



David Pickles
Deputy Mayor
Regional Councillor

City of
PICKERING



Shaheen Butt
City Councillor

Ward 3 Council Office
905.420.4605

Ward 3 West Residents

Subject: Community Updates – Spring 2022

Further to discussions with residents, we are pleased to provide you with the following updates:

Welcoming New Residents

As your Council representatives we usually have many opportunities in Pickering to engage with residents, but COVID-19 has recently curtailed this. We welcome all new residents to the City, including those in our growing Altona and Finch communities. We will continue to reach out to new residents and work on the community elements such as parks, roads, recreational facilities and transit which help complete new neighbourhoods. We hope to see you in-person soon, but you are always welcome to contact us with any comments or questions.

Lymantria Dispar Dispar (formally known as European Gypsy Moth)

Lymantria Dispar Dispar (LDD) is a non-native insect from Europe, first detected in Ontario in 1969. This invasive insect is well established in North America and will likely never be completely eradicated.

LDD population can be best described as boom or bust, often occurring every 8-12 years. Healthy trees can typically withstand repeated years of defoliation (generally up to four (4) years). Based on historical outbreaks, staff expect some amount of moderate-to-heavy defoliation in 2022, particularly in the west end of the City, in residential areas adjacent to Rouge National Urban Park. However, it is important to note that the population is influenced by several factors (precipitation, temperature, parasites, the NPV virus and pathogens), making it difficult to accurately predict future populations.

A comprehensive communication and education social media/website campaign is continuing, to provide residents with the information and tools needed to be able to support the City's LDD full strategy. Residents are encouraged to follow on social media and regularly check the City website at pickering.ca/LDD for monthly updates, including strategies to mitigate the moth such as burlap tree trunk wrapping, egg mass removal/tree vacuuming, tree injection using TreeAzin®, tree watering, and street and sidewalk sweeping.

Staff will closely monitor the status of LDD across Pickering and will continue to remain in contact with other private/public/government agencies throughout 2022.

Upcoming Capital projects

Here are a few of the community improvement projects that will begin this year:

- Sidewalk on the east side of Altona Road from Finch Avenue to Sparrow Circle (south leg)

- Sidewalks on both sides of Finch Avenue from Altona Road to Rosebank Road, to be constructed as new developments are approved along this section of roadway
- New traffic signals at the intersection of Altona Road and Pine Grove Avenue (Region of Durham project)
- Valleyview Park Playground Reconstruction
- Scarborough/Pickering Townline Road Reconstruction, from Finch Avenue north to the CPR Rail crossing

These sidewalk improvements were approved in the 2022 budget and will be constructed in sections, as design and approvals are obtained as environmental sensitive areas are involved. You will see staff doing various preparatory work.

Customer Care Centre

Many residents often ask who they should contact at the City with a question or concern. The City has a Customer Care Centre. This is an excellent service and staff are very helpful, in either helping you directly or directing you to the appropriate city or other staff contact. They are located on the main floor inside the front doors of city hall and at the contacts below. Questions or Concerns? Connect with our Customer Care team, Monday to Friday (8:30 am - 4:30 pm), at 905.683.7575, customercare@pickering.ca or pickering.ca/livechat. Of course you are always welcome to contact us.

Social Media

Please ensure you get accurate advice on matters by using reliable government social media sources. A number of such social media sites are noted in this newsletter. Too often we are finding non-government social media sites are providing inaccurate advice and information on matters ranging from COVID-19 to municipal planning and development.

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Yours truly

David Pickles
Regional Councillor – Ward 3
dpickles@pickering.ca

Shaheen Butt
City Councillor – Ward 3
sbutt@pickering.ca