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OSHAWA — WARD 1 REGIONAL COUNCIL RACE DECIDED BY 18 VOTES
Unofficial results show Christopher Biancaniello leading Oshawa's Ward 1 regional councillor election with 1,652 votes.Martin Franssen finished just 18 votes behind with 1,634.Nadea Clarke received 1,448 votes.The narrow result follows an election in which only 26.92% of eligible Oshawa voters participated.

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CONTINUES
Scugog Line 2 remains closed between Old Simcoe Road and Diamond Side Road.The closure began October 26 to allow replacement of an existing culvert with a prefabricated steel bridge.Construction is expected to take approximately two weeks, weather permitting.Meanwhile, Ian McDougall is preparing to assume the mayor's office following his election victory.

BOWMANVILLE — NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS BEING INSTALLED
Construction is underway at West Side Drive and Baseline Road in Bowmanville.Crews are installing traffic signals and related infrastructure to accommodate changing traffic patterns around the new Bowmanville Community Complex.Work is expected to continue through November, with some additional activity extending into spring 2027.

AJAX / WHITBY — LAKE RIDGE ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES
Lane restrictions remain in effect along Lake Ridge Road between areas north of Dundas Street East and south of Rossland Road.The regional resurfacing project began October 26 and is scheduled to continue through November 30.

DURHAM — SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
The Durham District School Board celebrated community volunteers at its annual Volunteer of Distinction awards ceremony.The event took place October 22 at Sinclair Secondary School in Whitby.Volunteers were recognized for supporting student learning, school activities and community involvement.

Thursday, October 29, 2026
OSHAWA — APARTMENT BUILDING STRUCK BY GUNFIRE
Durham Regional Police announced October 28 that investigators are examining a shooting at an Oshawa apartment complex.Officers responded to reports of gunfire near Hall Street and Centre Street South around 11:45 p.m. Monday.Police discovered shell casings outside the building and determined that bullets had struck the front entrance and nearby windows.Witnesses reported seeing a dark-coloured sedan leaving the area. Police subsequently recovered the vehicle, which had been reported stolen in Toronto.No injuries were reported.

BREAKING — BANK OF CANADA RAISES INTEREST RATE TO 2.5%
The Bank of Canada announced October 28 that it is increasing its benchmark interest rate by one-quarter percentage point to 2.5%.The increase is the first in more than three years.The central bank cited persistent inflation pressures, higher energy prices and concerns that rising business costs could increasingly be passed along to consumers.Canadian inflation reached 3.1% in September.The bank expects inflation to reach approximately 3.5% by the end of 2026.

BOWMANVILLE — MAJOR INDUSTRIAL BATTERY PROJECT ATTRACTS ATTENTION
A significant energy-storage investment is planned for Bowmanville.A 50-megawatt-hour battery system will be developed at the local cement manufacturing facility under a long-term agreement announced October 27.The companies describe the planned installation as Canada's largest behind-the-meter battery storage system.The project is intended to reduce electricity consumption from the grid during peak demand periods.

DURHAM — PRIVACY COMMISSIONER INVESTIGATING CRIME STOPPERS DATA BREACH
Canada's federal privacy watchdog has launched an investigation into a cybersecurity breach involving a third-party platform used by Crime Stoppers programs.Reports indicate that approximately 1.5 million tips submitted to Canadian Crime Stoppers programs over 25 years may have been exposed.The investigation will examine the security safeguards maintained by the platform provider.Police services have temporarily suspended use of affected reporting systems while the incident is assessed.

Friday, October 30, 2026
DURHAM — POLICE SEARCH FOR SUSPECT IN CELLPHONE FRAUD INVESTIGATION
Durham Regional Police announced October 29 that an arrest warrant has been issued for a 31-year-old Oakville man following a SIM-swap fraud investigation.Police allege a victim's cellphone number was transferred to another SIM card, allowing unauthorized access to accounts and fraudulent credit card purchases.The suspect faces several charges, including fraud over \$5,000. The allegations have not been proven in court.

