

A Message from your MPP



Wayne Arthurs, MPP

Pickering-Scarborough East



A message from Wayne Arthurs...

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to provide you with my fall newsletter for 2009. I hope this will provide you with new insights and updates on our community, as well as the current matters at Queen's Park. The Province of Ontario is diverse and varied, not only in its citizens, but in its issues as well. Enclosed you will find those items that are of significance to you as constituents of Pickering-Scarborough East.

During this new session at Queen's Park, I am proud to represent this great community. I look forward to meeting more of you in the riding, and speaking about our local issues in the provincial legislature.

It is my pleasure to continue to serve you as your Member of Provincial Parliament and represent our great riding in the 2009/2010 session.

- Wayne Arthurs, MPP



MPP Wayne Arthurs with Gary McNeil (Exec. VP Metrolinx), MP Colin Carrie, Mayor David Ryan, MPP Joe Dickson, & Tom Quinn (CAO, City of Pickering) at the pedestrian bridge announcement.

\$10 Million of Infrastructure Investments for Downtown Pickering

September 9, 2009, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario announced \$10 million in key infrastructure investments that will transform downtown Pickering by supporting intensification, urban renewal and public transit.

Through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, the Federal and Provincial governments are committing \$5 million each towards the construction of a fully enclosed pedestrian bridge. The \$10 million structure will span Highway 401 and connect the Pickering GO Station to a new 132,000 square foot, "Class A", LEED-Silver office tower in Pickering's downtown precinct. Together, the new pedestrian bridge and office tower will be the most visible examples of sustainability in the entire province. Equally as important, it will create a more cohesive and accessible downtown district.

With funding secured for the pedestrian bridge, a commitment to build a parking structure at the base of the office tower has been made by GO Tran-

sit. This will result in 500 new parking spaces for the Pickering GO Station – a 25 percent increase in total parking capacity. This will facilitate greater public transit usage without exacerbating traffic congestion in and around the terminal.

The pedestrian bridge and parking facility will be owned and operated by GO Transit, which means it will be also be responsible for all of the construction, operating, and maintenance costs

While a proposed pedestrian bridge had been in the planning stages for more than a decade, it never had the required support to advance beyond the conceptual stage. However, when the new office tower was announced back in May of this year, it created a small window of opportunity to plan for and incorporate complementary infrastructure. With funding commitments now in place, all three projects will be built concurrently with an estimated completion date of March 2011.

University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)

Construction is underway on two major buildings at UOIT – Automotive Centre of Excellence (ACE-Global) and the Energy Systems and Nuclear Science Research Centre. Each of these projects received provincial and federal funding from the Knowledge Infrastructure (KI) Program.

The ACE-Global is a 13,585 sq. metre facility that will house space for teaching and learning, a collaborative research laboratory and industry-sponsored research. The \$28-million investment announced May 29 is through the KI Program (\$14-million each from the federal and provincial governments). Construction on Phase 2 began in August.

ACE-Global is a unique and flexible, world-class testing facility for research and development focused on automotive manufacturing and industrial applications, with a dual purpose as a working laboratory for faculty and students. There are significant opportunities for collaboration between industry and academia to realize outcomes that can be commercialized. ACE-Global will also provide space that will help further the university's research into alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, that offer clean energy solutions for the vehicles of

tomorrow. ACE-Global will play a key role in the rejuvenation of the existing automotive manufacturing sector and Durham Region employment base, and will be an important driver for the future of the automotive and transportation industries in Ontario and Canada.

The Energy Systems and Nuclear Science Research Centre at UOIT will house its unique-in-Canada energy science and engineering programs, including courses in wind, solar, hydrogen, hydraulic, geothermal and nuclear energy. The \$45.4-million investment from the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (\$22.7-million each from the federal and provincial governments) saw construction begin in August 2009 and will be completed by March 2011.

The centre will conduct leading-edge research in the clean and green energies and technologies of the future economies. It will also promote Canada's entrepreneurial advantage through public-private research and commercialization partnerships. The centre will create 225 direct and 315 spinoff jobs during the construction phase and another 33 full-time, permanent positions after completion.



ACE-Global Construction at UOIT

What is the Home Energy Audit Program?

