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April 2026 eNewsletter: Maurice Brenner, Regional Councillor - Ward 1

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April 2026 eNewsletter

A Special Message From Your Ward 1 Regional Councillor

With the nomination period for the 2026 Municipal Election commencing May 1, 2026, this will be my last monthly eNewsletter for this Term. As always, feel free to continue to email me at mbrenner@pickering.ca for ongoing constituency related communications. The current 2022-2026 term will officially conclude on Saturday, November 14, 2026, and the next term of Council begins on Sunday, November 15, 2026.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the City of Pickering resides on land within the Treaty and traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Williams Treaties signatories of the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations. Pickering is also home to many Indigenous persons and communities who represent other diverse, distinct, and autonomous Indigenous nations. This acknowledgement reminds us of our responsibilities to our relationships with the First Peoples of Canada, and to the ancestral lands on which we learn, share, work, and live.

You've Got Questions, I've Got Answers

Answering your questions - A segment dedicated to answering some of your most pressing questions! Often times I have residents requesting the same information over a hot topic, issue or event. Connecting with our neighbours and sharing information to Pickering residents is some of my favourite duties associated with being your Councillor. This platform will allow me to do just that!

Send an email to mbrenner@pickering.ca with your questions on City & Regional matters to see if your inquiries were chosen as a hot topic in our next eNewsletter release.



There is plenty of development occurring in Pickering, can you provide an update on the multiple towers that are proposed in our city?

There has been a lot of discussion about intensification across Pickering from Altona Road to Brock Road, triggering concerns raised about the impact it will have on our aging limited infrastructure and already congested roads.

While it's fact that the City of Pickering's City Development Department has processed or is actively reviewing (33) development proposals that collectively include (103) towers exceeding seven-storeys in height; these proposals represent a mix of high-density mixed-use buildings, retirement residences, long-term care facilities, and a hotel.

These proposals are at various stages of the planning and building permit approval process, ranging from the initial review of Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment applications, to projects that have received planning approvals, only a limited number are under construction with several towers currently on hold or inactive.

City Development staff at my request prepared a breakdown of the current status of towers in the development approval process:

- On hold / inactive development proposals (16 towers)
- Appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (20 towers)
- Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment under Review by the City (30 towers)
- Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment approved by Council (19 towers)
- Site Plan Applications under review (11 towers)

Of this total, only (7) Building Permits have been issued and are currently under construction.

The following towers have received all required planning approvals and building permits and are currently under construction:

- Two high-density mixed-use towers by CentreCourt at Shops at Pickering City Centre
- Two high-density towers by Chestnut Hill Developments at Universal City (UC6 & UC7)
- Two mixed-use high-density towers by Tribute at the VuPoint project.
- One 15-storey long-term care facility proposed by Southbridge Healthcare, which was approved through a site-specific enhanced Ministers' Zoning Order

Contrary to the belief that Pickering is on the verge of becoming a concrete jungle, only (7) of the (103) proposed towers are currently under construction. Of these, (6) are for high-density mixed-use developments located in the City Centre, while the remaining tower is for a 15-storey long-term care facility proposed by Southbridge Healthcare on Valley Farm Road.

While additional towers may proceed in the future, City staff anticipates that up to (11) more towers could be constructed over the next 5 to 10 years. Development of the remaining towers is long-term and uncertain, and will depend on many external factors that caused the current condo market to crash, and unlikely to recover for many years.

Now that the winter is behind us I am noticing so many potholes on the roads, what is the City doing about this?



Following a challenging winter, the City of Pickering's Public Works team began a pothole repair blitz on Saturday, April 11, at 7:00 am. A total of 10 road repair crews were deployed across the city, working through areas identified through regular road patrols, resident requests for service, and priority locations such as major routes and high-traffic areas.

Why are there so many potholes this spring?

This winter's prolonged cold temperatures, frequent freeze-thaw cycles, and heavy moisture have significantly affected the condition of the road network.

Potholes form when:

- Water seeps into small cracks in the road surface
- Temperatures drop and cause that water to freeze and expand
- The freezing and thawing weakens the pavement and underlying base
- Traffic loads cause the weakened asphalt to break apart
- These conditions were especially common this winter, accelerating pavement deterioration across the city

What residents can expect:

- Crews were working throughout the day on Saturday, April 11
- Short-term traffic disruptions may occur in some areas
- Work will focus on the most critical and high-priority potholes first

Public Works will continue monitoring road conditions and responding to reported potholes as weather conditions allow. Northern gravel road grading will begin once the frost has lifted and the roads can be properly shaped with road grading equipment. Residents are encouraged to report potholes through the City's Customer Care system, which helps Roads Operations identify areas requiring attention.

