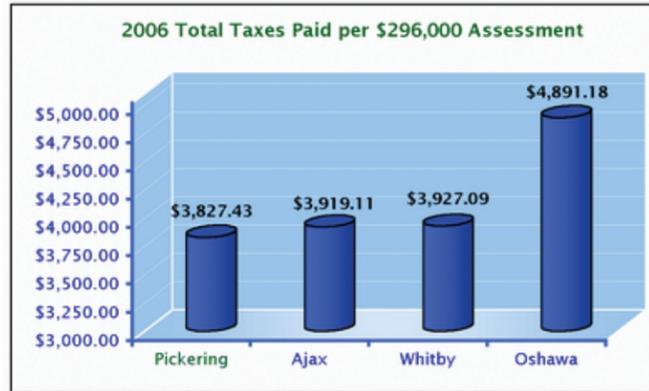


For the latest news and updates, visit davidpickles.com

How do Pickering's Taxes Compare?



Your Tax Dollars at Work

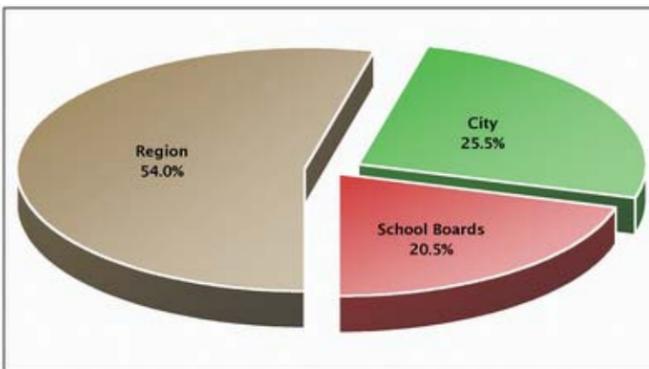
During the process of setting budgets and establishing tax rates, Council is always in a position of balancing residents' desires to maintain existing assets (eg: roads, recreation complex, libraries) and undertaking new projects (eg: sidewalks, arenas, playgrounds), while at the same time trying to minimize increases to property taxes. Although these are always difficult decisions, I am pleased with what we have been able to accomplish with the funds available while also maintaining Pickering's position of having the lowest tax rates of the lakeshore municipalities in Durham Region.

The relationship of property assessments and the property taxes you pay is not simple. Generally, if your property value increased about the same as the City average of 9.8% then it does not affect your property taxes. If your assessment increased more than 9.8% it may increase your taxes, if less it may decrease your taxes. Due to assessment complaints by residents across the province and a critical report by the Provincial Ombudsman the Provincial Government has announced that property assessment for 2006 and 2007 have been cancelled.

Although the City of Pickering collects your property taxes only 25% goes to the City with 50% going to the Region and 25% going to the Province for education. The City of Pickering's tax needs actually decreased by over 2% from last year. This is the result of an 8% decrease because transit was transferred to the Region of Durham and a 5.8% increase due to other cost increases. The Province's share for education stayed the same. The Region's share increased about 6%, approximately 2% for transit and just under 4% due to other costs. All in all property taxes in Pickering, without the effect of property re-assessment, increased by an average of 3% in 2006.

For more information on tax, City budget, and capital project matters see www.davidpickles.com

Who Gets Your Property Tax Dollars?



David
PICKLES
City Councillor • Pickering - Ward 3

Dear Ward 3 Residents:

In this newsletter I take the opportunity to bring you news about a few initiatives in the City and wish you a fun and safe summer vacation. I look forward to continuing to represent you on Council. Please take the time to visit www.davidpickles.com for other items of interest in the City.

David

We are committed to ongoing consultation with the community as well as developing indicators and targets that can be measured. In early 2006 we held three Town Hall Meetings - I was pleased to attend the meeting in Claremont - to hear the views and ideas of residents. I look forward to continuing to work with the residents, businesses and community groups.

Our current sustainability initiatives include (but are not limited to):

- Anti-Idling
- Hybrid Vehicle
- Eyes on the Street
- Environmental Education
- Highway 401 Pedestrian Bridge
- Partners for Climate Protection
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Plan
- Energy Reduction Measures
- Communities Against Violence Everywhere (CAVE)

I was pleased to recently attend both the 2006 Smog Summit with GTA Municipalities and the 2006 Sustainability Conference with experts and municipalities to bring ideas back to use here in Pickering. I am looking for ways we can help protect the environment, make our community better and perhaps save us all some money. For more information on this exciting initiative please log on to www.davidpickles.com or www.sustainablepickering.com.

Sustainable Pickering

The City of Pickering is on a path to becoming a leader in sustainable community development with the launching of Sustainable Pickering.

