



RICK JOHNSON

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

JUNE 2000 NEWSLETTER



Ward 3 - Pickering, Region of Durham

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The year 2000 has been a busy one to date. I would like to thank all the new constituents and long time residents for allowing me to serve as their Local and Regional Councillor since 1988.

News Advertiser Report Card, June 18, 2000-

Comments: "Shows particular interest in waste management and road issues at both Pickering and Durham councils. Also knows his rural constituency well and continues to be involved in matters affecting the rural areas of Pickering, such as the impact of Hwy. 407 on the communities of Whitevale, Greenwood and Brougham. He staunchly defends the continuation of Durham's regional government, doesn't grandstand at meetings and generally tells it like it is."

The Delmeade Youth and Family Action

Centre in Brougham now is fully functional with after school food programs for children and a food bank, also a counselling centre for families in need. As one of the founding Board of Directors I would like to extend an invitation to anyone wishing to attend our annual meeting which will be held Thursday, September 7, 2000

The opening of the new Ajax Water

Treatment Plant will produce 36 million gallons of water a day, Ajax/Pickering currently use 15 million gallons a day. When the plant is doubled in the next 20 years it will produce 72 million gallons a day, enough to meet our official plan for the next 30 years.

Don Beer Arena

– Reconstruction of Pad 2 at Don Beer Arena is being done this year due to the deterioration of this 30 year old ice pad. I also applaud the hard work and enthusiasm of the group and their professional presentation to add a third ice pad at Don Beer Arena. More projects with the private sector investment is so inspiring as a community leader. The 3 million dollar addition, with 1.5 million being raised by Pickering Minor Hockey Association and Durham West Girls Hockey is a great initiative.

We are moving ahead with the long awaited construction of the **Pickering West Library Branch and Community Centre** at the former East Woodlands Park on Kingston Road at Rosebank Road.

407 Task Force – Working Groups have identified a need for by-passes around the hamlets of Brougham, Greenwood and Whitevale. Green River has fallen on deaf ears with York Region and the SLF.

William Street in Claremont will receive the final lift of asphalt completing the project from last year.

Pickering Parkway will be realigned east of Brock Road to accommodate the new WalMart store being constructed on the Metro East Trade Centre lands this summer.

Salem Road will be surface treated from Concession 5 to Highway #7 to eliminate ongoing dust problems.

Concession 5 will receive some drainage improvements and a new hard top surface from Greenburn Place to Sideline 4.

Railway Crossing Gates at level crossings with CP Rail at Dixie Road and Fairport Road

\$180,000 to be spent on traffic control and signalization resulting in improved neighbourhood safety. This includes upgrading a number of crosswalks with pedestrian activated signalization.

Sidewalks on Pinegrove Avenue and Mossbrook Square to assist local children walking to school safely. Additional guarded school crossings have already been implemented in the Altona West Neighbourhood.

Additional Street Illumination Lights are to be installed along Kingston Road between Valley Farm Road and Notion Road.

We are working with **Miller Waste** to open a **Household No Hazardous Waste Depot** on Squires Beach Road at their waste transfer site

The following is a list of **Traffic Operation Projects** for the year 2000 by the Region of Durham:

Central Street Traffic Safety Review – I have encouraged the Region of Durham Public Works Committee to determine alternative solutions to improving pedestrian and vehicular safety on Central Street in the vicinity of Claremont Public School.

Kingston Road Corridor Review – Design review alternatives on the transformation of Kingston Road from Glenanna Road to Liverpool Road with emphasis on pedestrian and community safety.

Brock Road at Concession 9 – Installation of a traffic control signal to alternate heavy conflicting traffic movements and mitigation of right-angle collisions.

Finch Avenue at Rosefield Road – Installation of a new traffic control signal to alternate conflicting traffic movements and accommodate pedestrians.

Brock Road at Pickering Parkway – Reconstruction of intersection and upgrading of traffic control signal to accommodate a westbound dual left turn movement.

Brock Road at Metro Trade Centre North entrance – Installation of a half-signal to permit controlled access into the Metro Trade Centre. Prohibition on westbound left-turn movements will remain.

Pickering Parkway at Canadian Tire Entrance – Installation of a traffic control signal to accommodate heavy retail and commercial traffic.

Glenanna Road at Fieldlight Blvd. – Conversion of the pedestrian crossover to an intersection pedestrian signal to provide

improved positive guidance for motorists and pedestrians.

An investment of \$457,000 in playground equipment to be mainly used for replacing older equipment and to meet year 2000 safety standards.

Woodsmere Park on Woodsmere Crescent will be completed by the end of June. This includes a baseball diamond, perimeter asphalt path and play space for children.

Improvements to Claremont Park softball diamond in June 2000 will mean significant improvements to the level of lighting

Current Volunteer and Community Activities

– Recently named first honorary Big Brother for Ajax-Pickering Big Brothers, also involved with the Rouge Valley Health System, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Ajax-Pickering United Way, Providence Villa, Conservation Ontario and a sponsor of local sports teams.

Animal Control Pickering's joint venture in animal control began in 1986. Before that time, Pickering, Ajax and Whitby had jointly owned and maintained an animal shelter located in Whitby, but had contracted for animal control services with the Ontario Humane Society. When the Society decided not to renew its contract for 1986, Pickering, Ajax and Whitby agreed to take over the provision of this service themselves. During that first year, the municipalities reduced costs by \$150,000, a savings of 46.9%. Over the 14 years that this joint venture has been in existence, it is estimated that the three municipalities have saved over \$2 million.

