



David Pickles
Regional Councillor



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City Councillor

Ward 3 Council Office

June 2017

Pickering City Centre Residents

Subject: Neighbourhood Updates | Residents' Meet and Greet

Greetings

As your Ward 3 Councillors, we're pleased to provide you with a few neighbourhood updates as well as options for getting further City information and on ways to contact us.

Pickering City Centre Residents' Open House | Wednesday, June 28, 2017

We have scheduled an open house for June 28th, 2017, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the upstairs meeting rooms of the Pickering Recreation Complex. This will be an informal drop-in meet and greet format. Although there will not be scheduled presentations, City of Pickering staff from Engineering Services and City Development as well as representatives from the Durham Regional Police Service will be present to speak with residents. We invite you to join us and share your comments and questions.

Grande Esplanade | Creating a Sense of Place in our City Centre

Pickering's City Centre will be undergoing an exciting and bold transformation. We hope to see the development of a new arts centre, senior/youths centre, an expansion to City Hall and the Central Library, along with high-rise residential. These dynamic new elements would be connected on a human scale via the Grande Esplanade – a pedestrian and bike friendly thoroughfare where residents and visitors can meet, gather, and experience.

At this time, we are doing preliminary work to develop the framework for the Request for Proposal which will ultimately define the vision. The City will be partnering with the development community to bring the Grande Esplanade project to life, and hopes to have plans finalized by late 2018 with construction starting in early 2019. Check out our website for more information about 'Creating a Sense of Place in our City Centre'.

Street Lights Upgraded to LED

City Council has approved converting all 7,234 streetlight luminaires in the City of Pickering to energy efficient LED streetlight luminaires. We expect this will be completed by the end of 2017. LED streetlight benefits include: operational savings, lower wattage and better optical control, better visibility for motorists and pedestrians, and dark sky compliancy. In addition, all LED luminaires will be configured with a seven pin receptacle that would enable adaptive controls to be installed at a later

date. As part of the City's commitment to keep the community informed, regular progress updates of the LED Streetlight Conversion Program on the City website and social media will be provided.

Tax Break for Low-income Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

The City of Pickering is pleased to announce a new program that will save low-income seniors and persons with disabilities on the City portion of their property taxes this year. Relief will be in the form of a \$200 grant which represents the estimated increase in city share property taxes from 2014 to 2017. The model follows other lower-tier municipalities that provide provided some financial assistance to those seniors and persons with a disability who are in need.

Rather than issuing cheques, the tax bill will be adjusted for those who qualify. Information on who can apply, and how, will appear on the community page in the News Advertiser as well as at pickering.ca. Pamphlets will also be included along with the tax bills that were mailed out in late May to early June. The cut-off date to apply will be August 18, 2017 and the \$200 credit will be applied to the final property tax bill of 2017.

Connecting with You

As elected representatives, it is often difficult to reach out to and hear back from residents who, like all of us, have busy schedules and busy lives. We continue in a variety of traditional ways to reach out, such as hand-delivering or mailing newsletters like this one and talking with people on the street, at events, and at neighbourhood open houses. We, of course, have embraced email and Facebook, by which we personally interact with many residents. Last year, we launched an eNewsletter and we welcome you to visit pickering.ca/eNews to subscribe. While there, subscribe to many of the other interesting newsletters that the City publishes.

And while we're always available to help, please keep in mind our Customer Care Centre who provide an important link between you, the Mayor, Members of Council, and City of Pickering municipal departments. Their main priority is to ensure that you, the "customer," receive prompt attention and service regarding any municipal concerns you may have. Reach the Customer Care Centre from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, by phone at 905.683.7575 or by email at customer care@pickering.ca.

Yours truly



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