



Ontario Building New Catholic Elementary School in Pickering

PICKERING — MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy, alongside Chair Monique Forster and Mayor Kevin Ashe, officially broke ground on the new Seaton #1 Catholic Elementary School. As part of its plan to protect Ontario and prepare students for success, the Ontario government has provided the Durham Catholic District School Board with a total funding amount of \$33.8 million for the new Seaton Catholic Elementary School to create more student spaces.

“It is important now more than ever that we continue to invest in our students,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Member of Provincial Parliament for Pickering-Uxbridge.

“This \$33.8 million investment in the new Seaton Catholic School is a part of our government’s plan to build better schools and critical infrastructure as we continue to grow as a province, ensuring that our youth are well-equipped for the future.”

Once complete, the project will deliver 622 new elementary student spaces and 88 new licensed childcare spaces for local families.

“Our government is focused on supporting students, teachers and parents while ensuring school boards are equipping our students with the tools they need to succeed,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. “Once completed, this project will offer an inspiring learning environment that helps students prepare for the jobs of tomorrow. Our government will continue to provide the resources students need for ultimate achievement.”

Through local infrastructure projects like the one in Pickering, the government is meeting urgent needs to address growth related to demographic changes. The investment is part of Ontario’s commitment to invest about \$23 billion to support school construction, renewal and improvement over 10 years.

“Building and renewing Ontario’s infrastructure is a key part of our government’s plan to protect the economy and keep workers on the job in the face of significant economic uncertainties,” said Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure. “Through our more than \$200 billion capital plan, we are getting shovels in the ground faster to build new and improved schools, transit, hospitals and other critical infrastructure for communities across the province.”

The new Seaton #1 Catholic Elementary School will be located at 2460 Hibiscus Drive, Pickering, ON in the Seaton Development.

“We are deeply grateful to the Government of Ontario, Minister Calandra, Minister McCarthy, MPP Bethlenfalvy, and Mayor Ashe for their continued support of Catholic education and their commitment to students and families in Pickering. The investment in Seaton #1 Catholic School marks an exciting milestone in our shared vision to provide modern learning environments to support student success.”

— Monique Forster, Chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board.

“The City of Pickering is proud to celebrate the groundbreaking of Seaton’s first Catholic school. As Seaton continues to experience tremendous growth, this investment ensures that families have access to quality, faith-based education close to home. It reflects our shared vision of building a complete, vibrant, and inclusive community for generations to come. We look forward to welcoming this new school as an integral part of Seaton’s future.”

— Kevin Ashe, Mayor, City of Pickering

- In May 2025, Ontario introduced the Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025, to strengthen the government’s oversight of school board finances, governance and program performance, to ensure that every dollar invested is preparing students for success.

- Since 2018, Ontario has provided more than \$6 billion for major capital projects, including 173 new schools, 122 permanent additions or renovations to existing school buildings and over 9,600 new licensed childcare spaces in schools.

- For the 2025-26 school year, the province is providing \$1.4 billion to school boards for school renewal projects.

- The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 includes measures to help maximize capital assets of boards to support building modern schools faster, and better use current school space.

DURHAM’S #1 NEWSPAPER

Clarington designating five properties under Heritage Act

The Municipality of Clarington is passing by-laws to designate five properties in Bowmanville and Courtice for their architectural and historical value under the Ontario Heritage Act. The properties are:

- 19 ½ -23 King Street West, Bowmanville,
- 33 King Street West, Bowmanville,
- 192 Liberty Street North, Bowmanville,
- 175 Liberty Street North, Bowmanville, and
- 1598 Baseline Road, Courtice

Heritage designation is the formal recognition of a property’s heritage value and its significance to the community. It helps to conserve important places for the enjoyment of present and future generations, said a municipal statement.

Clarington’s heritage buildings can be found scattered throughout the rural countryside, clustered within historic downtowns, and within scenic hamlets and residential areas.

Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy has slammed a series of ‘robocalls’ to residents as a divisive approach reflecting the worst of American-style politics.

“I am aware that a series of automated phone calls [see transcript below] have been



sent to Whitby residents over the past week. These calls contain misleading claims about me and about the work of Whitby Council and Durham Regional Council,” said Mayor Roy in a statement released.

“They also ask residents whether they would vote for me, or for Regional Councillor Chris Leahy, if an election were held tomorrow.

This is part of a concerning pattern of political conduct — one that I have repeatedly called out, she said.

“This disrespectful and divisive approach mirrors the worst of American-style politics, relying on outrage, distraction, and personal attacks rather than honest debate or constructive work, said Mayor Roy. “Sharing misinformation, intentionally or otherwise, erodes public trust and undermines the work of Whitby Council, town staff, and our community partners. Council Commitment

She pointed out that it also stands in direct contrast to a commitment council made together only weeks ago.

“In October, every member of Whitby Council publicly endorsed the Elect Respect campaign, created by female elected leaders in Halton Region who are

deeply concerned about the rise in harmful and disrespectful political tactics.

“The campaign calls on politicians to engage with integrity and respect. Specifically, Whitby Council members agreed to ‘reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks’ and ‘treat others with dignity and respect in all spaces, including public, private, and online’,” she said.

“These robocalls run directly against the spirit and purpose of that pledge — and I am calling out this behaviour,” she added.

Elections in 2026
The next municipal election is still a year away — election rules do not allow campaigning outside of the election period which commences in May 2026.

“Our responsibility is to focus on serving the people of Whitby, strengthening our community, and working together on the issues that matter. I remain committed to that work,” said Mayor Roy.

Robocall Transcription — Nov. 5, 2025

1) If the election for mayor of Whitby were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (Chris Leahy, Elizabeth Roy, Roger Gordon)

2) In an election for mayor of

Whitby were held today, who would be your second choice?

3) How much blame do you associate with Elizabeth Roy for not voting to disclose details of the \$54 million cost of renovating regional headquarters, which included \$1 million on the controversial revolving door? (large amount, small amount, none, not sure)

4) How much blame do you associate with Elizabeth Roy for sitting on the board of directors of Elexicon and refusing to vote for reduced pay after losing \$3.2 million in annual income for the Town of Whitby (large amount, small amount, none, not sure)

5) How much blame do you associate with Elizabeth Roy for supporting spending \$13 million of tax dollars on property to house a homeless shelter, when that same property was valued at only \$8 million five months earlier (large amount, small amount, none, not sure)

6) How much have you heard about Chris Leahy being reprimanded by the integrity commissioner for criticizing fellow councillors for racist treatment of one councillor with 65 hours of video evidence? (A lot, a little, none, not sure)



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