The City thanks residents for their patience as crews work to improve road conditions safely and efficiently.

Customer Care contact information can be found near the bottom of this eNewsletter.

Spring Fling
Saturday, April 18, 2026
11:30 am - 3:00 pm at Millenium Square



Celebrate the arrival of the season as we explore Nautical Village and enjoy a vibrant day by the water. This family friendly event features live music, roaming characters, nature-themed scavenger hunts, a bustling vendor market, games, exciting giveaways, and more open to all ages.

For more details, visit the City's website [here](#).

Upcoming Festivals & Events

Join us as we have an assortment of great events to engage in all year round. The City of Pickering's [Events Calendar](#) and [Festival Page](#) are great resources to see upcoming City and Community Events.



April is Earth Month:

For online details about the below, visit the City's website [here](#).

Register for a Community Cleanup

April 1 - April 30

Help take action on litter in Pickering! Join the challenge and make a difference in your community. Bags and gloves will be provided while quantities last. Register [here](#) today.

Shell-ebrate Turtle Conservation!

(Children's Workshop 6 - 12 yrs)

Friday, April 17, 2 pm – 3:30 pm (Pickering Central Library)

Dive into the amazing world of turtles! Come and learn how to identify different native turtle species, discover cool conservation facts, and rotate through hands-on activity stations. Free, pre-registration is required. Register [here](#) today.

Take Pride in Pickering Tree Planting

Saturday, April 18, 10 am - 12 pm (Alex Robertson Park)

Community tree planting. Get involved today! Students can earn volunteer hours. Free, pre-registration is required. Register [here](#) today.

Home Energy Orientation

Monday, April 20, 7 pm – 8:30 pm (East Shore CC, Community Room)

Learn practical ways to make your home more energy-efficient, comfortable, and save money! This workshop covers simple DIY fixes (insulation, draft-proofing, and window caulking) and information about larger upgrades you might be interested in. Free, pre-registration is required. Register [here](#) today.

20-Minute Makeover

Wednesday, April 22 (Across the City of Pickering)

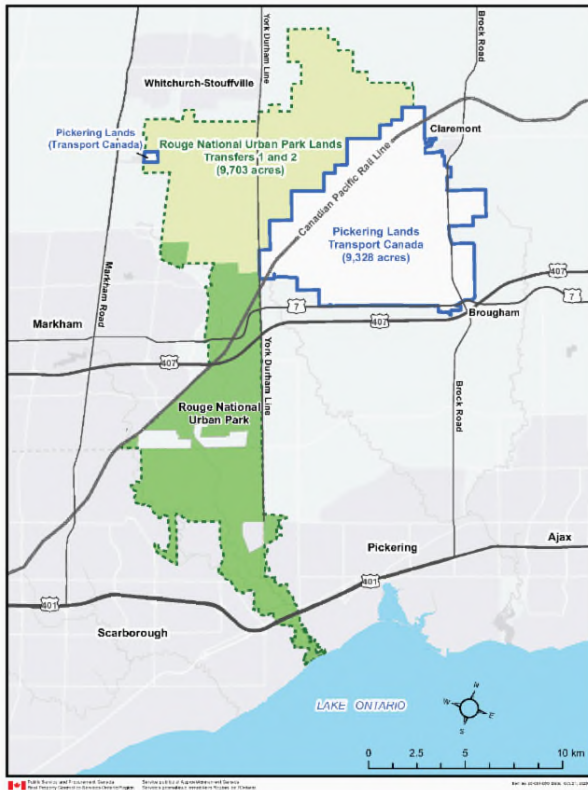
Schools, families, neighbourhood groups and businesses commit to give Pickering a makeover by picking up litter around the community for at least 20 minutes. Bags and gloves will be provided while quantities last. Register [here](#) today.

Gardening for Pollinators

Wednesday, April 29, 7 pm - 8:30 pm (CHDRC - Meeting Rooms 2 & 3)

Learn how small gardening choices can make a big difference to help native pollinators like bees and butterflies. Free, pre-registration is required. Register [here](#) today.

Future of Federal Lands
Open House: Wednesday, April 22, 2026
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Future Uses of the Pickering Lands:

City of Pickering Proposal Open House Consultation



April 22, 2026
5pm-8pm



City of Pickering
City Hall Lobby
1 The Esplanade S,
Pickering, ON L1V 6K7

For more information, visit:
www.investpickering.ca/initiatives/federal-pickering-lands



The City of Pickering is hosting an Open House to share information and gain feedback on the City’s proposed future uses of the [Pickering Federal Lands](#).

