

ALL TALK NO ACTION IN SCUGOG

Scugog – There has been quite a bit of misinformation causing worry in the community surrounding the outreach and future visioning for the Port Perry Fairgrounds. Earlier this year, the Port Perry Agricultural Society (PPAS) brought forward a request to renew their current 10-year lease, at a rental rate of \$2.00 for the entire term, which is set to expire in June 2026. Following meetings with the PPAS and Council consideration of the request on April 28 and July 9, Council voted to defer the decision to renew until next year, with a plan to conduct and complete a visioning exercise by June 2026. This exercise is expected to allow residents, stakeholders, and especially the PPAS to detail their ideas and proposals for the grounds. To assist with this visioning exercise, Council also directed staff to issue a request for proposals for a consultant to assist with this community visioning exercise, and report back regarding the contract award and budget approval. The only conversation taking place at the September 15 Special Council Meeting is in relation to retaining a consultant to assist with this community-wide visioning exercise. Some in the community don't feel that it's necessary; however, with a population of over 22 thousand people, as well as welcoming over 500 thousand visitors to Scugog annually, it is important to have a dedicated, professional group to fully engage the community and stakeholders and create a community driven plan that provides an array of benefits. "We have maintained from the beginning that a key stakeholder in the exercise is the official Agricultural Society. We look forward to receiving their ideas," said Scugog Mayor Wilma Wotten. "There is some confusion in the community, where some think the consultant will bring their own ideas for the grounds. That is untrue. They will be presenting some potential plans for the grounds, yes, but these ideas would come from the community. They would be plans for how we can bring your vision to life, not theirs, and not mine. My hope is that if we facilitate a visioning exercise this fall, residents will participate in a positive and constructive way." There are currently no discussions being held about selling the grounds, nor have there been any discussions with developers about building on the site. If a consultant is awarded, they will be creating a vision based on your input, not their own. The Port Perry Fair will continue as long as the Port Perry Agricultural Society is willing and able to run it. Whether it will continue on the current site will be determined by the visioning exercise. Options for the site will be determined by the community. Even if the current use of the space changes, it may still be a public area. One of our requirements for a consultant is that they connect with the Port Perry Agricultural Society directly when gathering feedback for the vision. Staff do not have the capacity to conduct a full consultation on this project. Given the value and pride the community has in the lands, we need to ensure the whole community is as represented as it can be. The lands have not been deemed a heritage site. As directed by Council, this was procedurally referred to staff for consideration as part of the upcoming Official Plan review, which will be completed after the visioning exercise.

KIDNEY WALK AIMS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS

DURHAM REGION, ONTARIO – This September, in communities across Ontario, supporters will unite at the Kidney Walk. Whether it's to support friends and family who live with kidney disease, celebrate a transplant, honour the memory of a loved one, or connect with others going through a similar journey, it is always remarkable to see the kidney community rally together to support those they love while raising funds to support The Kidney Foundation's mission. "The Kidney Walks really are the highlight of the year. They are a place where people living with kidney disease feel loved and supported by their family and friends - they also see the strength of our community and learn that they aren't alone in their experience," said Mary-Pat Shaw, President of The Kidney Foundation's Ontario Branch. Notably, the past two years, the Kidney Walk has raised over a million dollars each year. "Every dollar raised fuels programs and services for those affected by kidney disease," Shaw added. Durham Region resident, 16-year-old Ava McDaniel shares why she walks. "I walk to improve the health and well-being of all people living with kidney disease and to increase awareness of organ donation. But, having struggled with the effects of immunosuppression post-transplant and someday needing a second and third organ, I hope the funds I raise, along with someone's brilliant mind, will also support new advancements for transplant recipients, especially for kids who will spend a lifetime managing their kidney disease," she says. Over 4 million Canadians are affected by kidney disease. Several factors can affect a person's risk for kidney disease from genetics to diabetes, high blood pressure, ethnic background, and more. There is no cure for kidney failure. When kidneys fail, people need dialysis several times a week, or a kidney transplant to survive. Not everyone is eligible for a transplant, and the wait list in Ontario for a deceased donor kidney continues to be 4 years on average. As a result, people living with kidney disease often face emotional, financial, and physical challenges. Funds raised from the Kidney Walks enables the Foundation to fund world-class research and deliver support programs. "The Kidney Foundation supports Canadians at every step of their kidney disease journey," says Shaw. "Whether it is providing emotional support through our peer support program, emergency financial assistance or information to help navigate kidney disease, we want Canadians to know that we are here to help." EVA Air has partnered with us as this year's prize sponsor. For every \$250 that participants fundraise online, they will automatically receive a ballot to be entered to win a voucher for two return economy class tickets from Toronto to select cities serviced by EVA Air's Asia area route map.



Development of immersive VR fire safety training coming to Clarington, thanks to Hydro One grant

Clarington, Ontario — Clarington Emergency & Fire Services (CEFS) is launching a new fire safety education initiative, thanks to the \$25,000 grant from Hydro One's 2025 Energizing Life Community Fund. The funding will support the development of immersive virtual reality (VR) training tools that will help residents understand and respond to household fire risks. In partnership with Durham College's Mixed Reality Capture (MRC) Studio, CEFS will begin developing the simulations this year. The interactive experiences will be piloted with the community in 2026, offering residents a hands-on way to explore fire safety topics and emergency decision-making. Durham College students will also benefit from the project, gaining hands-on experience in emerging technologies while contributing to a meaningful public safety initiative. "Using new VR tech to teach fire safety, residents can virtually experience the start of a fire and learn how to prevent it with Clarington firefighters. We're talking about launching immersive, cutting-edge fire safety education that shows how quickly fires can spread and how working smoke alarms save lives, particularly at night. Thanks to Hydro One's generous funding and the ingenuity of Durham College's MRC Studio, we're helping folks make safer choices and protect their families," said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster. The Municipality of Clarington is actively pursuing valuable external funding opportunities, reducing dependency on the property tax base while supporting the delivery of meaningful municipal services. Clarington is grateful for this valuable support from Hydro One, which will help bring modern, life-saving fire prevention tools to the community. "It's inspiring to see Municipality of Clarington improve people's well-being by fostering meaningful connections and providing essential resources," said Bronwen Evans, Vice President, Sustainability, Communications and Marketing, Hydro One. "Our 2025 recipients are powerful agents of local change, and we are excited to partner with them through our Energizing Life Community Fund. Congratulations to Clarington and thank you for your dedication to building a better and brighter future." Once complete, the simulations will be used at public events and outreach sessions to enhance CEFS's ongoing fire prevention efforts



Here is how to reach us

By mail: 136 Simcoe St North, Unit 4
Oshawa, Ontario. L1G 4S7
Tel: (905) 432-2657
Administration (General Inquiries)
Tel: (905) 432-2605 Circulation
Tel: (905) 432-9987
Classified/Display Advertising
Tel: (905) 432-9989
News Tips And Information
or Fax: (905) 404-0887
Our On line address is:
URL <http://www.oshcentral.com>
We publish every Tuesday.

At The Oshawa Central Newspaper we understand the growing public concern for the environment. We do our part by forecasting the demand of the papers published, based on our sales performance records. By forecasting the quantities we are able to determine the amount required to publish. This way we eliminate recycling and assure that everyone that receives a copy will want one to read. Any Newspapers that are not sold are delivered throughout the City on a promotional basis. In most cases the free papers will be a day or two old. If you want Oshawa's Number One Newspaper delivered to your door on time every Tuesday do your part and subscribe today, like the many of your neighbors. If you like to pick up a copy. They are available in most local stores.

World's First Online (Internet)
Newspaper Since 1993