



## Durham Region Municipalities come together to support Feed the Need in Durham

DURHAM - With the ever growing need for housing, good paying jobs. Many families are finding it that much more difficult to put food on the table. Durham in the past 10 years has been suffering with the worst economic downfall in history. This has affected many citizens with loss of jobs, foreclosures and the like. Area municipalities are coming together to combat the need. Durham Region Municipalities Come Together to Support Hunger Action Month 2025. This September, food banks across the province are joining Feed Ontario to recognize Hunger Action Month, a time to raise awareness about hunger and food insecurity in Ontario and to call for meaningful change. Last year at this time, Feed Ontario revealed that more than 1 million people in Ontario turned to a food bank for help, including children, adults, and seniors. It was also shared that 1 in 4 visitors to Ontario food banks are employed. These record-high numbers do not reflect a temporary surge in demand, but an ongoing and deepening crisis, as the number of people accessing food banks continues to remain at an all-time high. Food banks know that hunger

is the result of insufficient income for today's cost of living and systemic issues that can be changed through strong public policies. To illustrate these complexities, Feed Ontario encourages everyone to try Fork in the Road, a powerful digital tool that helps users understand some of the challenges and difficult choices people living on a low income face every day. This month, food banks in every corner of Ontario are planning events and running campaigns to help raise awareness and call for action in their communities. Citizens are encouraged to drop off non-perishable foods at participating facilities or donate online Sept.1 to 28. Durham Region area municipalities are once again coming together in support of National Hunger Action Month this September to raise awareness, food donations, and funds to fight hunger in the community. Hunger is an important issue that affects individuals, seniors, and families throughout the Region. As Durham Region continues to rapidly grow and food prices increase, more people are experiencing homelessness and/or using food banks and related services than ever before.

**Since 2020, food bank visits have surged over 250 per cent in Durham Region, according to Feed the Need in Durham.** From September 1 to 28, there will be drop-off locations throughout Durham, making it easy for residents, businesses and community groups to donate non-perishable food items. In Whitby, you can drop off food at the following locations: Town Hall – 575 Rossland Road East Iroquois Park Sports Centre – 500 Victoria Street West 55+ Recreation Centre – 801 Brock Street South Operations Centre – 333 McKinney Drive Whitby Fire Headquarters – 111 McKinney Drive Brooklin Community Centre & Library – 8 Vipond Road Whitby Civic Recreation Complex – 555 Rossland Road East McKinney Centre – 222 McKinney Drive Whitby Library Central Branch – 405 Dundas Street West Visit your local municipality to find a drop-off location near you: [ajax.ca/FoodDrive](http://ajax.ca/FoodDrive) [clarington.net/FeedTheNeed](http://clarington.net/FeedTheNeed) [oshawa.ca/FeedTheNeed](http://oshawa.ca/FeedTheNeed) [pickering.ca/HungerAction](http://pickering.ca/HungerAction) [scugog.ca/HungerAction](http://scugog.ca/HungerAction)

[townshipofbrock.ca/BrockBeatsHunger](http://townshipofbrock.ca/BrockBeatsHunger) [uxbridge.ca](http://uxbridge.ca) [whitby.ca/FeedTheNeed](http://whitby.ca/FeedTheNeed) All donations will be leveraged by Feed the Need in Durham and area food banks to support local families in need. Leverage your impact: For every \$1 donated, Feed the Need in Durham can collect, store, and distribute two meals and other needed products to reach those in need. Almost 37,000 unique individuals accessed a Feed the Need in Durham food bank between April 2024 and March 2025. Last year Feed the Need Durham partnered with the Town of Whitby to open a new market-style food bank, to provide fresh, frozen and non-perishable food items to individuals and families in need. The market aims to offer more choices and meet diverse dietary needs, while addressing the increasing demand for food bank services. Feed the Need is also always on the lookout for volunteers who want to make a positive difference in our communities. Consider a donation of time another way to give back and support Hunger Action Month. The RONA Foundation, which oversees the philanthropic activities of RONA inc., one of

Canada's leading home improvement retailers operating and servicing some 425 corporate and affiliated stores, announces the launch of the Home Sweet Home campaign's third edition. From September 1 to October 12, 2025, the RONA network will mobilize to collect donations in support of nearly 150 local non-profit organizations that provide help to victims of domestic violence, low-income families, and people with disabilities or mental health issues. The campaign will run in all RONA+ and RONA corporate stores, as well as some distribution centres and several stores in RONA's network of affiliated dealers. In the region of Durham, RONA+ stores will raise funds for one local organization. "Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of the communities around us, and that's what drives our daily activities at the RONA Foundation. What I love most about our Home Sweet Home campaign is that its impact is significant at a local level; indeed, the selected organizations we help are located in the same regions as our stores and distribution centres," says Josée Lafitte, Director of the RONA Foundation. **Making a difference for**

**those in need** The RONA Foundation hopes to raise \$500,000 during this campaign. "Once again this year, everyone in our network is highly motivated to raise funds, especially since our store teams are the ones who decide which organization to support. At RONA and the RONA Foundation, we believe that every individual should have a suitable living environment that meets their needs. Each in their own way, the organizations we support contribute to improving the quality of life of vulnerable Canadians," adds Catherine Laporte, President of the RONA Foundation's board of directors and Chief Digital and Marketing Officer at RONA. List of supported organizations in the region of Durham **Participating stores Cities** Selected organizations RONA+ Oshawa Oshawa - Feed The Need In Durham RONA+ Whitby Whitby Feed The Need In Durham RONA+ Pickering Pickering Feed The Need In Durham RONA customers will be invited to make a donation in support of their local cause.

