

Police Association condemns former Durham police leaders

Police Association of Ontario (PAO) issued a statement condemning the actions of former leadership team at Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS). PAO was responding to the non-public release of a multi-year investigation into the DRPS, parts of which have been reported by media. The investigation was led by Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC). “We condemn the actions of the former DRPS Chief and senior leaders, as exposed in the OCPC report. Their betrayal of core policing values let down DRPS frontline officers, civilian members and the communities they serve,” said the PAO statement. It said PAO stands with the members of Durham police association “and those who fought for a safer, fairer workplace. With new leadership and clear recommendations, it’s time for real change and transparency”. Current DRPS Chief Peter Moreira, who took over in March 2023, asked that the report be made public. Former DRPS Chief Paul Martin retired from the post in September 2020. He was replaced by Deputy Chief Todd Rollauer as Interim Chief of Police, effective September 12, 2020. Rollauer was later confirmed as DRPS Chief.

Clarington proposes 0.99% rise in own portion of 2026 tax

Clarington released its proposed 2026 budget, which it says, raises the municipality’s own portion of the tax by 0.99 per cent. The overall levy increase (with the share of Durham Region and school boards) has been reduced to 3 per cent, from the previously approved 4.07 per cent, the municipality said. Whitby has proposed a 3.49 per cent increase, Uxbridge a 1.28 per cent rise in its own portion, while Oshawa claims a 1.97 per cent increase in its own portion of the 4.68 per cent total hike (see below). Clarington said its proposed 2026 budget update is designed to deliver on the 2024-27 Strategic Plan. “If adopted, the average household would see a modest net increase of \$1.08 weekly on Clarington’s third of the property tax bill (translating to a 0.99 per cent taxpayer increase). This is about \$56.40 annually,” the municipality said. In the 2026 draft budget, the property tax levy makes up 52.8 per cent of the Municipality’s \$163.5 million budget, the municipality said. “We’re investing in what makes life truly special for those who call Clarington home. We know every dollar matters right now, so we’ve made smart choices to keep costs in check for folks,” said Mayor Adrian Foster. “This is a budget that strikes balance. We’re maintaining our record of some of the lowest property taxes in Durham and building a future people can believe in. These percentage points matter, and they will make a real difference for residents.” Budget Highlights From street-level upgrades to cloud-based systems, the 2026 budget supports how local families live, play, and move—now and into the future. Notable 2026 highlights include: Bringing the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan to life: Investments in baseball, basketball, pickleball, squash, and tennis facilities, along with splashpads, playgrounds, parks, and trails. Plus, building a brand-new accessible community park and splashpad in south Bowmanville, offering barrier-free fun for kids of all ages in a welcoming, inclusive space. Exploring a new twin ice pad at South Courtice Arena: A feasibility study will inform expansion opportunities, supporting future recreation needs and the long-term vision of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. Making investments in priority infrastructure: Upgrades to roads, buildings, stormwater systems, facilities, parks, and more to meet service levels in the Asset Management Plan and support broader community growth. This includes building the South Bowmanville Recreation Centre with an Aquatics Centre, a new operations depot, fire station and training facility, and road reconstruction to support the Bowmanville Hospital expansion—investments that strengthen emergency preparedness, improve service delivery, and reflect long-term community priorities. Modernizing technology to better serve residents: New customer service and financial systems will make it easier to access services and track requests, while improving efficiency, reducing financial risk, and safeguarding data. Alternative Funding The municipality said as costs continue to rise, alternative funding sources and resource optimization help ease pressure on taxpayers while maintaining important services and programs. Key contributions to help affordability include: Clarington has secured more than \$10.5 million in grants so far this year, enabling transformative investments across the community. Stronger-than-expected investment income also generated a \$2.3 million surplus in 2024, which is helping offset planned tax increases. Clarington’s Continuous Improvement Program has achieved over \$2 million in operational efficiencies—delivering better value for residents.

Next Steps
The proposed 2026 budget update will be presented at the regular council meeting on November 17. A special council meeting is scheduled for November 24, which will proceed only if council chooses to bring forward changes. Under Ontario’s strong mayor powers and Clarington’s procedural by-law, council has 30 days from November 12 to propose amendments and/or waive the review period. If no changes are made during that time, the budget is deemed adopted.



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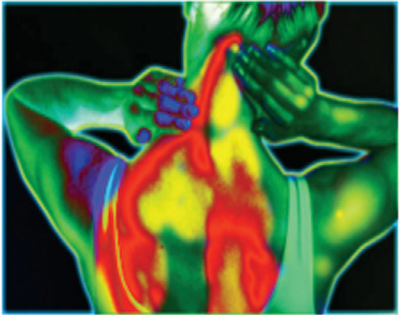




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