



## David Pickles

Regional Councillor, Ward 3  
Deputy Mayor

### Season's Greetings!



It's that time of year again when we enjoy gathering with family and friends to celebrate the season. We celebrate in a variety of ways according to our own faiths and traditions.

This holiday season, let us all reach out to those around us. Let us look for those who might need that extra helping hand or just a smile.

I wish you all a time of peace, merriment, relaxation and joy this holiday season!

### Lights, Cameras, Action!

Pickering has long been a location of movie and TV series shoots, from the 1950's series *Last of the Mohicans* to *X-Men*, *John Doe*, and more recently *American Gods*, *Locke & Key* and *Anne with an 'E'*.

In late October, with Mayor Ryan, Members of Council and along with Minister of Finance and our Pickering-Uxbridge Member of Provincial Parliament, Peter Bethlenfalvy and Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, Lisa MacLeod, we had a tour of a new studio backlot in Pickering. The outdoor backlot, the largest of its kind in Canada is located on a 90 acre site north of Green River.



Film and television services in Pickering have been expanding to support this billion dollar industry. The lease is exclusive with William F. White International Inc., Canada's largest provider of film and television equipment and studio space (they will run the activities on the lot; all operations at their expense). It's a potential 9 year lease if they take up all the renewal options, and is a key component in supporting post pandemic labour force recovery and Pickering's desire to lead culture led economic growth. The revenue/rent is currently at \$30K a month, which goes to the City's general revenue to fund City services. This helps to relieve pressure on residential property taxes. When a production is on site, there will be 100 – 250 people working the show/film. Many crew etc. live in Durham and will have a chance to work locally.

William F. White is committed to hiring local services to source products to maintain the site

operation. They have developed a 'Sustainability Plan' and are supporters of the 'Ontario Green Screen' program. They will also be reaching out to local academia – Durham College and Trent University film/television programming – in an effort to ensure the growth of the next generation of film and television workforce.

The backlot was originally created/built for season 1 of *Jack Reacher*. William F. White now owns the backlot assets and will be renting the site to many various productions from now on. *Murdoch Mysteries* is the first production to use the site under William F. White management. We hope the site will also attract many US mainstream series and feature films as well as Canadian productions.

No, the above photo is not the cast of *Jack Reacher*. Photos were not permitted on the backlot, so following the tour Councillor Ashe, Councillor Butt and I posed off site for this team Pickering photo in our branded jackets.

## Library on Wheels

While growing up in SW Ontario, I recall that our home was not close to a library although my parents went out of the way to take us there often. Thus, I have had a lifetime enjoyment of reading. There was also a Library on Wheels that visited neighbourhoods a little further from libraries, which provided access and some fun to those who may not have otherwise regularly visited the library. As kids we looked forward to and enjoyed the visit of the Library on Wheels.

The Pickering Library is engaging the community about services and location stops for the Library on Wheels project set to launch in 2022.

The City has posted information to our Facebook page to let residents know how they can participate in providing feedback: <https://www.facebook.com/pickeringlibs/posts/4743699979008350>

## Transgender Day of Remembrance Flag Raising Ceremony



On November 15th, the City of Pickering raised the Transgender Flag in recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance. Every year on November 20th, this day is observed in honour of the lives lost and affected by transphobic hatred, discrimination, violence and oppression.

Along with Councillor Butt, City and Library staff, I was pleased to give remarks and raise the flag as Deputy Mayor. We were pleased to be presented with the Progress Pride pin, which I will wear on my City jacket. The City is committed

to fostering an inclusive community and we encourage all community members to learn more.

## New Pickering Long-Term Care Home

Plans are advancing on a proposed new Durham Region owned and operated 200-bed long-term care home in Pickering. This is part of the Ontario Government's commitment to add 30,000 new long-term care beds in the next decade.

The Region's application for a new long-term care home to be located in Seaton, along Whitevale Road West of Brock Road, in Pickering was accepted. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will allocate 200 long-term care beds to the Regional Municipality of Durham subject to the approval of the project and meeting all the conditions set out in the *Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007* with respect to licencing and operation of the beds and other conditions stipulated by the Ministry along with final project approval from Regional Council. The design application considered the challenges associated with an aging population that can be difficult to place and has been refined as part of the business case to reflect construction cost

escalations, changes in infection prevention and control (IPAC) and other standards resulting from the pandemic and design changes for measures to reduce operational carbon emissions through enhanced energy efficiency that were not reflected in the original plan. Discussions are continuing with the Ontario government on funding.

In Durham Region, there are 19 long-term care homes, of which 4 are Region of Durham municipal homes, 2 are non-profit/charitable homes, and 13 are for-profit (although Sunnycrest is now being managed by Lakeridge Health).

## Keeping in Touch

Thank you for taking the time to read this eNewsletter. I welcome your feedback and comments. You can reach me by email at [dpickles@pickering.ca](mailto:dpickles@pickering.ca). To continue the conversation between eNewsletters, I invite you to visit my Facebook and [website](#).

I also invite you to forward this eNewsletter to other Pickering residents. If they, or someone you know, wishes to subscribe to my eNewsletter or any other City related eNewsletter, visit [pickering.ca/eNews](http://pickering.ca/eNews) and select the eNewsletter. eNewsletters are sent out a maximum of once per month and you can unsubscribe at anytime.

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