

Daily Briefs:

Monday, August 31, 2026

OSHAWA — GM WORKERS RATIFY NEW CONTRACT: \$144 MILLION INVESTMENT CONFIRMED.

Unifor members at General Motors overwhelmingly approved new three-year contracts Sunday night. Workers covered by the Oshawa/St. Catharines/Woodstock agreement voted 80.5% in favour. The deal commits \$144 million to Oshawa Assembly to add production of the next-generation Heavy-Duty GMC Sierra, alongside an earlier \$343-million commitment for truck production and manufacturing upgrades.

Why it matters: This is today's biggest Durham business story. The investment strengthens Oshawa's position in GM's Canadian manufacturing network and provides greater certainty for local workers and suppliers while the auto industry faces severe Canada-U.S. trade pressure.

OSHAWA — GM DEAL DELIVERS WAGE INCREASES AND BONUSES.

The agreement provides 3% annual wage increases over three years, eventually bringing full-rate production wages to \$50.20 an hour and skilled trades to \$62.71 an hour. Eligible workers also receive a \$10,000 productivity and quality bonus and a \$2,000 December bonus, while cost-of-living adjustments are renewed.

Why it matters: With thousands of GM employees and related supplier jobs tied to Durham, increased wages can translate into substantial additional spending in Oshawa and surrounding communities.

AJAX — ROBBERY SUSPECT REMAINS WANTED. The latest major public appeal from Durham Regional Police Service involves a suspect wanted following a robbery connected to a Facebook Marketplace transaction in Ajax. Police say a victim arranging to sell a sweatshirt was assaulted and robbed. The appeal was issued August 28.

Why it matters: Online marketplace transactions increasingly bring strangers together for private sales. The case reinforces the importance of conducting transactions in secure, public locations.

DURHAM — DRPS ADDS 23 NEW RECRUITS. Durham police also announced Friday that 23 new recruits have joined the service.

Why it matters: Durham's continued population growth is increasing demands on policing. Staffing levels, response times and police spending are likely to remain important public-safety and municipal-election issues.

CLARINGTON — MONTH-LONG ROAD RESTRICTIONS BEGIN. The Regional Municipality of Durham says lane restrictions begin today, August 31, along portions of Bowmanville Avenue, Regional Highway 2 and Stevens Road. The work continues through September 30 for road rehabilitation and paving.

Why it matters: These are important Bowmanville commuter and commercial routes. A month of construction could affect traffic and customer access to nearby businesses.

WHITBY — DUNDAS STREET RESTRICTIONS START TODAY.

Westbound Dundas Street East near Anderson Street will have daytime lane restrictions August 31 through September 4 while crews disconnect a water service for new development.

Why it matters: Dundas Street is one of Whitby's busiest commercial corridors. Drivers and businesses should anticipate delays during the shortened Labour Day week.

OSHAWA — ADELAIDE AVENUE PROJECT REACHES SCHEDULED COMPLETION DATE. Durham's road rehabilitation and resurfacing work on Adelaide Avenue East from Blackthorn Street to Townline Road North was scheduled to continue through today, August 31, weather permitting.

Why it matters: Completion would remove another construction pressure from east Oshawa motorists after weeks of lane restrictions.

BUSINESS WATCH — TARIFF THREAT HANGS OVER OSHAWA'S GM WIN. The new GM investment comes amid escalating Canada-U.S. trade tensions. Reuters reports U.S. tariffs on Canadian vehicles are expected to rise from 25% to 50% by January 1, 2027 if the dispute is not resolved.

Why it matters: The ratified GM agreement is very good news for Oshawa, but tariffs remain the largest external threat to the plant, its suppliers and Durham manufacturing employment.

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Durham Region has outlined the issues local municipal leaders raised with the Ontario government during the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference. Durham representatives pushed provincial officials on health-care access, affordable housing, transportation, community safety, social services, municipal finances and critical infrastructure.

WHY IT MATTERS: Many of Durham's largest community problems cannot be solved by municipalities alone. Provincial funding decisions directly affect housing, homelessness, infrastructure, policing pressures and ultimately the amount municipalities must collect from local taxpayers.

OSHAWA — GM CONTRACT SECURES \$144 MILLION FOR OSHAWA ASSEMBLY

Unifor members have overwhelmingly ratified new three-year contracts with General Motors. Workers covered by the Oshawa, St. Catharines and Woodstock agreement voted 80.5 per cent in favour. The agreement includes a \$144-million commitment to bring production of the next-generation Heavy-Duty GMC Sierra to Oshawa Assembly. The contracts also provide three per cent annual wage increases, cost-of-living protection and bonuses for eligible workers.

WHY IT MATTERS: This is one of the most important recent economic developments for Oshawa. GM remains a cornerstone employer, and new product commitments provide greater certainty for workers, suppliers and businesses that depend on the local automotive industry.

BUSINESS WATCH — CANADA'S NEW U.S. COUNTER-TARIFFS ONE WEEK AWAY

Canada's latest retaliatory tariffs against U.S. imports are scheduled to take effect September 8. Tariffs of 15, 25 and 50 per cent are expected to apply to approximately \$27.6 billion worth of U.S. imports. Affected sectors include steel and aluminum, appliances, agricultural equipment, dairy, pulp and paper, plastics and electronics.

