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PORT PERRY — SMARTCENTRES EXPANSION ENTERS NEXT STAGE AFTER PUBLIC MEETING

A proposed expansion of the SmartCentres property at 1535 Highway 7A remains an important Port Perry planning issue following Monday's Scugog public meeting. The application seeks to increase maximum gross leasable floor area from 17,985 square metres to 20,500 square metres and remove certain existing restrictions on supermarket, service and other commercial uses. No final rezoning decision was made at the public meeting.

WHY IT MATTERS: Additional commercial development along Highway 7A could create new shopping and business opportunities, but it also raises questions involving traffic, infrastructure and competition with historic downtown Port Perry. Residents should watch what recommendations eventually return to Scugog Council.

PORT PERRY — SIMCOE STREET HOUSING APPLICATION ALSO MOVES THROUGH SCUGOG PLANNING

A separate rezoning application involving 15682 Simcoe Street North was also considered at Monday's public meeting. The proposal would permit a semi-detached dwelling, with the applicant intending to later seek permission to divide the property into separate lots. No final rezoning decision has been made.

WHY IT MATTERS: Port Perry is facing the same fundamental growth question affecting communities throughout Durham: How much additional housing should be accommodated, where should it go, and can existing infrastructure support it?

OSHAWA — TAUNTON ROAD CONSTRUCTION BEGINS TODAY

Durham Region begins lane restrictions today on Taunton Road East between Naples Street and Wilson Road North. Restrictions are scheduled through September 23 while crews complete asphalt work associated with new development.

WHY IT MATTERS: Taunton Road is one of north Oshawa's busiest east-west corridors. Residents should expect additional congestion during morning and afternoon commuting periods.

BOWMANVILLE — LIBERTY STREET CLOSURE CONTINUES

Liberty Street North remains closed between Longworth Avenue and Bons/Freeland Avenue as Durham Region continues major reconstruction. Work includes road reconstruction, sewer and watermain infrastructure and a new roundabout. The current closure is scheduled through December 31, while the broader project extends into 2028.

WHY IT MATTERS: Bowmanville is experiencing substantial population growth. The project highlights the challenge facing Clarington and Durham Region: infrastructure must be expanded to accommodate growth while existing residents and businesses endure lengthy construction disruption.

WHITBY — 2,355-UNIT GO DEVELOPMENT REMAINS MAJOR GROWTH ISSUE

The proposed transit-oriented development surrounding Whitby GO Station remains one of Durham's biggest planning stories. The proposal involves six condominium buildings containing approximately 2,355 residential units. Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy has raised concerns that roads, schools and health-care infrastructure cannot currently support development of that magnitude.

WHY IT MATTERS: This debate goes to the heart of Durham's rapid growth. Housing is needed, but thousands of additional residents also require roads, schools, health care, transit, water and other municipal services. The question of whether infrastructure should come before major development is likely to remain prominent during the municipal-election campaign.

Thursday, September 17, 2026

DURHAM — REGION TARGETS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Registration opened Wednesday for the Durham Region Disability Employment Conference. Durham Region is organizing the October 31 event with Ontario Tech University and the Town of Whitby. The conference at the Ajax Convention Centre will include employers and recruiters, an exhibitor area and sessions addressing inclusive hiring and accessible workplaces.

WHY IT MATTERS: Labour shortages and employment barriers can exist simultaneously. Connecting Durham employers with qualified residents who have disabilities can expand the local labour pool while creating employment opportunities for people who continue to face workplace barriers.

Friday, September 18, 2026

AJAX — MAJOR RAPID-TRANSIT PROJECT MOVES CLOSER TO SERVICE

The Ajax section of the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project is expected to begin operating in fall 2027. The broader project represents an investment of more than \$1 billion and is intended to create faster and more reliable transit along the Highway 2/Kingston Road corridor connecting Durham with Scarborough.

WHY IT MATTERS: Highway 2 is one of Durham's busiest east-west transportation corridors. Rapid transit could significantly affect commuting, development and business activity through Pickering and Ajax while providing an alternative to Highway 401 congestion. Motors production and future investment in Oshawa.

Three Youth Charged After GO Train Assault

Three female youth are facing charges following an investigation into an assault aboard a Lakeshore East GO Train. The incident occurred on Saturday, September 12, 2026, as passengers travelled eastbound from Toronto. Three victims reported being harassed by a group of five teenage girls who were allegedly drinking alcohol, vaping and behaving in a disorderly manner on the train.

The confrontation escalated after one passenger asked the group to be respectful of others. The female youth responded with verbal threats and harassment. During the incident, one youth allegedly physically assaulted a female victim.

The group later exited the train at Whitby GO Station, where they reportedly threw a bottle of alcohol toward the victims before leaving the area. As a result of the investigation, three female youth were taken into custody without incident.

At the time of this incident, the 15-year-old female and 16-year-old female were on conditions to not communicate with one another. A 13-year-old, female from Oshawa has been charged with: Causing a Disturbance and Disobeying a Court Order.

A 15-year-old, female from Oshawa has been charged with: Failing to Comply with a Probation Order.

A 16-year-old, female from Oshawa has been charged with: Causing a Disturbance, Assault, Three counts of Assault with a Weapon and two counts of Failing to Comply with a Probation Order.

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VOTE MON, OCT 26

Loaded Firearm Seized During Bowmanville Traffic Stop

A male is facing charges after officers located a loaded firearm in his vehicle following a traffic stop in Bowmanville.

On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at approximately 3:40 p.m., members of the East Division Community Response Unit were on proactive patrol and initiated a traffic stop in the area of Liberty Street South and Lake Road. While speaking with the driver, officers observed signs of impairment and made a roadside demand for a breath sample. The driver registered a fail on the ASD and was arrested.

During a search of the suspect, officers located a quantity of drugs. A search of the vehicle was conducted and officers located a loaded firearm which was also seized. At the time of his arrest the accused was bound by a weapons prohibition.

Donovan WENDT, age 34 from Oshawa is charged with: Possess Restricted/Prohibited Firearm – No Licence, Possess Restricted/Prohibited Firearm Knowingly No Authority, Unlicensed Possession of Prohibited/Restricted Firearm, Possess Firearm While Prohibited, Possess Firearm with Altered Serial Number, Occupy Vehicle with Firearm, Possess Schedule 1 Substance x2, Novice Driver Above Zero Blood Alcohol Content and Fail to Comply with Release Order.

He was held for a bail hearing. Anyone with cell phone, dash cam, surveillance footage or information about this incident is asked to contact Cst. Walker of the East Division Community Response Unit at 1-888-579-1520





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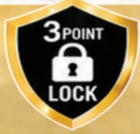
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9 Bertrand Ave.,
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