Daily Briefs:

Monday, October 26, 2026

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — MAJOR ROAD CLOSURE BEGINS TODAY Scugog Line 2 closes today at 8 a.m. between Old Simcoe Road and Diamond Side Road.Crews will replace an existing culvert with a prefabricated steel bridge.Construction is expected to take approximately two weeks, weather permitting.Local access will be maintained, but through traffic cannot pass the construction area.

WHY IT MATTERS: Rural commuters, agricultural operators and businesses should prepare for detours.

OSHAWA — SIMCOE STREET NORTH RESTRICTIONS BEGIN Lane restrictions begin today on Simcoe Street North between Glovers Road and Niagara Drive.The work involves relocating natural gas infrastructure ahead of future regional construction.Restrictions are scheduled through November 20.

WHY IT MATTERS: Motorists should expect delays along one of Oshawa's busiest north-south routes.

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

OSHAWA — MARIMPIETRI ELECTED MAYOR; TURNOUT REMAINS LOW

Tito-Dante Marimpietri won Oshawa's mayoral election with 15,400 votes (38.3%), defeating Jim Lee, who received 8,939 votes, and Derek Giberson, who received 6,656.A total of 40,718 electors voted, representing 26.92% turnout.

AJAX — MARILYN CRAWFORD WINS MAYORAL RACE

Marilyn Crawford secured approximately 61% of the mayoral vote, followed by Ashmeed Khan at 20.4% and Richard Hinds at 10.2% .Ajax reported 32.4% voter turnout.

PICKERING — KEVIN ASHE RETURNED TO OFFICE

Incumbent Kevin Ashe won re-election with approximately 36.9% of the vote.Lisa Robinson finished second with 23.3%, followed by Janice Frampton at 14%.

WHITBY — ELIZABETH ROY WINS SECOND TERM

Mayor Elizabeth Roy was re-elected with 51.87% of the vote, defeating Chris Leahy, who received 43.6%.Whitby reported 31.12% voter turnout.

CLARINGTON — TOM DINGWALL DEFEATS ADRIAN FOSTER

Tom Dingwall won the mayoral election with approximately 53.1%, defeating longtime Mayor Adrian Foster, who received 46.9%.Clarington reported 34% turnout.

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — IAN MCDOUGALL ELECTED MAYOR

Ian McDougall received 3,326 votes, defeating Mike Coll with 1,971 and incumbent Wilma Wotten with 1,673.Scugog reported 41.3% voter turnout.Patricia Conlin was elected regional councillor with 2,515 votes.

WHITBY — POLICE INVESTIGATE VIOLENT MOVIE-THEATRE ROBBERY

Durham Regional Police reported Monday that a 15-year-old boy suffered serious injuries after being stabbed during a robbery at a Whitby movie theatre.Investigators allege the teenager was confronted by a group of youths after arranging a meeting through social media.Police have identified suspects and issued warrants for two individuals.

PICKERING / CLARINGTON — IDENTITY FRAUD CHARGES LAID

A 41-year-old Pickering man has been charged following an investigation at a bank in Clarington.Police allege fraudulent identification and documents were used in an attempt to open a bank account.The allegations have not been proven in court.

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — BRIDGE REPLACEMENT UNDERWAY

Scugog Line 2 is closed between Old Simcoe Road and Diamond Side Road for a culvert replacement project.The work is expected to take approximately two weeks, weather permitting.

OSHAWA — NUCLEAR INDUSTRY CAREER EXPO TODAY

A nuclear-sector career expo is scheduled for today at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre in Oshawa, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.The event highlights employment opportunities in engineering, skilled trades and energy production.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

CLARINGTON — WARD 1 ELECTION DECIDED BY JUST EIGHT VOTES

One of Durham's closest municipal election contests has been officially decided.In Clarington's Ward 1, Joe Neal received 4,226 votes, defeating incumbent Sami Elhajjeh, who received 4,218.The eight-vote difference was confirmed when the municipal clerk certified the results October 27.Tom Dingwall was also officially declared mayor after defeating longtime incumbent Adrian Foster.Clarington's new council will be sworn in November 23.