I believe that a Sustainable Pickering means a new way of doing business, by balancing economic, social and environmental objectives to achieve a more distinctive community. This enhances an already good City, as an even more desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

In order to ensure that our community has a bright future, providing benefits over the long term, we are benchmarking standards for sustainability in Pickering and measuring our progress along the way.

Our five objectives are:

- Healthy Environment
- Healthy Society
- Healthy Economy
- Responsible Development
- Responsible Consumption

Councillor Pickles, a member of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority's Duffins Creek Watershed Task Force, releases Atlantic salmon into the creek as part of the re-introduction of the native salmon into the watershed. (See www.davidpickles.com for more info)



Contact Councillor David Pickles



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Visit davidpickles.com for more community information.

Communities Against Violence Everywhere - CAVE

Reported incidents of violence and crime across the Greater Toronto Area led City of Pickering Councillors to seek out positive initiatives to address growing community risks.

I am pleased to be working with various community sectors, to initiate strategies to combat such problems but to also recognize and support those - including the many youths - who are making a positive difference in the community.

Through CAVE we held the first Community Forum, in November 2005, which gave Pickering residents the opportunity to learn about anti-violence and anti-crime initiatives. The forum included panel members representing youth, multicultural organizations, Durham Regional Police and the Pickering business community. Forum attendees were invited to speak about their experiences and concerns. Over 130 residents attended the Community Forum.

Key issues that were raised included:

- Criminal Justice System & Policing
- Education
- Lack of jobs
- Media & Communications
- Bullying
- Character Building, Changing Attitudes & Accountability
- Programs for youth who have recently been released from detention centres
- Domestic violence
- Parenting

Early in 2006 we followed with the formation of the Communities Against Violence Everywhere (CAVE) committee and two sub committees on Youth At Risk and Business Communication consisting of a variety of representatives around Pickering. The committee is working to monitor crime trends, implement programs and strategies and measure outcomes.

The Committee is looking at the existing strengths, gaps in service and recommendations for program development in Pickering with a goal of a safer more vibrant Pickering while showing support to other local communities.

Current initiatives that the action groups are working on include (but are not limited to):

- Business Challenge - creating jobs for youth at risk
- Creation of an interactive CD-Rom with comprehensive information on programs and services for both youth and their parents across Durham
- Open forums
- Creation of a Pickering Youth Strategy
- One stop shop for youth
- Motivational leadership program for youth
- Informational surveys

Crime and community safety is a concern to all of us. Violence of any kind: domestic, racial, schoolyard bullying, religious or weapons makes victims of us all. For further information and links visit www.davidpickles.com.



Councillor Pickles speaks with Toronto Mayor David Miller about environmental, transportation, crime and diversity matter common to the two cities.

Be Our Eyes on the Street

Although the majority of Pickering residents do their part to keep the city clean for everyone's enjoyment, unfortunately too often I see or get calls from concerned residents about:

- graffiti
- excess litter
- vandalism
- illegal dumping

The Eyes on the Street program was developed to address these issues.

Over the past year the City has implemented many education and action based initiatives to address these problems such as Adopt a Park, Pitch in Parties, TD Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up, Enviro-Monsters, 20 Minute Pickering Makeover and signage. The Eyes on the Street program takes this one step further by encouraging residents, local businesses and City staff to be part of the solution by taking an active approach.

City of Pickering Council officially launched the Eyes on the Street program on October 17, 2005. The public launch was an opportunity to recognize supportive partners from the Durham Regional Police Service, Ajax Pickering Board of Trade, Region of Durham, Durham District School Board and the Durham District Catholic School Board.

Since the program was launched City staff have been busy responding to residents reports and working with agencies to have the matters addressed. During the first 9 months of the program over 500 incidents have been reported! Thank you for keeping an attentive eye on your community; you really are making a difference.

Why is this important?

Graffiti, illegal dumping, litter and vandalism are problems that many communities struggle to solve. If left unresolved, these problems can lead to more instances of the same illegal behaviours, negative perceptions about the affected neighbourhood and detract from the City aesthetically. These issues may also pose health and safety concerns and impact on our natural environment.

As a result, the actions of those at fault become everyone's problem! Therefore, I encourage businesses, residents and City staff to be part of the solution by taking an active approach.

To get involved, incidents can be reported by calling toll free to Customer Care at 1-877-420-4666, by email to customer care@city.pickering.on.ca or online at cityofpickering.com/eyesonthestreet. For further information and links visit www.davidpickles.com.



Graffiti, illegal dumping, litter and vandalism are problems that you can help address, please report incidents to us so that we can take action.



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

Please obey speed limits for our children's and all residents' sake.