

## 72,000 more peopleNeighbrouhood coming to Pickering

Pickering’s planning and development committee will consider plans for a new neighbourhood expected to bring 72,000 people to northeast Pickering. A new urban community expected to bring more than 70,000 people to northeast Pickering could get the green light next month. On March 2, the planning and development committee will consider a proposal, known as the Northeast Pickering Secondary Plan, to create a new community in the area generally bounded by Eighth Concession Road to the north, Lake Ridge Road to the east, Highway 7 to the south and Westney Road to the west. If approved, it will go to council for a final decision on March 23. The area spans 1,763 hectares and is expected to house 72,000 people and provide 9,700 jobs. The controversial proposal comes three years after Durham Regional council chose to open the area for development, despite concerns raised by regional own staff after the lengthy Envision Durham planning review. The land sits outside of the Greenbelt, but is considered farmland. The Carruthers Creek headwaters are located in the area, and critics say it could pose a problem to residents living downstream. After Durham council decided to go ahead with the developer-recommended growth scenario, the land designation was approved by the provincial government and is now classified as “2051 Urban Expansion Areas.” The province expects Durham Region to have 1.3 million people and 460,000 jobs by 2051. The committee will consider amending Pickering’s official plan to permit a range of uses, including residential, commercial, employment, schools and community centres, along with plans to protect the natural environment. According to a notice from the city, the plan will provide guidance for future planning, financial and engineering exercises that must be completed before construction begins.

### OPG refutes claim that Darlington was late and over-budget

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) refuted claims by Ontario Clean Air Alliance that the Darlington refurbishment project was delayed and over-budget. “Stephen Lecce [Ontario Energy Minister] says Darlington was ‘on budget and ahead of schedule’”. OPG’s own filings say it’s at least 25 per cent over budget and needs 6 more years. The truth matters,” said the alliance. In response, OPG said: “False. With construction completed, OPG’s \$12.8 billion Darlington Refurbishment is returning to service ahead of schedule and under budget. “The additional work you mention was never part of the refurbishment project – rather, like any piece of critical infrastructure, Darlington will continue to receive ongoing investment and maintenance to ensure safe and efficient operation,” it said.



Lorne Coe

Last Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the SafeHope Home Gala in support of the vital work being done to protect and empower individuals and families in our community. It was great to be joined by my colleagues, the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and Monica Ciriello, MPP for Hamilton Mountain and Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General, whose attendance reflects our government’s ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable Ontarians. I would like to especially recognize Jasmine De Fina, Executive Director of SafeHope Home, for her exceptional leadership. Jasmine’s dedication, compassion, and vision continue to make a profound difference in the lives of those SafeHope serves. I am proud to stand with SafeHope Home and support their important mission in our community.

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