



**RICK JOHNSON, REGIONAL COUNCILLOR**  
**Ward 3 – Pickering & Region of Durham**  
**SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER**

**GREETINGS TO WARD 3 RESIDENTS**

*It's been a privilege and an honour to serve the residents of Ward 3 for the last 19 years. There are always learning curves when representing an exciting and growing community, but I've always accepted these challenges head on. When dealing with issues that concern property taxpayers, there are always two sides to every concern and many different ways of handling the issues. I have always accepted this challenge and will continue to do so to the best of my ability.*

*I trust that the information contained in this newsletter will help you stay informed as to how your money is being spent, and of the various activities taking place in your community.*

*Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to receiving your calls.*

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM MUNICIPAL PROPERTY & ENGINEERING**

**Finch Avenue east of Brock Road** - Final lift of asphalt pavement being placed

**Old Brock Road Regional Road #1 to Wellington Street** - Road reconstruction including new granular base, base asphalt and re-ditching

**Brands Court** - Final lift of asphalt pavement being placed

**Sideline 16** (North of Highway 7) - Stabilization of eroded banks and the installation of guide rails

**Wellington Street** (Intersection of Victoria Street) - Storm sewer replacement

**Valley Farm Road** (North of Finch Avenue) - Traffic management consisting of signage and pavement markings

**Valley Farm Road south of Kingston Road** - Installation of IPS (Intersection Pedestrian Signal)

**Pickering Parkway at Portland Court** - Installation of IPS (Intersection Pedestrian Signal)

**Hamlet of Whitevale** - Street light replacement

**Reesor Creek Bridge** (Pickering/Uxbridge Townline) - Bridge deck rehabilitation

**Bulmer Bridge** (Fifth Concession Road at Greenwood) - Conservation area bridge deck rehabilitation

**Beverley Morgan Park** - Running track rehabilitation and resurfacing

**Cleaside Court** - Playground equipment installation

**Village East Park** - Regrading of existing playground area

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

**Oak Ridges Moraine**  
The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is currently reviewing the City's Oak Ridges Moraine Official Plan and Zoning By-law conformity amendments. Provincial approval of the Official Plan Amendment is expected this summer. Approval of the Zoning By-law Amendment will follow later this year.

**Seaton Development**  
Under the Provincially approved Central Pickering Development Plan, a number of studies to support development in Seaton are required. Several of these studies are either underway or about to commence, including: a Master Environmental Servicing Plan, a Natural Heritage System Management Plan which includes a Master Trail Plan, an Employment Lands Study and Environmental Assessments for water, sewer and road.

The City is responsible for preparing detailed neighbourhood plans for each of the neighbourhoods. This work is to commence later this year.

**Duffin Heights Neighbourhood**  
In April of 2007, Sernas Associates, on behalf of Mattamy Homes, Coughlan Homes and Ontario Realty Corporation, held a public open house on the Environmental Servicing Plan (ESP) that is being conducted for the Duffin Heights Neighbourhood. Information on the proposed land use pattern, roads and storm water management was provided. Sernas

expects to finalize the ESP by early June and submit it to the City for its endorsement. The ESP is anticipated to generate

the need for some changes to the Official Plan in the Duffin Heights area that will require Council approval.

**Woodview Avenue Reconstruction**  
As part of the servicing requirements for the Nicou Inc., subdivision, a sanitary sewer and storm sewer were installed on Woodview Avenue, south of Finch Avenue. The City, Region of Durham and Nicou Inc., are cost sharing this project, which includes the total reconstruction of Woodview Avenue, south of Finch Avenue. The street, when complete, will have curbs, pavement and a sidewalk on the west side. Residents impacted by this roadwork have been very patient and understanding throughout the project, and we thank them for their support.

**Brock Road at Finch Avenue - Coughlan Homes**  
Council recently approved a 71-townhouse dwelling unit complex at the southwest corner of Finch Ave and Brock Rd.  
**Sixth Concession Road at Salem Road - Brown/Bitondo**  
Draft plan of subdivision and zoning conditionally approved by Council for 9 detached dwellings (file S-P-2002-05). Applicant is fulfilling the conditions of approval prior to the start of construction.

**East Side of Sideline 4, south of Hwy #7 - Barclay Estates**  
Construction of the 35 detached dwelling country residential development is underway (file 18T-88059-R2).  
**Southcott Road & Canterbury Crescent Chieftan Development (Marianna Gardens)**  
Construction of the 59 detached dwellings subdivision is anticipated to commence later this year.

