



David PICKLES

City Councillor • Pickering - Ward 3

To Residents:

In this, my annual report to residents, I am updating you on a number of matters in our City.

As well, while we have recently seen significant violence in the world, it is reassuring to see our community unite to give condolences to those that are suffering and to celebrate our diversity.

Wishing you all the best in 2002.

David

Breaking News!

- Valley View School saved!
- Valley Farm School addition approved!

Celebrating Our Diversity

I was pleased to attend the Heritage Week Celebration Event in February at the Pickering Town Centre hosted by the Pickering Advisory Committee on Race Relations and Equity. This dynamic event celebrated Pickering's rich cultural diversity.

Attendees were entertained and informed by a myriad of artistic, literary and musical performances and interactive displays. The event showcased community residents of all ages and all walks of life. Thanks to the many participants on behalf of the many residents who enjoyed the event.



- Supporting Our Schools
 - New Petticoat Library Opened
 - Lest We Forget
- pg.2

- Property Tax Update
 - Fun on Our Waterfront
- pg.3

- Working Hard For You!
 - Making Our Neighbourhoods Safer
- pg.4



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Supporting Our Schools

I am very supportive of a 10-room addition to Valley Farm Public School and keeping Valley View Public School open. The Valley Farm addition will better support the needs of the students and teachers by providing additional classrooms to promote the best environment for safety, security and learning. Valley View provides an essential education environment for children in the Greenwood area and is an important part of a vibrant community.

I am pleased to be assisting both schools by securing Pickering Council's support, contacting School Trustees and personally attending meetings.

The Durham District School Board is expected to give its final consideration to the school accommodation plan in January 2002.

Thanks to the Valley Farm School Community Council and the Valley View School Save Our School Committee for their work on these important matters.

New Petticoat Library and Community Centre Opened



This summer I was pleased to take part in the opening ceremony for the new Pickering Library Branch and Community Centre. This premiere facility is located in our city's west end at 470 Kingston Rd. at Rosebank Road.

As a member of the Library Board, I appreciated the excellent work of public volunteers on the Library Board and Library staff on this project.

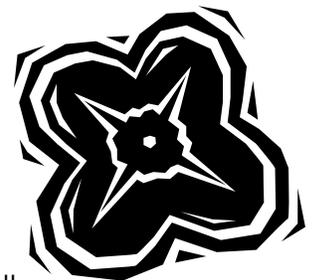
This new 10,000 sq. ft. library combines the best of traditional library services, high-tech opportunities such as Internet access, an enlarged children's area, and a reading section and study tables.

The new community centre (7200 sq. ft.) provides for the needs of various community users such as seniors, youth, community groups and service clubs including the Rouge Hill Seniors, Bani Faith, Lions Club, Rebecca Lodge and the Youth Centre.

Lest We Forget

I am proud to have been steadfast and unwavering in my support of continuing the Poppy Campaign in our public facilities including our libraries.

The Poppy Campaign is an important means for the community to remember and support our veterans and their families. I am proud to have been steadfast and unwavering in my support of continuing the Poppy Campaign in our public facilities including our libraries.



Thanks to our Legions and residents for excellent and well attended Remembrance Day services in Claremont and City Hall, both of which I always make a point of attending..

Please contact the Royal Canadian Legion Bay Ridges Branch #606 (905-839-2990) or Claremont Branch #483 (905-649-5877) directly for further information on joining and upcoming events.

Property Tax Update

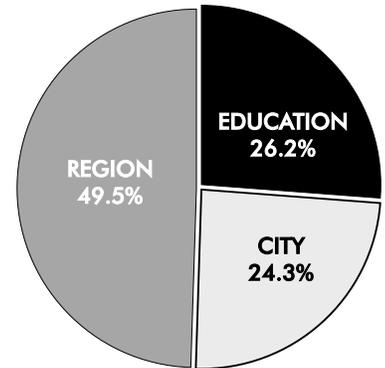
After 9 years with only a 1% increase, Pickering Council approved a 9.8 percent tax increase for residential properties in 2001. The increase was driven by general cost increases over the years and for capital projects such as; the new Petticoat Creek Library and Community Centre and the Pickering Millennium Waterfront Trail.

However, the average overall increase to the total tax bill is 5.99 percent.

Pickering residents still pay the least of Durham's lakeshore municipalities as the chart below shows.

City Taxes Paid per \$200,000 Assessment		
Municipality	Residential Tax Rate	Tax Amount
Pickering	.003468	\$ 693.60
Whitby	.004429	\$ 885.80
Ajax	.004551	\$ 910.20
Oshawa	.006141	\$1228.20

Who gets your property tax dollars?



Fun on Our Waterfront



This summer Pickering residents enjoyed the new Pickering Millennium Waterfront Trail, located on the shores of Lake Ontario. It provides many exciting ways to enjoy our waterfront.

The community's past, present and future come together on the Trail, where the story of Pickering is chronicled through art, cultural expression and recreational activities.

Millennium Square, located at the foot of Liverpool Road, provides an idyllic setting for community events and gatherings. The 40-ft. Millennium Tree sculpture, located in the Square, is representative of white pine trees and the shipping industry, both a very important part of Pickering's past. The Trail provides many ways of enjoying the outdoors, with a boardwalk, a water-spray park for youngsters, and refreshment stops.



Working Hard For You!



Councillor Pickles with his family.

I am pleased that I have been able to attend every regular meeting of Council since being elected in 1997, over 80 consecutive meetings, and serve on a number of committees and boards, including, but not limited, to the following:

- Finance and Operations Committee (2001-)
- Budget Committee (1997-)
- Pickering Public Library Board (1997-)
- Duffins Creek Watershed Task Force (1999-)
- Carruthers Creek Watershed Task Force (1999-)
- City of Pickering Museum Advisory Committee (1997 - 2000)
- Personnel Committee (1997-)
- Site Plan Committee (1997-)
- Glen Major Management Plan Advisory Committee (1997-2000)
- Rouge Park Neighbourhood Advisory Committee (1998-2000)
- Ajax-Pickering Interim Amalgamated Transit Board (2000-)
- Ajax-Pickering Police Liaison Committee (1999-)

The City is presently working on a Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy to better guide us in using traffic signage, speed limits, traffic lights and traffic calming measures like speed bumps. The strategy should be finalized shortly.

Making Neighborhoods Safer

I will continue to make our parks, neighborhoods and streets safer. As examples, we are continuing the repair and replacement of park equipment. Many parks have been upgraded in the last two years. New equipment was installed at Centennial Park this year and new equipment is scheduled for Major Oaks Park next year. Also, new traffic signals have been installed at Bainbridge Drive/Kingston Road, Rosefield Road/Finch Ave. and Rosebank Road/Strouds Lane intersections, as well as many road improvement projects.

The City is presently working on a Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy to better guide us in using traffic signage, speed limits, traffic lights and traffic calming measures like speed bumps. The strategy should be finalized shortly.

Please think of our children and families and drive safely. The maximum speed on City streets is 50km/h (whether posted or not) and lower in some areas.

As a member of the Ajax-Pickering Police Liaison Committee, I can report that the Durham Regional Police Service is stepping up its presence in our community to combat the disturbing increase in violent bullying-type street crime. The Police have had success as demonstrated by Operation Eradicate that resulted in a number of arrests and lowered the number of assaults and robberies in the area.



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