



# News from Regional Councillor Dies & Councillor Bower



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**Committees:**

- Durham Region Health & Social Services
- Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
- Ajax Homelessness Task Force

**Committees:**

- PARA Marine Search & Rescue
- Ajax Pickering Road Watch
- Ajax Homelessness Task Force



Hello, Ward 3! We're excited to share our spring newsletter with you. This edition features updates on development projects in our Ward, upcoming capital projects, ideas for exciting things to do in our Town and more! Our next Ward 3 Community Meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024 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!

*In case you are wondering who we are photographed with, this is Mr. Ajax, who travelled to trade shows to promote the first plan for Canada's newest industrial community, Ajax.*



Each year, the Town honours the contributions of outstanding Ajax community members. These awards show the Town's appreciation of the many individuals, groups and businesses who give their time and skills for the benefit of the community.

**2023 Ajax Community Award Recipients include:** Ajax Civic Award Adult - Gloria Small; Ajax Civic Award Youth - Thomas Johnson; Ajax Senior of the Year Award - Ray Smith; Arts & Culture Award - Whitney Collins-Wilson; Community Event Award - YEAC; Good Deed Award - Taylor Hiebert-Thorne; Accessibility Award - James Titmarsh; Environment Award - Luke Nguyen; Diversity & Community Engagement Award - Durham Family Culture Centre; Recreation Award - Karen Narine

# What's happening in Ward 3?

There are currently 27 active development applications in Ward 3 – the most throughout Ajax! Here are highlights of a few of them:



## 537 Kingston Road East

South of the Ajax Casino, a one-storey, 113,000 square metre industrial/warehouse/distribution and office space, with a flexible design that can accommodate one to four industries. Note that approximately 60% of the site will be zoned for environmental protection.

## 72 & 80 Bayly Street West

Proposed 23-storey and 18-storey mixed-use buildings with 541 residential units at the northwest corner of Bayly Street West and Commercial Avenue.



## 282 Monarch Avenue

Located at the old Salvation Army strip plaza, this proposed development is for five 25-storey residential and mixed-use buildings (18-storey towers on 7-storey podiums) for a total of 1,773 residential units.

There are many exciting Capital Projects scheduled for our Ward in 2024, such as:

- Daste Parkette (northeast corner of Clayton Road and Leney Street) – new parkette inclusive of playground, furniture, walkways, lighting and landscaping.
- Hunt Street Resurfacing & Dowty Road Reconstruction – currently in design and will commence construction in spring 2025 and finish in the fall of 2025.
- Southwood Park Streetlight Improvements Phase 1 & 2 – installation of new LED streetlights and underground streetlight wires.



Cricket facility – expected to be completed early summer



Completed – new pickleball court at St. Andrew's Centre

## Looking for something to do in Ajax? Check out these ideas:



### Ajax Public Library

The Ajax Public Library is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for the diversity of their collection, along with the Library Board of the Year Award. Congratulations! See all that they have to offer at [ajaxlibrary.ca](http://ajaxlibrary.ca).



### St. Francis Centre for Community, Arts & Culture

Enjoy concerts, variety shows, theatre, family shows, movies and more at Ajax's very own local theatre, and with free parking too! Visit [ajax.ca/SFC](http://ajax.ca/SFC) for information on what's playing.



### Ajax Shared E-scooter & E-bike Pilot Program

You've likely seen them at the waterfront and other locations around the Town. The program will relaunch in April 2024. For information on where to ride, where to park, how to report an issue or other concerns, go to: [ajax.ca/emobility](http://ajax.ca/emobility).

## The homelessness crisis

The rise in homelessness is challenging municipalities across the country. It's predicted that homelessness in Durham Region will increase 48% by 2025. This is a complex issue. As populations in municipalities across the province continue to increase, so does homelessness.

Over time, there has been little investment by upper levels of government, choices of housing, affordable housing and not-for-profit housing for varied income levels, resulting in long wait lists for not-for-profit and affordable housing.

Ajax has the second highest number of homeless individuals in the Region, varying in age from youth to seniors, including families. To help combat the issue, Ajax is now home to 50 beds in shelter spaces with programs and support for the homeless, and recently initiated, a local winter warming site at the Ajax Community Centre during cold weather alerts.

Collaborative efforts between Town By-Law, Operations, DRPS, Security and the Town's Coordinator of Community Supports are working to mitigate issues of debris, community safety and unwanted behaviour.

For homeless individuals living on the street, the Region provides outreach programs, such as (PCOP) Primary Care Outreach Program and (MHOP) Mental Health Outreach Program along with Outreach Workers to assist with individual paths to care and housing opportunities.

While the Region receives and distributes funding from upper levels of government for homelessness, resources are limited. Ajax works collaboratively with the Region's social services professionals, various agencies, non-profits, community churches, community members, the Ajax Homelessness Task Force and other municipalities to share ideas and provide inspiration and solutions for the challenges of homelessness. Their professionalism, dedication and support are greatly appreciated. For more information, visit [ajax.ca/homelessness](http://ajax.ca/homelessness).



# 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

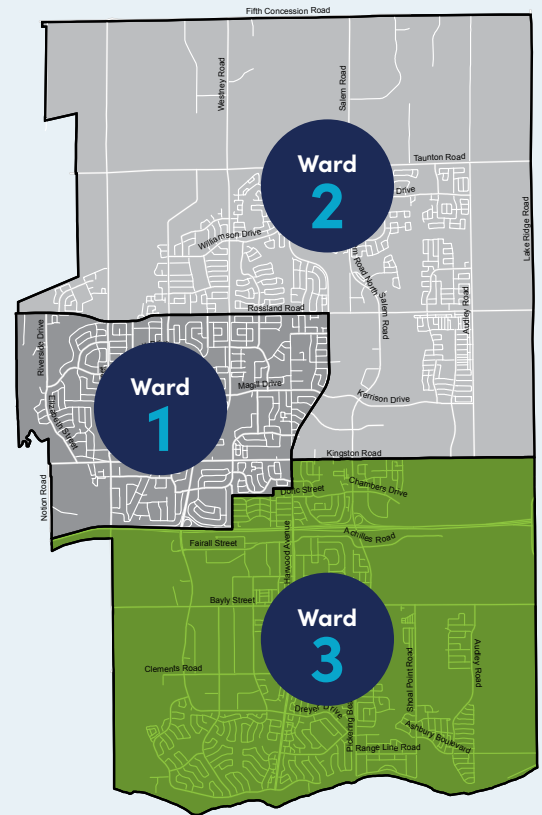
Tuesday, May 21 | 1 p.m.

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

## Mayor and Council Annual Barbecue

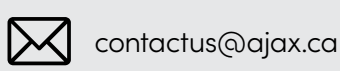
Saturday, June 1, 2024

Audley Recreation Centre

12 – 2 p.m.

Further details, including pre-registration, will be available on the Town's event page [ajax.ca/TownEvents](https://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](mailto:contactus@ajax.ca)