Have you registered your cat or dog with the City? One-third of all family pets become lost at least once in their lifetime. By registering your pet with the City chances are it will be returned to you safe and unharmed. Identification also provides a crucial link to the owners when cats or dogs are quarantined after they have bitten or scratched a person. Identification of the owner allows health officials to quickly check an animal's vaccination records. Beginning next year all cats and dogs, by law, must be registered with the City. But why wait until then when you can register your family pet now and have the peace of mind that if it does stray or become lost it will in all likelihood be returned to you. Be your pet's best friend. Call 427-8737 to register your pet.

A New \$800,000 Aerial Fire Truck has been purchased to replace an aging 1975 model. The new aerial truck can carry water, unlike the older model, and, therefore, can react faster and save lives in dangerous situations.

Defibrillation Program The Fire Services Division has received all the hardware required for the defibrillation program to be put into motion. Half the fire fighting crews have been trained in the operation of the equipment, with the advanced first aid to follow this fall.

Smoke and Flashover Training Facility Purchasing is presently working on the request to have the training facility which was endorsed by the Durham Fire Chiefs Association in concert with the recommendation of the Durham Regional Training Officers Association. The unit, cooperatively purchased by five local fire services, will be owned by the Pickering Fire Service Division and the cost to purchase and maintain will be equally paid for. The unit can and will be subcontracted to the northern

(Uxbridge, Port Perry & Brock) fire services to enhance their fire expertise.

Brougham Fire Hall The Federal Government has made a commitment to assist in the upgrades to create a better working environment for the staff in the Brougham Fire Area. The building requires extensive renovations, new main doors with better security, a monitored security system, windows, washroom facilities, septic system, vinyl siding to increase insulation quality, potable water (well), interior partitions, vehicle exhaust, landscape grading, office and training rooms.

The new pumper is now in service at the Headquarters Fire Hall, the pumper in Brougham has been replaced with a newer unit.

Part Time Staffing The Fire Services Division assisted Human Resources in the part time recruit examination for the northern fire areas in Pickering. Twenty individuals wrote the examination to become firefighters (with three additional individuals going to write shortly). The increased staffing will greatly enhance the Division's capabilities to respond to emergencies in the Brougham and Claremont Fire Areas.

YEAR 2000 ACTIVITIES – CORPORATE PROMOTIONS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Filming Award – For the second consecutive year, the Ontario Film Development Corporation has recognized Pickering as one of three Ontario sites popular for on-location filming in 1999. On January 31st, OFDC presented cash donations totaling \$9,000 to two community based initiatives: The Edge Youth Centre and the Pickering Museum Village Foundation.

Library Small Business Web Site – To assist local business, the Pickering Public Library's Business Services Department and the City of Pickering's Corporate Promotions & Economic Development Office have gathered together the most important information that entrepreneurs require on a new web site. The web site can be found through the Library web address at: www.picnet.org or through the City's homepage at: www.city.pickering.on.ca.

Business Newsletter – Pickering's "Spring Business Review" newsletter was distributed to all Pickering businesses in April. The newsletter is available at reception counters in the Civic Complex and on-line on the City's web site.

Business Openings – The Bay opened a revolutionary new format store at Pickering Town Centre on May 2nd. The new Bay store covers 103,000 sq. ft. and employs approximately 230 associates in both full and part time positions.

On May 18th, **CDA Industries Inc.** opened its brand new production and corporate office. CDA Industries is one of North America's leading display companies, having in-house capabilities for design, engineering and manufacturing in wood, wire, metal and plastic. The new 239,000 sq. ft. facility will employ more than 300 people.

YEAR 2000 ACTIVITIES – CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (CLOCA)

Agreement with Province of Ontario to participate in Provincial Ground Water Monitoring Network.

CLOCA is in receipt of a \$50,000 grant from Province of Ontario Natural Areas Protection Program to upgrade trail access for the disabled at Lynde Shores Conservation Area.

CLOCA agrees to participate with 8 other Conservation Authorities in the Oak Ridges Moraine Alliance.

The 3rd annual children's ground water festival in which we invite Grade 4 students from all across Durham to spend a day learning about the initiatives and preservation of ground water will be held again this year in early October. The plans are well underway for this event.

Committees – Durham Region Public Works Committee (chairman), Durham Region Long Term Waste Strategy Committee (chairman), Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (chairman), Veridian Energy Corporation (director), Pickering/Ajax/Whitby Animal Control (chairman), Ontario Traffic Conference Elected Officials (chairman), GTS Regional Public Works Chairs Committee, Durham Region Housing Corporation, Pickering Committee of Adjustment, Durham Region Development Charges Committee (chairman), Durham Region Mobility Steering Committee (chairman)

Most Important Issues Facing the City:

- clean water is essential; water efficiency programs and state-of-the-art water treatment plants like the new Ajax water plant have been one of my highest priorities along with ground water preservation and stronger controls on the use of surface water
- finding new technologies to create resources from garbage programs like composting and recycling
- planning future roads is the best way possible to improve the commute to work and the need for more transit, cycling and pedestrian-friendly communities

“We must continue to find efficiencies in the way in which we deliver services to our community. Duplication must be eliminated but not at the expense of quality of service.”

Rick Johnson, Regional Councillor, Ward 3

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