

# CLARINGTON INSIDER



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# Clarington



*Building a sustainable,  
creative & caring  
community*

## A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The Municipality of Clarington has recently completed a Strategic Plan which identifies six key priorities for this term of Council. One of the key priorities is to "Connect Clarington" with our residents by improving our communications, so that you are kept informed of decisions made at the town hall that may be of interest to you. We hope you will find the information useful in understanding how our municipal government works. As this is our first attempt to use the Community Guide to get the information out to you, we sincerely hope that you will give us your feedback so that we can continuously improve as we work to accomplish our goal. Feedback should be directed to Jennifer Cooke, Manager of Communications & Tourism at [jcooke@clarington.net](mailto:jcooke@clarington.net) or let us know if you see us out and about in the community. Thank you!



*Clarington Council (from left to right): In the back row - Councillor Ron Hooper (Ward 2); Councillor Corinna Traill (Ward 3); Councillor Wendy Partner (Ward 4); Councillor Joe Neal (Ward 1). Seated - Regional Councillor Mary Novak (Wards 1/2); Mayor Adrian Foster; and Regional Councillor Willie Woo (Wards 3/4)*



### Who let the dogs out!

Clarington's first LEASH FREE DOG PARK is under construction on West Beach Road in Bowmanville. The park will provide 3 acres of fenced off-leash space for dogs to roam free. There will be a separate area specifically for small dogs. The park will open in spring 2012.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION**



### **Port Darlington Waterfront Park - West Beach Phase 1**

Despite over 38km of shoreline Clarington has a relatively small amount of publicly accessible parkland on the shores of Lake Ontario. To improve public access to the waterfront the Municipality has recently acquired lakefront parkland in Port Darlington on the east and west sides of the Bowmanville Creek. The first phase of Port Darlington Waterfront Park is to be constructed in the fall of 2011 on the West Beach side. A parking lot and walkways connecting to the beach will be part of the first phase of development. Future phases will include features such as shade structures, playgrounds and lake lookouts.



*Bowmanville Valley Trail extension  
to Nelson Street*

## **HIKING AND BIKING IN THE VALLEY**

The Bowmanville Valley Trail currently winds from Highway 2 to Baseline Road along the west side of the Bowmanville Creek. A new section of trail and a pedestrian bridge over the creek is being constructed in 2011 to connect the trail to Nelson Street and with the existing neighbourhoods on the east side of the creek. In a future phase the Valley Trail will extend south to connect with the Waterfront Trail.

## **CLARINGTON ENERGY BUSINESS PARK**

### **Is getting Energized!**

The initial push to get started with the development of the Clarington Energy Business Park is underway! With the cooperation of Ontario Power Generation, the Region of Durham and the Municipality of Clarington the initial servicing required for the park is moving forward. The start of the Energy Park brings the construction of a new urban road, *Energy Drive*, from Osborne Road easterly to half way to Solina Road. In addition, Osborne Road (from its south limit to Energy Drive) will be urbanized with the construction of storm sewers, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalks and street lighting. Development within the Park will soon follow with Ontario Power Generation starting construction of their new training facility this summer and the Region of Durham and York Region starting work on the Durham York Energy Centre later this year as well.



## ***DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF COMMERCIAL FILL***

Across the Province, all levels of government are being challenged to find ways to manage the environmental, economic and social impacts associated with commercial fill operations. Clarington Council, the Ganaraska Conservation Authority, our local MPP, Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS), Durham Region, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) have all been forced to meet these challenges head on in relation to fill activity in an abandoned aggregate pit near the intersection of Regional Highway 2 and Morgans Road in Newcastle. Their efforts have been swift and aggressive.

In March of this year, local residents began to raise concerns about the quality and quantity of materials being trucked into the Morgans Road site under a permit issued by the Ganaraska Conservation Authority. In response to those concerns, Clarington Council passed several resolutions that were intended to address the on-site environmental impacts of the fill activity as well as off-site impacts such as traffic routing, dust control and road repairs. Clarington Council took this initiative despite having no legal authority to control what was happening at the site.

