



David Pickles
City Councillor - Ward 3

September 10, 2013

North and Central Pickering Residents

RE: Neighbourhood Updates

Greetings! In talking with residents in the Hamlets of Claremont, Whitevale, Greenwood, Green River, Brougham, Cherrywood, Altona and surrounding areas, I have noted several matters of common interest. As Your Councillor, I am sending you this letter to update you on the following:

- **Federal Lands Announcement**
- **Claremont Day**
- **Greenwood Conservation Lands Master Plan**
- **Highway 407 East and Westney Road By-Pass**
- **Regional Official Plan Amendment 128 (ROPA 128)**
- **Greenwood Sixth Concession Road Improvements**
- **Seaton Neighbourhood Plans**
- **Whitevale Bridge**

Federal Lands Announcement

Although I am pleased about the transfer of 5,000 acres to Parks Canada for the Rouge Urban Park, and less land held for a future airport, I have not and will not support an airport. I believe a public process to discuss an airport will show strong local opposition.

It is imperative that we fully consider the need, impact, cost and other aspects of an airport through a public process before the Federal Government proceeds. Please visit my website for further information and updates.

Claremont Day - September 21, 2013

The Claremont District Residents Association is hosting an event to celebrate Claremont's 175th anniversary on the weekend of September 20 - 22, 2013, with the main events being held on

September 21, 2013. I am pleased to inform you that at the July 10, 2013 Council meeting, I introduced a motion that was carried unanimously to recognize September 21, 2013 as Claremont Day in the City of Pickering and I have been assisting residents with planning the celebration. As further details become available, I will post the information on my website. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Greenwood Conservation Lands Master Plan

New restoration projects, community park and trails coming to the Greenwood Conservation Lands. Read on.

The Greenwood Conservation Lands, comprised of the former City of Toronto landfill areas of Brock North and Brock South, the Rodar Property, and the Greenwood Conservation area, are taking on a new life through the Greenwood Conservation Lands Master Plan.

Under ownership of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the 677 hectare site located in both the City of Pickering and Town of Ajax will be restored to protect the ecologically sensitive lands along Duffins Creek, while providing space for recreational uses. I met with TRCA staff and toured the site to discuss these plans.

I am pleased to note that the Master Plan includes the future development of a community park along Sideline 16 and expansion of the Pickering Museum Village at Highway 7. It will include over 40 kilometres of trails consisting of a number of trails for mountain biking, nine trailheads, parking areas, an accessible fishing platform on Duffins Creek and, an off-leash dog park. For more information, visit my website for links to the Master Plan.

I am also pleased to note that Trans Canada Trail has approved \$95,000 for the development of 5.5 kilometres of Trans Canada Trail on the Greenwood Conservation Lands (GCL) for implementation in 2013 and 2014. TRCA notes that this funding will also be utilized to help expand a trailhead parking lot, and construct a viewing and fishing platform adjacent to the Trans Canada Trail and along the East Duffins Creek. Permits to approve this work are currently being obtained and the parking lot expansion is scheduled to be completed this fall.

Highway 407 East and Westney Road By-Pass

Highway 407 East extension and Brougham By-Pass are under construction. No time frame for the Westney Road By-Pass.

Highway 407 East: The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Ontario has retained the 407 East Development Group (407EDG) to design, build, finance and maintain Highway 407 East Phase 1. This phase is scheduled to be completed in December 2015 and will:

- extend Highway 407 by 20.3 kilometres between Brock Road in Pickering and Harmony Road in Oshawa

- connect Highway 407 East to Highway 401 with the West Durham Link, a 10 kilometre, four-lane divided highway to be built east of Lake Ridge Road in Whitby
- require a five-kilometre realignment of Highway 401 to accommodate the West Durham Link

Currently, the 407EDG is in the process of preparing detail design drawings for the roadway and 34 structures included in Phase 1. The 407EDG has awarded contracts for the construction of access roads, and the construction is already underway. For more information on this project call MTO's information line at 416.235.4636 or 1.800.268.4686 or visit www.407eastphase1.ca

Westney Road By-pass: The Regional Municipality of Durham has completed a Class Environmental Assessment Study examining the need for the proposed realignment of Westney Road around the Hamlet of Greenwood. An Environmental Study Report (ESR) documenting the planning process of the study has been completed. A notice of study completion was published on June 27, 2013, and the ESR was placed on public record for a 30 day review period in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class EA. The Region of Durham is still to decide the construction timing for the Westney Road By-pass. Current construction activity in the area is related to Hwy 407, or other projects, and is not associated with the Westney Road By-pass.

Regional Official Plan Amendment 128 (ROPA 128)

The Region of Durham adopted Regional Official Plan Amendment 128 (ROPA 128) in June 2009 to implement the Province's "Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe" (Growth Plan). ROPA 128 included policies to accommodate growth targets through more intensified development in built-up urban areas, in existing designated greenfield areas, and by designating future urban expansion areas, including northeast Pickering. Northeast Pickering includes lands east of Greenwood Road and most of the lands between Highway 7, Eighth Concession Road, Westney Road and Lake Ridge Road.

Following revisions by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Region of Durham and landowners appealed ROPA 128 to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and the OMB issued a final approval of ROPA 128 in January 2013 following a negotiated settlement. The decision removed northeast Pickering as an urban expansion area at this time. However, it also included a provision that northeast Pickering be reconsidered through a future comprehensive review of the Regional Plan, and to consider the status of Seaton development and completion of updates of the East Duffin and Carruthers Creek watershed plans.