The Ontario Home Energy Savings Program is an energy conservation program from the Government of Ontario. A Home Energy Audit shows you how your home uses energy and where it is being leaked. It identifies improvements you can make to your home's heating, cooling, hot water heating and other energy uses that could result in hundreds of dollars in energy savings each year. The Government of Ontario will pay 50% of your Home Energy Audit, up to \$150.

- The audit will explain your home's energy use – attic to basement. A typical audit involves the following steps:
- A walk-through assessment of your home's insulation, heating and cooling systems and other energy uses
- A "blower door" depressurization test to identify leaks and drafts
- A personalized Energy Efficiency Evaluation Report

Many of the energy-saving upgrades identified by your Home Energy Audit will qualify you for rebates under the Home Energy Retrofit Program. These rebates from the Governments of Ontario and Canada can reimburse you up to \$10,000* when you complete improvements identified by your audit.

What is the Retrofit Rebate Program?
To help homeowners save energy, save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Ontario Government has created the Home Energy Retrofit Program. The program awards homeowners with rebates of up to \$5,000 for home energy improvements. This matches up to \$5,000 available from the federal government – for a total of up to \$10,000.

What are the steps to get started?
Step 1 – Find an auditor and book your Home Energy Audit. The Government of Ontario will pay half of your pre-retrofit audit, up to \$150.
Step 2 – Your home energy auditor will find your home's energy leaks. Your energy advisor will provide you with your personalized Energy Efficiency Evaluation Report and a plan that can reduce your energy bills.

Step 3 – Plug the leaks with energy saving retrofits. Make some or all the upgrades suggested in your Energy Efficiency Report to improve your home's energy efficiency. Your report will show you the most important changes to maximize your energy savings.

Step 4 – When your work is completed, book your post-retrofit audit
After your first audit, you have 18 months to complete some or all of the improvements suggested by your energy advisor to qualify for government rebates. After completing the work, book your post-retrofit audit. Your energy advisor will perform your audit and provide you with your home's new EnerGuide rating that shows how much you have improved your home's energy efficiency. A good EnerGuide rating can also increase the value of your home.

Step 5 – Get up to \$10,000 in Government rebates
After your post-retrofit audit, the Governments of Ontario and Canada will each rebate up to \$5,000 for your energy efficient upgrades. The more energy-saving upgrades you make, the more money you'll get back, up to a total of \$10,000.

For more information, call 1-888-668-4636 or visit www.ontario.ca/homeenergy.

Reduce Waste at Work

- Pack a waste-free lunch.** Use re-useable food containers, cloth napkins, silverware, and lunch bags. Disposable packaging is almost 20 percent of our garbage.
 - Conduct waste-free meetings.** Encourage employees to bring their own mugs to meetings. If providing snacks, try to refrain from providing disposable items. Instead use re-usable plates and napkins.
 - Use re-useable mugs or stainless steel water bottles.** Bring these to meetings, use in the morning, or if you're going out to buy a hot beverage.
 - Use the Blue Box. Recycle paper products, glass, metal and plastic containers.
- Durham Sustain Ability's tip of the month is made possible with generous support from the Government of Ontario and its Community GO Green Fund.*



Government, faculty, student and alumni officials wielding shovels at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Instructional Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus.



Rouge Valley Ajax Pickering Hospital Construction Tour

In May 2009 I attended a tour of the redevelopment of the Ajax and Pickering hospital campus with MPP David Caplan, Rouge Valley Health System Board Chair Janet Ecker, CEO Rick Ganderton and MPP Joe

Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS)

RVHS is an excellent acute care community hospital with many programs, including 24/7/365 emergency, cardiac care and mental health. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites, including two community hospital campuses: Rouge Valley Centenary in east Toronto; and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering in west Durham.

Together, a team of physicians (224 general practitioners and 325 specialists), 1,000 nurses and many other professionals care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. Working in consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, health care organizations, the Central East Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Rouge Valley continues to improve its programs and cater to the needs of the growing communities of east Toronto, Ajax, Pickering and Whitby.