In addition, John O'Toole MPP raised the issue of commercial fill activity on Morgans Road during question period at Queen's Park, and followed up with letters to the Minister of the Environment, Minister of Natural Resources, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing requesting their assistance.

As a direct result of these actions, the Ministry of the Environment ordered the owner of the Morgans Road site to establish additional, more stringent controls respecting the materials being deposited at the site and management of the site, including an environmental site assessment with soil and groundwater sampling, auditing of incoming soils and the use of qualified individuals to manage operations.

On April 13, 2011, Durham Region Works Committee directed Regional staff to work with the lower tier municipalities to create a model by-law that could be consistently applied across Durham Region to address the impacts of commercial fill operations.

In April and again in May, the Greater Toronto Countryside Mayors Alliance organized roundtable discussions with representatives of Durham area municipalities, conservation authorities and several Provincial Ministries to discuss commercial fill and fill-in pits.

In response to complaints from residents and at the request of Clarington Councillors, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers as well as MTO and DRPS officers have been patrolling Morgans Road and Regional Highway 2. Trucks coming from the property have been ticketed for a variety of Highway Traffic Act offences.

In short, every level of government has been working, and continues to work, diligently and cooperatively in the interests of all Clarington residents to address all of the on-site and off-site impacts associated with the commercial fill activity at the Morgans Road site.



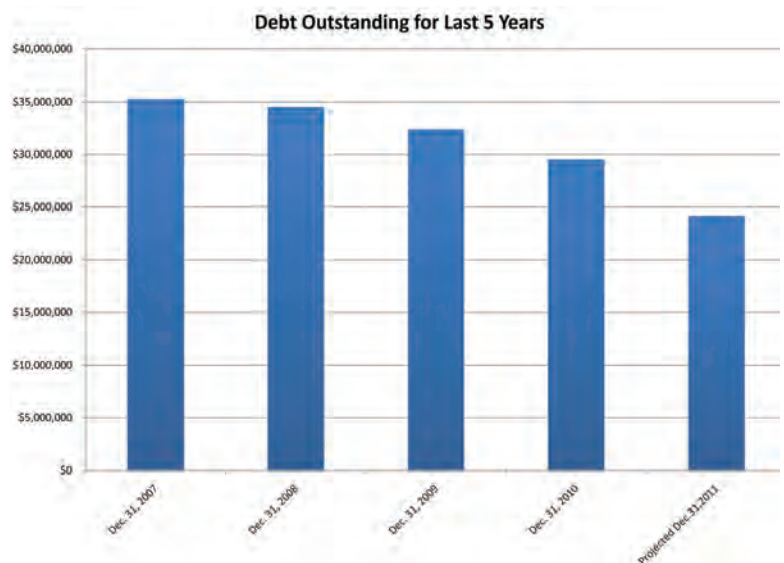
# CLARINGTON: 2010 FINANCIAL REVIEW

## 2010 Financial Year a Success

The 2010 audited financial statements for the Municipality of Clarington were submitted to Council for approval on June 27, 2011. After a couple of difficult years due to the economic climate and extremely poor winter conditions, the 2010 financial results showed positive improvement. The Municipality posted a surplus of approximately \$2.4 million for the 2010 calendar year. This surplus is primarily attributed to an increase in building permit activity, unanticipated assessment growth, favourable winter control costs due to a mild winter season, and earnings from Veridian Corporation. The good news is that this surplus will be transferred into the Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund to replenish this Fund. The Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund contributes \$801,000 annually to offset tax increases so it is critical to all taxpayers in Clarington that this fund be replenished. The complete financial statements are available on the Municipality's website at [http://www.clarington.net/htdocs/departement\\_finance.html](http://www.clarington.net/htdocs/departement_finance.html)

## Clarington's Debt Status

In Clarington, we have sound policies around borrowing so that the Municipality only issues debt for major capital facilities which have a long life span so the debt repayments are finished long before the facilities need to be replaced. Many municipalities borrow for short term requirements or borrow for capital items that have a short life span.



