

SCUGOG SET TO RECEIVE OVER \$5.5M IN ADDITIONAL OLG FUNDING

Scugog – At the June , 2026, General Purpose and Administration Committee Meeting, a report was brought forward for the extension of the Municipal Service Agreement between Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and the Township of Scugog.

The Agreement provides needed funding from OLG in recognition of the municipal services provided by the Township which benefit the operation of the Great Blue Heron Casino. In 2025, \$1.106 million in funding to the Township was received, with expected amounts for 2026 of \$1.13 million.

The extension of this agree- ment represents an antici- pated 5 years of additional annual funding to the Township beginning on April 1, 2027, for a total expected amount of over \$5.5 million during that period.

“Through diligent work with our delegation at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association annual confer- ence earlier this year and the support of Minister Stan Cho, as well as some early discussions with staff at OLG, we have managed to secure a further 5 years of municipal service funding at a rate of \$1.1 million per year, indexed for inflation,” said Township of Scugog CAO Warren Mar. “This funding helps with our oper- ational and capital costs for services that benefit Casino operations and represents a welcome amount of over \$5.5 million for the next 5 years.”

Based on staff’s analysis, the arrangement remains mutually beneficial to both parties. The recommenda- tion report is expected to be ratified on June 22. Once approved, staff will be direct- ed to execute the agree- ment.

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DRPS' Drone as First Responder Program Enters Phase II

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) has advanced its Drone as First Responder (DFR) pilot program into Phase II, marking the next stage of this innovative pilot project supporting frontline emergency response.

On Friday, June 26, 2026, the DFR pilot program officially went live following several months of operational testing. The program will be actively responding to support community safety across Durham Region.

DFR Remote Pilots-in-Charge (RPICs) will operate out of the Real Time Operations Centre (RTOC), providing immediate aerial support to frontline officers responding to emergency calls. This capability allows officers to receive real-time overhead information prior to arrival, enhancing situational awareness and supporting safer, more informed decision-making.

Drone First Responder programs have been used successfully by police, fire, and emergency medical services across the United States. DRPS will evaluate the effectiveness of the DFR program throughout its summer deployment to determine its long-term value for the region.

The DFR program has the potential to support:

- Rapid response from call receipt to “on scene overhead”
- Enhanced situational awareness for responding officers
- More effective and efficient deployment of police resources
- Search capabilities for suspects, victims, and missing persons.
- Increased accountability and transparency, complementing body-worn camera footage

The program will only be used to respond to serious calls for service. It is not used for surveillance or random patrol. Deployment criteria include:

- Priority 1 emergency calls involving a high threat of physical harm
- Priority 2 urgent calls involving a moderate risk to safety or property
- Crimes in progress where suspects are on scene or evidence may be lost
- Other calls at the discretion of the Regional Duty Inspector

During Phase II, DFR will deploy from dock stations strategically located across the Region. Locations were selected based on calls-for-service and crime data, airspace and safety considerations, and the availability of suitable installation sites.

Throughout the summer deployment period, DRPS will continue to evaluate all aspects of the program, including site placement, operational effectiveness, and impact on community safety. All DFR operations comply with Transport Canada authorizations, the approved Privacy Impact Assessment, and all provincial and federal privacy legislation. The system:

- Is not used for surveillance
- Does not use facial recognition or automated identification technology. Only launches for specific emergency or operational incidents.
- Does not capture audio

The data gathered during this phase will support an evidence-based decision on the future of the DFR program, including any potential expansion.

Public transparency remains a core component of the project. DRPS will continue to share information with the community to ensure residents understand how the system works and how privacy is protected.

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