



News from Regional Councillor Crawford & Councillor Tyler-Morin



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Happy spring, everyone! We have been busy these past few months, including passing the 2024 Operating and Capital budgets.

The \$38 million Capital Budget is critical for us to maintain our aging infrastructure and keep up with the pace of growth. We are investing \$21 million in our road network, including the widening of Rossland Road (from Westney Road to Lakeridge Road). We are investing \$3.2 million in Town buildings, including roof replacements for both the McLean Community Centre and Rotary Park Pavilion and upgrades to the chlorine system for the Audley Recreation Centre (ARC) pool. Four and a half million will be invested in our parks, including retrofits and upgrades and new playground equipment for our park system. Additional projects include the long-awaited fairground area, which will create a beautiful space south of ARC for our community to come together and celebrate by hosting festivals, performances and special occasions.

The \$133 million Operating Budget confirms programs and service delivery for the year ahead, including an upgraded snow removal program which involves quicker response times for the snow removal for seniors and qualified residents. We are investing in our staff team with 22 new positions, including two new roles in our Planning and Development Department, the Supervisor of Building Inspection and Enforcement and the Supervisor Permit Review and Compliance, a new Diversity and Inclusion Officer to support Ajax's role as a leader among inclusive communities, and a new Senior Buyer to help advance our capital projects.

Ajax is also investing in community safety with the hiring of a Strategic Initiatives Coordinator (Community

Supports) to oversee issues associated with homelessness. A Coordinator of Safety and Operations will oversee the specific needs of the Ajax Public Library, meanwhile continued investments are being made in on-site contracted security at the Main Branch during all opening hours. In addition to the new positions, we are also hiring eight additional firefighters, helping to keep our community safe.

The impact of these investments on the Town's portion of your tax bill will be 2.47%. Durham Region's budget will be finalized in March. For updates, visit yourvoice.durham.ca/durhambudget.

Traffic Calming and ASE (automated speed enforcement) continue to be a priority, as well as clean parks, pathways and roadways and overall property standards throughout Ward 1 and the Town.

We have and will continue hosting our Ward 1 Community Meetings throughout this Council term, connecting with as many residents as possible. Please reach out anytime!

Green Bin Program

Exciting news from the Durham Region Works Department – this summer, the Region will be expanding the Green Bin Program. This will allow for diapers, incontinence items, cat litter and dog waste. Stay tuned for more information on this expansion.



Homelessness

We continue to support the community by:

- Adding a dedicated Coordinator of Safety and Operations for the Library.
- Hiring a full-time Strategic Initiatives Coordinator (Community Supports).
- Utilizing the Ajax Partnership Fund to create opportunities of financial support for increased safety measures of the Downtown Ajax Plaza.

The Region is starting the process for a Community Mental Health Crisis Response Service to be able to meet the growing need for specialized services.



Downtown Ajax Plaza



ASE camera on Delaney Drive - between Church Street North and Elizabeth Street

Durham Vision Zero

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)

There has been a significant increase in compliance with the posted speed limit since we started the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program. When we started, 80% of all traffic was exceeding the posted speed limit at our ASE sites. In December 2023, less than 20% of all traffic was exceeding the posted speed limit at our ASE sites.

Ajax has three mobile ASE cameras.

In addition to the cameras operating under the Town's ASE program, the Region of Durham also operates its own program. The Region has:

- 8 permanent/fixed ASE cameras (including one in Ajax on Bayly Street, east of Harwood Avenue); and
- 6 mobile ASE cameras

**Some cameras are currently under construction*

Red Light Cameras (RLC)

Of the 12 red light cameras, the number of monthly charges from the Red Light Camera Program has been fairly consistent at about 200 charges per month. The intersections at Simcoe Street and Conlin Road, Westney Road and Delaney Drive/Magill Drive and Ritson Road at Bond Street East are the highest three Red Light Camera charge locations in the Region. The number of charges at Westney Road and Delaney Drive/Magill Drive has decreased from a high of 165 in October 2020 to 20 charges in December 2023.

We have not had a fatal collision at any of the Red Light Camera locations since the program started in September 2020.

2024 meeting schedule*

Community Affairs & Planning

Tuesday, April 2 | 1 p.m.

General Government Committee

Monday, April 8 | 1 p.m.

Council

Monday, April 15 | 1 p.m.

Community Affairs & Planning

Monday, May 6 | 1 p.m.

General Government Committee

Monday, May 13 | 1 p.m.

Council

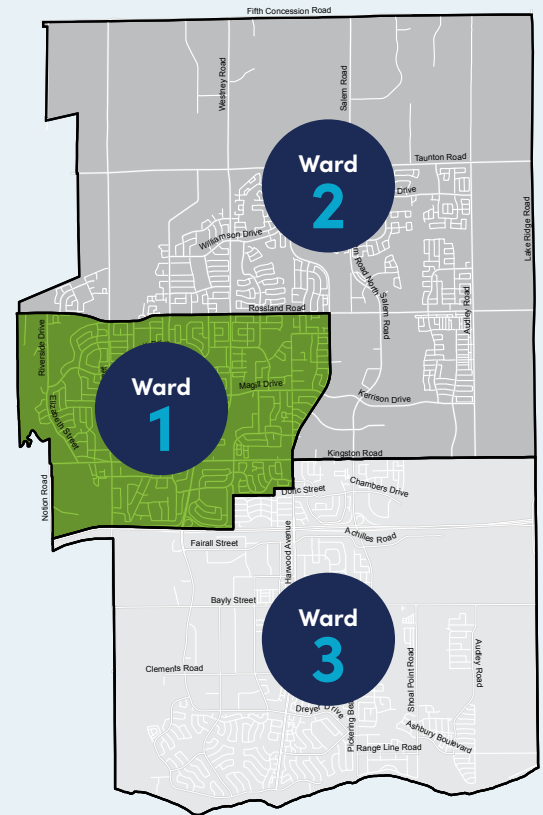
Tuesday, May 21 | 1 p.m.

For more information and to view agendas, visit 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.



Mental health supports

Community Care Durham: COPE Mental Health Program

- 905-837-0017, ext. 229
- communitycaredurham.on.ca

Distress Centre Durham Crisis Line

- Call: 1-800-452-0688
- Text: 258258
- distresscentredurham.com

Durham Mental Health Services

- Crisis Line: 1-800-742-1890
- Intake: 905-666-0831
- dmhscentralintake@lh.ca
- dmhs.ca

Lakeridge Health – Ajax Pickering Hospital

- Crisis Line: 905-433-4384
- Intake: 905-683-2320, ext. 13275
- 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

Mayor and Council Annual Barbecue

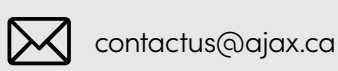
Saturday, June 1, 2024

Audley Recreation Centre

12 - 2 p.m.

Further details, including pre-registration, will be available on the Town's event page ajax.ca/TownEvents closer to the event date. Halal food options will be available.

Stay connected



This content is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting 905-683-4550 or emailing contactus@ajax.ca