ONTARIO — PROVINCIAL DEFICIT CLIMBS TO \$16.9 BILLION
Ontario released its 2026 Fall Economic Statement on October 29.The government now projects a \$16.9-billion deficit for 2026–27, an increase of \$3.1 billion from its previous forecast.The province has also postponed its balanced-budget target until 2029–30.The government attributes the worsening financial outlook partly to economic uncertainty, trade pressures and increased spending requirements.

DURHAM BUSINESS —
ONTARIO ANNOUNCES \$8 BILLION INVESTMENT TAX INITIATIVE
The provincial government has announced an Ontario Competitiveness Tax Cut intended to encourage business investment.The proposed measure would provide approximately \$8 billion in provincial tax relief through expanded deductions for qualifying capital investments.Eligible investments could include machinery, equipment, technology and infrastructure.Implementation depends on corresponding federal legislation.

PICKERING — NEW GLENANNA ROAD CLOSURE ANNOUNCED
Pickering announced October 29 that additional road and sidewalk restrictions will begin Monday, November 2, and continue through November 16.The closures affect portions of Glenanna Road near The Esplanade North and the Health Services Centre.The work involves installation of a Durham Region watermain.Access to the Health Services Centre at 1885 Glenanna Road will remain available from Kingston Road.

NORTH DURHAM — REGIONAL ROAD 8 CLOSURE BEGINS MONDAY
Durham Region announced October 30 that Regional Road 8 in Uxbridge will close near Concession Road 5 from November 2 through November 5.Crews will replace two culverts and complete drainage and asphalt improvements.The work is described as necessary for urgent roadway repairs.

BOWMANVILLE / CLARINGTON — COMMUNITY COMPLEX DOME CLOSED TODAY
The Bowmanville Community Complex sports dome remains closed today while crews complete netting installation.Registered programs and drop-in activities are cancelled until 5 p.m.The temporary closure follows the facility's recent opening.WHY IT MATTERS: Families, athletes and residents using the indoor walking track should check programming schedules before visiting.

SCUGOG — COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS HELP PROTECT ENDANGERED TURTLES
Scugog's Turtle Patrol has completed its first season.The volunteer initiative deployed 25 trained volunteers to help protect turtles during nesting season.Participating veterinarians provided care for 53 injured turtles between May and August, donating veterinary services valued at nearly \$50,000.WHY IT MATTERS: Road mortality threatens Ontario's native turtle populations. The program demonstrates how local volunteers can contribute to environmental protection.



Why voting in Pickering matters

By John Meloche

Pickering is home to me, and I want a say in how it grows. As a parent, I also want my children to inherit a community where people feel heard. That is why our municipal voter turnout matters to me, whether residents choose to vote online or visit a local polling station.

Pickering’s certified October 26 election results show 35,976 ballots cast among 91,259 electors, a turnout of 39.42 per cent. Fewer than four in ten eligible voters participated. I find that difficult to accept when the decisions being made affect the neighbourhoods we live in and the services we depend on.

Across Durham, Ajax reported turnout of 32.4 per cent, up from 22.5 per cent in 2022. Clarington reached 34 per cent, compared with 28 per cent four years earlier. Uxbridge reached 49.4 per cent. There is progress to acknowledge, alongside plenty of room to bring more residents into the conversation.

Working in technology, I understand the appeal of voting online. If we can save someone a trip across town or let a busy parent vote after the children are asleep, that has value. For someone facing mobility barriers, voting from home can also offer greater independence.

Pickering gave residents that option, with online voting from October 19 to 26 and paper ballots available in person on election day. I like the principle behind offering both. People should have a practical way to vote that they understand and feel comfortable using.

I would not want a neighbour excluded because they lack reliable internet or struggle with an unfamiliar website. Nor would I want someone with limited mobility facing an unnecessary journey. A system that works beautifully for one person can still present obstacles for another. We need to take both experiences seriously.

There are good reasons to protect voting in person. A private booth gives someone space to make their choice away from household pressure. Staff can provide assistance, and paper ballots leave a physical record for a recount. I understand why those features help people feel confident.

