



RICK JOHNSON

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

DECEMBER 1999 NEWSLETTER



Ward 3 - Pickering, Region of Durham

One The Esplanade, Pickering, Ontario, L1V 6K7

Home: (905) 649-2295 Fax: (905) 649-1119 Office: (905) 420-4605 or (905) 683-2760

email: rjohnson@city.pickering.on.ca

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone who responded in many kind and thoughtful ways over the past year during our tragic loss of our son Russell. An exciting component of the grand opening of The Delmeade Centre was a cheque presentation by myself, on behalf of the Russell Johnson Memorial Fund Committee for \$15,000 which was raised through various fund raising initiatives. Another \$5,000 was raised through a raffle and all monies were donated through the Social Development Council of Ajax/Pickering. After the ribbon cutting to officially open the Delmeade Centre, the community spent a fun filled day participating in a Fall Family Festival. The opening of the Delmeade Centre demonstrates the power of community partnerships. Through the hard work of the Family Youth and Action Centre of North Pickering Board Members, community volunteers, the Russell Johnson Memorial Fund Committee Members, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works and support from local businesses and numerous organizations, the Delmeade Centre is an exceptional Community Centre whose programs and services will help ensure the needs of the community are met.

Youth Programs: The Culture and Recreation Division has continued to provide the communities of Brougham and Claremont with excellent Youth Drop-In programs which are provided FREE of charge to youth.

Pickering Museum Village: During the months of September and October, the Museum successfully operated "History in Action", "Spirit Walk", and "Fall Family Picnic". The first phase of the Schoolhouse Restoration Project (restoration of log work and installation of new roof) has been completed and phase II has now begun.

Agriculture Easements: The Memorandum of Understanding for the Agricultural Assembly Lands was signed between the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), the Region and the Town. The ORC has initiated parcel creation through the Crown Right process.

Altona Forest Public School: Construction is nearing completion on the public elementary school at the south-west corner of Woodsmere Crescent and Rosebank Rd, **Brook West Landfill Landscape Plan:** Town Council endorsed a landscape plan for the now closed Brook West Landfill.

Canadian Tire Store - Pickering Parkway: The store relocated from the "Hub Plaza" into the new building at Pickering Parkway and Brock Road.

Highway 407 Extension to Brock Road: Various public meetings were held and a citizen's task force was convened to discuss issues related to the impacts on rural residents of the Hwy. 407 extension to Brock Rd.

Metro East Trade Centre lands (Gentra Canada): The OMB hearing was held, and the Town received the Board's decision permitting

large format and ancillary retail uses as supported by Council, on lands located at the N/E corner of Pickering Parkway and Brock Road.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's appeal of the Pickering official Plan regarding the Rouge-Duffins Wildlife Corridor: a settlement hearing was held, and the decision received. The OMB approved a larger corridor than had been supported by Town Council.

Notion Road Area Land Use and Urban Design Study: Council initiated this study and the first public meeting was held to collect background information and identify issues on the future vision **for the lands on** either side of Notion Rd. in the Towns of Ajax and Pickering.

Palmer/Voss House: Located on Valley Farm Road, north of Finch Avenue, Town Council is in the process of designating this house as architecturally significant under the Heritage Act.

Parkway Retirement (Rockport Developments): Construction is nearing completion of the building on the east side of Pickering Parkway for the establishment of 89 units for seniors.

Petro Canada: The service station at the S/E corner of Brock Road and Kingston Road received approval for redevelopment of the site for a gas bar, kiosk/convenience retail/restaurant and car wash

Picore Holdings: Intranorth has begun construction on a second eight story office tower at the S/E corner of Pickering Parkway and Liverpool Road

Rouge Park Neighbourhood Study: The Phase I and Phase II reports were completed providing draft Development Guidelines and a draft Environmental Master Servicing Plan for this Neighbourhood, which is centred around Altona Road and Finch Avenue.

Tridel: Currently completing construction and occupancy occurring of 16-story, 253-unit, apartment tower on the south side of Kingston Road in the Town Centre.