In August 2009, two new physicians joined the Rouge Valley Health System to help the hospital to con-

tinue its focus on delivering quality patient care. Dr. Nazar Almakki, an Intensivist, joined the ICU to help care for patients in the intensive care units at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP). Dr. Leo Sin, an Emergency Physician, began seeing patients in July at both Rouge Valley hospital campuses. In September 2009, Dr. Farrukh Khan, the new medical director of the adult diabetes program at RVHS, hopes to help fight diabetes in the hospital's diverse patient community. The endocrinologist recently began seeing patients at both hospital campuses.

Rouge Valley Health System continues to provide quality nuclear medicine tests for patients despite the continuing shutdown of a major supplier of the isotope needed for the diagnostic testing. Nuclear studies are an important complement to other advanced cardiac services at Rouge Valley Cardiology, including cardiac imaging, arrhythmia management, cardiac rehabilitation, angiography and angioplasty.



Preparing Ontarians For Flu Season

The H1N1 flu virus has affected many Ontarians already, and this coming flu season it is expected to affect many more. We need to be ready. This is why our government wants to help prepare all residents for the upcoming flu season.

Throughout the fall and winter, there will be two types of flu vaccines in circulation; one for the seasonal flu virus, and a second for the H1N1 flu virus. Furthermore, our government has launched a public education campaign to provide Ontarians with information regarding the vaccination program, and who to contact for more information. If the information has not already appeared in your mail, then expect to see it soon.

- Target populations for H1N1 vaccination include: those who would benefit most from H1N1 immunization and/or those who care for them:
- People with chronic medical conditions, under age 65
 - Pregnant women
 - Healthy children from six months to five years old
 - Persons residing in remote and isolated settings or communities
 - Health care workers involved in pandemic response or the delivery of essential health care services
 - Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines

Others who would benefit from immunization include:

- Adults 65 years of age and over
- Healthy children five to 18 years of age
- First responders
- Swine and poultry workers
- Healthy adults between 19 and 64 years of age

Advice regarding the flu remains the same:

- Wash your hands and practice good coughing and sneezing etiquette
 - If you are ill, stay at home
 - If you have concerns about your personal symptoms call Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) or your primary care provider
 - If you have questions about the H1N1 flu virus call the province's call centre, ServiceOntario IN-FOLine -- 1-800-476-9708, TTY: 1-800-387-5559
- Hours of Operation: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm (7days/wk)
Both seasonal and H1N1 flu have the same symptoms. Those can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Most cases of the flu, whether seasonal or H1N1, tend to be mild.
For more information on what you can do to stay healthy and what you can do if you think you have H1N1, visit www.ontario.ca/flu.



Helping Ontarians Find Health Care

Every Ontarian deserves access to family health care close to home. Since 2003, 800,000 Ontarians have found a family health care. The provincial government is committed to further increasing access for all Ontarians by giving them a variety of tools and options for finding health care closer to home.

The most recent initiative is Health Care Connect, a program that helps Ontarians who are seeking a family health care provider to find one. Since February, patients have been able to register with Health Care Connect by phone, by calling 1-800-445-1822.

This summer, the program has been expanded to allow for around-the-clock online registration at ontario.ca/healthcareconnect. This will allow patients to add their names and health information to the database 24 hours a day and register family members and dependants as well. The website also includes a link to the Your Health Care Options website, a medical services directory that maps local health care options.

Health Care Connect has already attached 6,000 Ontarians to family health care and places a priority on finding providers for patients with the most complex or chronic health conditions. The program is truly making a difference for Ontarians. The government also supports new approaches to health care delivery,

including expanding the use of nurse practitioners and other non-physician health care providers to help meet patient care needs. More Ontarians are having their primary care needs met by Nurse Practitioners, and we plan to improve access to these valued health professionals as we move to implement an additional 25 NP-led clinics across the province. We will continue to build on the success of Family Health Teams with the commitment to establish an additional 50 FHTs across the province.

The government has also made significant strides in improving the supply of physicians in the province. By 2012, we will have more than doubled the number of doctors graduating. We've done this by increasing the number of medical school spaces by 23%, most recently announcing 100 new spaces. Currently we are supporting over 600 International Medical Graduates in training and assessment positions, more than at any other time in Ontario's history. Over the course of the next few years these doctors will be looking for places to practice in Ontario.

