

Daily Briefs Continue:

Thursday, September 3, 2026

SEVERE STORM CAUSES FLOODING CONCERNS. POWER OUTAGES AND SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

Heavy rain, thunderstorms and hail swept across parts of Durham Region Wednesday, forcing facility closures and contributing to power outages. Durham Region closed Regional Headquarters and its Oshawa and Ajax in-person services at 3 p.m. Wednesday because of the weather. The Region says services were scheduled to reopen during regular business hours today. The Health Department's Oral Health Clinic on John Street West in Oshawa was also closed Wednesday afternoon and is scheduled to reopen at 8:30 a.m. today. Elexicon Energy reported outages affecting areas of Pickering and Whitby, while weather conditions also had the potential to disrupt GO Transit service.

CLARINGTON — COMMUNITY SAFETY CONVERSATION PUTS CRIME, VICTIM SERVICES AND POLICING IN FOCUS

Clarington has announced "Together, We Are Clarington," a community conversation bringing together the municipality, Durham Region, Victim Services of Durham Region and Durham Regional Police. The initiative is intended to improve public understanding of community safety resources and strengthen communication between residents and organizations responsible for supporting victims and public safety.

WHY IT MATTERS: Crime and neighbourhood safety are major concerns heading into Durham's municipal election. Residents need clear information about which level of government or agency is responsible for policing, victim assistance, social services and community safety.

CLARINGTON — MAJOR LIBERTY STREET CLOSURE STARTS NEXT WEEK

Durham Region is reminding residents that Liberty Street North between Longworth Avenue and Bons/Freeland Avenue will close September 9 through December 31. Work includes road reconstruction, sewer and watermain installation and construction of a new roundabout.

WHY IT MATTERS: A closure lasting almost four months will have a significant impact on Bowmanville traffic, residents and nearby businesses. Drivers should begin planning alternate routes before work starts Wednesday.

AJAX — DSBRT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ALONG KINGSTON ROAD

Construction of the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project continues along Kingston Road in Ajax. Temporary lane reductions are in place as crews work on transit-station foundations, while major lane reconfigurations and traffic-signal changes have also been introduced around Salem Road and Harwood Avenue.

WHY IT MATTERS: Kingston Road is one of Ajax's most important commercial and commuter corridors. Construction may cause short-term disruption, but the project represents a major long-term investment in Durham's east-west transit network.

Friday, September 3, 2026

OSHAWA — SCHOOL-ZONE PARKING AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STEPS UP

With students returning to school, Oshawa is warning motorists that Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will actively monitor school zones and enforce parking restrictions. The City says motorists must obey no-stopping and no-parking zones, school-bus loading areas, fire routes and crossing guards. No-stopping fines begin at \$60, while fire-route fines start at \$100. Community Safety Zones also carry increased penalties for certain traffic offences.

WHITBY — VACANT DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS SET FOR DEMOLITION

Whitby says demolition of several vacant downtown buildings is expected to begin in mid-September. The properties are at 128 Brock Street South and 132-146 Brock Street North. The Town expects the combined demolition work to take approximately 12 weeks. Part of the Brock Street North property will initially become temporary paid parking while Whitby considers longer-term uses for the sites.

WHY IT MATTERS: Downtown redevelopment is a significant municipal and business issue. The properties provide Whitby with an opportunity to reshape part of its downtown core, but demolition will also bring temporary noise, dust, construction traffic and sidewalk disruptions for businesses and residents.

CLARINGTON — MORE MONTHS OF ROAD WORK COMING TO NEWCASTLE

Durham Region announced Thursday that daytime lane restrictions will begin September 15 on North Street in Newcastle. Restrictions will extend from approximately 200 metres north of Grady Drive to 370 metres south of Concession Road 3 and are scheduled to continue through December 31. The work will support construction of a multi-use walkway and surface asphalt associated with new development.

DURHAM — FOOD BANK DEMAND HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL AFFORDABILITY PRESSURE

Durham municipalities are preparing for Hunger Action Month collections beginning September 9. Whitby says Feed the Need in Durham's network of 70 community food programs recorded more than 880,000 visits last year. Residents will be able to donate non-perishable food or money through participating locations across Durham until October 5.

WHY IT MATTERS: More than 880,000 food-program visits is a significant indicator of the financial pressure facing Durham households. Housing costs, food prices and other everyday expenses continue to make affordability an important community and municipal-election issue.

Saturday, September 5, 2026

DURHAM — POLICE STEP UP SCHOOL-ZONE ENFORCEMENT

Police are increasing their presence around schools as students return to class this month. Drivers are being reminded to slow down, obey posted speed limits and parking restrictions, watch for crossing guards and remain alert for children walking and cycling near schools.

WHY IT MATTERS: Back-to-school traffic creates one of September's most predictable public-safety risks. Parents and motorists should expect increased enforcement around Durham school zones.

PORT PERRY — FIRE STATION CLOSED TO PUBLIC DURING WATERMAIN WORK

Scugog Fire Station 61 at 30 Crandell Street in Port Perry is closed to the public through the Labour Day weekend because nearby watermain work requires water service to the building to be shut off. The public closure runs through 8 a.m. Tuesday, September 8.

WHY IT MATTERS: Residents should be aware of the temporary facility closure during the holiday weekend and follow Township emergency-service instructions if assistance is required.

CLARINGTON — LIBERTY STREET CLOSURE BEGINS WEDNESDAY

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

WHY IT MATTERS: A nearly four-month closure of an important Bowmanville route will affect residents, commuters and businesses. Drivers should begin planning alternate routes before Wednesday.

BUSINESS — CANADIAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY REACHES FOUR-YEAR HIGH

Canada's Ivey Purchasing Managers Index showed economic activity expanding in August at its strongest pace in more than four years. The September 4 data indicated increases in employment, inventories and prices.

WHY IT MATTERS: Stronger economic activity is encouraging for Ontario businesses, but rising prices and continuing tariff uncertainty remain important risks for consumers and employers.

THE NEED FOR FOOD IS REAL... WE ARE BECOMING THIRD WORLD

Last year, more than 880,000 visits were made to a food program in Durham's network of 70 community food programs. Feed the Need in Durham says one in four households in the region identify as being food insecure.

This month is Hunger Action Month, and municipalities in Durham are coming together to raise awareness, collect food and monetary donations.

From September 9 to October 5, you can help by donating non-perishable food at participating locations across Durham or by making a monetary donation online.

Many attending for assistance are not the average person. Some are people like you. People out of luck and out of resources needing to feed family. Work is hard to come by and the work available does not pay the bills. If you can donate. Please do.

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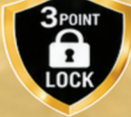
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