

Expanded on-farm use permissions unlock major economic potential for Scugog and Durham Region’s Agricultural Sector

Scugog – At the end of December, the Township of Scugog Council approved significant policy and zoning amendments to permit establishing permissions for On-Farm Diversified (OFDUs) and Agricultural-Related Used (ARUs) in the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law. These amendments represent a joint project between the Township of Scugog and the Region of Durham to create the framework to permit these types of uses in the agricultural area of our municipality. Over months of hard work behind the scenes, local and regional staff, supported by WSP consulting, have prepared these amendments in collaboration with agricultural partners to provide a consistent approach across the northern municipalities in the Region to better support the changing landscape of farm-based, agricultural-related businesses.

These amendments have been designed to allow as much flexibility as possible while still conforming to the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan, under the Ontario Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario’s prime agricultural areas.

Each site is unique and may have additional requirements that others don’t. Having these established criteria will allow applicants to complete the base requirements before submitting their application, fast-tracking approvals for any additional requirements and reducing red tape associated with navigating regulatory compliance requirements.

Supporting farmers in Scugog is an essential priority for Mayor Wotten, “I am proud of the time and work Scugog, and the Region of Durham staff put into developing this new policy. As an agriculturally driven community, supporting farmers who wish to expand their operations will benefit our local economy, build strong succession planning for farm families, and unlock agri-tourism.”

Have your say: Help design the playground at Newcastle’s newest park!

Clarington is building a new neighbourhood park in Newcastle! Belmont Park, located at 155 Belmont Drive, will include a multi-skills court for basketball and ball hockey, a playground, walking paths, shade structure, seating, open space and more. The site is also adjacent to the historic Belmont House heritage property, which will be celebrated throughout the park’s design through storytelling and signage. The park is now in the design phase, and we need your help!



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Township of Scugog receives \$500,000 towards renovation and restoration of Port Perry Grain Elevator through Canadian Heritage Legacy Grant

Scugog – The Township of Scugog, through the efforts of local charity group PPGE Renovation & Revitalization Inc. (“PPGE”), is pleased to announce that the Township was successful in receiving \$500,000 from the Government of Canada to help restore and revitalize the Port Perry Grain Elevator (known locally as the ‘Old Mill’), located at 139 Queen Street. This grant is part of the Government of Canada’s Legacy Fund, administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

This amount represents a key source of initial funding towards the restoration and revitalization costs, ensuring that the 150-year-old Grain Elevator is in proper condition for public use and halting ongoing deterioration of the building.

Located at the corner of Queen Street and Water Street, the Township-owned Grain Elevator is Canada’s oldest standing wood crib grain elevator – a rare and enduring symbol of Ontario’s agricultural and industrial heritage.

This project is being led by PPGE, a volunteer-based, not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to restoring and revitalizing this important national historic structure. The restoration will focus on stabilizing, conserving, and protecting the original structure while respecting its historic materials, craftsmanship, and setting. Guided by heritage conservation principles, the project reflects a commitment to authenticity, longevity, and public stewardship.

“Our grain elevator is more than just a landmark—it’s a testament to our heritage and a symbol of our commitment to revitalization. As the oldest of its kind in Canada, it connects our rich history to our future ambitions. We are fortunate to benefit from the passion and thoughtfulness of Jeff Fleischmann, Steve Harrison, and their team.

We are thrilled to celebrate this major financial milestone with PPGE in support of the Government of Canada’s Legacy Fund. This marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the elevator and the community that calls it home. Let’s build on the momentum, Scugog!”