The Pickering Federal Park Lands is a federally owned area in north Pickering, originally assembled in the 1970s for a planned airport. In January 2025, the Government of Canada announced that the Pickering Lands will not be used for a future airport site. The lands represent a significant opportunity for long-term community and economic development. Currently, Transport Canada is working closely with Parks Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Canada Lands Company, and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada to assess options for the future uses of the lands, accounting for a range of priorities.

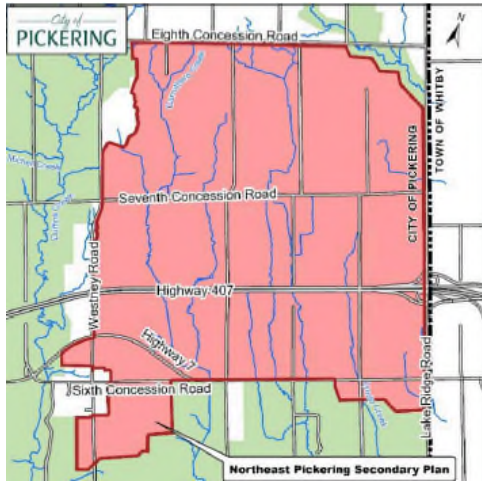
Attendees are invited to review the materials, speak with City staff and consulting partners, and provide feedback on the analysis supporting the City’s proposal.

Please note that this Open House is to present the City of Pickering’s proposal to Transport Canada. As the lands are federally owned, stakeholders and members of the public are also encouraged to engage directly with Transport Canada, the federal landowner and decision-maker.




More info can be found at the [Transport Canada website](#).

This is a drop-in, in-person event. Registration is not required.

Council Meeting: April 27, 2026
Official Plan Amendment OPA 25-003/P
(Northeast Pickering Secondary Plan)



Public Meeting Details

- 
April 27, 2026
- 
7:00 pm
- 

Electronic
 HTML Agenda with livestream is
 available at:
events.pickering.ca/council.

The [attached Notice](#) of an upcoming Council Meeting scheduled for April 27, 2026, at 7:00 pm will include the following matter:

File: Official Plan Amendment OPA 25-003/P (Northeast Pickering Secondary Plan)

Applicant: City of Pickering

Property Location: The Secondary Plan includes an area of approximately 1,763 hectares in the northeast sector of Pickering. The approximate boundaries are Eighth Concession Road to the north, Highway 7 to the south, Westney Road to the west, and Lake Ridge Road to the east (Pickering / Whitby border).

Ward: 3

City of Pickering: Council Highlights

As Council Members we have a commitment to participate in a number of Committee and Council meetings annually.

The Executive Committee typically meets virtually once monthly on the first Monday of the month at 2:00 pm. Likewise, the Planning & Development Committee meet virtually on the same day of the month at 7:00 pm. The last Monday of the month typically, we meet virtually for Council meetings at 7:00 pm.

Please follow the links below for the City's website calendar, to view the most up-to-date scheduling.



As part of our commitment to open, transparent, and accessible municipal government, we continue to post online recaps of the decisions made at our Council Meetings to help residents better understand municipal affairs and directions set by Council.

Members of the public may observe the meeting proceedings by viewing the [livestream](#). The official meeting minutes are also publicly available through the City's [website calendar](#) and [Corporate Records](#) webpages. For more information on attending meetings and registering as a delegate, you may visit the City's [website](#).

A breakdown of our Council Meeting Highlights are available on the City's website [here](#). Alternatively, you may check out the [City's Facebook page](#).

Building Services

Each month the City of Pickering Building Services division generates an activity report which includes statistics of new applications received within the month, permit fees received to date, estimated construction valuations, projected building permit revenues, and comparisons to the previous year.

You may view the Building Permit Activity Report for [March 2026](#).

For more information, visit the Building Services webpage [here](#).

Visit [LetsTalkPickering.ca/Development](#) to learn more about the planning process.



Durham Region Council Updates



The Region of Durham Council continues to be a champion for our community, and leverages its voice through memberships with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). It advocates for change on current Provincial legislation that negatively impacts our residents.

The Region plays a significant role in providing essential services and resources to all of their corresponding municipalities. Check out the [March 25, 2026](#), Durham Region CAO Briefing Notes summary to learn more.

This Week in Durham Stories



The Regional Municipality of Durham has launched a new platform at durham.ca/ThisWeek and celebrates our Durham Region, where everyone feels valued and included. This page is designed to deliver news on Regional business in a more human and heartfelt approach.

Be sure to check out their webpage and subscribe should you wish to receive updates on this and enjoy a good weekly read!

Durham Region Spring Battery Collection

April 20 - 24, 2026



The Region of Durham is asking residents to participate in our annual spring curbside battery collection by placing used household batteries in a clear, sealable plastic bag and setting the bag on top of their closed green bin during the week of April 20.

Where: Households across Durham Region who currently receive curbside collection services.

