

14-storey tower planned for Harwood Avenue in Ajax

The Town of Ajax has received applications relating to a proposed development of a 14-storey mixed-use building containing some 335 dwelling units and 1,200 square metres of commercial gross floor area.

For the proposal to ahead, the not-named developer will require Official Plan Amendment (application OPA26-A2) and Zoning By-law Amendment (application Z3/26) to permit the project on the lands municipally known as 1541 Harwood Avenue North, the town said.

The town council will consider feedback from a Statutory Public Meeting to be held on Monday, March 2, at 1 pm.

The purpose of Official Plan Amendment Application and the proposed implementing by-law is to re-designate the subject lands from the Prestige Employment designation to the Mixed Commercial Corridor designation and establish a new Area Specific Policy (Area Specific Policy 6.52) for the subject lands to permit minimum and maximum building heights and a maximum density limit, the town said.

It said the purpose of Zoning By-law Amendment Application and the proposed implementing by-law is to rezone the subject lands from the Prestige Employment (PE) Zone to the Local Commercial (LC) Zone and establish a new Exception (Exception 237) for the subject lands to set site-specific development standards.

The proposed implementing by-laws are being brought forward under the authority of Section 284.11.1 of the Municipal Act and in accordance with Ontario Regulation 580/22, 'Provincial Priorities'.

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Long-term project to have battery-electric fleet: DRT

The Durham Region Transit (DRT) Executive Committee said one of the transport agency's long term project is to transform to a battery-electric fleet. It, however, did not mention any timeline.

"DRT added more than 46,000 scheduled hours and 23,000 on demand hours, while advancing long-term projects, such as facility upgrades for a future battery-electric fleet, the Durham Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit corridor, and new workforce programs including its first mechanic apprenticeship," said DRT following the executive committee meeting on February 4.

Pilot for standalone solar lighting at stops: DRT manages more than 2,000 bus stops across the region and previously tested solar lighting at stops without shelters or nearby street lighting. Following the successful pilot, DRT is now expanding solar lighting to rural bus stops that operate in the evening and are not located near a streetlight. Technology Roadmap: The DRT Technology Roadmap, which will guide improvements to DRT's systems, service delivery and organizational structure, helping inform technology-related decisions over the next five years, has been approved. Bill Holmes, DRT General Manager stated that "DRT employees do more than deliver transit service; they also contribute to community safety and well-being. The situations shared at TEC—outlining the exceptional actions of DRT employees who selflessly responded to help pedestrians and customers in distress—happen every day across our Region. We are very grateful for their selfless acts of kindness."

Fake currency fraud up 121%, check your dollars

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) yesterday warned the public about an increase in counterfeit currency fraud incidents. Incidents of counterfeit currency fraud in Durham Region were up 121 per cent in 2025 from 2024. This is the result of a large increase seen all across Canada, police said. It said victims are being fraudulently paid in counterfeit currency after using online platforms such as Facebook Marketplace or Kijiji to make sales. Victims are often selling high end laptops, cell phones, or jewelry and being handed large quantities of counterfeit money without verifying the bills. The suspects are using fake social media accounts to contact the sellers and then blocking the victim after the exchange, police said. Police are asking the public to use caution when conducting online buy/sell transactions with strangers, and be knowledgeable about who you are doing business with. Make sure you are recording user profile names, or account information specific to the person you are speaking with. These include the user URL and profile number. Gather any other information available when possible. Remember to always check the bills you receive as payment to verify they are legitimate, police said. Anyone who encounters individuals acting suspiciously are encouraged to contact police immediately and record any important details such as vehicle licence plates, clothing descriptions, and directions of travel.

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