

Clarington Digest

Your local Municipal news

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Message from Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster

Welcome to the first edition of the Clarington Digest. This newspaper is produced by Municipal staff. Our focus is on sharing some of the biggest stories affecting Clarington, the community and you - our residents. There's no doubt that 2020 has been a challenging year and one for the history books. With a global COVID-19 pandemic, we've had to take some unprecedented actions to protect public health. Despite this large obstacle, 2020 was also a very positive year for our community with some great things happening. So, without further ado, this edition of the Clarington Digest is dedicated to "A year in review." In case you missed some of the great news stories from 2020, this is your digest to catch you up. As we look back, let me also take the opportunity to look forward and wish you all the very best of this season as well as a healthy, safe and happy New Year.

Open for business – Toyota Eastern Parts Distribution Centre holds grand opening



Toyota Canada's new Eastern Canada Parts Distribution Centre, located at 1050 Lambs Road in Bowmanville, officially opened on December 8.

Clarington Hospice – donations needed

Earlier this year, Ontario announced that it is investing in critical end-of-life care services in Clarington. The Province dedicated \$800,000 to support the construction of four additional beds at Durham Hospice in Clarington, bringing the total to nine beds. In 2018, the Province initially invested \$1 million to support the new hospice, which will provide much-needed services to patients and families outside of the hospital setting.

In the Fall, the Tim Horton's 2020 Smile Cookie campaign raised more than \$224,000 for local hospices in the area split between Clarington, Port Perry and Whitby. Donations are being accepted to raise the \$15 million necessary to build two new hospices in Durham Region, one in Clarington and a new 10-bed hospice in Whitby. Visit www.durhamregionhospice.ca to find out how you can contribute.

Clarington ranks #1 in Durham for efficiency in its development approval process

Clarington has been ranked number one in Durham Region and fourth-best overall in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in a recent study by the Building Industry Land Development Association (BILD), which compared development fees and timelines in the development process among municipalities. The report reviewed 18 GTA municipalities, including four in Durham Region (Pickering, Oshawa, Whitby, Clarington) looking at factors that affect home affordability.

In addition to leading the pack in Durham, Clarington ranked fourth-best overall in three categories including planning features, municipal charges and approval times. The report examined the cost of building among municipalities, and overall, Clarington ranked as one of the best when looking at low-rise and high-rise building scenarios. Clarington's fees represented 7.1 per cent of the cost of developing a low-rise unit, and just 6.9 per cent of the cost of developing a high-rise unit.

The report also analyzed timeframes to process various development applications. Clarington ranked as one of the most efficient municipalities in terms of processing development applications. When looking at estimated staff numbers allocated per 1,000 housing starts,

the GTA average was 75.1 staff. Clarington ranked fifth-lowest overall, and the lowest in Durham Region, with 57 employees dedicated per 1,000 housing starts. Clarington's

“Clarington is leading many municipalities as we continue to evolve and improve our development approvals process. The Municipality strives to remove red tape and support our growing community and bustling economy.”

- Mayor Adrian Foster

approval times are almost twice as fast as compared to the three municipalities with lower employees dedicated per 1,000 housing starts.

The purpose of the Municipal Benchmarking Study is to compare approaches that different municipalities have in place for the approval of new housing development, looking at factors that impact home affordability.

Clarington is home to a new generation of nuclear power and opportunity

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) announced plans to move ahead with the next generation of clean, carbon-free nuclear power. OPG has resumed plans to build a small modular reactor (SMR) at its site in Darlington by 2028. The company has applied to renew its licence to build SMRs in Darlington, which is the only site in Canada licensed to allow new nuclear. According to a Conference Board of Canada Study, the project will generate thousands of jobs in Ontario. The report outlines 700 new jobs will be created during the project development, with 1,600 jobs added during the manufacturing and construction phase and a further 200 jobs during the operation of the SMR. “Clarington is excited to be home to OPG as it expands its operations and brings in a new era of nuclear technology,” said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster. “The SMR is yet another addition to an already busy Darlington Nuclear Plant that is undergoing a major refurbishment of its four nuclear reactors to the tune of more than \$12 billion. In addition, OPG announced that it is moving its Corporate headquarters to Clarington, bringing another 2,000 jobs to our community,” added Mayor Foster.

The Darlington Nuclear plant is set to produce a key life-saving medical isotope – Cobalt-60. Cobalt-60 is used to sterilize medical instruments including syringes, gloves, implants and COVID-19 testing swabs.

Putting our environment first: Clarington implements green initiatives to combat Climate Change



Clarington has been working on a variety of measures to lessen the impacts of climate change and to minimize our community's environmental footprint. Thanks to a partnership with the Region of Durham and funding from Natural Resources Canada [Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program](#), Clarington will see seven new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Those will be up and running by spring 2021. EVs are a clean energy option and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To support this, Clarington has added three new EVs to the Municipal fleet. These vehicles will save the Municipality an estimated \$6,000 per year on fuel and reduce our GHG emissions by as much as 13,000 kilograms a year. In addition, Clarington has also launched its new Community EV Plan, developed in partnership with students from Trent University – Durham Campus. The report identifies 13 recommendations

that the Municipality can implement to promote widespread EV use in the community. Read the full plan on our website, www.clarington.net/EVplan. Clarington is also finalizing a Climate Action Plan that will contain 135 action items the Municipality can take to respond to climate change. The plan will be launched in 2021.

Waste management and diversion are also critical components of Clarington's plan to mitigate climate change. The Municipality has taken some significant steps toward eliminating single-use plastics well ahead of the Federal ban on single-use plastics, which takes effect at the end of 2021. Staff at the Municipal Administrative Centre (Town Hall) and other municipal facilities that host events and meetings have eliminated single-use plastics where other alternatives are available. Multi-stream waste bins are also being used in facilities. This has helped

reduce the number of recyclables that end up in the garbage. Clarington has completed a waste audit at both Diane Hamre Recreation Complex and Courtice Community Complex, which resulted in a 60 per cent reduction of waste and recyclables at the facilities.

"There's no doubt that climate change is one of the biggest issues of our time. The Municipality is taking some concrete steps to mitigate the impacts by creating a real plan with action items to reduce our GHG emissions."

- Mayor Adrian Foster