

# PICKERING CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AS A CITY:

## A JOURNEY OF CELEBRATION, REFLECTION, AND COMMUNITY

Pickering, ON, January 2, 2025 – This year, the City of Pickering proudly celebrates a significant milestone - its 25th anniversary of becoming a city. To honour this momentous occasion, residents and visitors are invited to celebrate, reflect on, and explore the vibrant history and dynamic evolution of Pickering - a place so many are proud to call home.

In recognition of its historic status as the first new city of the 21st century, Pickering officially trademarked the name "Millennium City" in Canada, a bold declaration of its forward-thinking vision. While the excitement of the millennium has since passed, these efforts played a critical role in helping to forge a new

identity, vision, and sense of purpose for Pickering, laying the foundation for the dynamic, progressive, and leading city it is today. Pickering's achievements have not gone unnoticed - it has proudly secured a place on The Globe and Mail's list of Canada's 100 Most Livable Cities for two consecutive years.

Throughout the year, a special 25th-anniversary visual identifier will mark select events, programs, and communications. This design reflects Pickering's natural beauty, architectural significance, and bright future, while acknowledging the storied past that predates its incorporation as a city.

Residents are encouraged to visit:

[LetsTalkPickering.ca/Pickeringg25](https://LetsTalkPickering.ca/Pickeringg25) to learn more about the City's history and contribute their unique stories and photos. This platform offers an opportunity to share memories, both past and present, for a collective celebration of the journey that has shaped Pickering into the thriving community it is today.

**Mayor's New Year's Levee**  
Kick off the new year with an afternoon of live entertainment and family-friendly activities at the Mayor's New Year's Levee. This year's event will feature a special reunion of former mayors and councillors, alongside the current Mayor and Members of Council. Together, they will reflect on the City's growth and achievements over the past 25 years.

Saturday, January 11, 2025  
2 pm to 4 pm  
Pickering City Hall  
25th Anniversary Banners

A specially curated art installation, designed by a local artist, will adorn the exteriors of Pickering City Hall and the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex. These temporary banners, expected to be installed in early Spring 2025, will celebrate Pickering's growth and rich history. This artistic tribute will offer a striking and meaningful visual representation of the community's journey.

Stay tuned for more details about this exciting project. Please note that timelines are subject to change.  
Planting 25 Silver Maple Trees

Silver, traditionally associated with 25-year milestones, symbolizes strength and resilience - qualities at the heart of the community. To commemorate this milestone, 25 Silver Maple trees will be planted across all three wards, including Esplanade Park, in Spring 2025. These trees will serve as a lasting legacy, symbolizing beauty, sustainability, and growth for future generations.

"I am deeply honoured to pay tribute to Pickering's rich history on this incredible milestone," said Mayor Kevin Ashe. "My family's roots are deeply embedded in this community. My late father, George Ashe, served as the first Mayor of the then, Town of Pickering, guiding it through a transformative era of growth.

From drive-ins and sprawling farm fields to the dynamic city we see today, Pickering's journey has been remarkable. While we have faced challenges, I am confident that, guided by our core values and strategic priorities, our community will continue to thrive and embrace the countless transformational opportunities ahead. Together, we are building a world-class city."

From its transformation from a Township (1811-1973), to Town (1974-2000), and now City (2000-present), Pickering's story is one of resilience, progress, and community spirit. The lands that make up present-day Pickering also hold deep historical significance, with roots extending hundreds of years before this milestone.



**Bowmanville - Save your money.** No need to travel to the Caribbean to enjoy the many great flavors. Bowmanville now has one of Durham's best in Caribbean cuisines. Conveniently situated downtown Bowmanville at 37 King St. E. DAM FOODS is both a grocery store and a restaurant offering exceptionally tasting dishes such as Jerk Chicken, Curry Chicken, Curry Goat, Ackee & Saltfish. On Sundays they offer a brunch buffet from 11 - 4pm that is out of this world good.

