

### **Regional & Local Business Plans & Budgets**

During the month of February both the Township of Scugog and the Region of Durham approved their 2009 budgets. The estimated total tax increase (regional, local & education) for Scugog is 2.4% or about \$93 on the average \$290,000 residential assessment. This was a very challenging budget year in terms of balancing the needs of the community with the capacity to raise additional funds to do the work. Major projects of note to the business & agricultural community include:

- John St. reconstruction in Port Perry from Hwy. 7A to Queen St.
- Water St. reconstruction in Port Perry from Queen St. to North St.
- North Port Rd. rehabilitation in the industrial area
- Waterfront Revitalization Project
- Increased transit frequency on Simcoe St. (from 120 minute to 80 minute headway between buses and extended service hours)
- Simcoe St. improvements both north and south of Port Perry
- New garbage contract with improvements to bulky goods/yard waste collection
- 26 more police officers and 12 additional paramedics in Region
- Improvements at Scugog Recreation Centre: new Cultural Centre, parking lot, signage & accessibility improvements
- Enhanced gravel program and slurry seal treatment for rural roads
- Completion of Official Plan and Heritage Conservation District
- New permit tracking system for Building Department
- Web-site improvements for all departments & services with special focus on community events/tourism calendar

### **Progress Report 2008-09**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Progress Report highlighting the Township's accomplishments for 2008 and the goals for 2009 appeared in the March edition of Focus on Scugog. If you wish a copy, please call my office and we will send one to you or you can access it electronically at [www.scugog.ca](http://www.scugog.ca).

## **Economic Development Advisory Committee Meets**

The Township's Economic Development Advisory Committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the municipal office. The group which is chaired by Christy Stone-Curry includes members from all economic sectors including manufacturing, agriculture and tourism. At the last meeting a presentation was made by Gene Chartier, Commissioner of Planning & Public Works regarding the new Township Official Plan Draft Report that is now out in draft for public comment. There are new policies being recommended on the environment, for the Port Perry Urban area including the Commercial areas, and for energy conservation and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The draft plan is now on the Township web-site for public and sectoral input. There will be a statutory Open House on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm in the Council Chambers and the deadline for comments is April 24<sup>th</sup>. Council expects to see the recommended plan at their May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and will be moving toward final approval before the summer recess. All members of the committee were urged to submit either individual or business comments (both pro and con) to the plan. The ED Committee also reviewed the Visitor Centre Annual report, as well as heard up-dates from the Regional tourism office, the Regional rural office and the provincial OMAFRA (Rural affairs) office. This committee next meets on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Pitch-In Week April 20-26, 2009**

It's that time of year again when the public, community organizations, government, business, and the media join together to promote a community clean-up. This is the Township's 6<sup>th</sup> year of joining in this national celebration. Last year over 3.5 million volunteers participated in programs across Canada. Scugog Township had over 700 participants register including 7 schools, 7 community associations, 4 churches, and 4 businesses. This year's schedule of events kicks off with the annual compost give-away at the Scugog Community Recreation Centre parking lot on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Once again, the 20 Minute Makeover is planned for Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> and all businesses are encouraged to take part – we hope you will **think globally, act locally for just 20 minutes**. Throughout the week community groups will undertake a variety of projects with a special community tree-planting taking place at the museum grounds on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend and a BBQ will follow hosted by the Port Perry Lions Club. If you wish to volunteer

for a Pitch-In Week clean-up, please contact Shawna Cornish at 905-985-7346 x 112. We hope to be able to report that over 1,000 individuals took part in 2009. Bags, gloves and co-ordinated garbage pick-up are all available.

### **Lake Scugog "Give the Lake a Break" Event**

Kawartha Conservation in partnership with the Township of Scugog will host a special two day event at the Scugog Community Centre on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Featured on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> will be many educational displays to which the schools and public are invited. On Friday evening at 7 pm, the Muskoka Wild-Life Centre is scheduled to present a special show that all children and adults will enjoy – a chance to get up close and personal with a variety of creatures that live in our woods and lakes. On Saturday, there will be a full slate of speakers on what types of things we can do to "Give the Lake a Break" and will include a trade show of new environmentally friendly products. Special lunchtime speaker on Saturday is the Township Commissioner, Gene Chartier on the new waterfront plan. It has been one year since the Lake Scugog Conference was held and this event is a reminder of all the things we pledged to do for our Lake. For information or to book vendor space call KRCA at 705-328-2271 ext 238 or visit [www.kawarthaconservation.com/givethelakeabreak](http://www.kawarthaconservation.com/givethelakeabreak).