Watson Glen Golf Course: This proposed golf course, on lands located on the west side of Lakeridge Road, in Concession #7, received Regional and Pickering Official Plan approvals this year.

Waste Transfer Station Policy and Zoning Review: Council passed a resolution requesting staff undertake a review so that facilities such as that proposed by J & F Waste in Ajax along Notion Road could not establish themselves as-of-right in Pickering.

Parks & Facilities: -completion of Pinegrove Park on Pinegrove Avenue

-commencement of Woodsmere Park in the Woodsmere subdivision off Rosebank Road

-improved lighting at Centennial Park for Pickering Baseball Association

-repair and re-aiming and cleaning of ball lighting in Claremont

Wixon Street received the top coarse of asphalt pavement this Fall and along with some

driveway and boulevard works this has now brought this project to an end. Veridian Hydro has also completed putting the overhead hydro wires underground and installed the new street light poles and fixtures.

Pickering/Uxbridge Townline Road has been surface treated from York Road 30 to Uxbridge's Concession #3 Road. There is now a hard surfaced road for vehicular traffic from York Road to Brock Road.

Franklin Street: Veridian Hydro has now completed putting the overhead hydro wires underground and installed the new street light poles and fixtures.

Whitevale Golf Club Road: the road has now been upgraded to a hard surface road from Concession 5 Road to the Southern Terminus.

Railway Crossing Gates – St. Lawrence & Hudson Belleville Subdivision: Town Council has also requested that the Region of Durham pursue the future installation of railway crossing gates at the Altona Road crossing and that they further endorse the Town's investigation of an anti-whistling arrangement to prohibit locomotive whistling at the Whites Road level crossing. These initiatives will improve the level of safety and the quality of life in the adjacent neighbourhoods.

Traffic Calming – Hamlets of Whitevale and Greenwood: Additional traffic calming speed humps have been installed in the Hamlets of Greenwood and Whitevale to better control the speed and volume of non-local commuter traffic. The new areas of installation include Concession Road 6 between Westney Road and Highway #7 in Greenwood and on North Road in Whitevale. All of the traffic calming projects have proven very successful in maintaining a safe travel speed. Discussions are on-going with various authorities to determine the feasibility of installing traffic calming measures in Claremont on Old Brock Road in the area of the Community Centre.

School Crossing – Claremont Public School
As a result of a recent collision between a young pedestrian and a motorist, Town Council will consider requesting that the Region of Durham install a new fluorescent yellow/green sign sheeting for the school crossing signs fronting Claremont Public School. The new sign sheeting is reported to have excellent visibility which may result in improved driver awareness and safety. The new sign sheeting will be requested on a trial basis at this crossing until such time that the Province considers and approves the fluorescent sheeting as the new standard for pedestrian warning signs.

Stop Signs: A staff investigation into right-of-way control for the intersection of Canso Drive and Acorn Lane has resulted in the recommendation to install a stop sign southbound on Canso Drive. The new stop sign will improve the level of safety for the increasing volumes of traffic at this intersection.

Neighbourhood Traffic Watch Program: Town staff are continuing to develop the Neighbourhood Traffic Watch Program in co-operation with representatives of the Town of Ajax, The Durham Regional Police Service and the Community. Residents will become actively involved in this program by setting up and operating a radar speed sign board in their respective neighbourhoods. Recorded speeders will be sent a letter by the Durham Regional Police Service warning of their infraction and the

possible consequences if they do not change their observed driving habits. If you are interested in the Neighbourhood Traffic Watch program for your community, please contact Stephen Brake at 420-4660, ext. 2064.

Waste Management ByLaw: As a condition of the new Waste Management ByLaw passed in December of 1998, the limit on collectible garbage was reduced to four (4) items effective November 1, 1999. This new limit on collectible garbage will help the Town to maintain contracted collection prices as well as reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. The Town's efforts at introducing this new ByLaw was recognized by the receipt of a waste reduction award presented by The Recycling Council of Ontario. Please help to preserve your environment for the future by reducing, recycling and reusing. Be on the lookout for the year "2000 city of Pickering Waste Management Calendar" delivered to your home over the next couple of weeks.

