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Durham Region reminds residents to protect waste collection workers; keep needles and glass out of the garbage

Whitby, Ontario – The Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department would like to remind residents to keep the health and safety of waste collection operators in mind when they set out their waste for curbside collection.

Waste collection operators can be severely injured when collecting a garbage bag containing large pieces of broken glass, broken porcelain or hypodermic needles. For the protection of the operators, all waste set out for collection must be in compliance with the Region's Waste Management By-law.

"Durham Region's Material Recovery Facility operator has advised us that staff see biomedical sharp items in the waste stream almost daily. Additionally, a line sorter has been injured every year for the past six years by a sharp biomedical waste item," says Craig Barlett, Manager of Waste Operations. "This is a serious issue and we are asking residents to please help protect these workers by carefully and responsibly disposing sharp items, such as hypodermic needles, syringes, EpiPens or lancets."

Last year, Miller Waste Systems removed approximately 160 kilograms of sharp biomedical items from recycling processed at the Material Recovery Facility. Sharps are not recyclable, nor do they belong in the garbage.

To properly dispose of these items: Take back used sharps to a local pharmacy.

Sharps must be returned in an approved sharps container. Containers are distributed free of charge at local pharmacies.

Visit HealthSteward.ca to find a participating pharmacy.

Sharps must never be disposed of in the garbage or recycling. When setting out broken glass or porcelain, please:

Separate broken glass from other waste.

Seal broken glass inside a securely taped cardboard box.

Mark the box as GLASS in large, bold letters before disposing as garbage.

OPP Association Supports Modernization of Ontario's Public Safety Radio Network

OPP Association (OPPA) President Rob Jamieson joined Premier Ford, Michael Tibollo, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and Jim Wilson, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to offer support for the government's plan to replace Ontario's aging Public Safety Radio Network (PSRN).

"This is the most significant investment in technology of this kind in decades," said Jamieson. "This technology will give our officers and dispatchers encrypted radio functions which will increase officer safety, protect public privacy and allow interoperability amongst first responders."

This network, the largest of its kind in North America covering an area of roughly 750,000 square kilometers, has experienced frequent technical issues in recent years. These service disruptions jeopardize the ability of officers to respond to emergency situations, which compromises public safety in this province.

Modernization of the PSRN will be of particular benefit to officers in northern Ontario, who frequently operate in areas with little to no cellular or radio coverage.

"Our members in northern Ontario police a massive area. Communicating with them in real time in remote areas is critical to the safety of our members," Jamieson said. "They need information quickly and of equal importance, the ability to call for back up should the need arise."

The OPPA has long called for an overhaul to the PSRN. At today's announcement, OPPA President Jamieson expressed his appreciation to the government for taking decisive steps to address this issue. "In any emergency situation, communication is key to providing positive public safety outcomes and to keep first responders safe. We are very pleased that the government recognizes this and is taking steps to modernize this critical system."

INGINO FOR MAYOR OF OSHAWA



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HELP IS ON THE WAY FOR DOWNTOWN OSHAWA

Oshawa Downtown. HELP IS ON THE WAY. With your help we can make it happen. A vote INGINO will bring change. Change for those living in our core and for those conducting business there. I am in constant contact with the people that have a vast interest in our core. The concerns seems to echo around the same issues. **They feel that they have been left to fend for themselves.** The BIA, Downtown Board of management and in part the Chamber of Commerce have all put forth great efforts to bring life to the core. All efforts are commendable yet not enough. As a municipal government, we need to invest in our core. When I say invest I do not mean tax dollars. We need to restructure our staff. Give them direction and purpose and have them go out into the world with the appropriate tools to attract investors to Oshawa.

Investors that through our direction will generate funds. Funds that can be used to improve our core through initiatives through those groups working our core. As it stands the City departments responsible for downtown development have idled for too long. This will change. We need to give them direction so that they may source out opportunity. We need to turn our downtown into an attraction. With the efforts of those past. We must learn and take to heart their efforts. We must assure that we have all kinds of events taking place on a daily basis.

From major farmers markets along Celina for example. To indoor farmers market at the armory in winter. We must utilize all facilities and institutions to promote Oshawa. We must work with folks like the Oshawa Car Museum the tank museum and any one of interest. We must work with all the service groups and create a vehicle for them to fund raise and at the same time improve the quality of life for all in Oshawa. Without these service groups we would not have an identity.

We need to tailor special incentive programs for existing businesses.... such as discounted hydro rates.... We must work with landlords to assure a cap on rents. All this can be done at no cost to the taxpayers. I can hear the question. How do you give discounts to merchants of the core without someone paying for it. Simple, we offset it against all the new development soon coming to Oshawa. It is only a logical growth spur to bring high rise apartments and condos. These new folks will pay to offset the merchants programs.

For landlords we will sit and discuss option to cap rental rates. This way it would make it more attractive for business to re-settle in our core. Without study. I would entertain giving landlords that rent out their properties up to 40% off property taxes as long as they kept the square footage at a to be negotiated rate. I say this because the revenue we as a city would not make. We would make it up ten fold in revenues from the traffic generated. Small things that make a big difference.

For merchants we could introduce special 'SHOP DOWNTOWN OSHAWA DAYS' and promote it on City advertising and media. Every day we would give shoppers a real reason to visit our core. For example. Every Monday eat at any of our local restaurants and receive an equal meal of same or lesser value. Every Tuesday shop downtown Oshawa and get X% off this or that... This would take some consultation with different shop owners... We would use city staff to coordinate this. But it is something small that would make a huge difference.

A major concern of the core is parking. We need to assure that when we bring in the developers that for every mega structure there is at least 60% more public parking. What this will create is parking at reasonable rates off street. On street parking would be relaxed and enforcement only applied when there is an obvious infraction. The revenue that is compromised by relaxing the tagging program.. that at one point reached almost 1 million worth of revenue to the city... would be offset against a fund we will create that all big box stores will contribute 5% of their annual sales.

Some citizens have expressed concern over security. Some feel intimidated walking our core. Durham Regional Police have done an outstanding job in responding to calls and incidents. Under a new municipal leadership. We would look for partnership between the police services and citizens. Community watch programs and special policing tactics that would assure public safety at all times of the day or night. More police is not always the answer. Smart policing is. Please read my blog on Technology and Oshawa's Future. Remember the above noted are all proposals that require further study. That require further consultation with all of interest. This article is not intended as the be all. This is just an introduction to the possible changes that will benefit all of us. It will benefit the downtown core. Small initiatives that will lead us to prosperity and the creation of opportunity. Most importantly jobs.

With your help we can become what we should be. Let's take back our downtown and let it amaze.

THANK YOU Joe Ingino