### **Building Permit Activity – Year End Report**

The 2008 building permit activity report is in and while we saw a decrease in the number of permits issued (247 permits in 2008 vs. 312 in 2007) the overall value of permits issues was up by 70%. The huge increase in value is attributable to the permits for the Bayview Condominium and the Port Perry Villa developments. The industrial category also was strong in 2008, with value increasing by 122% over the 2007 numbers. While residential growth is challenged by the lack of sewage capacity in the Port Perry area, the industrial category is showing growth. That is good news as we try and improve the non-residential to residential sector ratio. As we begin 2009, early indications are that the industrial and institutional sector inquiries and permits are still leading the pack which is good news for our local economy. The total number of permits issued at the end of February is ahead of 2008 and while the value is slightly down at this point there is still significant activity level in the building & planning departments.

## **Building Canada Fund Success**

Scugog was one of only twelve communities in the GTA that received a portion of the \$670 million Building Canada Fund recently announced by the Federal and Provincial governments. The Township will receive \$7 million towards the \$10.5 million waterfront plan that includes the Library expansion, Water St., rehabilitation, parking, waterfront boardwalks, and better stormwater management to mitigate the effects on the lake. This investment in our local infrastructure will boost our local economy, create jobs and ensure that the main anchor to our tourist economy receives the attention it needs. Conceptual plans should soon be ready for public input prior to construction beginning. The project manager has been approved for the Library component and will hopefully have designs ready by the summer. This is an exciting time as we work towards implementing many of the ideas that flowed from the 2007 Downtown Strategy workshops and recommendations from the Port Perry Downtown Development Strategy adopted by Council in March 2008. Watch the Township Bulletin Board in local newspapers for the dates of the public meetings.

## **GTA Agricultural Action Committee AGM:**

I serve as a member of the GTA AAC and on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto the annual meeting for this organization will feature Marg Walton of Planscape who will roll out the most recent study regarding an analysis of the agricultural industry in the GTA Region as represented by 2006 census data. We have over 1,500 farms in Durham and approximately 380 in Scugog. Agriculture is a very significant part of our local and regional economies and the future of agriculture includes the need to explore emerging opportunities including the growing of ethnic food, new products that can be made from agricultural products as opposed to non-renewable resources and the growing pharmaceutical & energy markets. I am pleased that the GTA AAC and the GTMA (Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance) funded this study as the first step in determining what agriculture will look like in the GTA. Scugog and Durham Region are well-positioned with a viable agricultural industry to be able to compete in national and global markets and hopefully this study will assist in determining where we go from here. For more information on the study or if you would like to carpool to the AGM, please call Lisa Fitton at 905-985-7346 ext. 116.

## **Coming Events:**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** Scugog Chamber of Commerce AGM – 6:30 pm at the Legion

**March 25<sup>th</sup>:** GTA AAC Annual Meeting: Black Creek Pioneer Village-Toronto

**March 28<sup>th</sup>:** Earth Hour - 8:30-9:30 pm: Turn off all non-essential power for 1 hour and then visit Purple Woods Conservation Area from 8-9pm and watch the lights go out across southern Durham

**March 30<sup>th</sup>:** Official Plan Open House: Council Chambers 6:00-8:00 pm

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Standing Out in a Crowd - Selling out Your Market Stall 7-9:30pm at Regional HQ in Whitby (sponsored by Durham Farm Fresh) \$10. Contact: [evan@durhamfarmfresh.ca](mailto:evan@durhamfarmfresh.ca)

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:** Service With a Smile: 7-9:30 pm at Regional HQ in Whitby. Training for your seasonal and summer staff - \$10. Contact: [evan@durhamfarmfresh.ca](mailto:evan@durhamfarmfresh.ca)

**April 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Show at the Scugog Arena

**April 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Pitch-In Week

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Beyond the City Lights Rural Tourism Conference: Wooden Sticks, Uxbridge

**April 28<sup>th</sup>:** Scugog Council for the Arts AGM - Town Hall 1873 – 7pm

**May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>:** "Give the Lake a Break" Event at the Scugog Community Centre

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>:** Lake Scugog Studio Tour - 10 am- 5pm

Have an event you want to promote on the new Community Event Calendar? Visit [www.scugog.ca](http://www.scugog.ca) and go to Tourism Section-Community Events/Festivals.

If you wish to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact [lfitton@scugog.ca](mailto:lfitton@scugog.ca).