When: Spring battery collection occurs from April 20 to 24 on green bin collection days.

Why: Batteries are not garbage – up to 92 per cent of battery components are recyclable and recoverable. By taking part in the battery collection program, you can help prevent mercury, cadmium and other heavy metals from entering the environment. Since the first curbside battery collection in November 2012, Durham Region residents have diverted more than 513 tonnes (1,149,770 pounds) of household batteries from the waste stream.

Note:

1. Never throw batteries in the garbage or blue box. Lithium batteries can ignite when crushed in a garbage truck or material recovery equipment.
2. Batteries should be stored in a cool, dry location, away from heat, sunlight and moisture. Batteries can overheat if left outdoors or stored in large quantities.
3. Don't mix alkaline, lithium, NiMH and lead-acid batteries in one bag or container. Different chemistries can react with each other or cause overheating.
4. Store batteries in a plastic or cardboard box, not metal container (metal can conduct electricity).
5. Damaged lithium batteries require special handling. Do not touch leaking or swollen batteries, wear gloves and eye protection if you see corrosion or white powder. Isolate the battery in a plastic bag or place in a cardboard box with sand or kitty litter and drop off at one of the Region's [Waste Management Facilities](#).
6. Keep batteries out of reach of young children.
7. Exposed terminals on lithium, nine-volt and other batteries should be covered on both ends with non-conductive tape like electrical or duct tape. This prevents short circuits and fires during storage or transport.

If you miss your collection date, household batteries can be dropped off at one of the Region's [Waste Management Facilities](#) year-round, free of charge. For a list of locations, visit [durham.ca/WMF](#). Or for your nearest retail drop-off location, visit [RecycleYourBatteries.ca](#).

We appreciate residents recycling batteries safely. To learn more about battery collection, visit [durham.ca/Battery](#).

Durham Region Transit Updates



[Durham Region Transit \(DRT\)](#) is one of the most popular and reputable regional services offered to our residents.

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 was the DRT Executive Committee, which I sit on. We discussed various DRT initiatives and updates that are linked [here](#).

To stay up-to-date on the latest news with DRT, subscribe to their eNews page [here](#).

Durham Region Transit Driving Accessibility Forward DRT Accessibility Plan



Driving Accessibility Forward

Share your voice at a drop-in session for the DRT Accessibility Plan

Abilities Centre

Wednesday April 15 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Shops at Pickering Town Centre

Thursday April 16 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Latcham Centre

Monday April 20 | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Brock Community Health Centre

Wednesday April 22 | 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

No registration required

Contact us



drtengagement@durham.ca

DurhamRegionTransit.com

Metrolinx Updates



On March 31, 2026, Metrolinx released an article with their updates on their GO Expansion project. They announced the program is entering a major new construction phase, with ongoing work across five corridors to add tracks, upgrade stations, build new stations, and improve bridges and grade separations. They highlight recent progress with new tunnels, rebuilt concourses, and completed grade separations. Moreover, since April 2024, more than 300 weekly train trips have been added, bringing more frequent service on multiple lines and setting the stage for a significantly larger, more reliable regional rail network across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Metrolinx explains that short-term service disruptions help accelerate long-term improvements.

To read the full newsletter, follow the link [here](#).



Lobbyist Registry

Open, Transparent, and Accountable Government

Learn more at: pickering.ca/LobbyistRegistry



City of Pickering Lobbyist Registry

1. Read the City's Lobbyist Registry By-law and determine if you are a Lobbyist;
2. Create an Online Profile to register as a Lobbyist; and,
3. Declare lobbying activity within 10 business days of initial lobbying activity.

City of PICKERING

clerks@pickering.ca
905.420.4611



The Lobbyist Registry is up and running, and it is now mandatory for those that lobby Public Officer Holders. The team from the Clerks Department has played a lead role in not only preparing the [Lobbyist Registry By-law](#), but also the tools that will assist Public Office Holders and Lobbyists to understand the definition of a [Public Officer Holder](#).

Questions or Concerns?

Connect with our [Customer Care](#) team, Monday to Friday (8:30 am - 4:30 pm), by telephone at 905.683.7575, or email customercare@pickering.ca.

Stay Connected

Thank you for taking the time to read this eNewsletter. I welcome your feedback and comments. For more information on what's happening in Pickering and Durham Region, visit my social channels: mauricebrenner.ca, [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#). You can also reach me by contacting the Council Office at 905.420.4605 or by email at mbrenner@pickering.ca.

Feel free to forward this eNewsletter to other Pickering residents, who may find this information helpful. To subscribe to future eNewsletters, visit my profile on the City's [website](#) and click the link at the bottom of the page "Subscribe to my eNewsletter". My 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



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