



# News from Regional Councillor Dies & Councillor Bower



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Hello, Ward 3! We hope you had a great summer and enjoyed some time with family and friends. We are excited to present our first newsletter of the 2022 - 2026 Council term and welcome your questions and feedback.

This edition contains information about upcoming capital projects in our ward, as well as pedestrian crossing improvements, planning applications for a few developments and an update on community supports for the homeless in Ajax. We've also included information about the joint Town and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) initiative called the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) and plans for an updated Ajax Official Plan.

Our next Ward 3 Community Meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2023 at 7 p.m. with the option to attend in person or online. Stay tuned for more details. As always, we are proud to be your Councillors and look forward to seeing you soon.

Ajax's 5.7 kilometre stretch of waterfront park is a popular public space for residents and visitors.

To protect the Town's trails, facilities and park amenities, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Town are undertaking an Environmental Assessment to develop long-term mitigation strategies for the shoreline.

However, high water levels in 2017 and 2019 and a high wind event in 2018 has resulted in hazardous erosion in some locations. Many municipalities on Lake Ontario, in both the U.S. and Canada, are experiencing similar issues of flood damage and shoreline erosion. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a bi-national organization working together on mitigation initiatives and funding from upper levels of governments.

A particular focus of the project will be on the bluffs along the waterfront trail, as areas of the shoreline have begun to encroach on the trail.



TRCA will be presenting updates on the project to Council at the October 10 GGC meeting. In June, members of Council and Town staff joined TRCA for a boat ride to view points of interest along our waterfront. Stay up-to-date on the project on the TRCA's website at: <https://trca.ca/conservation/erosion-risk-management/restore/ajax-waterfront-project/>.

# What's happening in Ward 3?



**Cedar Park**

Cedar Park is getting a new batting cage! The project also includes a new shed to house the pitching machine and new electrical connections.

**Start:** Summer 2023  
**Completion expected:** Summer 2023



**Exeter Park**

The design of this new neighbourhood park will include a junior/senior playground, splash pad, gazebo/shed structure, walkways, a fenced, leash-free area, site furniture, lighting, landscaping and a drinking water fountain.

**Start:** Spring/Summer 2023  
**Design completion expected:** Fall 2023  
**Anticipated construction:** Fall 2024



**Ajax Cricket Club pitch**

Site improvements include re-grading and sodding a north-south axis wicket, batters eye screen and barrier netting, sports field lighting and irrigation, expanded parking lot, bleachers, concrete walkways and a new field house with change rooms, a referee room and public washrooms.

**Start:** Spring 2023  
**Completion expected:** Spring 2024



**St. Andrew's Community Centre**

After many months of construction delays, the parking lot resurfacing and outdoor recreation improvements are back on track! Improvements include connecting the parking lots, pickleball courts, tree planting and AODA compliant site furniture.

**Completion expected:** Summer 2023



**Ajax Community Centre**

The Town continues to support the growth of the pickleball community! Two additional courts have been painted for pickleball at the Ajax Community Centre (ACC), with more expected in other wards across the Town.

## Improved pedestrian crossings

A recent update to the Town's traffic by-law will result in the installation of pedestrian crossovers at the following Ward 3 locations, with completion expected summer/fall 2023:

- Lake Driveway W. (east of Garnett Dr.)
- Lake Driveway W. (south approaching Vale Cres./Hawkins Cres.)
- Lakeview Blvd. (west of Maple Ave.)
- Lakeview Blvd. (east of Poplar Ave.)

## Homelessness supports in Ajax

The Town has been working with the Region of Durham and other organizations to address the increase in homelessness that has impacted municipalities across the country, including Ajax. Initiatives include new staff positions that focus on community safety and supports, processes and policies for encampments, increased private security and DRPS presence in the downtown and surrounding area, Regional improvements to system coordination and street outreach programs and so much more. For more information, visit: [ajax.ca/Homelessness](http://ajax.ca/Homelessness)

## New developments

- 21 & 23 Harwood Ave. S. have active planning applications for a 12-storey, mixed-use building (161 units and ground floor commercial space) and a five-storey seniors' building (34 units).
- 101 Pickering Beach Rd. & 235 Bayly St. E. have active planning applications for a 10-storey condominium and three-storey townhouse block (total 203 units).
- 190 Westney Rd. S. has an active planning application for a residential, commercial and retail mixed-use, high-rise development that would have a maximum building height of 62-storeys and a minimum building height of 55-storeys. \*Please note at the time of print for this newsletter the public meeting scheduled for September 5, 2023 regarding this development proposal had not yet been held. To review the meeting minutes or to watch a recording, please visit [ajax.ca/Meetings](https://ajax.ca/Meetings).

## Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)

The Town of Ajax, a well-known leader in environmental sustainability, is proud to be the first municipality in Durham Region to implement a SNAP. Through a partnership between the Town of Ajax, Region of Durham and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Ajax SNAP continues to use a collaborative, neighbourhood-based approach to advancing urban renewal and climate action. SNAPs help municipalities and other community collaborators improve efficiencies, draw strong local support and build innovative partnerships for the implementation of a broad range of initiatives in the public and private realms. As part of the Ajax SNAP, the South Ajax Home Retrofit Program was launched in May 2023. The program provides one-on-one guidance and personalized retrofit and incentive recommendations that are tailored to specific homes and budgets. The program is open to all Ajax SNAP residents who live in a detached or semi-detached home within the SNAP neighbourhood (as seen on the map). There will be 20 more rain barrels given out to participants who complete a home visit, so sign up now! Contact Alessia Pereira Mendoza at the Town of Ajax by email at: [alessia.mendoza@ajax.ca](mailto:alessia.mendoza@ajax.ca) or by phone at 905-619-2529, ext. 3249 to book your free consultation visit today!



