

FOR INFO:

Durham West Arts Centre
905-686-7697
www.dwac.ca

DWAC is located at 72B Old Kingston Road,
Pickering Village in Ajax, ON L1T 2Z8

Durham West Arts Centre

A recent invaluable addition to our community arts scene is the Durham West Arts Centre (DWAC), which was incorporated in 2003 as a not-for-profit arts organization with the aim of establishing a permanent arts centre in Durham. DWAC is funded as a two year pilot project by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the City of Pickering and the Town of Ajax. Other contributing partners are the PineRidge Arts Council, the Rotary Club of Pickering and the Durham District School Board.

DWAC's most recent shows have included: Music and Dance of the World - An Arts Extravaganza in September, The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage from April to September, A Profile of Durham Artists in November and early December, and Calling Forth Student Talents the 2nd annual exhibition of the works of Grade 7 and 8 and Secondary School students in Ajax-Pickering which runs from December 5th to January 12th.

DWAC also partnered with Ontario Power Generation, Ontario branches of the Royal Canadian Legion and Veteran Affairs Canada to organize a province wide tribute for our veterans in this the 'Year of the Veteran'. Reading and Remembrance: a Provincial Project had 35,000 school children in 110 schools across Ontario finding innovative ways to read Lt. John McCrae's famous poem "In Flanders Fields" simultaneously on November 11th. In Pickering, members of Council joined students in the readings.

Support OUR Hospital!

You will have recently received from me and other members of Council an urgent petition seeking your support to stop the proposed cuts at the Ajax Pickering Hospital by the Administration and Board of the Rouge Valley Health System. They intended to relocate births, obstetrics, and related services from Ajax-Pickering Hospital to Centenary Hospital in Scarborough effective December 14th, 2005.

My position and those I have heard from the community and at the two rallies that I and over 1200 other concerned people attended is that these are vital and necessary services to this community that must remain at our Ajax Pickering Hospital as a component of a full service hospital. We requested that these cuts be cancelled, a full review of the hospitals operations be carried out and that they immediately release the necessary funds that will enable the Ajax Pickering Hospital to commence construction of its redevelopment plan. As of the printing of this newsletter it appears that these cuts are temporarily being delayed but your continued support is needed to ensure cuts do not occur. Visit davidpickles.com for updates and further information on how you can help support our hospital.

Contact Councillor David Pickles



City of Pickering: **905-420-2222**
Toll-Free: **1 866-683-2760**

Direct Tel: **905-420-4605**
905-426-5442
Fax: **905-420-6064**

E-mail: dpickles@city.pickering.on.ca

Visit davidpickles.com for more community information.

WARD 3 UPDATE



David PICKLES

City Councillor • Pickering - Ward 3



Fall/Winter 2005

For the latest news and updates, visit davidpickles.com

Dear Ward 3 Residents:

In this, my annual newsletter, I am providing a brief update on matters of interest in our City.

While I celebrate Christmas with my family, many residents celebrate Eid-ul Fitr, Eid-ul Adha, Ramadhan, Diwali, Chanukah, Vaisakhi, Kwanzaa and other traditions.

I wish all a safe and happy holiday season and the best for the new year!

David



Year of the Veteran

On November 11th of each year we gather to remember, thank and honour those who fought for peace and freedom on land, in the air and at sea. In remembering those who gave their lives for our country, we commit ourselves to lasting peace at home and around the world, and resolve that we learn from the lessons of the past. I was pleased to join our Veterans and residents at the Pickering Civic Complex Cenotaph with the Royal Canadian Legion Bay Ridges Branch #606 and at Royal Canadian Legion Claremont Branch #483 as I do every year. It was particularly special in this the 'Year of the Veteran' to honour and remember all those from Pickering who served. I reflect upon my grandfather, Chief Petty Officer James Pickles, and his brothers, who served in the Canadian Navy and Army, during the Battle of the Atlantic on Tribal Class destroyers including HMSC Huron, and on D-Day.



In addition to Remembrance Day Services the City celebrated the 'Year of the Veteran' in many ways including: a Branch #606 Awards Dinner, a 60th Anniversary D-Day Tribute in Council Chambers, a partnering with the South Pickering Seniors Club and the Veterans, remembrance services with local schools (see back cover), and the Inaugural Mayor's Gala on November 19th with the theme of 'The Year of the Veteran'. Many Veterans and their families were special Gala guests of Mayor Dave Ryan. All of the proceeds of the event will go towards charity, including a special rehabilitation room at the Rouge Valley Ajax-Pickering hospital which will be dedicated in the honour of Veterans.

A special thanks to all Veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branches Bay Ridges #606 and Claremont #483.



Photo: Dave Johnson

Councillor Pickles, right, and Mark Holland, MP Ajax-Pickering, on Nov. 11, 2005 at the Pickering Civic Complex Cenotaph.



Councillor Pickles presents award to Patrick Tranquada, Veteran and Pickering resident.



**Councillor Pickles
at Tullis Cottage.**

Airport Update

In 1972, the federal government acquired 18,600 acres of land north of Highway 7, mostly in Pickering, to locate a new international airport, which did not proceed. In 2001, the federal Transport Minister announced that the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) had been asked to determine the need for a future regional reliever airport on the Pickering lands.