Altona West Neighbourhood: Recent discussions with the representatives of the Altona West neighbourhood has resulted in the recommendation of a number of traffic improvement measures. These measures will include the installation of three (3) school crossings, a series of regulatory no-stopping/no-parking by-laws fronting Westcreek Public School and a number of other reviews to ensure that traffic and pedestrian safety conditions are improved. Efforts to implement these recommendations are underway.

Traffic Signal – Glenanna Road and The Esplanade South: The installation of a full traffic signal is nearing completion on Glenanna Road at The Esplanade South fronting the Pickering Civic Complex. This new traffic signal will better manage the movements of traffic entering the intersection and also provide for a safer crossing point for pedestrians-

Town of Pickering Projects – Traffic Control Devices: 1999: (1) Taunton Road at Whites Road – new traffic control signal, (2) Brock Road at Concession Rd. #9 – new traffic control signal, (3) Brock Road at Pickering Parkway – rebuild signal, add dual west bound left turn lanes (subject to road works), (4) Pickering Parkway at Canadian Tire – new traffic control signal.

The Region of Durham – (1-800-372-1103) - Public Works - Chair - Member since 1991

Chair: Long Term Waste Strategy Plan: The Region is preparing a "Long Term Waste Plan" to ensure there is a waste disposal site located outside the Region of Durham to accept Pickering's residential garbage when the landfill site that is currently being used is closed in 2002. The Waste Plan will strive to increase waste diversion in order to reduce the amount of garbage sent to landfill for waste disposal.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) Chair – Member since 1991

The following is a summary of 1999 activities:
(1) CLOCA 2000 project adopted by Board of Directors setting out corporate strategy for future programs.
(2) Completed work on the North Taunton Environmental Study Steering Committee with the Town of Whitby. This study defines both the Natural Heritage System and future development limits within the Iroquois Beach area of the Town of Whitby, with regard for

natural connections into the Town of Pickering and City of Oshawa.

(3) 25th Annual Maple Syrup festival at Purple Woods Conservation Area. School children and general public attendance of 9,000.

(4) Second Annual Durham Region Groundwater Festival attracted 3,700 children from local schools and a visit by the Hon. Hilary Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

(5) Education and interpretive programs for over 12,000 students in Durham Region.

(6) Environmental summer day camp program for 400 children.

(7) Land acquisitions included 86 acres added to the Lynde Shores Conservation Area and 26 acres added to the Oshawa Valleylands Conservation Area.

Veridian Corporation - (905) 427-9870 (Bd. Member)

Veridian was formed on November 1st from the merger of Ajax, Clarington and Pickering Hydro-Electric Commissions. The merger makes Veridian the 9th largest municipal utility in the Province of Ontario. It is jointly owned by the municipalities and under the province's Electricity Act, will be operated as a private business. One of the ways in which Veridian will contribute to the community is through interest payments to the municipal owners. The Town of Pickering received its first payment on Tuesday, December 14th of \$2.844 million.

Pickering-Ajax-Whitby (PAW) Animal Control (Chair)

Educating the public in responsible pet ownership continues to be a high focus for the staff at animal control. With the start of the new millennium, PAW Animal Control will give dog owners a discount on the purchase of an annual dog license if the dog has a microchip. 2000 year licenses are now available for purchase at the Town of Pickering, local Veterinary Clinics and PAW Animal Control which can be reached at (905) 427-8737.

25th Anniversary Celebration

My wife Susan and I will be celebrating our 25th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, January 29, 2000 at 8:00 p.m. in the Claremont Community Centre and would like to welcome all our friends and business associates to join us in our special celebration.

Rick Johnson, Regional Councillor, Ward 3

Cell: (416) 569-2295 Home: (905) 649-2295