The provincial government is proud of the progress we have achieved, together with our partners in health care. We know there is more to be done, and will continue to work toward ensuring that all Ontarians have access to high quality health care.



Wayne Arthurs with Legislative Page, Megan Fernandez in the Legislative dining room.

Legislative Page Program: Quick Facts

The Legislative Page Program is a chance for students to learn first hand about how government works and how a bill becomes a law.



- What does a Legislative Page do?
- Pages:
- Work in the Chamber during House sittings
 - Deliver documents to MPPs' offices and Assembly offices
 - Meet with MPPs and other key parliamentary figures
 - Receive lessons and tutoring
 - Who can apply?

The Program is open to Ontario students who:

- Are in Grade 7 or 8
- Have very good grades — 80% or higher
- Are involved in their school or in their community
- Have an interest in current events
- Get along well with other students and adults

How do you apply?
Step 1: Get an application form by submitting your full name, mailing address (with postal code), phone number, grade and academic standing.
By phone: 416-325-7457
By mail: Rm. 191, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2
By e-mail: page_program@ontla.ola.org

Step 2: Submit your application form by mail to the address above (faxed copies are not accepted). All applications must be postmarked by June 15 for the Fall Session, and December 15 for the Spring Session. Grade 7 students may apply for both deadlines. Grade 8 students are eligible for the December 15th deadline only.



Groundbreaking Celebration at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus – new Instructional Centre

On September 24, 2009, I had the pleasure of taking part in the ceremony to mark the groundbreaking for the new Instructional Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. The project received federal and provincial funding totalling \$70 million through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and Ontario's 2009 budget. Other investments include \$8 million from the University of Toronto. The Instructional and Laboratory Centre is

the largest single facility to be built since the campus was founded in 1964 and will increase UTSC academic facilities by 25% and launches a new phase of construction on UTSC's north campus. The building is scheduled for completion in 2011. The 15,000 square metre, \$78-million building will accommodate the campus' high-growth and in-demand programs, from Bachelor of Business Administration to Master of Environmental Science. It will feature

technology-enhanced classrooms, rooms for upper-year undergraduate students, research and teaching laboratories and study space. All the students on the Scarborough Campus will benefit from the new centre. This marks a new phase in the history of the University of Toronto Scarborough, a history that has seen UTSC become a preferred destination for both students and teachers throughout Canada and the world. With this

\$78 million expansion, UTSC and the Scarborough community will have access to higher education facilities that are second to none; it is indeed a great day for the University and for Ontario.

For more information about how the Government of Ontario is helping to build and revitalize infrastructure across the province, please visit: www.mei.gov.on.ca/en/infrastructure.

Thank You... Port Union Waterfront Festival

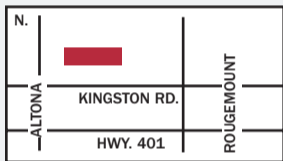
I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Councilor Ron Moeser and the West Rouge Community Association for your hard work, support and enthusiasm at the second annual Port Union Waterfront Festival on June 13. The event was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the many residents who attended. My staff and I look forward to participating again next year.

PHOTO BY KEN TAYLOR/UTSC

My Constituency Office Staff are here to help:

We are here to assist you in accessing the programs and services offered by the Ontario government. Please feel free to contact us if you need assistance with any of the following:

- Birth, Death and Marriage certificates
- The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), which provides loans to post-secondary students to help with education assistance
- The Family Responsibility Office (FRO), which oversees court-directed support payments for families and children
- The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), which handles workplace-related injuries and claims
- The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), which provides assistance to disabled individuals
- Health cards and OHIP matters
- The Trillium Health Program which assists people who have high drug costs in relation to their income
- Celebratory Scrolls for milestone birthdays and wedding celebrations and other very special occasions
- Motor Vehicles' & Drivers' Licences
- Seniors' Services and Information



Tel: 905-509-0336

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www.arthurs.ca E: wayne@arthurs.ca

CALENDAR

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Waste Reduction Week

October 19 - 25, 2009

City of Pickering event

For participation ideas & to register:

www.wrrcanada.com

Take Pride in Pickering

Saturday, October 24, 2009

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Alex Robertson Park, Sandy Beach Rd. S.