I do not support locating an airport in Pickering and I am participating in the review process to represent residents' views. I question many of the findings in the GTAA's recent financial analysis that concluded that an airport was feasible beginning with general aviation service in 2012 and commercial operations beginning between 2015 and 2019.

The GTAA is expecting to undertake an environmental assessment and submit a plan for an airport in 2006/2007, at which time the federal government will decide whether to proceed with an airport and further public consultation.

I have for over two years doggedly pursued having an independent peer review of these GTAA findings to answer the communities' questions and re-check the forecasts and analysis. In November, following the efforts of the community, VOCAL, and MPs Holland and McTeague, the federal government announced that a due diligence study would be undertaken. I was pleased to move a motion that was approved, supporting a due diligence review of the GTAA's findings by the federal government and calling for ample opportunity for Pickering Council and interested members of the community to participate in the process and consideration of a number of matters such as forecasting, supply and demand analysis of airport traffic growth, and technical matters that may call into question the need for an airport. I thank VOCAL for its input on Council's position.

Unfortunately, the federal government has not invested sufficiently in maintaining many of the homes on the federal lands. Some have historical significance. In fact, many have been abandoned, destroyed and tenants evicted or simply fed up and left. I, with my fellow Pickering Councillors, have supported and worked on behalf of many concerned residents and Land Over Landings - The Stewardship Group who are seeking to protect the tenants and their homes. I have supported Council motions calling for cessation of evictions and demolitions, including most recent revoking of the eviction notice for Tullis Cottage.

I am pleased to acknowledge that the great efforts of many individuals with the support of City Council and our Member of Parliament, Mark Holland, have resulted in the recent protection of the Tullis Cottage. This is a start but more must be done. I am bringing to Council a motion for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act for Tullis Cottage and Evergreen Villa.

Pickering Carib-Canadian Cultural Association

For more than 25 years the Pickering Carib-Canadian Cultural Association (PCCCA) has been fostering good inter-community relationships, promoting affordable housing, fighting racism and discrimination through education, addressing employment issues and inequities, fostering a sense of pride among youth, gaining a better understanding of the political, educational and judicial systems and developing a sense of fulfillment through social and cultural activities.

PCCCA draws members primarily from Pickering and Durham and though their

Please Drive Safely

Traffic issues continue to be of major concern to many of your friends and neighbours. The excessive speed of vehicles and the disregard for stop signs remain the number one complaint I receive. We should all consider how our driving affects the safety of our neighbourhood streets. As a means to help address these issues the City launched the Neighbourhood Traffic Watch and Road Watch Programs in partnership with the Durham Regional Police Service and resident volunteers.

The City has also completed a Safer Streets Traffic Management Strategy to better guide the City in using traffic signage, speed limits, traffic signals and traffic calming measures like speed humps.

The City is implementing a 40km/h maximum speed limit for residential streets and collector roads. The majority of the streets subject to the maximum 40km/h limits have now been posted. In the meantime, please remember the maximum speed on arterial roads and most other City streets is 50 km/h, including the northern rural roads, unless posted otherwise. To report problems or to learn more about safer streets programs please contact City staff at 905-420-4630.

The majority of the streets subject to the maximum 40km/h limits have now been posted.



Report Aggressive Drivers!

Road Watch is a program which empowers the residents of Ajax and Pickering to report aggressive drivers. The program is operated by Police Volunteers in partnership with Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS), the City of Pickering and the Town of Ajax.

When a resident observes an act of aggressive driving (excessive speeding, tailgating, failure to stop and any other unsafe driving that puts others at high risk of collision or injury) they should record as much information as possible including the license plate, make, model and colour of the vehicle. If possible, the sex, approximate age and hair colour of the driver would also be helpful.

This information may be submitted online at <http://www.drps.ca> or by using reporting forms, available at several locations throughout Ajax and Pickering.

Once reported, the owner of the vehicle will receive a letter from Durham Regional Police Service advising them that their vehicle was observed in an act of aggressive driving. If a vehicle is reported more than once, the Police will make contact with that individual by telephone or in person.

Do your part to make our roads safer, report aggressive driving!



FOR INFO:

www.ajaxpickeringroadwatch.com



Council members, including Councillor Pickles, with members of the Pickering Carib-Canadian Cultural Association.

members are predominantly of Caribbean background, membership is open to everyone. They are a very sociable group as is evidenced by their many activities such as games nights, bus trips, pot lucks, bowling, family picnics, dances, Caribbean night, and adult and children's Christmas parties. PCCCA also sponsors indoor/outdoor soccer, sponsors a foster child and provides bursaries to post secondary students.

Congratulations to the PCCCA on 25 years in the community!

FOR INFO:

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA)
905-619-4822

www.gtaa.com

Pickering site office is located at
Highway 7 and Brock Rd. in Brougham

Land Over Landings - The Stewardship Group
www.landoverlandings.com

VOCAL (Voters Organized to Cancel the Airport Lands)
www.vocalvoice.ca

FOR INFO:

Susan Maturine (President) 905-420-5196,
Williard Williamson (Public Relations Officer)

905-428-8244,

Fred Gibson (V. Pres.) 905-428-3164,
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