- Township of Scugog Mayor Wilma Wotten

“We’re truly delighted to share this announcement alongside the Township of Scugog, Mayor Wotten and council. Restoring Canada’s oldest grain elevator - originally brought to life by the visionary George Currie in 1874 - is more than just a heritage project. With the Legacy group grant in part, this restoration will let our community proudly share its rich history for generations to come. We warmly invite everyone to get involved and help turn this 150-year-old landmark into a vibrant, programmable space that will serve us all well into the future”

- Steve Harrison, PPGE

Ontario Breaks Ground on Bowmanville GO Extension

WHITBY — The Ontario government has broken ground on GO Transit’s Bowmanville Extension, marking another milestone in the province’s plan to protect Ontario by relieving gridlock and expanding access to affordable and reliable transit. The project will extend the Lakeshore East GO line 18.7 kilometres into Durham Region, accommodating 17,000 daily trips and 4.9 million boardings annually by 2041. Once complete, the Bowmanville Extension will deliver two-way, all-day service, saving commuters time and money, while bringing families closer to housing and putting 10,400 jobs within walking distance of transit.

“Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is making historic investments to bring rapid transit to new communities and drive economic growth across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. “The Bowmanville Extension will transform travel across Durham Region, bringing fast, reliable and affordable GO train service to residents from Oshawa to Bowmanville and connecting thousands of Ontarians to housing and good-paying jobs.”

The first phase of construction includes rebuilding and modifying bridges along the corridor, relocating utilities and making improvements at the Durham College Oshawa GO Station and the adjacent VIA Rail building. Early works began in spring 2025 and included tree clearing, geotechnical investigations along the corridor and the installation of a new watermain in Oshawa. The Bowmanville Extension will run from Durham College Oshawa GO Station to Bowmanville GO Station, offering service every half hour during peak periods, hourly during off-peak periods and every two hours on weekends.

Four stations are planned along the Bowmanville Extension

at Thornton’s Corners East, Ritson Road, Courtice and Bowmanville.

In October, the new Confederation GO Station opened, expanding service in Hamilton and the Niagara Region with all existing GO trains to and from Niagara Falls stopping at the station.

The province is also building the Kitchener GO Extension, which will expand service in Kitchener-Waterloo.

Ontario is investing \$70 billion to expand access to transit across the province, including delivering two-way, all-day service on GO Transit’s busiest rail routes.

“At a time of economic uncertainty, our government is investing in critical transit infrastructure that will help make Durham Region an even better place to live, work, and do business. Extending the Lakeshore East line to new stations in Oshawa, Courtice, and Bowmanville is a transformative project that will shorten commute times and strengthen our connections with Toronto and across the region through reliable, two-way, all-day rail service.”

- Todd McCarthy
MPP for Durham

“As more people call the Region of Durham home, our government is making sure communities have access to fast, frequent and reliable transit. By expanding our transportation network, we’re fighting gridlock, driving economic growth and attracting more jobs and investments to Durham and other parts of the province.”

- Lorne Coe
MPP for Whitby

“Awarding the major construction contract for the Bowmanville Extension moves us one step closer to providing GO Train service to more people across Durham Region. This project will extend the Lakeshore East line by nearly 20 km, supporting 17,000 daily trips by 2041, and will add the transit capacity needed to keep pace with Durham’s

rapid growth.”

- Michael Lindsay

President and CEO of Metrolinx
“Today’s groundbreaking marks a significant milestone for Clarington and signals strong continued momentum behind such a transformative infrastructure project that will support local employers, attract talent, and improve workforce mobility - supporting the rapid growth and prosperity of Clarington and Durham Region.”

- Bonnie Wrightman
Executive Director, Clarington Board of Trade

“CUTA would like to congratulate Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria on another key milestone in bringing GO transit services to the people of the GTHA. With this extension, thousands of people in Durham Region will have better access to jobs, healthcare and education. It’s an important step in the process of connecting the GTHA together and growing the economy of Ontario.”

- Marco D’Angelo
President and CEO, The Canadian Urban Transit Association

“RCCAO welcomes the start of construction on the Bowmanville GO Extension, a transformative project that will improve regional mobility and help address the growing economic and social costs of congestion. Our research has consistently demonstrated these costs, underscoring why investments in transit expansion like this are critical to the efficient movement of people across the region. RCCAO commends the Ontario government for advancing this important transit project and continuing to connect communities to jobs and housing across the province.”

- Nadia Todorova
Executive Director, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario