

Durham MPP Todd McCarthy Announces Seniors Community Grants in Scugog

Ontario invests in services and activities helping seniors stay active

Scugog — The Honourable Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham announced that the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Scugog Council for the Arts and Theatre 3x60, each has received a Seniors Community Grant bringing local seniors together in 2026. The Wiisiniwin Mino-Bimaadiziwin program with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, addresses food insecurity, chronic disease, and social isolation among Indigenous elders by blending traditional teachings with modern health education. It creates a culturally safe space for elders to prepare meals, learn nutrition and disease management, and strengthen cultural identity. The Scugog Council for the Arts plan to connect Seniors with Scugog Arts in providing artsbased workshops, seminars and club classes for older adult Ontarians. The program will run Sept 2026-March 2027 and include; series of guided memoir writing sessions: arts practice workshops on website updating, managing social media pages, taking photos, writing and creating content: engaging monthly gallery artist talks: Club Classes for sewing and seasonal crafting.

Theatre 3x60’s project, From War to Peace, takes place from September 2026 to March 2027 and will invite local veterans and their families to share their experiences of conflict through war, and engage in the creation of a collection of short plays with a theme of healing and recovery from the negative impacts on an individual and a community “Supporting our seniors means investing in the people and the organizations that help build connected communities, which empower local groups to create opportunities for older adults to stay active” said the Hon. Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham. “These projects reduce isolation, encourage healthy aging and recognize the valuable contributions seniors make to our communities every day.” The Ontario government is investing up to \$7 million for more than 320 Seniors Community Grants helping seniors and stay fit, active, healthy and socially connected, close to home and in their communities.

“The Seniors Community Grants Program is a great example of how our government is working for local communities,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “We are pleased to provide investments for so many services and activities that bring seniors together, learn new skills, get fit, and stay connected to their neighbours and friends.” Up to \$25,000 per project is invested in local services, activities and events to provide seniors with opportunities for greater social inclusion, volunteerism and community engagement. The Seniors Community Grants is a unique Ontario government grant designed to reduce social isolation, fight ageism and create positive connections.

Since 2018, Ontario has invested more than \$40 million dollars in over 2,100 Seniors Community Grants.

Clarington’s pavement crack sealing program is underway in Courtice and Bowmanville

Work has begun on various roads in Courtice and Bowmanville to seal pavement cracks with a flexible rubberized sealer to extend the life of our roads. This work is important and helps minimize the amount of moisture that gets under the pavement surface and slows the deterioration of the road surface, helping to prevent future potholes and heaves. Work will take place Monday to Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at various locations in Courtice and Bowmanville. As crews work their way down each street, residents may experience temporary delays accessing their driveway. These delays usually last 10 to 15 minutes, and crews will work with you if you need to get out of your driveway. Within a few days of the road work, a street sweeper will clean the road to remove grindings and dust. To help protect the safety of workers, pedestrians, and motorists, drivers must proceed with caution in areas where road work is taking place and obey all traffic control measures and workers directing traffic.

This annual pavement crack-sealing program is essential to maintaining our infrastructure. It is part of our annual road maintenance program, which ensures that our roads, streets, and sidewalks are safe for community use. Thank you for your understanding and patience during road work.

Male Arrested Following Firearm Investigation in Pickering

A male is facing charges following a firearm investigation by the DRPS Drug Enforcement Unit in Pickering. In early July 2026, members of the Drug Enforcement Unit concluded a firearm investigation into a male suspect, and with the assistance of the Tactical Support Unit, executed a search warrant at a residence in Pickering. The suspect was located inside the residence and taken into custody without incident. A search of the residence located a Glock auto sear switch, drugs, and drug paraphernalia. At the time of his arrest, the accused was on weapons prohibition conditions. **Tuan Ubayd BADURDEEN**, age 19 from Ajax is charged with: Possess Prohibited Device, Possess Prohibited Device While Prohibited x2, Fail to Comply, and Possession of Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking.

