

Durham Chamber Orchestra Brings the Spirit of the Season to Durham Region

The Durham Chamber Orchestra (DCO) is reaching out to residents across the Durham Region — whether you’ve never attended an orchestral concert and want to check it off your “bucket list,” or you’re a seasoned concert-goer eager to experience A Christmas Celebration, a heartwarming performance of festive and classical favourites this holiday season. The DCO’s upcoming A Christmas Celebration offers a welcoming and uplifting introduction to live classical music. The program blends well-known music featuring a local choir and orchestra that ranges from Handel’s “Messiah” with lively, easy-to-enjoy pieces to familiar Christmas songs such as “Sleigh Ride”. Audiences can expect a joyful, family-friendly afternoon filled with warmth, community spirit, and the shared experience of music performed by neighbours and friends — the perfect way to slow down during the busy holiday season and connect with the true spirit of Christmas. This year’s program features selections from Handel’s Messiah and Respighi’s Ancient Airs and Dances: Suite II, along with a joyful collection of seasonal songs performed with special guests, the New Song Community Choir, directed by Jonathan Liebich, a professional singer and church choir music director. Celebrating its over 20-year history, the Durham Chamber Orchestra has been enriching the cultural life of the region with live performances that blend classical tradition and modern musical expression. Since becoming a registered not-for-profit charity in 2016, the orchestra’s mission has been clear: to make orchestral music accessible and inspiring for audiences throughout Durham Region.

“Our orchestra reflects the community we serve,” says our Executive leaders. “Our musicians range from retired professionals and music educators to students and working professionals from all walks of life. Everyone shares the same passion — to bring music into our local communities.”

The DCO is the only full community orchestra in Durham Region featuring strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Each season includes three concerts — in December, March, and May — with performances offered in both North Durham (Port Perry) and South Durham (Ajax), ensuring residents across the region can experience the joy of live orchestral music.

Meridian in \$150,000 sponsorship pact with Abilities Centre

Meridian Credit Union is scheduled to announce today a three-year \$150,000 sponsorship investment in Durham region’s Abilities Centre, an incubator for accessibility and inclusion. “Bringing the second largest credit union in the country on board as a major sponsor speaks to Meridian’s commitment to inclusion and accessibility, and we are incredibly grateful for Meridian’s support,” said Michael Cvitkovic, President and CEO, Abilities Centre. “This partnership will have a significant impact on our ability to continue delivering exceptional programs and services.” The Meridian Whitby Branch will participate in Abilities Centre’s Accessibility Consulting program, a hands-on training and education initiative that will help the branch become a local leader in inclusive service, ensuring their space and customer experiences are welcoming and accessible to all.

“Our partnership with Abilities Centre represents more than a collaboration, it’s a shared commitment to reimagining what accessibility and inclusion can look like across our communities,” said Chris Green, Regional Vice-President, Business Banking, GTA with Meridian Credit Union. “Meridian Credit Union believes that we have a responsibility to lead with purpose, and this initiative allows us to help create spaces where every individual feels empowered and valued. This partnership is one way that Meridian can fulfil on our commitment.”

As part of this collaboration, Abilities Centre was the recipient of proceeds from the Meridian Charity Classic.

Pickering Council to spend \$1mn on new skateboard park

Pickering Council has approved the Request for Proposal (No. RFP2025-13) for the design and construction of a new community-sized skateboard park, as submitted by Radius Skateparks, in the amount of \$943,550 (HST included). The total project cost of \$1,064,460.00 includes the proposal amount, a contingency and other associated costs, and will be funded through the capital budget and transfers from both the Development Charges City Share Reserve and the Development Charges Parks & Recreation Reserve Fund. Pickering Council recently approved a \$266 million recreation and library complex at Seaton. The new skatepark will be built within the hydro corridor, north of Diana, Princess of Wales Park. As part of this project, the existing skateboard park in Diana, Princess of Wales Park will be demolished and the site restored, said a city notice. It said the city will enter into an amended licence agreement with Hydro One Networks Inc. to include the hydro corridor lands north of Kingston Road that will be necessary for the new skateboard park, parking, and amenities.