**3880 Kinsale Road - Lennox**  
Ten new lots approved for detached dwellings (file LD 258 to LD 265 & A25/05).  
**1890 Glenview Road - D. Fletcher**  
Construction is nearing completion to permit a professional chiropractic clinic (A 26/05).

**Sparrow Circle at Altona Road - Delco Homes**  
Site plan approval process is underway to permit the development of 25 freehold townhouse units (A 24/05).  
**3325 Highway 7 - Lakeland Associates**  
Rezoning application for a dog daycare and boarding facilities was approved on a temporary basis (A 17/05).

**1801 Valley Farm Rd. - City Centre Residences Inc.**  
Construction is almost complete on the eight-storey retirement building containing 117 units (S10/05).  
**Highway #7, east of Sideline 4 - Kinsale Properties**  
Anticipating applications for a golf course on the property. The court appeal on land use and an OMB appeal on a fill permit have both been withdrawn.

**S. Side 6<sup>th</sup> Con. E. of Westney Road - B. & A. Clancy**  
Pickering Official Plan/rezoning amendment application to permit a golf driving range was conditionally approved on a temporary basis (file OPA 02/04).  
**Calvington Drive - Silver Lane Estates**  
Construction of the 53 dwelling unit subdivision containing 47 townhouse and 6 semi-detached units is underway (file SP 2002-06).

**Nicou Subdivision**  
Construction of the 39 detached dwelling unit subdivision on the north side of Finch Avenue across from Woodview Drive is underway (file SP 2002-02).

**Rockwood Drive**  
Construction of five newly detached dwellings and the connection of the two sections of Rockwood Drive are anticipated to commence later this year.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY**  
In March, the City became one of the first municipalities in Ontario to create an Office of Sustainability. The mandate of the office is to ensure Pickering grows in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner. For more information, contact Tom Melymuk, Director, Office of Sustainability at 905.420.4636 or via email at [tmelymuk@city.pickering.on.ca](mailto:tmelymuk@city.pickering.on.ca)

The City is proud to announce that this year, it is participating for the first time in the provincial Communities in Bloom competition. Communities in Bloom is an important step in our Sustainable Pickering journey. It involves everyone in the community, and encourages civic pride, environmental responsibility, and beautification. Judges will be touring the City the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup> to evaluate our efforts.

The City has commenced a Downtown Study that will look for ways to intensify and enhance the area around City Hall, to create a vibrant and sustainable downtown core for the City. This is in keeping with the Provincial Government's Places to Grow Plan, which identifies Downtown Pickering as a "growth centre". During the course of the Downtown Study, there will be a number of opportunities for comments and input from residents and businesses.

In April, City Council passed a resolution confirming its opposition to an airport in North Pickering. The City is still awaiting a decision from the Federal Government on its due diligence review of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority's Draft Plan that was completed in 2004. Should the Federal Government decide to proceed with an airport, we understand the next step in the process would be a federal environmental assessment.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

##### ***Council Secretariat***

New Council Governance Structure initiated for 2007 include changes such as:

- Council Agenda pages will be posted on the City's website two weeks prior to each meeting.
- Statutory Public Information meetings for planning items are held the same night as the Planning and Development Committee meetings.
- Meetings will be held on a three-week cycle – Planning & Development (Week 1), Executive Committee (Week 2), Council Meeting (Week 3), No meetings (Week 4).

##### ***Animal Services***

The City of Pickering Animal Services section continues to grow and promote responsible pet ownership. Communication initiatives include the introduction of the Animal Services website and the implementation of a knowledge database with the Customer Care Centre to handle incoming inquiries. The Division has also introduced a basic dog obedience training course, a Pets in the Park event and have been recognized in the National Animal Control Magazine for its proactive approach to animal control.

##### ***By-law Enforcement***

The City of Pickering By-law Enforcement section reviewed and implemented a new Body Rub Parlour Licensing By-law, and a new Taxicab Licensing By-law. All City of Pickering taxicab drivers will be professionally trained – which means a better and safer service for our citizens! By-law has also launched their new Commercial Property Inspections Program, to help keep our commercial properties clean. Regular Bike Patrol of the City's Parks and Green Spaces was initiated this past summer and commenced again in April. The purpose of bike patrols is to increase public safety and security, protect and preserve park quality and condition, and educate park users on City policies and by-laws.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CUSTOMER CARE CENTRE**

Did you know that the Customer Care Centre offers centralized customer service? It is dedicated to ensuring the timely delivery of quality services to the City of Pickering residents and provides an important link between members of the public, the Mayor, Members of Council and City of Pickering municipal departments.

