

PICKERING NEW FIRE STATION

PICKERING — Shovels have hit the ground on a new Fire Hall #5, marking a major investment in Pickering’s emergency-response infrastructure as the city continues to expand.

Mayor Kevin Ashe, members of Pickering Council, firefighters, emergency personnel and community representatives gathered for the groundbreaking of the replacement station near Bayly Street and Sandy Beach Road.

Official City records identify the new site as 1521 Bayly Street. The facility will replace the existing Fire Station #5 on Bayly Street and is expected to provide firefighters with additional space, modern equipment capacity and improved working conditions.

Mayor Kevin Ashe described the groundbreaking as “a great day for Pickering,” saying the new facility will strengthen emergency-response capabilities, support the growing community and serve residents for generations.

Councillor Lisa Robinson also welcomed the project, calling it an important investment in the community and in the firefighters and emergency personnel who work every day to keep Pickering residents safe.

“As our city continues to grow, making sure our emergency services have the facilities, equipment and resources they need is essential,” Robinson stated.

Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner also attended the groundbreaking and described the new station as another important capital project moving forward.

“Today’s groundbreaking for the New Fire Hall 5 is an important milestone addressing the need in our growing community,”

According to Brenner, the new hall will replace the older Bayly Street facility while creating additional space to respond to changing demographics, particularly in and around Pickering’s City Centre.

Brenner said the majority of project funding is being provided through a combination of development charges, municipal reserves and funding from Ontario Power Generation.

Ontario Power Generation has committed up to \$10 million toward the design and construction of Fire Hall #5 as part of a broader infrastructure agreement with the City.

Development charges are collected from new development to help pay for growth-related infrastructure such as roads, parks, municipal facilities and fire services.

Brenner estimates construction will take approximately 18 months, with the new facility expected to open around 2028 if work proceeds on schedule. The groundbreaking has also opened another important discussion.

What becomes of the existing Fire Hall #5 property once firefighters move into the new station?

Brenner says he has been working with Mayor Ashe to explore opportunities to use the existing property for badly needed affordable housing, including rent-geared-to-income housing.

“As for what happens to the old Fire Hall 5 site, I have been working with Mayor Kevin Ashe on opportunities to build some badly needed affordable RGI housing,” Brenner stated.

No final redevelopment decision for the existing site has been announced. Any housing proposal would still be subject to the appropriate municipal planning, financial and approval processes.

But the idea presents an interesting possibility. A property that has served Pickering for decades as emergency infrastructure could eventually take on a completely different public role — providing housing for residents struggling with affordability.

Pickering’s own fire statistics demonstrate why continued investment in emergency infrastructure matters.

According to Ontario Fire Marshal data analyzed in the City’s Community Risk Assessment, Pickering recorded 403 fires with reported losses between 2018 and 2022. That represents an average of approximately 81 fires every year.

The annual numbers were: 2018 — 90 fires. 2019 — 84 fires 2020 — 73 fires 2021 — 80 fires 2022 — 76 fires

Combined reported losses during that five-year period exceeded \$52 million. Structure fires accounted for the greatest financial damage.

Between 2018 and 2022, Pickering experienced 215 structure fires, generating more than \$45 million in reported losses.

The yearly structure-fire totals were: 2018 — 52 structure fires — approximately \$9.48 million in losses 2019 — 43 structure fires — approximately \$19.8 million in losses 2020 — 37 structure fires — approximately \$2.35 million in losses 2021 — 43 structure fires — approximately \$10.26 million in losses 2022 — 40 structure fires — approximately \$3.45 million in losses.

The numbers show why fire statistics cannot be judged

simply by counting incidents.

A relatively small number of serious fires can destroy millions of dollars in property and place residents, businesses and firefighters in tremendous danger.

Property losses tell only part of the story. Between 2018 and 2022, Pickering recorded 31 civilian fire-related injuries and four fatalities.

Residential buildings accounted for almost 75 per cent of the city’s structure fires during that period. Those residential fires alone caused approximately \$24 million in reported property damage.

Every number represents a home, family, business or resident affected by an emergency. That is ultimately why investments such as Fire Hall #5 matter.

A complete official citywide fire-loss total for 2026 has not yet been released in a form that can be directly compared with the previous full-year Ontario Fire Marshal statistics.

Between 2018 and 2022, Pickering Fire Services responded to 17,583 emergency calls of all types.

Annual emergency-call totals included: 2018 — 4,533 calls 2019 — 4,493 calls 2020 — 2,674 calls 2021 — 2,321 calls 2022 — 3,562 calls

The lower 2020 and 2021 totals were affected by changes in medical-response protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Firefighters today respond to vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, rescues, carbon-monoxide incidents, hazardous-material calls, alarms and other emergencies in addition to traditional fires.

That means a modern fire station is much more than a building where fire trucks are parked.

It is an emergency-response centre.

Pickering continues to experience significant residential and commercial growth. More residents mean more homes. More homes mean more traffic. More businesses mean more buildings. And all of that creates greater demand for emergency services.

Infrastructure cannot simply be added after growth occurs. It must be planned years in advance.

That is why the construction of Fire Hall #5 is significant. It represents an attempt to make sure emergency services keep pace with the city around them.

The project could eventually produce two major public benefits.

The new Fire Hall #5 would strengthen emergency-response capability and provide firefighters with a modern facility designed for the needs of a growing city.



VOTE

HENRY

FOR MAYOR OF OSHAWA

(289) 913-6331

henryforoshawa.ca

JM

John Meloche

FOR WARD 2

PICKERING

Practical Proven For Pickering

john@Meloche4Pickering.ca 416-477-2658 VOTE OCT 26

See my platform → Meloche4Pickering.ca

IN 2026 VOTE:

ERROL MASSIAH

Regional Ward 3 Candidate – Ajax

416-918-7549 emassiah@rogers.com

Proud to be Canadian.

EXPERIENCED COMMITTED TO AJAX STRONGER TOGETHER DEDICATED

I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVE AND INVESTMENT FOR AJAX:

- THE FEDERAL HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PROGRAMS.
- AS A FORMER JUDICIAL OFFICER, C-14: BAIL AND SENTENCING REFORM ACT, WICH TOUGHENED THE PROVISIONS TO OBTAIN BAIL.
- THE AJAX SHORELINE PROJECT.
- THE NEW HORIZON FOR SENIORS PROGRAM.

Town of Ajax - Ward 3

As your new Regional Ward Councillor I promise to fight for

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