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Affected intersections include Westney Road, Harwood Avenue, Salem Road and Chapman Drive/Ritchie Avenue. Some sections will be reduced to one lane. Construction is expected to continue into spring 2027.

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CREWS MOBILIZE TODAY

Contractors are scheduled to begin preparations today for the replacement of a culvert on Scugog Line 2. The existing crossing will be replaced with a prefabricated steel bridge. Scugog Line 2 will close between Old Simcoe Road and Diamond Side Road beginning Monday, October 26, at 8 a.m. The project is expected to take approximately two weeks, weather permitting.

AJAX — FILM INDUSTRY SUMMIT TAKES PLACE TODAY

The Durham Region International Film Festival continues its tenth-anniversary celebrations. Today's Myth2Market: The Future of Movie Making Summit takes place at the St. Francis Centre for Community, Arts and Culture in Ajax from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event examines artificial intelligence, virtual production, emerging technologies and new business opportunities in film and television. The festival continues Saturday in Oshawa.

WHY OSHAWA — MORE THAN \$560,000 SUPPORTS CITY TREE PLANTING

Oshawa announced October 20 that federal funding totalling \$560,860 is supporting two urban forestry projects. The projects include planting approximately 1,600 trees in parks and greenspaces, along with 40 additional trees at Rotary Park. The investment is intended to restore tree canopy, improve biodiversity and strengthen environmental resilience.

OSHAWA — AIRPORT EMERGENCY EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY

The City of Oshawa announced October 22 that the Oshawa Executive Airport will conduct a simulated emergency exercise Tuesday morning, October 27. Residents may notice additional emergency vehicles near Keith Ross Drive, Taunton Road and Airport Boulevard. Oshawa Fire Services, Durham Regional Police and Durham paramedics will participate.

Saturday, October 24, 2026

AJAX — ANOTHER PEDESTRIAN INJURED; DRIVER CHARGED

Durham Regional Police reported October 23 that a 21-year-old pedestrian was injured in a collision on Taunton Road in Ajax. A driver has been charged in connection with the incident. The latest collision comes as police continue investigating the October 17 hit-and-run that claimed the life of a 76-year-old man near Harwood Avenue North and Ringer Road.

OSHAWA — POLICE SEARCH FOR MISSING 51-YEAR-OLD WOMAN

Durham Regional Police are seeking public assistance locating a vulnerable 51-year-old woman last seen October 22 in Oshawa. The missing-person investigation was highlighted October 23 as police continued their search.

OSHAWA — INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AFTER CHILDREN STRUCK BY VEHICLE

Police continue investigating Wednesday's collision near Niagara Drive and Sheridan Street, where five young children and a daycare worker were struck by a vehicle. A two-year-old suffered life-threatening injuries and was taken to a Toronto trauma centre. Police subsequently reported that the child was in stable condition. Other children and the daycare worker suffered injuries of varying severity.

PORT PERRY — HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Durham Regional Police continue investigating the October 6 death of 32-year-old Taylor John Frey in downtown Port Perry. Frey was found with traumatic injuries near Water and Mary streets and pronounced dead at the scene. Ryan Bullock, 33, of Port Perry, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. The charge has not been proven in court. Police previously described the incident as isolated.

WHY IT MATTERS: The homicide has deeply affected the downtown community. Residents and business owners are awaiting further developments as the investigation continues.

AJAX / WHITBY — LAKE RIDGE ROAD CONSTRUCTION BEGINS MONDAY

Durham Region announced October 23 that lane restrictions will begin October 26 on Lake Ridge Road in Ajax and Whitby. The resurfacing project is scheduled to continue through November 30, weather permitting.

DURHAM — REGION WARNS OF INCREASED PEDESTRIAN COLLISION RISKS

Durham Region issued a road-safety warning October 23 as shorter autumn days create darker commuting conditions. Regional officials report that pedestrian and cyclist collisions are most common between October and December. Motorists are being urged to slow down, remain alert at intersections and watch carefully for pedestrians.

PICKERING — CITY RECEIVES TENTH CONSECUTIVE CLEAN AUDIT

Pickering's 2025 financial statements have received an unmodified audit opinion from Deloitte, marking the city's tenth consecutive clean audit. The findings were highlighted October 23.

BOWMANVILLE / CLARINGTON — ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSIT DETOURS CONTINUE

Road rehabilitation remains underway around Bowmanville Avenue, Regional Highway 2 and Stevens Road. Lane restrictions are scheduled through October 31. Durham Region Transit has also updated a Route 502 detour in Bowmanville, with changes expected to remain in effect through December 1.

WHY IT MATTERS: Commuters, transit riders and businesses should anticipate travel disruptions as roadwork continues.

PICKERING — LOCAL EDUCATOR LAUNCHES ONLINE MATH SCHOOL

Former teacher Sunil Singh has launched Math Treehouse, an online mathematics education business. The venture was featured in local business reporting October 23.

DURHAM BUSINESS AND MEDIA — FILM FESTIVAL CONCLUDES TODAY

The Durham Region International Film Festival concludes its tenth-anniversary celebrations today in Oshawa. The three-day event has featured screenings and discussions about filmmaking, artificial intelligence and emerging production technologies.

WHY IT MATTERS: The festival promotes Durham's film industry and creates opportunities for local artists, media companies and businesses.

TODAY'S WATCH — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

OSHAWA: Missing-person investigation; daycare pedestrian collision; film festival concludes.

AJAX: Two pedestrian collision investigations; Kingston Road transit construction; Lake Ridge Road restrictions begin Monday.

PICKERING: Municipal voting continues; city financial audit highlighted; road improvements underway.