OSHAWA — MAN CHARGED IN VEHICLE FRAUD AND DRUG INVESTIGATION

Durham Regional Police announced October 27 that a 57-year-old Toronto man has been charged following an investigation at an Oshawa automobile dealership.Police allege the suspect used forged identification to arrange financing for a 2027 GMC Acadia Denali.Dealership employees became suspicious and contacted the person whose identity was allegedly being used.Police arrested the suspect October 26 when he returned to complete the transaction.Investigators also reported finding approximately 11 grams of fentanyl.The accused faces fraud, identity-related, drug and release-order charges. The allegations have not been proven in court.

AJAX — VEHICLE OWNERSHIP FRAUD INVESTIGATION LEADS TO CHARGES

Durham police announced October 27 that a 52-year-old Toronto man has been charged following an investigation at a ServiceOntario location in Ajax.Investigators allege the suspect attempted to transfer ownership of a 2019 Dodge Caravan using fraudulent documents.Employees became suspicious after noticing that the ownership paperwork had not been signed by the registered owner.Police believe additional victims may exist.The accused faces fraud and forged-document charges. The allegations have not been proven in court.

DURHAM — COUNTERFEIT CASH INVESTIGATION REVEALS MORE THAN $27,000 IN LOSSES

Durham Regional Police announced October 27 that a 23-year-old Cambridge man has been arrested following an investigation into counterfeit Canadian currency.Police allege the suspect used Facebook Marketplace to purchase gold jewelry from sellers across Ontario, paying with counterfeit money.Investigators identified combined financial losses exceeding $27,000.The accused is also facing similar charges involving eight other Ontario police services.The allegations remain before the courts.

BOWMANVILLE — MAJOR BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT ANNOUNCED

A significant industrial energy investment is planned for Bowmanville.St. Mary's Cement announced October 27 that it has reached an agreement with Rodan Energy Solutions to develop a 50-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system.The project is described as Canada's largest behind-the-meter battery storage installation.The system will allow the cement plant to store electricity during lower-demand periods and reduce electricity purchases during peak demand.

AJAX — OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS SHOW SHARP INCREASE IN VOTER TURNOUT

Ajax officially confirmed its municipal election results October 27.Marilyn Crawford has been elected mayor.A total of 33,511 residents cast ballots, representing 32.4% turnout.That compares with 22.5% turnout in the 2022 municipal election.The new council's inaugural meeting is scheduled for November 16.WHY IT MATTERS: The nearly ten-percentage-point increase in voter participation suggests stronger public engagement in Ajax municipal politics. Cont Pg. 9

SOME REAL CHANGE COMING TO CLARINGTON

CLARINGTON - 2026 Municipal elections has sent a shock wave with the announcement of Tom Dingwall taking the Mayor's position by beating out Adrian Foster.

Tom Dingwall is a retired Durham Regional Police officer with 30 years of service and 34 years of roots in Clarington. He has tracked every overrun, every broken promise, and every skipped conflict declaration. Every claim he makes is documentable. Every commitment is specific. He is running because after 16 years of the same leadership, Clarington's residents deserve better.

He ran on:

Disciplined. Accountable.

Ready. Clarington's residents deserve more than promises. They deserve a mayor who is disciplined, accountable, and ready.

Tom Dingwall spent 30 years with Durham Regional Police and has 34 years of roots in Clarington. He is running to hold the line.

Clarington's problems are not complicated he claims. "They are documented. The budget has not been managed with rigour. Promises have been made and not kept. Development has outpaced the infrastructure needed to support it.

Council decisions have moved forward without the transparency residents deserve. The record shows a pattern, and that pattern is the product of 16 years of the same leadership applying the same standard: one that has not consistently asked whether decisions serve Clarington's residents."

Tom Dingwall's platform starts with that record and answers it with four specific commitments.

Clarington's residents have every right to expect their tax dollars managed with rigour and transparency. Every dollar approved in a municipal budget belongs to the residents who contributed it, not to the people approving it. Every variance from an approved budget requires a clear, public explanation that connects the overrun to a decision and names the decision-maker responsible for it. Every procurement process should be documentable from the original contract award to the final cost, with a plain-language account of how the approved scope changed and why. These are not complicated standards. Residents apply them to their own household budgets every month. Any municipal government owes its residents no less, and the only thing standing between Clarington and that standard is the consistent will to apply it, even when the answers are inconvenient for the people in the room.

