

### **Energy Conservation Week: May 25-31, 2008**

Ontario's first ever Energy Conservation Week takes place next week. It is being initiated by the Ontario Power Authority and the Conservation Bureau to encourage a sustained focus and action on saving energy. Remember the efforts we all made for Earth Hour in March? Try and change some habits during Energy Conservation Week even if it means just turning up the air conditioner two degrees or this spring the furnace down two degrees. For ideas on what you can do visit:

[www.energyconservationweek.ca](http://www.energyconservationweek.ca).

### **West End Development (SmartCentres) Site Plan**

On Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>, Council will consider a report from staff regarding the site plan for the west end development (Wal-Mart). The report will deal with the details for the site as well as how the development meets the objectives of the newly released sustainability plan. Those objectives reinforce Council's commitment to meeting the triple bottom line of environment, economics and the community. To review the site plan report go to [www.scugog.ca](http://www.scugog.ca) and it can be found in the Planning Department reports.

### **April Building Activity**

Building permit activity continues to surprise us in 2008 as we are tracking significantly ahead of 2007 primarily in the multi-residential sector. Over \$57 million in building permit value has been recorded by the end of April 2008 compared to \$4.5 million in 2007. Single family dwellings continue to decline with just 8 permits issued so far in 2008. Agricultural permits have increased and reflect some of the new investment being made in this important sector. **Did you know:** the average price of a single family dwelling in Scugog at the end of April was \$315,840 (2007 - \$299,445) and there are approximately 212 homes listed for sale (2007 - 155).

## **Region of Durham Development Charges**

The Region is considering raising their development charges for new buildings. Currently, the residential rate is \$14,571 for a new single family dwelling and it would increase to \$18,536 on July 1/08. As well, Commercial buildings would increase to full cost recovery over the next two years going from \$5.37/sq ft to \$17.14/sq ft. For the first time, there would be an Industrial DC and the calculated rate for it is \$4.13/sq ft and again phased in beginning at \$2.07/sq ft. on January 1/09. Comments on the new rates will be considered by the Region until May 30<sup>th</sup> and can be made by visiting their web-site at [www.region.durham.on.ca](http://www.region.durham.on.ca) Regional Council will deal with this issue on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business in April**

Welcome to the following new businesses in our community:

- Kanga Jax Gymnastics Play Centre on Reach Street
- Global Pet Foods on Scugog Street
- Pickles & Olives Bistro & Catering on Water Street
- Century Home & Garden Centre Greenhouses on Hwy 7A
- Piano Inn on Queen Street

As well June marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chicken Coop Restaurant in Greenbank and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bakery in Greenbank. Congratulations to the McCabe family.

## **Character Community**

Over the past school year, the Mayor's Youth Task Force has met three times with students from Grade Six through High School as well as the principals of all our Scugog schools. What has emerged has been the desire to focus our attention in three areas as identified by the youth in the first meeting: Environment, Physical Activity and Character Community. On May 26<sup>th</sup> at Council the students will be presented with certificates for their time spent but also will be on hand to see one of their initiatives, a "Patron Code of Conduct" to be used in municipal facilities recommended by staff. This is the first in a series of initiatives that deals with how you create a Character community as well as a Character School. For more on the Character Community initiative or to see this year's youth report on what has been accomplished, visit [www.scugog.ca](http://www.scugog.ca) and click on the youth page.

## **Scugog Economic Development Advisory Committee**

The new Economic Development Advisory Committee met for the first time on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal office. This committee made up of members of the various sectors of our local economy as well as two citizens and two members of Council has been charged with giving advice to Council and staff on various economic development initiatives as well as any barriers that might be created as a result of new legislation. Please welcome the following to this new committee: Agriculture: Marvin Stevenson (Nature's Bounty) and Scott Swain (Federation of Agriculture), Manufacturing: Chris Pudleiner (Canadian Sign Systems), Accommodation: (Sue Bradley – B&B network), BIA: Susan Clearwater; Scugog Chamber of Commerce: Tony Janssen, Scugog Visitor & Business Centre: Kenna Kozak, Citizens: Christy Stone-Curry (Piano Café & Inn) & Jeff Hodgkinson (Canadian Tire) as well they are joined by Councillors McMillen & Smith, Mayor Pearce, CAO - Bev Hendry, Rural Economic Development Officer - Marlene Werry and Cheryl Greenham from MPP John O'Toole's office. At the first meeting Christy Stone-Curry was elected Chair. This committee dealt with two emerging issues – a review of the Commercial Policy for the Scugog Official Plan and as well the new Regional Development Charges. They also reviewed the past action charts from the various sub-committees dealing with Economic Development. The next meeting is scheduled for the fall. Stay tuned as this group begins their work of identifying and commenting on our economic development strategies.

### **Upcoming Events:**

May 29<sup>th</sup>: Opening of the Ontario Special Olympics - UOIT  
June 7<sup>th</sup>: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canoe the Nonquon - Waterfront  
June 13<sup>th</sup>: Relay for Life - Fairgrounds  
June 14<sup>th</sup>: Classic Car Drive-In & Flea market - Museum  
June 21<sup>st</sup>: Dragon Boat Festival – Palmer Park  
June 26<sup>th</sup>: Moonlight Madness – Downtown Port Perry