## THE MILL STREET CONUNDRUM - ONE CITIZENS ACCOUNT OF REALITY

Oshawa - The Mill St conundrum. Politicians keep doing nothing about it and pretending nothing is wrong. One citizen on social media had enough. This is his tale that speaks for the rest of area citizens: The Voice Of Ryan Our Oshawa Near Mill & Simcoe, particularly around Mill Street and Center Street, many illegal and harmful activities occur on a weekly basis. These problems affect not just businesses, but also vulnerable residents. The two stores on that corner, the Legion across the road, and surrounding buildings — including the one with the underground garage that used to be regularly tampered with — are all impacted. Across from that garage is an elderly woman's home. A couple of addicts broke into the crawl-space under her house and used drugs. When this was reported, the city refused to clean it up, claiming it was private property. The resident who discovered the activity ended up cleaning it himself, leaving all hazardous materials—needles, paraphernalia, and debris—in

bags on the street for the city to eventually pick up. This shows how municipal inaction leaves residents exposed to danger. Just the other day, I personally walked down the bike path around 8 p.m., and saw a man swaying back and forth, completely incoherent and clearly under the influence of drugs. Situations like this make the area feel unsafe for residents trying to go about their day. During a community cleanup, a resident came out of their house and warned us to be careful because of needles and crack pipes scattered around. As we cleaned, we found a large number of both, demonstrating how hazardous the streets and hidden areas have become. In another incident, the owner of a dispensary caught a man receiving oral sex from a prostitute behind their building. The man became aggressive, yelling "You F\*\*\*ing cockblock!" while kicking the facility's windows and attempting to intimidate the staff. Despite the severity of the incident, the police didn't do anything about this. Additionally, someone was

caught on a security cam near the underground garage receiving oral sex from a prostitute. These incidents highlight how indecent and criminal behavior frequently occurs in plain sight, with little to no intervention from authorities. **Activities include:** Drug dealing and drug use. Prostitution and pimping. Intimidation and harassment. Assault and violent altercations. Theft and property crime. Littering and garbage dumping. Public indecency and exposure. Public defecation and urination. Trespassing and squatting in abandoned buildings. Needle dumping and other bio-hazardous waste. Noise disturbances (fights, shouting, loud music at all hours) Property damage and vandalism. Aggressive panhandling. Health and sanitation hazards (vermin, disease risks). Human trafficking risks tied to prostitution and coercion. But the issue isn't just the crime itself — it's the lack of real response. Dan Carter, along-

side our Councillors, the police, the addicts, the homeless, and many Oshawa residents, are all part of the problem. Mind you, my 2 posts about the community clean-up got over 4k views, yet only 3 people showed up to help.. The city plays hot-potato when it comes to dealing with serious issues. Police often arrive late and brush it off with excuses like "well, they'll be gone by the time an officer gets there." And when residents push further, the finger-pointing begins: the police say the city needs to deal with it, the city says it's up to the province, the province sends it back to the city, and eventually it circles right back to the police. It's an endless back-and-forth where nobody takes responsibility. The courts and judicial system — at both the municipal and provincial level — are a massive part of the problem. Repeat offenders are often released quickly or given minimal consequences. Probation or bail conditions are rarely enforced effectively. Low-level criminal activity is fre-

quently treated as a "warning" rather than a deterrent. Backlogs in court proceedings allow offenders to return to the streets before facing consequences. There is little coordination between courts, police, and city services, contributing to a revolving door of crime. **What could be done — but isn't being done:** Escalating penalties and strict enforcement for repeat offenders. Speeding up court cases for crimes affecting public safety. Sentences designed to protect the community, including mandatory rehabilitation and restricted areas. Improved coordination between municipal services, police, and provincial courts. Transparent reporting on repeat offenders, dismissed cases, and probation/bail enforcement. **Holding them accountable:** Residents must document incidents meticulously and report them to police, city officials, and elected representatives. Engage media and public atten-

tion to put pressure on authorities. File formal complaints with police, city, and judicial oversight bodies when they fail to act. Organize community safety initiatives, cleanups, and monitoring programs. Advocate for systemic changes in sentencing, enforcement, and public safety policy. The situation at Mill & Center/Simcoe is a clear example of what happens when municipal and provincial authorities fail their residents. Without serious enforcement & accountability, the cycle of drugs, prostitution, violence, and public hazards will continue unabated. It appears that by this citizen account. The problem are the politicians not the poor lost souls being forced to do all kinds of drawbacks to live on City streets. The question that lingers is how can any elected officials with any moral integrity can cash his/her cheque knowing that people are having to live on City streets. **NO EXCUSE...**