Daily Briefs:

Monday, November 9, 2026

BOWMANVILLE — $861-MILLION HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT MOVES FORWARD The Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment has reached a major milestone following the award of an approximately $861.4-million design, construction and financing contract.The project will more than double the size of the existing hospital.Planned improvements include expanded patient facilities, critical-care services, outpatient clinics and a rooftop helipad.Major construction is expected to begin in 2027, with completion targeted for 2030.

WHY IT MATTERS: The project represents a major health-care investment for eastern Durham and is expected to generate construction and skilled-trades opportunities..

PICKERING — GLENANNA ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES Watermain construction remains scheduled through November 16 along Glenanna Road near The Esplanade North.Access to the Health Services Centre remains available from Kingston Road.

WHY IT MATTERS: Patients, commuters and nearby businesses should prepare for continuing traffic restrictions and pedestrian detours.

NORTH DURHAM — BROCK TOWNSHIP ROAD CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY Durham Region has scheduled road improvements along Shore Line Road, Regional Road 47, beginning November 9.The work includes drainage improvements, culvert replacements and pavement rehabilitation.Lane restrictions are scheduled through November 30.

WHY IT MATTERS: Rural commuters, agricultural operators and commercial drivers should prepare for possible delays.

DURHAM — NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCILS PREPARE TO TAKE OFFICE Municipalities throughout Durham Region are preparing for inaugural meetings following the October 26 elections. Ajax and Whitby have scheduled inaugural meetings for November 16.Clarington's inaugural meeting is scheduled for November 23.Incoming representatives will face important decisions involving property taxation, housing, infrastructure and municipal services.

WHY IT MATTERS: The transition marks the beginning of a new four-year period of municipal decision-making. Residents will be watching how campaign commitments translate into policies and spending priorities.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

OSHAWA — AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT ADDS 66 TOWNHOMES

A new affordable housing development on Ritson Road North in Oshawa has reached the occupancy stage.The project provides 66 townhouse units intended to expand housing options for qualifying households.The development comes as Durham continues experiencing pressure on affordable rental housing.

OSHAWA — GENERAL MOTORS PRODUCTION CHANGES REMAIN MAJOR ECONOMIC CONCERN

General Motors is ending Silverado 1500 production at its Oshawa assembly operation this month.The production change represents an important development for the city's automotive manufacturing sector.The facility's future production mix and employment requirements remain significant issues for workers, suppliers and the surrounding business community.

CLARINGTON — DARLINGTON NUCLEAR CONTRACTS SUPPORT ONTARIO BUSINESSES

Ontario has awarded approximately $66 million in contracts connected to Darlington nuclear operations to businesses in eastern Ontario.The contracts demonstrate the continuing economic importance of nuclear energy infrastructure.

BOWMANVILLE — HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT PREPARES FOR CONSTRUCTION

The Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment continues moving toward construction following the award of an approximately $861.4-million contract.The project will more than double the size of the existing hospital and expand patient care facilities.Major construction is expected to begin in 2027.

PICKERING — GLENANNA ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Watermain construction remains underway along Glenanna Road near The Esplanade North.Restrictions are scheduled through November 16.Access to the Health Services Centre remains available from Kingston Road.

AJAX — BRIDGE RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE TO AFFECT TRANSIT

Weight restrictions remain in effect on the Shoal Point Road Bridge.Durham Region Transit Route 227 continues operating on a detour.The bridge's planned reconstruction remains an important municipal infrastructure project.

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — RECREATION FACILITY DELAYS REMAIN A CONCERN

Blackstock Arena has experienced repeated delays preparing for the winter skating season because of ice-making equipment problems.A confirmed new opening date was not available for this morning's edition.

DURHAM — NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCILS PREPARE TO ASSUME OFFICE

Municipalities throughout Durham Region continue preparing for inaugural council meetings following the October 26 elections.Ajax and Whitby are scheduled to hold inaugural meetings November 16.Clarington's inaugural meeting is scheduled for November 23.

The first meeting of the new Durham Regional Council is scheduled for November 25.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

BREAKING — KEVIN ASHE APPOINTED DURHAM REGIONAL CHAIR

The Ontario government announced November 10 that Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe has been appointed Durham Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for the 2026–2030 term.Ashe becomes the seventh Regional Chair since Durham Region was established in 1974.He will continue serving as Mayor of Pickering while assuming responsibility for chairing Durham Regional Council and representing the Region on major provincial and municipal matters.The City of Pickering confirmed Ashe will receive only one salary while serving in both positions.His new term begins November 15.

OSHAWA — $20-MILLION LAND DEAL ADVANCES NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS

The City of Oshawa has announced a major agreement to establish a permanent Queen's University medical education campus downtown.The city has acquired and donated property at 111–117 King Street East, formerly occupied by the Oshawa Clinic.The city's investment totals approximately $20 million, with annual contributions of $1 million over 20 years beginning in 2027. The estimated property-tax levy impact is 0.51%.The campus will accommodate medical education and family medicine training programs. Further planning, fundraising and construction are required.

PICKERING — LOCAL STEEL COMPANY PLEDGES $100,000 FOOD BANK MATCH

Pickering-based D&R Custom Steel has announced it will match donations to Feed the Need in Durham up to $100,000 through December 31.This marks the company's fourth consecutive year participating in the holiday matching campaign.Feed the Need in Durham supplies approximately 70 community food programs throughout the region.