WHY IT MATTERS TO DURHAM: Durham's automotive, manufacturing, construction, logistics and retail sectors are closely connected to U.S. supply chains. Higher tariffs can increase costs, disrupt investment and create uncertainty for local employers.

PICKERING — SIDELINE 26 CLOSED TODAY Sideline 26 between the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline and 9th Concession Road is scheduled to remain closed today from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.

WHY IT MATTERS: Residents, commuters and businesses in north Pickering should plan alternate routes throughout the day.

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 |

CLARINGTON — MAJOR LIBERTY STREET CLOSURE COMING NEXT WEEK

Durham Region announced September 1 that Liberty Street North will close between Longworth Avenue and Bons/Freeland Avenue from September 9 through December 31. The project includes road reconstruction, new sewer and watermain infrastructure and construction of a new roundabout.

WHY IT MATTERS: This is not a short-term lane restriction. The closure is scheduled to last nearly four months and will affect residents, commuters and businesses using one of Bowmanville's important north-south routes.

COURTICE — TRULLS ROAD CLOSURE CONTINUES TODAY

Trulls Road between Bloor Street and Cigas Road remains closed today for railway-crossing construction. The closure began September 1 and is scheduled to continue through September 3.

WHY IT MATTERS: Courtice residents using Trulls Road need to continue using alternate routes while work proceeds at the railway crossing.

AJAX — NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT HEADING TO PUBLIC MEETING

Ajax residents have an opportunity to comment on a proposed residential development at the south-east corner of Rossland Road West and Harkins Drive. The implementing zoning bylaw is scheduled to be considered at a statutory public meeting on September 21.

WHY IT MATTERS: Growth and residential development are major municipal-election issues. Projects like this affect neighbourhood density, traffic, infrastructure and municipal services, making public scrutiny important before council decisions are made.

DURHAM — FOOD INSECURITY BECOMES A SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY FOCUS

Durham municipalities are joining together for Hunger Action Month. Beginning September 9 and continuing through October 5, participating municipal facilities will collect non-perishable food and monetary donations for local food banks. Ajax issued its campaign announcement September 1, while Whitby and Clarington have also announced their participation.

WHY IT MATTERS: Demand on food banks is an important indicator of household affordability pressures. The regional campaign gives residents an opportunity to directly support organizations dealing with food insecurity across Durham.

OSHAWA — SIMCOE STREET NORTH CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Lane restrictions remain in place on Simcoe Street North near Northern Dancer Drive through September 8. Durham Region says the work is required to construct an entrance supporting new development. **WHY IT MATTERS:** Simcoe Street North is a heavily travelled north Oshawa corridor. Continued construction adds another traffic pressure as commuters and families return to their regular September routines.

October 20-26, 2026

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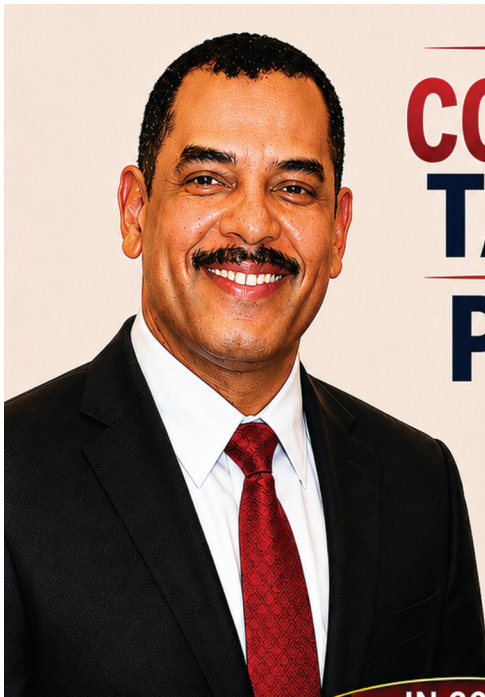
CAST YOUR VOTE AT Vote2026.ca

MTO plan to extend 401 Collector from Pickering to Whitby

Ontario Ministry of Transport (MTO) has confirmed plans to extend Highway 401 Collector system eastwards from Pickering to Highway 412.

"The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has completed several preliminary design and environmental assessment (EA) studies for Highway 401 in the Region of Durham. One of the recommendations from these studies included the extension of the Highway 401 core collector system from Brock Road in Pickering to Highway 412 in Ajax," confirmed a statement from Susan Nichol, Director, MTO Design and Engineering Branch.

"MTO is also advancing plans for the ultimate widening of Highway 401 from Brock Road to Highway 412, which includes extending the existing core collector system along this corridor," the statement said. "This project is currently funded for detailed design. The construction schedule will be determined pending approvals," the statement pointed out. It said this long-term investment will increase capacity and improve traffic operations on one of the busiest sections of Highway 401. It will also improve safety, and support the continued growth of communities in the region.



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Regional Ward 3 Candidate – Ajax

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