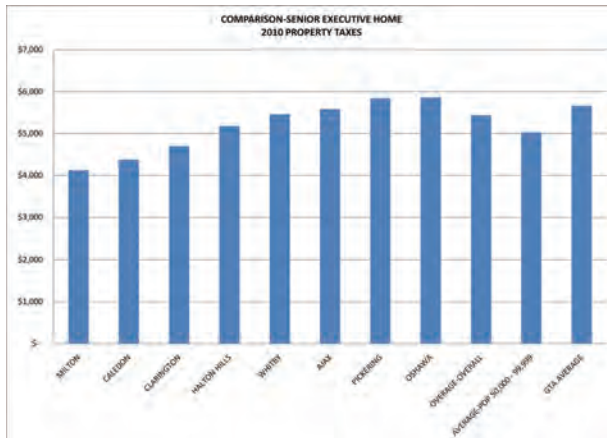
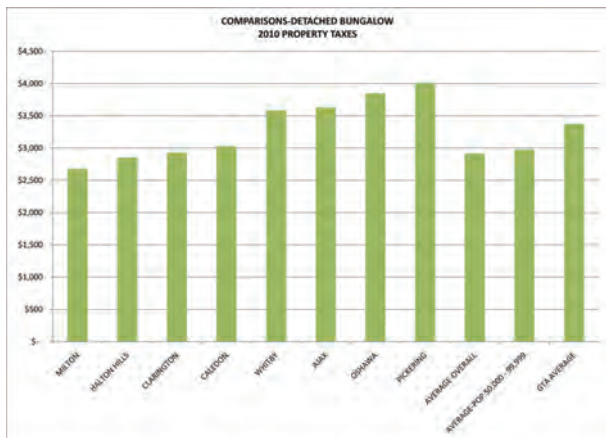
The bar chart on the right illustrates that Clarington's total debt (principal) has been declining over the past five years. Similar to a household mortgage, the monthly payments are applied to reduce the principal amount as well as cover interest. The 2011 projected debt outstanding for Clarington is \$24 million.

The Province monitors the level of debt that may be incurred by municipalities. Currently, Clarington only utilizes 29% or less than 1/3 of its allowable debt capacity without needing Ontario Municipal Board approval. Our debt is very strategically used to ensure the long term financial health of the Municipality.

## Property Taxes: How does Clarington compare?

Property taxes, as you know, are determined based on two components, the tax rate for local services, and the assessed value of your home. Both of these factors need to be considered in combination when looking at the tax value you pay and how that compares to other jurisdictions. Clarington has participated in independent studies (BMA Management Consulting Inc.- Municipal Study) since 2004 in order to ensure that comparatively, Clarington remains a favourable place to live.

Below are two charts which compare the property taxes for a detached bungalow and a senior executive home across various municipalities. Also reflected is the GTA average, the average for municipalities in Clarington's population range and the overall average for all municipalities in the study. The independent comparisons of assessment times tax rate shows that taxes in Clarington are well below the GTA average and either lower or at the average overall and for our population group. A detached bungalow in Clarington pays 13% less than the average in the Greater Toronto Area and a senior executive home pays 17% less than the average in the GTA. Another great reason to live in Clarington!



## 2011 BUDGET YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

In March, Council approved the 2011 budget with a local budget increase of 3.8%. Due to the impact of property re-assessments, the actual tax rate increased by only 0.27% overall for Clarington's portion of the tax bill. Clarington keeps only 28.5% of the taxes billed to you. The rest goes to the Region of Durham (50%) and the respective School Boards (21.5%). Through the budget process, Council managed to maintain the existing valued services while incorporating necessary additional funds to address deficiencies.

The chart shows a breakdown of how the local portion of your tax bill is spent for an

### HOW CLARINGTON TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT



average home valued at \$255,000 in Clarington - estimated to be \$ 1,078.65.