The City of Pickering Official Plan will also be amended in the near future to conform with ROPA 128. The City's review process will include an opportunity for extensive public engagement prior to a Pickering Council decision.

Greenwood Sixth Concession Road Improvements

The planning for the completion of improvements to the Sixth Concession are underway. We are looking for your input. Read on.

I previously committed to Greenwood residents, the completion of needed improvements to Sixth Concession Road and Greenridge Drive. As I am sure you are aware, the repaving of Sixth Concession Road east of Westney Road was completed in 2010 and Greenridge Drive was resurfaced in 2012. Improvements to Sixth Concession Road west of Westney Road are more complex and costly. Last year, I asked staff to begin a community consultation/survey to review possible improvements to this section of the road.

Staff received initial feedback from residents in 2012, and will use this information to develop proposed improvements for further community input. Consideration will be given to road surfaces as well as other matters such as driving safety, signage, drainage improvements and pedestrian safety. I worked with staff and Council and was successful in getting funds approved in the 2013 Capital Budget to further the design process.

Moving forward, I asked that staff develop possible road design options and cost estimates for the 2014 City Budget meetings. You will soon be receiving a notice from City staff requesting your input on road designs. I hope you will take the opportunity to provide your input and I look forward to hearing your views and moving this project along.

Seaton Neighbourhood Plans

The Province has not removed uses from the buffer or expedited the Whitevale By-Pass as Pickering requested. Read on.

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings continue on this matter and a final conclusion is expected by the end of this year. The Seaton Neighbourhood Plans originally came before Pickering Council in April 2011 for comment. A number of residents and I were concerned that the province is proposing uses (e.g. schools, playgrounds) in the Whitevale buffer that are not consistent with our original intention of a buffer. I spoke to this concern and moved a motion at Council, requesting that staff further explore refinements further limiting or relocating uses presently proposed in the Hamlet Heritage Open Space to lands outside the Hamlet Heritage Open Space, including expediting the western extension and bridge over the West Duffins Creek for the Whitevale Road By-pass south of the hamlet in the first phase of development, and to discuss opportunities for sanitary sewers for Whitevale residents.

My motion to limit uses in the buffer and expedite the Whitevale By-pass and bridge was carried on a recorded vote as follows:

Yes

Councillor Dickerson, Councillor McLean, Councillor Pickles, Mayor Ryan

No

Councillor O'Connell, Councillor Rodrigues

Council pursued this position with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Infrastructure Ontario (IO) and the OMB. However, these ministries continue to assert that the Hamlet Heritage Open Space (HHOS) designation adjacent to Whitevale, does permit elementary schools and active parks to serve as a buffer between the hamlet and the new residential area in Seaton. IO and the MMAH instead encourage engagement with local residents from the hamlet at the site plan stage to address matters such as layout, design and orientation of the uses proposed.

The Region has not confirmed a timeline, for the Whitevale Road By-pass. While many residents and I would prefer the by-pass be built prior to development, the traffic master plan presently includes a Whitevale Road By-pass crossing at Duffins Creek south of Whitevale in Phase 3 of the Seaton Development (2023 to 2027).

Whitevale Bridge

We need to proceed with construction of a new, safe, and appropriately designed bridge in 2014. Read on.

I understand that there is some concern and lack of clarity over the proposed new bridge. The present bridge is in very poor condition and the weight restriction has been reduced from 20 tonnes to 10 tonnes thus prohibiting some Emergency Service vehicles from using it. The bridge has been reduced to one lane, and the bridge abutment and bridge deck is deteriorating. It is being monitored weekly by Operations staff and inspected by a structural engineer every 6 months to ensure it has not deteriorated to the point that it needs to be permanently closed.

The proposed new bridge is a two-lane road with 3.2 metre vehicle lanes each way, the exact same as the present bridge. For safety of pedestrians, it is proposed that the sidewalk on the south side be widened to 2.0 metres and that a new sidewalk width of 1.5 metres be included on the north side. A 0.5 metre safety buffer will be installed between the sidewalks and road lanes for additional safety. This makes the new bridge slightly wider by 2.9 metres and much safer than the existing bridge.

The City intends to include heritage design features in discussions with the community. I attended the December 2012 meeting between City staff and the Whitevale Bridge Committee. It was productive with a number of design features discussed. I have asked staff to arrange a follow up meeting with the Committee to discuss the proposed design. The Heritage Permit for the bridge will be considered at an upcoming Council meeting. I think we will be able to find an appropriate design for the bridge.

During the 2012 City Budget Council meeting, a motion was moved by Councillor Peter Rodrigues to delete the \$2.4 million funding allocation for a new bridge. On the motion to delete funding for the bridge, the recorded vote was defeated as follows:

Yes

Councillor O'Connell, Councillor Rodrigues

No

Councillor Ashe, Councillor Dickerson, Councillor McLean, Councillor Pickles, Mayor Ryan

The 2012 Budget motion for all City operations and projects, including funds for the Whitevale bridge was carried on a recorded vote as follows:

Yes

Councillor Ashe, Councillor Dickerson, Councillor McLean, Councillor Pickles, Mayor Ryan

No

Councillor O'Connell, Councillor Rodrigues

If all approvals are in place, demolition and construction of the new bridge should occur in the July to September construction window permitted by TRCA for works within a watercourse, with a project completion in December 2014.

As always, I look forward to continuing to work with you to make our community a better place. Should you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at 905.420.4605 or by email at dpickles@pickering.ca and please visit my website at www.davidpickles.com for further information on matters in Pickering.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Pickles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

David Pickles
Your Councillor - Ward 3