## Ajax Official Plan (AOP)

All municipalities are required to have an Official Plan which focuses on land use, such as residential, commercial and employment lands with policies that guide growth and manage change.

Recently, Durham Region completed the Municipal Comprehensive Review and adopted a new Regional Official Plan in May 2023, which is now awaiting approval from the province. Population projections out to 2051 in Durham are expected to grow to 1.3 million people from 699,460 today. Ajax is expected to grow to 200,000.

To accommodate this growth, Durham will require 225,800 new households with a range of housing choices for varied incomes.

Ajax Council recognized that redevelopment of lands through intensification and infill will provide choices in housing for growth and eliminates the need to expand beyond the Town's boundaries.

Ajax is already experiencing changes in established neighbourhoods as landowners redevelop and build new homes. The AOP has a policy framework for redevelopment in established neighbourhoods to ensure that proposed changes are sensitive, gradual and in keeping with the existing character regarding massing and scale, privacy and setbacks from the street and neighbouring properties.

While standards may vary slightly, they generally allow up to three-storeys in height in residential neighbourhoods of single or semi-detached homes with 30 - 50% lot coverage. Property owners may apply for a minor variance or a rezoning if redevelopment does not meet the requirements in the Official Plan.

Ajax will start the next comprehensive review of the Ajax Official Plan in 2024 and will include extensive public consultation.



# 2023 meeting schedule\*

## Community Affairs & Planning

Monday, October 2 | 7 p.m.

## General Government Committee

Tuesday, October 10 | 1 p.m.

## Council

Monday, October 16 | 7 p.m.

## Community Affairs & Planning

Monday, November 6 | 7 p.m.

## General Government Committee

Monday, November 20 | 1 p.m.

## Council

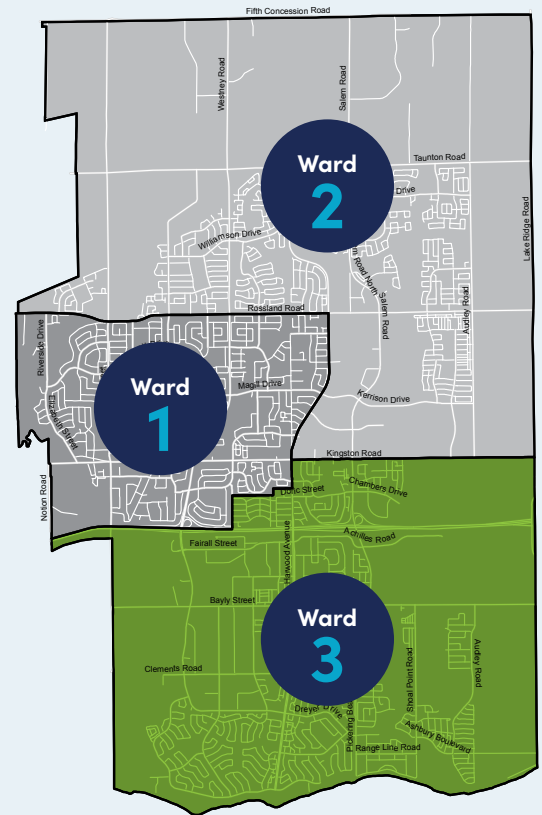
Monday, November 27 | 7 p.m.

For more information and to view agendas, visit [ajax.ca/Meetings](https://ajax.ca/Meetings).

\*Dates subject to change.

# What's my ward?

Find out what ward you live in by using our interactive map at [ajax.ca/MyWard](https://ajax.ca/MyWard).



## Mental health supports

### Community Care Durham: COPE Mental Health Program

- 905-837-0017, ext. 229
- [communitycaredurham.on.ca](https://communitycaredurham.on.ca)

### Distress Centre Durham Crisis Line

- Call: 1-800-452-0688
- Text: 258258
- [distresscentredurham.com](https://distresscentredurham.com)

### Durham Mental Health Services

- Crisis Line: 1-800-742-1890
- Intake: 905-666-0831
- [dmhscentralintake@lh.ca](mailto:dmhscentralintake@lh.ca)
- [dmhs.ca](https://dmhs.ca)

### Lakeridge Health – Ajax Pickering Hospital

- Crisis Line: 905-433-4384
- Intake: 905-683-2320, ext. 13275
- [lakeridgehealth.on.ca](https://lakeridgehealth.on.ca)

### Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences – Prompt Clinic

- Crisis Line: 1-800-263-2679
- Intake: 1-877-767-9642
- [ontarioshores.ca](https://ontarioshores.ca)

## Community Care Durham Mobile Food Market

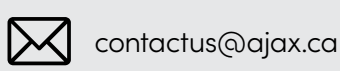
Every Wednesday until October 25.

Ajax Community Centre

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Learn more at: [communitycaredurham.on.ca/mobile-food-market/](https://communitycaredurham.on.ca/mobile-food-market/)

## Stay connected



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