



SCUGOG — The Ontario government is investing \$879,549 to help renew and

Ontario Building Critical Infrastructure in the Township of Scugog

delivered through the 2026 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) as part of the government’s more than \$200 billion capital plan to protect Ontario by building key public infrastructure that will strengthen the economy and keep workers on the job in the face of tariffs and economic uncertainty.

“Under the leadership of Premier Doug Ford, our government is committed to building the Ontario of tomorrow through strengthening our community network and supporting key infrastructure industries” said Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham. “This investment of \$879,549 will ensure the Township of Scugog has the vital infrastructure to remain an incredible place to live, work, and start a business.”

In 2026, Ontario will allocate \$400 million in OCIF funding

to help 423 small, rural and northern communities address critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems. The minimum grant amount for municipalities will increase to \$125,000 from \$100,000. Funding allocations are based on a formula that accounts for the different needs and economic conditions of each community. Communities may accumulate funding for up to five years to address larger infrastructure projects.

“Small, rural and northern communities are essential to the growth and prosperity of Ontario,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “That is why we’re increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund’s minimum grant amount to provide predictability and stability for these communities and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive.

With our record investments across all infrastructure programs, we’re driving an unprecedented wave of construction—highways, transit, hospitals, schools, and more—to make communities stronger, keep workers on the job, and drive economic growth for generations to come.”

“Thank you to the Government of Ontario for recognizing the unique needs of small, rural communities like ours,” said Wilma Wotten, Mayor of the Township of Scugog. “Through the support of the OCIF, Scugog has been able to fund critical infrastructure projects to rehabilitate bridges, culverts, and roads. These investments strengthen our community network, support key industries such as agriculture through the movement of goods and people, and ensure the safety and reliability of essential infra-

structure for our residents. By investing in our infrastructure, we are investing in our future.”

The OCIF provides funding for local infrastructure projects in municipalities with populations under 100,000, rural and northern municipalities, as well as for Local Services Boards that own water or wastewater systems.

Since 2018, the government provided \$2.8 billion through OCIF to support small, rural and northern municipalities.

Additionally, the province is investing \$4 billion in the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) for core infrastructure projects in growing and developing communities. This investment will help unlock even more homes in addition to the approximately 800,000 that have been unlocked with the previously announced pipeline of projects.

After Last Week Exclusive Here Parent Have Gone On Huge Letter Writing Campaign

Parents of children at an Ajax elementary school are upset that overnight trips for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are being cancelled. A letter from Southwood Park Public School to parents said they are looking at alternatives to overnight excursions and listed the following factors as reasons behind the decision:

Equity and Inclusion: We want every student to feel welcome and able to participate in school experiences. Overnight trips can present unintentional barriers for some families due to cultural, or personal circumstances.

Financial Considerations: These trips can place a significant cost burden on families, especially those with multiple children or limited financial flexibility.

Family Preferences: Many families have shared that they are more comfortable with day trips, and this has been reflected in student participation.

Staff Commitments: Overnight trips ask a great deal of our dedicated staff, requiring them to volunteer time away from their own families and additional responsibilities outside regular working hours.

District Alignment: Many schools in our region have moved away from overnight trips for similar reasons and we are aligning with broader district practices and values. Parents are calling for the school board to intervene.

One parent said, our taxes keep going up and the quality of life keeps going down. This is not right. Our kids deserve better. These teachers are all about themselves and how they can work less and make more money.

This recent development is not acceptable.

They say there was a school council meeting, but allege the principal and vice-principal listened before making it clear it was an administrative decision that would not be discussed. The parents also pointed out both the principal and vice-principal are new to the school this year.

The parents are urging the school to reconsider, citing the benefits of outdoor educational experiences.

The Durham District School Board says the decision to cancel the trips “was not taken lightly.” The board says the school held a meeting where they received community feedback.

Ultimately, the board said they do not implement “system-wide directives for extracurricular events” because those decision are made at the school level based on the needs of students and families in the school community. Parents are upset and want answers. The politically correctness from the board does not cut it claimed another parent. The board can’t sit on it’s hands on important things like this. It is irresponsible, we pay taxes to school boards for

quality education not some ‘Woke’ type cutting back activities.

The board’s full statement is below:

The DDSB is committed to providing meaningful and enriching learning opportunities for students and we want to reiterate that Southwood Public School’s recent decision to revisit the approach to overnight trips was not taken lightly. We understand that Southwood Public School recently held a School Community Council (SCC) meeting where community feedback was heard and considered, and that conversations around meaningful experiences specific to the Southwood Public School community are ongoing. Decisions about extracurricular events are made at the school level. This way, decisions will consider the needs of students and families that are unique to school communities including the staff. This is why the District does not implement system-wide directives for extracurricular events.

Some parents have complained that they turned to their local MP and MPP’s and no support.

Taxes are calculated with part going to education. If the school board is to cut services. Should taxes not also be cut back to reflect the lack of service...Asked Darryl Harris.

Mamma Mia wants to see ya at the

Oshawa Navy Club's Taste of Italy

Door Prizes **50/50 Draw**

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Bar Open at 4:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets \$25

Live Entertainment Featuring West of 60