Clarington's budget has not consistently met that baseline. Major projects have run significantly over their approved budgets, producing cost variances that were absorbed rather than explained in terms that residents could evaluate. Council compensation increased following both the 2018 and 2022 elections, at the precise moment residents were dealing with rising property taxes. Procurement decisions connected to individuals in the mayor's network have raised questions the public record does not fully answer. Each of these incidents, taken individually, has been attributed to circumstances. Taken together, they describe something more important than circumstances: a pattern produced by 16 years of the same leadership applying the same standard to fiscal scrutiny, one that has not consistently asked whether the spending serves Clarington's residents. A pattern this consistent is not the product of bad luck. It is a culture, and culture is created by its leadership.

Tom Dingwall will change the culture. His career required 30 years of following facts wherever they led, holding people accountable for what the record showed, and refusing to look the other way when the evidence pointed somewhere inconvenient for the people responsible. That discipline is not a metaphor for how he will govern Clarington's finances. It is who he is and how he thinks. As mayor, he will audit every procurement decision and budget line from day one, scrutinize every variance, and hold every dollar to a single question: does this serve Clarington's residents? Not insiders.

Not connected interests. Clarington's residents. When costs run over, residents will have a plain-language explanation of what changed, why it changed, and who is accountable for the difference.

A growing community requires a mayor who understands what public safety actually demands. Clarington is adding residents, adding roads, adding density, and adding complexity to the environment that law enforcement and emergency services are expected to manage. That growth creates real pressures: higher call volumes, longer response corridors, more traffic intersections requiring enforcement, and community safety challenges that do not resolve themselves when no one at the municipal level is paying close attention. Public safety is not a provincial responsibility the mayor can defer. It is a local priority that requires a mayor who shows up with knowledge, with a clear ask, and with the credibility to be taken seriously when advocating for Clarington's residents.

Tom Dingwall spent 30 years with the Durham Regional Police Service and four years as an investigator with the Law Society of Ontario. Those are not credentials he lists to win an argument. It is the foundation of a specific, practical understanding of how public safety resources get allocated, where the gaps between policy and street-level reality tend to open up, and what it takes to close them. He knows what Clarington's law enforcement environment looks like from the inside, which means he knows what questions to ask, what commitments to hold to account, and where advocacy at the regional level can produce real results for residents. A mayor who has never worked inside a police service advocates for public safety in general terms. Tom Dingwall advocates for it with specifics.

Clarington is growing. That growth is visible in longer commutes, schools operating beyond their designed capacity, transit options that have not kept pace with where residents now live, and roads carrying more traffic than capital budgets have been built to maintain. Growth is not the problem. The problem is growth that proceeds without the accountability mechanisms that make it liveable: without binding infrastructure commitments, without transparent decision-making, and without a council that answers to residents before approving the applications that change their community.

Those two failures are connected. When development applications move through a council without adequate public deliberation, without conflict-of-interest declarations before the votes that matter, and without a plain-language public record of the reasoning behind major decisions, the result is not just a transparency problem. It is a growth problem. Approvals that should have required infrastructure commitments do not get them, because the council culture that allows this lack of transparency is the same culture that allows inadequate scrutiny of development applications. The accountability gap and the infrastructure gap are one and the same.

Tom Dingwall will close both. As mayor, every major development application will be required to demonstrate, before receiving his support, that the roads, school capacity, and transit needed to support it are committed, funded, and on a realistic timeline. And every decision that affects Clarington's residents will be made transparently: conflicts of interest declared in writing before the vote they relate to, and every major decision supported by a plain-language public record any resident can find and evaluate. Growth that matches infrastructure. Decisions that answer to residents.

Clarington's residents deserve both, and both will define how Tom Dingwall's council operates from day one.

Now that he has won. It is time to make the promises a reality.

Time will tell if this rookie politician has what it takes to make things happen.