For those not familiar with Caribbean cuisine. May be wondering what is 'JERK'? Jerk refers to a style of cooking in which the main ingredient—which most often is chicken but may also be beef, pork, goat, boar, seafood, or vegetables—is coated in spices and slow-cooked over a fire or grill traditionally composed of green pimento wood positioned over burning coals; the resulting smoke is key to the fusion of spices and meat. Jamaican Jerk Chicken boasts a distinctive flavor profile characterized by spices

native to the island of Jamaica. It is seasoned with spicy, Scotch bonnet chiles (or easier to find habanero chilies) and aromatic, complex, sweet yet smoky, earthy notes from allspice, thyme, ginger, garlic, cinnamon, and nutmeg. It's wonderfully spicy, smoky, and fragrant — everything you want jerk chicken to be. But what puts this one above all others? The key is including five-spice powder in the marinade, a Chinese spice blend made of cinnamon, fennel seed, cloves, Sichuan

peppercorns, and star anise. The four key ingredients in jerk cooking are Scotch bonnet peppers, allspice berries, scallions and thyme. Scotch bonnet peppers are a variety of the habañero pepper. To capture true jerk flavor, use imported Jamaican Scotch bonnet. All spice is the berry of the evergreen pimento. Come and try some... You may be wondering what 'Ackee & Saltfish' is? Saltfish, everyone knows... A salty delicious fish prepared in various world cuisines. The ackee (*Begonia sapida*), also known as acki, akee, or ackee apple, is a fruit of the Sapindaceae (soapberry) family, as are the lychee and the longan. People also ask What does ackee taste like? What Does Ackee Taste Like? The ackee, also termed akee, akee apple, or akee, is a lychee fruit with a soft, slightly nutty flavor. According to one food blogger, the flavor tastes like garden peas, with

"just a tinge of sweetness" and a silky texture "like a fresh bean." Ackee is loaded with fibre, protein and vitamin C. In Jamaica's brutal slave society, the foodstuffs made a cheap and nutritious repast for enslaved people on the country's hot, humid sugar plantations. Does ackee taste like scrambled eggs? You may have heard it described as being like scrambled eggs but appearance in some preparations aside, the taste is nothing like eggs and neither is the texture. Ackee is a good source of several vitamins and minerals, including vitamin A, Vitamin C, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Protein Density: It provides a decent amount of protein, which is relatively rare for fruit. This makes it a useful addition to a diet, especially for vegetarians. The food quality is outstanding,

fresh and the best in Durham. Come on on Sunday and experience the tastes. With the Brunch buffet they also offer salads and soups. Fried chicken, fish fritters and much more. During your visit don't forget to ask for the salmon soup. Out of this world good. This homemade soup takes you back to your favorite island. With all the goodness expected from a home cooked soup. The gentle salmon flavor is one of our favorite. Don't forget to have seconds. Prices are very reasonable for the number of items and selections. Adults \$24.99 and children \$9.99. Come down and tastes of the Caribbean in Bowmanville. 37 King St. East. 289-626-2833 They are not just a grocery store, but much more.

## CLARINGTON FIRE CHIEF RECOGNIZED FOR ONTARIO LEADERSHIP AWARD



Clarington Council has recognized Clarington Emergency and Fire Services Chief Dave Speed who was recently honoured with the Mark Diotte Leadership Award by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC).

"This recognition is a testament to Chief Speed's unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and commitment to the growing Clarington community," said a municipal statement.

Mark Diotte was the fire chief

in the Town of Ajax and a Vice-President of the O AFC. He lost a very difficult and courageous battle with cancer on May 7, 2014. Mark was an exceptional leader. He demonstrated that true leadership does not happen remotely or from behind a keyboard. Mark was renowned for his "come and see me" approach to leadership and for his remarkable ability to provide clarity, according to O AFC.

A Mark Diotte Leadership Award nominee must be a current or former member of the O AFC and should exemplify one or more of the following list of attributes:

Demonstrates exceptional leadership and inspires those around them  
Is committed to honesty and hard work and is evident in results  
Exhibits that wearing the uniform is an honour and a gen-

uine responsibility  
Has made a difference in the Ontario fire service

Self-nominations are not permitted, and the award is not be given merely to recognize

long-term membership on a committee or in an organization, O AFC said.

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