



Strong communities start with safe, stable and affordable homes—places that connect people to opportunity, support and each other.

Today, the Region of Durham joined federal and provincial partners to announce investments through the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative, the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative, and the Affordable Housing Fund, to support the development and renewal of community housing in the City of Oshawa:

- 66-unit development at 1707 Ritson Road North
- 54-unit seniors rental apartment building at 1050 Simcoe Street South

These investments are about more than funding. They help deliver high-quality, affordable homes, strengthen neighbourhoods and support inclusive growth across our region.

This work is made possible through the leadership and commitment of our federal and provincial partners, and the Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation, to creating housing that meets real community needs and ensures that everyone has a place to call home.



### Remembering the HMS Ajax.

Alongside members of the HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association, the Town gathered at the below streets to recognize the service and legacy of these veterans. The day also included ceremonies at Veterans' Point with a presentation of Syder Street sign and a dedication of Cranswick Lane, a visit to Pat Bayly Square and a gathering at the Royal Canadian Legion with a visit from Louise Johnson.

- Wright Crescent -Stythison Street -Cook Lane -Cunliffe Lane-Danks Ridge Drive -Littlewood Lane

Thank you to everyone who joined us as we reflected on their contributions and honoured their place in our community's history. Learn more about upcoming events this month, as the Town is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 8th HMS Ajax visit from 1976!

**THE CAST THAT PERFORMED FOR MAMMA MIA**

# ABBAMANIA

**& NIGHT FEVER/THE BEE GEES**

## PICKERING CASINO RESORT

**SATURDAY JUNE 13/2026**  
**SHOWTIME 7:30PM**

**THE BEST OF THE BEE GEES & ABBA**



## Karmageddon

By Mr. 'X' ~ John Mutton  
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

### Mr. X: Clarington's OLT Motion Misses the Point

Clarington Council recently passed a motion calling for reforms to the Ontario Land Tribunal. The motion has been celebrated by some as a defence of local democracy. Unfortunately, it demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of why the Ontario Land Tribunal exists in the first place. For years, municipal politicians across Ontario have conditioned residents to believe one thing: "The developers always win." "The OLT always overturns council." "The Tribunal is taking away local control." After hearing this message repeated often enough, many residents have come to accept it as fact. The problem is that it isn't true. What residents are often hearing is not an objective explanation of the planning system. They're hearing political cover. The Ontario Land Tribunal was never created to protect developers. It was created to protect good planning. Those are two very different things. The Tribunal exists because municipal councils are political bodies. Planning decisions are supposed to be evidence-based. Councils worry about elections. Tribunal members do not.

Councils respond to organized pressure groups. Tribunal members do not. Councils sometimes make decisions based upon political considerations. Tribunal members are required to make decisions based upon evidence, planning law and provincial policy. That distinction matters. In fact, it is the entire reason the Tribunal exists. Yet somehow a narrative has emerged that every time a municipality loses at the Ontario Land Tribunal, it is proof that the Tribunal is broken. Let's think about that for a moment. If a municipality repeatedly loses appeals, is it possible the Tribunal is wrong every time? Perhaps. But is it also possible that the municipality's decision was unsupported by evidence? Absolutely. Is it possible council ignored its own planning documents? Yes. Is it possible politics got ahead of planning? It happens more often than many would like to admit. The uncomfortable truth is that every OLT loss is not necessarily evidence of Tribunal failure. Sometimes it is evidence of municipal failure. That is the conversation many politicians are unwilling to have. Instead, the Tribunal becomes the perfect scapegoat.

It becomes the villain in every story. It becomes the explanation for every unpopular outcome. Most residents never hear the other side. They rarely hear that councils write the Official Plan. They rarely hear that councils pass zoning bylaws. They rarely hear that councils establish urban boundaries, density permissions, employment designations and growth strategies. They rarely hear that municipalities already possess enormous planning authority. Because if residents understood how much power councils actually have, they might start asking different questions. Questions such as: "If council wanted this outcome, why didn't they put it in the Official Plan?" "If council disagrees with this development, why does the zoning permit it?" "If council keeps losing appeals, are the policies being written properly?" Those are difficult questions. Blaming the Tribunal is much easier. What makes the Clarington motion particularly puzzling is that Ontario has already spent years reforming the planning appeal system. The Ontario Municipal Board became LPAT. LPAT became the Ontario Land Tribunal. Governments of different political stripes have reviewed the system repeatedly. The Province has spoken. The Legislature has spoken.

Yet some municipalities continue acting as though every planning dispute would disappear if the Tribunal simply gave councils whatever they wanted. That would not be planning. That would be politics. And that is precisely why independent review exists. Perhaps the most revealing part of the entire debate is this: Many politicians cite statistics showing how often municipal decisions are overturned. But those same statistics can be interpreted another way. If a hockey team keeps getting penalties called against them, eventually you stop blaming the referee. You start questioning how the team is playing the game. The same principle applies here. The Ontario Land Tribunal is not perfect. No institution is. But the Tribunal is not the reason municipalities lose appeals. Municipalities lose appeals because somebody presents evidence and somebody else fails to overcome it. That is how independent adjudication works. The Tribunal is not a barrier to democracy. It is a safeguard against bad planning. And before Clarington starts demanding reforms to the referee, it might be worth asking whether municipal politicians should spend more time looking at the quality of the decisions being made on the field.

— Mr. X

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