Online voting deserves equally serious questions about security, privacy and independent verification. I want clear explanations of how voters are authenticated and how results can be checked without revealing individual choices. Asking those questions is part of taking the responsibility of running an election seriously. People deserve answers they can understand without technical expertise.

We should also be realistic about what convenience can accomplish. In Clarington, 95.7 per cent of participating voters used an online device. Yet turnout was still 34 per cent. That tells me the method was popular among voters; it does not tell me why everyone else stayed away.

A 2024 study of Ontario municipal elections found no lasting turnout increase from internet voting after accounting for differences between municipalities and the timing of adoption. I would be cautious about promising that technology alone will persuade people their vote matters.

For me, that is where the larger responsibility begins. Councils need to explain decisions clearly, make budgets understandable and demonstrate that public input receives serious consideration. Residents should be able to see a connection between taking part and the direction their community takes.

I also want us to ask people who did not vote what got in their way. Was it time, information, access or a feeling that nothing would change? We will learn more by listening than by assuming we already know.

I want Pickering to be a place where voting feels accessible and worthwhile. Our next challenge is reaching the neighbours who stayed away and understanding what would help them take part in shaping our city.

\$8 Billion Ontario Competitiveness Tax Cut to Support Investment and Create 30,000 Jobs

TORONTO — Ontario is delivering on its commitment to stand up to tariffs and build the most competitive economy in the G7 through the Ontario Competitiveness Tax Cut, part of Ontario’s multi-year Tax Action Plan. This \$8 billion provincial tax relief measure, which is the provincial component of the federally announced Productivity Mega Deduction, would lower the cost of business investment by permanently allowing businesses to immediately write off 100 per cent of the value of a wide range of assets. This measure is estimated to support the creation of 30,000 new jobs in Ontario by providing over \$8 billion in additional provincial tax relief over the next five years. This, along with previously announced tax measures, brings Ontario’s marginal effective tax rate to just 3.6 per cent, well below the average rate in the United States, the OECD and the G7.

“In the face of U.S. tariffs, our government is helping Ontario businesses invest, grow and remain competitive on the global stage by lowering the cost of investing and doing business,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “The Ontario Competitiveness Tax Cut will be a gamechanger for business investment in the province, supporting 30,000 new jobs as we continue working to make Ontario the most competitive business environment in the G7.”

Following the passage of federal legislation, eligible businesses would be able to immediately write off 100 per cent of the value of a wide range of capital investments, including fibre-optic cable, software, aircraft and certain vehicles, patents, rail track, machinery and equipment, bridges and roads. These new measures are estimated to reduce Ontario’s Marginal Effective Tax Rate (METR) by 6.1 percentage points. In 2026, Ontario’s METR is lower than the U.S. with an average METR of 16.9 per cent, the OECD at 19.0 per cent, and the G7 at 26.0 per cent, as reported by the Department of Finance Canada. The Ontario Competitiveness Tax Cut, which parallels the proposed federal Productivity Mega Deduction, is estimated to attract at least \$11 billion in additional capital investment to the province, creating 30,000 new jobs and adding \$6 billion to gross domestic product (GDP).

Combined with the accelerated writeoff measures included in the 2026 Budget, the Ontario Competitiveness Tax Cut would bring Ontario’s total tax relief in support of business investment to more than \$12 billion over five years.

This builds on key actions taken since 2018 to provide significant tax relief through the government’s multi-year Tax Action Plan, which launched in 2025. Since then, the government has acted swiftly to build a more competitive tax environment that attracts investments, creates good-paying jobs for Ontario workers and helps lower costs for families. This includes a Small Business Tax Cut that was included in Budget 2026, which is saving more than 375,000 small businesses up to \$5,000 each year and providing \$1.1 billion in tax savings over the next three years.

As Ontario faces global economic uncertainty, the government remains focused on making Ontario the most competitive place in the G7 to invest and do business. Improving Ontario’s tax competitiveness for business investment is a key part of this initiative. The province is also focused on cutting red tape and reducing permitting approval times for businesses to save them time and money. More information about how the government continues to make progress on its plan to protect Ontario will be included in the 2026 Fall Economic Statement, which will be released on October 29, 2026.