Male Sought After Sexual Assault in Ajax

Police are searching for a male suspect following a sexual assault in Ajax. On Thursday, July 9, 2026, at approximately 8:30 a.m., the suspect approached a female in the area of Harwood Avenue North and Rossland Road. The suspect attempted to make conversation and shake her hand, before sexually assaulting her, and fleeing the area. The victim did not suffer any physical injuries. The suspect is described as: male, Brown, approximately 5'8" tall, approximately 35-45 years-old, with a medium build, balding short grey hair, facial stubble, and gaps in his teeth. He was wearing a tan coloured shirt.

Whitby Fire and Emergency Services Are Prepared for Summer Water Rescue

Whitby firefighters are getting ready for summer by sharpening the life-saving skills they hope they won't have to use. Training at Whitby Harbour focused on surface water rescue, ensuring crews are prepared to respond quickly and safely when emergencies happen. The exercises also help firefighters maintain provincial certification while strengthening teamwork and readiness. The best rescue is the one that never has to happen. As you head to the beach, lake, or boat this summer, take a few simple precautions to stay safe and help ensure you never need their assistance.

Here's how: Teach Kids Water Safety: Enroll children in programs that build water awareness and skills.

Avoid Risky Behaviours: Never swim or operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Check the marine weather forecast before heading out and avoid going out in unsafe conditions. Be Prepared: Always carry safety essentials when boating – life jackets for everyone, flares, a first aid kit, and a marine radio for emergencies. “During the summer months, Whitby Fire and Emergency Services encourages all residents and visitors to put water safety first. Whether you are boating, paddling, or swimming, always wear a properly fitted lifejacket or personal flotation device, use the right safety equipment, supervise children closely, and never mix alcohol with water activities. Check the weather, follow posted warnings, and make safe choices so everyone can enjoy Whitby’s waterfront safely this summer.” Mark Pankhurst, Whitby Fire and Emergency Services Interim Fire Chief



THE Mr. X Files
By John Mutton
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

Karmageddon

It's Time for an Animal Bill of Rights

By Mr. 'X' ~ John Mutton, Former Mayor of Clarington
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

Every election brings promises about roads, taxes, development, and infrastructure. Those issues matter. But there is another issue that speaks directly to the character of a community: how we treat the animals that cannot speak for themselves.

Today, I am calling on every municipality in Ontario—and ultimately across Canada—to adopt an Animal Bill of Rights. More importantly, I am asking every municipal candidate to publicly sign a pledge committing to uphold these principles if elected. This is not about politics. It is about compassion, accountability, and responsible government.

Municipalities already play a vital role in animal welfare through bylaws, licensing, enforcement, parks, and public education. By adopting an Animal Bill of Rights, councils can make it clear that animal welfare is a community value worthy of protection. The pledge asks candidates to support principles such as:

- Humane treatment of all animals.
- Strong enforcement against cruelty and neglect.
- Responsible pet ownership.
- Support for ethical rescue and adoption efforts.
- Public education on animal welfare.
- Cooperation with veterinarians, shelters, and animal welfare organizations.
- Transparent reporting of municipal animal services.
- Continuous review of bylaws to reflect modern animal welfare standards.

Communities are often judged by how they treat their most vulnerable members. Animals rely entirely on people for their care and protection. They deserve laws and policies that recognize that responsibility.

This initiative is not intended to divide people. It is intended to unite communities around a simple principle: unnecessary cruelty has no place in a civilized society. Over the coming months, I will be inviting municipal candidates to sign the Animal Bill of Rights pledge. Voters will then be able to decide which candidates are prepared to publicly commit to strengthening animal welfare in their communities. Leadership is measured not only by the decisions we make for ourselves, but also by the protection we provide to those who cannot protect themselves.

I hope municipalities across Ontario will seize this opportunity and become leaders in building communities where compassion, responsibility, and respect for animals are not just aspirations—they are commitments.



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