ceremony and have the opportunity to meet the General Manager, Kevin Rossi. ATX Networks provides cutting-edge products to cable companies such as Bell, Rogers and Comcast to help them provide fast and reliable service to consumers. Being a global firm, they also operate in San Diego, Atlanta and have another location in Whitby. An important priority of mine and the City is

business retention and expansion (BR&E), whether it is a small-medium enterprise or large corporation, it is important to support our local businesses and help our community grow together. I am happy to welcome ATX Networks to the City of Pickering.

## New Off-Leash Dog Parks Coming

The City currently has one off-leash dog park located in Grand Valley Park, 1385P Third Concession Road. This facility opened in 2010 and has a small accessible fenced in area close to the parking lot and a larger fenced in area slightly south down the Seaton Trail. The main leash free area is the gated and fenced area located west of the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. This is the primary area used by visitors to the park. It is important that you leash your dog when walking to this area however once inside the leash free area, you may unleash your dog and allow them to run freely. The smaller leash free area is for those with mobility issues or for those with small dogs. This is the gated and fenced area adjacent and close to the parking lot as some users may have difficulty accessing the main off-leash area at the bottom of the hill.



The City is in the process of providing several more off-leash areas for residents. With the reconstruction of Balsdon Park, 690P Krosno Road, a small fenced in leash free area is under construction and should be open soon. This facility is intended as a "walk to" facility for the Bay Ridges residents as no vehicular parking is provided at this location. A new leash free area is also being proposed in Dunmoore Park, located at the south end of Whites Road. This facility, which will have both a small and large dog fenced in area, is scheduled to be open to the public by summer 2022.

### Your Cooperation Is Required

- Owners and dogs must comply with the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law whether on or off-leash
- A maximum of three (3) dogs per owner/ handler are permitted in the park both in leashed and off-leash areas
- An owner/handler, aged 16 or older, must be present and supervising their dog(s) at all times
- Have your dog settled and under control; and attached to its leash before letting it out of your vehicle. Take your time getting your dog into the dog park. Moving vehicles and excited dogs do not mix

## Keeping in Touch

Thank you for taking the time to read this eNewsletter. I welcome your feedback and comments. You can reach me by email at [dpickles@pickering.ca](mailto:dpickles@pickering.ca). To continue the conversation between eNewsletters, I invite you to visit my Facebook and [website](#).

I also invite you to forward this eNewsletter to other Pickering residents. If they, or someone you know, wishes to subscribe to my eNewsletter or any other City related eNewsletter, visit [pickering.ca/eNews](http://pickering.ca/eNews) and select the eNewsletter. eNewsletters are sent out a maximum of once per month and you can unsubscribe at anytime.

---

City of Pickering Council Office | 905.420.4605 | [www.pickering.ca](http://www.pickering.ca)