Sponsored by OPG, TRCA, City of Pickering

25th Annual Durham Regional Police Children's Games

Saturday, October 24, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pickering Recreation Complex

Remembrance Day Service

Wednesday, November 11 at 10:45 a.m.

Civic Complex Esplanade Park

Remembrance Day Service

Wednesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm

Tony Stacy Centre for Veterans' Care

59 Lawson Road, Scarborough

The Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, November 14, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Kinsmen & Kinette Club of Pickering

The Santa Claus Parade

Sunday, November 15, 2009

12:30 p.m.

The City of Toronto

www.thesantaclausparade.com

Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 4, 2009

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Esplanade Park, Pickering Civic Complex

43rd Division Toy Drive

Saturday, December 12, 2009

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Port Union Community Centre

Mayor's Light Tour

Wednesday, December 16 at 7:15 p.m.

Pick up at various locations

905-420-4660, ext. 2078

Winter in the City

November 28 - First Lighting Celebration

December 5, 12, 19 - Fireworks

January 29 - February 11 - Winter City Festival

www.toronto.ca/special-events

Ban On Hand-Held Devices Starts in October

Ban On Hand-Held Devices Starts in October

Ontario's ban on hand-held devices while driving will take effect on October 26, 2009. The new law will make it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or email using hand-held cell phones and other hand-held communications and entertainment devices. The use of hands-free devices will still be permitted.

Following a three-month period that begins October 26, where the focus will be on educating drivers, police will start issuing tickets on February 1, 2010. Studies show that a driver using a cell phone is four times more likely to be in a crash than a driver focused on the road. Other studies show that dialing and texting carries the highest degree of risk of all cell phone-related activities.

Police, paramedics and firefighters will continue to be allowed to use hand-held devices when performing their duties. All drivers may use hand-held devices to call 9-1-1.

There are a number of potential driver distractions and these may include:

- technology devices such as cell phones, laptops and hand-held organizers;
- reading maps or other material;
- grooming activities;
- eating or drinking;
- note taking;
- conversing with passengers;
- tending to children or pets; and
- adjusting in-vehicle controls (radio, climate control and CD player)

Police can charge drivers with careless driving if they do not pay full attention to the driving task. Under Ontario's new law, fines of up to \$500 can be levied against distracted drivers who text, type, email, dial, or chat using a prohibited hand-held device. This is one of Ontario's toughest rules of the road.

The following are some tips to help reduce driver distraction:

- Plan for safe locations to stop (for example, rest stops or commuter lots) to make and receive calls
- Before you start driving turn off your cellular phone.
- Allow calls to go to voice mail or allow a passenger to make and receive calls.
- Consider recording an outgoing voice message that lets callers know you are on the road.

Road Safety. It starts with you.

Ontario Child Benefit Increase is Helping Families

We know low-income Ontario families need more support during these challenging economic times. It's good for families, it's good for business, it's good for our economy and it's good for the future success of Ontario. In March 2009, the provincial government committed to helping low-income families by accelerating the increase to the Ontario Child Benefit to up to \$1,100 per child annually two years ahead of schedule. This is an additional investment of over \$400 million over three years. The increased benefit will put more money in the pockets of families who need it most.

Families that earn \$20,000 or less in a year receive the full benefit for each child, and families earning more may also be eligible, depending on the number of children under 18 and their family net income. The OCB will reach 1.3 million Ontario children and 600,000 low-income families - making a positive difference in their lives. For a family with two children, the benefit can provide close to \$200 a month - this can mean extra healthy groceries every month or the chance for kids to take part in some after-school or summer activities that weren't an option before.

The Ontario Child Benefit is the cornerstone of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, Breaking the Cycle, which calls for an increase of the Ontario Child Benefit to \$1,310 per child annually within the next five years and we remain committed to that.

Parents don't need to apply for the Ontario Child Benefit - to be eligible they must:

- File their income taxes
- Register for the Canada Child Tax Benefit
- Have a child under age 18
- Live in Ontario

To learn more about the Ontario Child Benefit, visit www.ontario.ca/childbenefit or call 1-866-821-7770.