Staff in the Customer Care Centre emphasizes both internal and external customer satisfaction. They ensure that matters are thoroughly investigated in collaboration with the various municipal departments. Please feel free to contact them for assistance with any concerns you may have. They can be reached by phone at 905.683.7575 or 1.877.420.4666 or you can write to them at [customercare@city.pickering.on.ca](mailto:customercare@city.pickering.on.ca).

#### **ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

If you would like to compare your property's assessment to the assessment of other properties in Pickering, printed copies of the Assessment Roll (for 2007 taxation) are available for viewing. The City also has a computerized assessment database that is available for public use. Both are available on the second floor at City Hall. Assessment data is now available on the City's website, [cityofpickering.com](http://cityofpickering.com). Please click on "City Hall" tab, "Finance and Tax" folder and access the "Property Assessment" tab.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGION OF DURHAM**

***Energy-from-waste facility*** - On March 28th, Durham Regional Council accepted the consultant's recommended short list of sites relating to an energy-from-waste facility. There are currently five recommended sites, with four located within the Municipality of Clarington and one in York Region.

An energy-from-waste facility can be a positive influence on its host municipality; offering a large construction project and the creation of approximately 40 permanent jobs. In addition, there are numerous opportunities for partnerships including the creation of new secondary institutions.

Some people ask why the Region is moving towards such a facility (and especially within a short timeline). Shipping waste to Michigan is not a sustainable option. Durham Regional Council has already resolved that there be no new landfills in Durham Region, which means we need an alternative to managing residual waste, a made in Durham solution.

***Reconstruction & Widening of Brock Road*** – Detailed design for the reconstruction and widening of Brock Road from Dellbrook Avenue to south of the CP railway has started and will include:

- Widening of existing roadway from two to four lanes
- Improving existing intersections by adding turning lanes
- Sidewalks and streetlights installation by the City
- New bridge structure over the Ganatsekiagon Creek
- Providing enhanced stormwater management controls

Upon completion of the preliminary design and with budget approval, construction will likely begin in spring 2008.

***Brock Road*** - Construction of a southbound lane from Pickering Parkway to Highway 401 ramp

***Brock Road Grade Separation at CN Rail*** - Completion of project including street light installation and concrete sidewalks

***Regional Road 5*** (from York Road 30 easterly 3.7 km) - Road rehabilitation

***Rouge River Bridge Construction – Kingston Road*** - Lane closures will be in effect until the fall of 2007.

***Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Individual Environmental Assessment*** – York and Durham Regions have determined a recommended sewer route as well as water efficiency and inflow/infiltration reduction measures as the recommended alternative. Further information is available on the project website at: <http://sec.cenet.ca>.

***Highway 407 Environmental Assessment*** – Route alternatives have been screened down to a short list and are being evaluated.

***Highway 7 Widening Environmental Assessment*** – The Transportation Environmental Study Report will be released in June to indicate the 4-lane design.

***Altona Road*** (from Kingston Road to Strouds Lane) - Completion of Environmental Assessment, land acquisitions and utility relocations for widening.

#### **UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- **June 28<sup>th</sup>** Rick Johnson's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Watson's Glen Golf Course
- **July 1<sup>st</sup>** Canada Day Celebration, Kinsmen Park
- **July 19<sup>th</sup>** Pickering Squash Club Annual Tournament, Glen Cedars Golf Course
- **July 25<sup>th</sup>** Driftwood Theatre – "Much Ado About Nothing", Esplanade Park, Pickering Civic Complex
- **Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** Pickering Mayor's Classic Charity Golf, Cherrydowns Golf Course
- **Sept 14<sup>h</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** A Spirit Walk, Pickering Museum Village
- **Sept 16<sup>th</sup>** - Terry Fox Run, Pickering Recreation Complex

#### **BE OUR EYES ON THE STREET**

The Eyes on the Street program was developed to address issues with graffiti, excess litter, vandalism and illegal dumping. Incidents can be reported by calling toll free to Customer Care at 1.877.420.4666, via email to [customercare@city.pickering.on.ca](mailto:customercare@city.pickering.on.ca) or online at [cityofpickering.com/eyesonthestreet](http://cityofpickering.com/eyesonthestreet).



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