



November 3, 2016

Claremont and North Pickering Residents

Subject: Neighbourhood Updates

Councillor Rick Johnson's Passing – a great loss to the Pickering community

We were shocked and saddened that Councillor Rick Johnson passed away suddenly on Tuesday, September 27th. I was with his family and friends at the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital at the time of his passing. I had the pleasure of knowing Rick for over 25 years, and for 14 of those years on Council. He commonly referred to us as the "Ward 3 team". In the 2014 election, we agreed with Rick's tagline "we want Rick back" and I was pleased that he returned to Council this term.

It was great to see many friends and colleagues come to pay their respects at the visitation and funeral. Rick worked hard for the residents and charities in our community. He was a larger than life character with a big heart. His down to earth style and care for individuals was always apparent. Like many in the broader community, I enjoyed working with him and will miss him greatly. Many did not see the small things he did such as dropping off food and clothes for families in need. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Susan, son Chris, family and friends.

In honour of Councillor Rick Johnson, Council unanimously passed a motion at the October 11, 2016 Council meeting requesting that the City commence the public process of renaming Claremont Park to Rick Johnson Park.

Before he passed, Rick was helping the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 483 in Claremont to seek donations for its Barrier Free Project to make Claremont Legion accessible. If you are interested in making a donation to the project in Rick's honour, please contact Sandy Hill at 905.649.2653. For more information, visit my website at www.davidpickles.com

Northern Roads Strategy

Some residents have asked me about hard surfacing of currently loose surfaced roads and reconstructing of existing hard surfaced roads that are in poor condition in north Pickering. Further to my earlier notice of motion approved by Council, staff have prepared a strategy for the next five years and will be recommending priority loose surface roads to be upgraded to hard surface roads.

Funds for the hard surfacing of Westney Road from Seventh Concession Road to Eighth Concession Road were approved in the 2016 budget and will be constructed in 2017.

Hard surfacing of Westney Road from Eighth Concession Road to Ninth Concession Road is proposed in the 2017 Capital Budget for construction. Hard surfacing of Sideline 14 from Highway 407 to Seventh Concession Road is expected to be recommended for approval in the 2018 budget for construction in 2018.

As well as the projects listed above, budget approval was received in 2016 for reconstruction of some existing hard surfaced roads including Salem Road, from Highway 7 to Fifth Concession Road and Sixth Concession Road, from Westney Road to Greenwood Road. Both will be reconstructed in 2017.

For more information, please see the Northern Roads Strategy residents notice posted on my website at www.davidpickes.com Council will also be considering further road, sidewalk and other improvements as part of the 2017 budget process.

Claremont Master Drainage Plan

To comprehensively study and address drainage issues in Claremont, the City is developing a Master Drainage Study. A Request for Proposal was recently released and staff have reviewed the submitted proposals. A report that requests the selection of the preferred consultant will be coming to Council prior to the end of the year. Following Council's authorization, staff will meet with the consultant, who will begin the different study components.

One of the first steps of the study will be to issue a Notice of Study Commencement to all agencies and stakeholders. Community representatives will also be invited to participate in the study. It is anticipated that this notice will occur early in 2017. The study will follow the Municipal Class Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.

Greenbelt Planning Matters

A number of Greenbelt related planning initiatives have been under consideration at the City:

- The Province of Ontario initiated a review of the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine, Niagara Escarpment, and Growth Plans. The review touched on a broader range of matters including: supporting agriculture; protecting natural heritage and water resources; growing the Greenbelt, addressing climate change; building complete communities; and integrating infrastructure. Like most other municipalities, the City generally supports the Greenbelt but provided comments on further protecting existing agricultural practices, designating urban river valley lands, allowing consideration of future growth on the Cherrywood lands, and limited expansion of the Hamlets of Claremont and Greenwood subject to municipally led studies. In May 2015, City Council provided its position on the Greenbelt Plan review and more recently in September 2016 offered its comments on the proposed changes to the Plan. The City has submitted its comments to the Province. The Province's deadline for comments was October 31, 2016.

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- In September 2015, following ongoing and differing views in the community related to proposed development plans in northeast Claremont primarily pertaining to Geranium and the Ward lands, I brought forward a motion, which was approved by Council, requesting that the province consider restoring the hamlet designation of these lands and have the Provincial Facilitator assist in the review in consultation with residents and landowners. This request was provided to the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs. The decision is a provincial decision and in my opinion, should be reviewed by the province and with the benefit of a public consultation process.
 - As required by the Province, in December 2015, the City initiated a conformity review and amendment (proposed Amendment 27) to the City's Official Plan. The City hosted a public meeting for proposed Amendment 27 to the City's Official Plan. A decision report is scheduled for the November 14th meeting of the City's Planning & Development Committee. Amendment 27 addresses a variety of environment and countryside issues, such as: local food production and the uses permitted in prime agricultural areas; watershed planning and the protection of key natural heritage and hydrologically sensitive features; the Federal Lands, including the identification of a larger Rouge Park and the designation of a reduced airport site; rural lot creation; and including the potential expansion of the Hamlet of Claremont through a municipally led study.

Although these initiatives deal with a broad range of planning matters, it may be of interest to Claremont residents that the City's comments on these initiatives are consistent with Council's historic position that the potential growth of the Hamlet of Claremont be considered through an appropriate public process.

Canada Post Rural Routes

Many residents in rural Pickering are assigned to the Locust Hill or Ashburn postal routes for mail delivery. As a result, the City and Canada Post have received regular complaints from residents and businesses that general or bulk mail (including municipal mailing and election campaign materials) they are receiving corresponds to matters in other neighbouring municipalities rather than the City of Pickering.

Canada Post has acknowledged that over the next couple of years they will be taking steps to re-align Pickering residents and businesses affected by the Locust Hill and Ashburn postal routes to the Pickering postal station. The advantages of this change will be:

- earlier delivery of mail
- better alignment to the City's municipal boundaries
- ensuring residents receive mail that is pertinent to them; and
- enabling local businesses to effectively communicate with their customers

To advance this process I plan to introduce a motion at Pickering Council requesting Canada Post to start the public consultation process for making this change to the Locust Hill and Ashburn postal routes. I welcome any feedback you may have on this matter.

New eNewsletter

For further periodic information on matters in Pickering, subscribe to receive my Ward 3 eNewsletter at www.pickering.ca/eNews Check the box for "Councillor David Pickles Newsletter".

Should you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at 905.420.4605 or by email at dpickles@pickering.ca Please also visit my website and social media sites at www.davidpickles.com

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Pickles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Pickles" clearly distinguishable.

David Pickles
Regional Councillor – Ward 3