WHITBY: Advance voting continues through Sunday; new café opens at Abilities Centre.

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG: Homicide investigation continues; Scugog Line 2 closure begins Monday.

BOWMANVILLE / CLARINGTON: Road rehabilitation and transit detours continue; municipal election enters final weekend.

DURHAM PUBLIC SAFETY: Region issues autumn pedestrian and cyclist safety warning.

DURHAM BUSINESS: New education and hospitality businesses highlighted; film festival concludes.

DURHAM MUNICIPAL POLITICS: Final weekend before voters choose their next municipal councils.

DURHAM VOTES — OCTOBER 26, 2026

TWO DAYS UNTIL MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY

THE CENTRAL NEWSPAPER - DURHAM REGION'S ONLY IN-PRINT NEWSPAPER SERVING DURHAM SINCE 1993

TIME TESTED — INDUSTRY RESPECTED — GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED

Province Welcomes Bruce Power to Ontario Corps

TORONTO — The Ontario government is expanding Ontario Corps by welcoming its latest partner Bruce Power to leverage its facilities, equipment and expertise before, during and after an emergency. Through Ontario Corps, the province is delivering on its plan to protect Ontario by creating a network of partners and dedicated volunteers ready to respond to local emergencies and deploy critical resources at a moment's notice.

"We are pleased to welcome Bruce Power to the growing Ontario Corps network," said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "As a leader in safety and preparedness, Bruce Power brings valuable expertise, equipment, facilities and industry connections that can help support emergency response efforts across Ontario."

During an emergency, and subject to availability, Bruce Power may assist response efforts by providing access to its facilities, personnel, equipment and vehicles, including heavy machinery, specialized tools and other resources. Bruce Power can also draw on its network of contractors, suppliers, industry associations and business partners to help identify and source equipment, materials and other critical resources, and to share relevant supply chain information as appropriate. In addition, Bruce Power can provide emergency and incident management expertise, risk assessment and technical support, volunteer mobilization support as well as communications and stakeholder relations assistance to bolster provincial support when needed. It will also encourage its staff to volunteer for Ontario Corps.

The Ontario Corps network can be mobilized within 24 to 72 hours to help communities hit hard by emergencies, deploying resources such as personnel, debris removal tools, supplies, flood barriers and drones.

People of all skill levels and professional backgrounds are encouraged to volunteer for Ontario Corps. Volunteers will be provided with training and matched with partner organizations based on their skill levels, interests and availability.

Ontario Corps has been deployed on several occasions to support emergency response efforts. Most recently, Ontario Corps volunteers were deployed during the response to summer flooding in Niagara region and during the 2026 wildland fire season.

Bruce Power joins Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario, The Home Depot Canada, Labatt Breweries of Canada, Niagara College, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Mine Rescue, Ontario Road Builders' Association, Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, Uber Canada and Waste to Resource Ontario as Ontario Corps' latest partners.

A new, state-of-the-art Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters will serve as the future home of Ontario Corps. This facility will be equipped with cutting-edge technology needed to protect Ontario as the 24/7, year-round emergency command centre.

Bruce Power operates the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station in Bruce County, Ontario. The organization is committed to the safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible production of electricity while supporting the economic and social well-being of communities across Ontario. Through its commitment to safety, social responsibility, public preparedness and community resilience, Bruce Power works with partners to strengthen emergency management capabilities and support emergency preparedness initiatives.

"For nearly 60 years, Bruce Power has stood with Ontario communities while building a workforce trained to respond when it matters most. Bruce Power staff bring experience to communities facing floods, wildfires, severe storms and other emergencies. This is Protect Ontario in action — mobilizing Ontario's world-class workforce to put boots on the ground when communities need them."

- Stephen Lecce
Minister of Energy and Mines

"At Bruce Power, safety and preparedness are at the core of everything we do. Joining Ontario Corps is a natural extension of our commitment to supporting the communities we serve and helping build a more resilient Ontario. Through our people, resources, facilities and industry partnerships, we are proud to support emergency preparedness and response efforts while encouraging our employees to contribute their skills and expertise when Ontarians need them most."

- James Scongack
Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice-President, Bruce Power

Statement by Minister Quinn on Advancing Measures to Safeguard OSAP at Private Postsecondary Institutions

TORONTO — Today, the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security issued the following statement on ongoing efforts to safeguard OSAP at private postsecondary institutions:

"The Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES), with the support of its independent third-party auditor KPMG, continues to make progress on the system-wide audit of private postsecondary institutions. Last week, MCURES investigators began in-person inspections at eight private career colleges.

At that time, our investigators successfully gathered information and interviewed individuals at these career colleges. MCURES' investigation goes beyond the career colleges that have been inspected to date, and extends to the sector as a whole.

As we continue the investigations, we are working on program criteria for banks and financial institutions that could facilitate third-party loans for students. At the same time, we are working to develop a strengthened validation process for private postsecondary institutions associated with OSAP approvals for the 2026-27 academic year. This process is expected to be implemented in the new year, once the government has introduced and, subject to the legislature, passed legislation to enhance OSAP integrity and oversight of private postsecondary institutions.

To protect against irregularities or fraud, OSAP will not resume for private postsecondary institutions until the strengthened validation process is in place. Proposed measures will include caps on OSAP-funded enrollment, the exclusion of predominantly online-only programs, and strengthened student identification and verification controls. While necessary to protect the integrity of OSAP and to protect Ontario taxpayers from abuse, we understand the impact that this work is having on students and families across the province.

This impact is not lost on us as we work to restore integrity to the system and provide students with greater certainty and stability as quickly as possible.

We will continue to provide updates as this work progresses."