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DURHAM REGION SOUNDS ALARM AS DRUG OVERDOSES RISE AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS DEEPENS

DURHAM REGION — A troubling increase in suspected drug-related deaths and opioid overdose emergency calls has prompted the Durham Region Health Department to issue another public health warning, raising serious concerns about the region's escalating drug crisis and its connection to homelessness.

The warning follows an increase in overdose-related incidents between October 25 and October 31, 2026. Health officials are urging individuals who use drugs to exercise extreme caution, avoid using alone and ensure the life-saving medication naloxone is readily available.

Fentanyl remains a major concern. The powerful synthetic opioid, estimated to be 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, can prove fatal in extremely small quantities.

Its presence in the illegal drug supply makes accidental poisoning an ongoing threat.

The warning comes as Durham Region struggles with rapidly increasing homelessness, particularly in Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and surrounding communities.

Reports released in 2026 indicated that approximately 1,871 individuals were registered as experiencing homelessness in August, more than double the approximately 811 recorded one year earlier.

The region's 2024 homelessness count identified 1,345 people without stable housing. Among those who participated in the accompanying survey, approximately 50 per cent reported substance-use challenges, while 57 per cent reported mental health conditions.

These figures demonstrate the overlap between homelessness, addiction and mental health, although homelessness itself does not necessarily indicate drug use.

For people living outdoors, in vehicles or in temporary encampments, the risks associated with substance use can be intensified by isolation, exposure to harsh weather, inadequate medical care and limited access to treatment.

Durham's opioid crisis has already taken a devastating toll. Regional public health statistics show opioid-related deaths increased from 29 in 2015 to 97 in 2024. Emergency department visits involving opioid overdoses rose from 231 to 544 during the same period.

Public Health Nurse Lee Truong previously explained how overdose surveillance helps trigger community warnings."That leads us to issuing a drug alert," Truong said, describing how increases in paramedic calls inform efforts to warn people about contaminated drugs.

Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose and is available free through participating pharmacies and community organizations.However, naloxone alone cannot solve the underlying crisis.

Durham's growing homelessness problem highlights the need for accessible addiction treatment, mental health services, affordable housing and sustained community outreach.

Health officials advise residents to call 911 immediately when an overdose is suspected, even when naloxone has been administered.

As winter approaches, the combination of dangerous street drugs and increasing homelessness presents an urgent challenge for municipal governments, emergency responders and social service agencies.

The question remains: How many more lives must be lost before Durham Region can turn emergency intervention into lasting prevention, treatment and recovery?

Number of deaths related to overdose are not being released as more and more die on streets.

NEWSPRINT VS ONLINE POSTING

While printing has risen to serve as a prominent form of communication with online publishing speeding quickly to meet the needs of the literate world, there are still, and will remain to be, significant differences between print and on-line publishing. Online and print publishing are significantly different.

What is the difference between online and print publishing?

Online and print publishing are significantly different. Choosing what medium to publish in depends on such factors as your publishing goals, the amount of money you have to spend, and the kinds of resources that are available to you.

Are print newspapers better than online newspapers?

Here are some of the major benefits and drawbacks of both print and online newspapers. Print newspaper pro: It's physical. The feeling of a warm newspaper right off the press is one of my favorite feelings, and the fact that a print newspaper can be physically held in your hands is a huge pro for print editions.

The other great thing about print newspaper is that the source is trustworthy and community know. Information in print is more reliable and accurate. Print copies also tend to be more beneficial to advertisers as it gets their product or service right in the hands of the consumer. News print also tends to have a lingering affect as newspaper are not normally read and erased or tossed. Newspaper on the average are seen by 2.5 people per household.

Difference between paid news print paper and free newspapers.

Paid circulation newspapers is the most reliable and effective means of publishing. Paid for newspaper have a captive audience that look forward to getting their copy of the paper on a particular day of the week. Or in some cases daily.

Paid circulation have proven through history to be the most effective vehicle for advertisers. Costs, depend on number of copies published and or market reaches. In newsprint you truly get what you paid for.

What is an online newspaper?

An online newspaper (or electronic news or electronic news publication) is the online version of a newspaper, either as a stand-alone publication or as the online version of a printed periodical. Going online created more opportunities for newspapers, such as competing with broadcast journalism in presenting breaking news in a more timely manner.

Reputable newspaper have stayed away from offering free online newspaper. Instead, they ask for a subscription to read a version of the newspaper. Normally just news briefs. Online publication, has only taken off in the last 10 years.

The reason. Cheap to produce. In general advertisers that rely on this type of media. Their ads never gets notices as most of the advertisers are filed in part of the web page offering the news.

In today's online climate. Information posted as trusted news outlets must be taken with a grain of salt. Sources are sketchy and reporting at time is skewed towards a political hidden agenda.

The other important thing about online only newspapers is that by their own admittance in not printing hard copy. These online newspaper can't generate a strong enough readership to justify the printing cost of hard copy.

Economic difference:

In print newspaper only cost $1.00/wk to $3.00/wk. Online, newspaper need to be accessed through a computer or smart phone. Internet service needs to be in place.

This, for many making it an impossible access as many are economically suffering.

Advertisers:

Like they say. 'You get what you paid for.' Online, may be cheaper than in print copy. But you also get what you paid for. In newsprint it goes directly to your customers hands, then it is up to you to offer the right sale to attract them.

Rule of thumb for online advertiser. If the consumer can't get to your ad in 3 clicks. You lost the interest.

In print advertising. Curiosity always has readers coming back. Online, once you closed that page it is gone for ever.

THINK BEFORE YOU ADVERTISE ONLINE

Newsprint is alive and thriving. Be careful of advertising in FREE newspapers. By their own admittance they have no readership.