Police Looking for Suspect After Break-and-Enter in Whitby

One male is in custody and police are looking for a second suspect after a break-and-enter at a residence in Whitby. On Thursday, November, 6 2025, at approximately 7:35 p.m., members of Central East Division responded to a break-and-enter call at a residence in the area of Thickson Road and Carnwith Drive East. The homeowners returned to their residence and located two masked males at the back door. Both suspects fled the scene prior to police arrival. With the assistance of Air1 and the K9 unit, one suspect was located a short distance away and arrested without incident.

Police are searching for the second suspect. He is described as male, wearing a baseball hat, dark jacket and dark pants.

Nelson PEREZ-ROJAS, age 24 of Chile is facing numerous charges including: Break and Enter – Dwelling, Theft under \$5000; Possess Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5000; Mischief, Damage to Property; and Possess Break-in Instrument.

DURHAM #1
COMMERCIAL
CLEANER
CALL US
TODAY FOR A
FREE QUOTE

We Beat Or Match Competitors Rates

Commercial Cleaning
Where Clean Means Business!

Tired of dusty desks and streaky floors? Let BRL Commercial Cleaning transform your workspace into a spotless sanctuary.

We specialize in:

Office & Retail Cleaning

Industrial & Warehouse Maintenance

Eco-Friendly Products & Practices

Flexible Scheduling to Fit Your Needs

Your business deserves a clean that impresses. Trust BRL to deliver consistency, quality, and a fresh start—every single time.

Call today for a free quote and let BRL Commercial Cleaning do the dirty work, so you don’t have to.

905-427-8062

Maid-Mart

www.maid-mart.com

INSURED, BONDED & TRUSTED
IN DURHAM AND OUNDING
AREAS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

CLEANING 24/7 Available Day or Night -
Experience The Difference - CALL US TODAY

FREE ESTIMATE

905-427-8062

or email info@maid-mart.com or
visit us at www.maid-mart.com

Green light for two housing developments in Clarington

The Municipality of Clarington has announced that council has approved two new housing developments — one in Bowmanville and one in Courtice. The development in Bowmanville is a 7-unit, three-storey apartment building located at 53 Liberty Street North. The Courtice project comprises six single detached homes and a future medium-density block located at 1824 Nash Road in Courtice. Clarington Council has approved a Zoning By-law Amendment Application to facilitate a 7-unit, 3-storey apartment building in Bowmanville. That Zoning By-law Amendment application was submitted by North Lakes Developments. Clarington Council also approved a Zoning By-law Amendment to permit six Single Detached Dwellings Fronting onto the Extension of Tabb Avenue and a Medium Density Block Fronting onto Nash Road in Courtice. The application was submitted by Headgate Developments Inc. The municipality said once all conditions contained in the Clarington Official Plan and Zoning By-law 84-63 are met, the by-law authorizing the removal of the (H) Holding Symbol will be approved by the Deputy CAO of Planning and Infrastructure Services for both the projects. The municipality said both developments align with Clarington’s Official Plan and the 2024 Provincial Planning Statement, which encourages municipalities to create healthy, safe, and livable communities through diverse housing options and efficient land and infrastructure use.

City portion of Oshawa 2026 tax may go up by 4.68%

The City of Oshawa claims it has pared down the projected increase in its portion of the 2026 tax levy to 4.68 per cent. The final budget will need to be approved by council. Oshawa’s operating budget required a tax levy increase of 7.87 per cent in 2025. Of all revenue sources, property taxation including the 2026 proposed increase, makes up 77.3 per cent, the city said. “The city, in 2024, prepared a multi-year forecast for 2026 projecting a 5.36 per cent tax levy increase on the Oshawa portion of the tax bill. As part of the 2026 city budget process, the city implemented an extensive review and incorporated best practices including identification of synergies across departments, revenue maximization, cost containment, budget right-sizing and adaptive procurement strategies to counter increasing costs, supply chain issues and impacts of potential tariffs. “These strategies resulted in the tax levy impact decreasing from the forecasted 5.36 per cent to 4.68 per cent,” said the city’s budget document. It says the 2026 budget submission requires a \$8.73 million increase in the tax levy over the 2025 approved budget. This represents a 4.68 per cent tax levy increase on the Oshawa portion of the tax bill.