As referenced previously (*Property Taxes: How does Clarington Compare?*) Clarington relative taxes are much lower than our GTA counterparts and we continue to strive to provide affordable services to taxpayers of Clarington.

\*includes roads, parks, cemeteries, buildings, streetlights & sidewalk maintenance.

## **MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS CLARINGTON**

**Rudell Road - Newcastle, Green Road and North Scugog Court - Bowmanville Project**  
**Costs: \$4.5 Million      Project Schedule: Started 2010 to September 2012**

### **Infrastructure Improvements to Servicing Residential Growth in Clarington**

Working in cooperation with the development community, the Municipality of Clarington and the Region of Durham are upgrading and extending the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the sequential growth of residential areas in both Newcastle and Bowmanville. By ensuring that development proceeds in a sequential manner the provision of these services can be provided cost effectively while meeting the needs of development that is essential in keeping our community a growing and vibrant place to live and work. Some of this work started late in 2010 and a majority will be completed in the Fall of 2011 with the exception of North Scugog Court which is phased over two years (to be completed by September 2012) in order to minimize disruption to the local school in the area.

### **Concession Roads 6/7 and 7/8 Pavement Rehabilitation**

**Project Costs: \$10.5 Million      Project Schedule: August 2009 to October 2011**

### **Wrapping Up Infrastructure Stimulus Funding Program Works Improving over 34 Kilometres of Rural Roads**

Recent infrastructure stimulus programs offered through a partnership with the governments of Canada, Province of Ontario and the Municipality of Clarington coupled with previous work done through Clarington's Capital Budget have allowed for the improvement of Concession 7/8 from Townline Road in the west to Hwy. 35/115 in the east in addition to Concession 6/7 from Townline Road to just west of Leskard Road. The projects' finishing touches will be completed this fall.

### **Horsey Street, Carlisle Avenue and Lovers Lane Reconstruction - Bowmanville**

**Project Costs: \$2.1 Million      Project Schedule: May to November 2011**

### **Renewing Some of the Oldest Infrastructure in Clarington**

Since 2001 the Municipality of Clarington and the Region of Durham have had a plan in place to renew the aging infrastructure, some dating back to 1913, in the Old Bowmanville neighbourhood which is generally bounded by Wellington Street, Concession Street and Liberty Street. Since that time all of the streets in the neighbourhood have been reconstructed with the exception of Lovers Lane, Carlisle Avenue and Horsey Street which will be reconstructed this year. Work commenced in May of this year and it is expected to be completed by the end of November 2011.

### **Mill Street South Reconstruction and Pedestrian Tunnel – Newcastle**

**Project Costs: \$4.9 Million      Project Schedule: July to December 2011**

### **Improving the Gateway to the Port of Newcastle and Bond Head**

After years of planning, public consultation and negotiations, Phase 1 of the improvement of the gateway to Lake Ontario in Newcastle will commence this summer with the reconstruction of Mill Street South between Toronto Street and Clarke Street under the Canadian National Railway. The work will include the reconstruction of Mill Street South to a full urban standard including a 3 metre wide recreational trail on the west side of the road. Phase 2, which will get underway later this summer, involves the installation of a pedestrian tunnel being constructed by the Canadian National Railway which will provide a much needed recreational link through the railway embankment. Work is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2011.

For detailed 2011 budget information, visit:  
[http://www.clarington.net/htdocs/departement\\_engineering.html](http://www.clarington.net/htdocs/departement_engineering.html)

## Renewing Aging Infrastructure – Roads, Sidewalks, Bridges and Culverts

Project Costs: \$3.9 Million

Project Schedule: July to November 2011

### Extending the Useful Life of Sidewalks, Roads, Bridges and Culverts

The Municipality of Clarington, through its Annual Capital Budget, sets aside funding to allow for the rejuvenation of aging infrastructure extending their useful life with timely rehabilitation programs. These programs allow the Municipality to stretch its budget dollars as a properly timed rehabilitation can add 10 to 40 years of life to sidewalks, roads, bridges and culverts at 25% to 30% of the cost to reconstruct the infrastructure. This year's work includes the rehabilitation of over 1300 m of sidewalk, 4 km of road, 5 culverts and 7 bridges.



## ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Municipality of Clarington is committed to energy and environmental stewardship and has been active for a number of years in advancing this initiative.

### What have we done?

1. Created an Energy Management Committee with participation of all municipal departments.
2. Developed an Energy Management Plan built on 3 goals:
  - To improve energy efficiency of all municipal operations
  - To create, through education, a culture of energy conservation in the workplace
  - To reducing green house gas emission and our carbon footprint
3. Embarked on an energy audit program that will include reviews of over 20 municipally owned buildings. To date we have completed 8 audits, with the remainder to be completed in the next 18 months.
4. Secured Federal and Provincial funding for a \$1.2M energy retrofit project at Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex. Upon completion of the project energy usage in the building will be significantly reduced which will result in substantial dollar savings.

### 5. 10% in 9 Challenge

All municipal departments were asked to reduce energy usage by 10% in the 2009 operating budget. This program was very successful and achieved the following reductions:

Natural Gas	↓	13.2%
Hydro usage	↓	7.5%
Water	↓	3.5%

This equates to an overall reduction of energy usage of 8% in 2009 which helped reduce the actual costs for energy by over \$300,000.

6. Provided municipal staff with an increased awareness of the importance of energy conservation.
7. Participated in Earth Hour, Energy Conservation Week and other initiatives.

### What are we doing?

- Implementing LEED design principles for new fire hall in Newcastle
- Expediting the completion of energy audits on all municipal buildings
- Continue to investigate Green Fleet options
- Investigating alternative energy sources

## NEW SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES IN CLARINGTON

Construction continues to proceed with development of stores in the Bowmanville West Town Centre. Currently under construction beside Walmart is a 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> (130,000

ft<sup>2</sup>) Canadian Tire. The proposed store will include a 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> (16,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) motor vehicle repair garage and a 1,390 m<sup>2</sup> (15,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) permanent garden centre. It incorporates an expanded Mark's Work Wearhouse and a 300 m<sup>2</sup> (3,300 ft<sup>2</sup>) limited grocery area. Canadian Tire is expected to open by the end of October, 2011. Construction has also recently started on a Winners. The 1,830 m<sup>2</sup> (19,700 ft<sup>2</sup>) building is located in front of the Canadian Tire store and is expected to be open for early December.



## AROUND TOWN

The **Ontario Trillium Foundation** has been very generous to community groups within the Municipality. With funding in the amount of \$54,000, the Visual Arts Centre has completed improvements to their washrooms, including a barrier-free washroom. The Newcastle Horticultural Society will be installing an underground watering system and reinstating heritage gardens at the Newcastle Community Hall thanks to a grant in the amount of \$123,400. The Municipality is pleased to partner with these community groups in their endeavours

Through Hydro One Networks' funding program "PowerPlay", the Municipality has received a \$15,000 grant toward a **Skateboard Park for the Village of Hampton**. The community is committed to raising an additional \$10,000 toward the project, so get your skateboards ready for summer 2012 and head on out to Hampton!

We love our history and so does the Kaitlin Group! The Municipality has supported the application to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for national

designation of the buildings on the middle third of the property which was used as **Camp 30** for Prisoners of War during the Second World War and more recently were the buildings of the former Boys Training School campus. Thanks **Kaitlin Group** for loving our history as much as we do!

**Up the creek without a ladder!** That's how the fish of Bowmanville Creek are feeling. But Valleys 2000, in conjunction with CLOCA and the Municipality are remedying that through the construction of a **Fish Bypass Channel**, increasing the effectiveness of trout and salmon migration in the creek. Just one more way nature and the community benefit when we all work together!

We've just completed another successful summer of camps for our kids. The **Community Services Department** had a full program of camps running through the various recreational facilities and the **Emergency & Fire Services Department** enjoyed teaching 200 young firefighters about fire safety. We hope you had as much fun this summer as we did providing the programming!