



The Corporation of the Town of Ajax Council Information Package March 6, 2026

Durham Region Municipalities Correspondence

1. [The Regional Municipality of Durham – Durham Active Transportation Committee Town of Ajax Membership Appointment for 2026](#)
 - Background Materials: [Report: 2025-CG-6](#)

Other Municipalities, Organizations and Individuals Correspondence

2. [County of Prince Edward – Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025](#)
3. [Municipality of Magnetawan – Bell Fibre](#)
4. [Township of Perry – Reduced Rate Distribution of Library Resources](#)
5. [Township of McNab/Braeside – Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy](#)
6. [Ontario Public Works Association – 2026 Executive Committee and Board of Directors](#)
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Summary of Advisory Committee Activities

9. [Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)
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Proclamations and Flag Raisings

11. Save Soil Day 2026 – March 21, 2026
12. VON Week 2026 – May 17 – 23, 2026
13. Menstrual Health Day – May 28, 2026
 - Flag Raising at Pat Bayly Square (no ceremony)

14. Dominican Republic Independence Day – February 27, 2026

- Flag Raising at Pat Bayly Square (no ceremony)

15. Israel Independence Day – April 22, 2026

- Flag Raising at Pat Bayly Square

16. National AccessAbility Week 2026 – June 1, 2026

- Flag Raising at Heritage Square

Staff Correspondence

None.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact: accessibility@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529, extension 3347.



Sent Via Email

February 25, 2026

Ron Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation Committee
c/o Region of Durham Community Growth Division
605 Rossland Road East, Level 4
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

Dear R. Lalonde:

RE: Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Town of Ajax Membership Appointment for 2026 (2026-CG-6), Our File: C14

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on February 25, 2026, passed the following resolution:

- A) That Tallal Tabish be appointed to the Durham Active Transportation Committee as its Town of Ajax representative;
- B) That Tallal Tabish be advised of their appointment to the DATC; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2026-CG-6 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be forwarded to the Town of Ajax and the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Please find enclosed a copy of Report #2026-CG-6 for your information.

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/tf

c: J. Grossi, Clerk, Town of Ajax
S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

February 6, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 29, 2026 the following resolution regarding support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-32

DATE: January 29, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Prinzen

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource; and

WHEREAS Ontario has lost 2.8 million acres of farmland in the last three decades; and

WHEREAS Ontario loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day; and

WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady, Bay of Quinte MPP Tyler Allsopp, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Prinzen, Councillor Branderhorst



RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 20

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Moved by: [Signature]

Seconded by: [Signature]

WHEREAS reliable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure that supports economic development, housing construction, healthcare, education, municipal operations, and overall community well-being;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recognized the importance of digital infrastructure through the *Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021*, which seeks to expand broadband access to all Ontarians, particularly in underserved and rural communities;

AND WHEREAS access to affordable high-speed internet is a necessary precondition to achieving provincial and federal housing, economic development, and population growth targets;

AND WHEREAS Bell Canada currently offers dedicated fibre internet services at the following indicative rates under a five (5) year term within a regulated area: 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps \$1,010 per month, 500 Mbps / 500 Mbps \$3,090 per month and 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps \$3,250 per month.

AND WHEREAS such pricing structures place dedicated fibre services beyond the financial reach of many municipalities, small businesses, housing developments, non-profit organizations, and community facilities;

AND WHEREAS unaffordable broadband infrastructure costs undermine the intent of provincial and federal legislation aimed at universal access to high-speed internet, including federal programs administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and regulatory oversight by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);

AND WHEREAS affordable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure and a foundational requirement for inclusive growth, housing delivery, and community resilience and municipalities are required to plan for growth, housing, and economic competitiveness, yet have no say in telecommunications pricing and market structures;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the CRTC to examine the affordability of dedicated fibre pricing and its impact on municipal infrastructure, housing development, and equitable internet access;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the Government of Ontario to work with telecommunications providers to ensure that broadband infrastructure costs do not impede the objectives of the *Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021* and the *Building Faster Homes and More Choice Act, 2022*;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon Bell Canada to review and revise its dedicated fibre pricing models to ensure they are affordable, transparent, and scaled appropriately for municipalities, community institutions, and local development projects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the Government of Canada, including ISED, to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, Bell Canada, the CRTC, FONOM, AMO, NOMA, and all Ontario municipalities through AMCTO.

Carried Defeated Deferred

[Signature]
Sam Dunnnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			5
Mayor: Dunnnett, Sam			



**The Corporation of the
Township of Perry**

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: February 18, 2026

Resolution No.: 2026- 078

Moved By: Joe Lumley **Seconded By:** Paul Sowrey

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to information, literacy, education, and culture for all residents;

And whereas interlibrary loan services are an essential component of public library operations, particularly for small and rural communities with limited local collections;

And whereas reduced postal rates for library materials have historically enabled libraries to share resources efficiently and affordably across Canada;

And whereas recent amendments to the Canada Post Corporation Act have removed the legislative requirement to provide reduced postal rates for library materials, creating uncertainty for the continued delivery of this essential service;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry calls upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials through legislation;

And that Council requests that the Minister responsible for Canada Post ensure continued, affordable postal access for libraries and interlibrary loan services;



Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

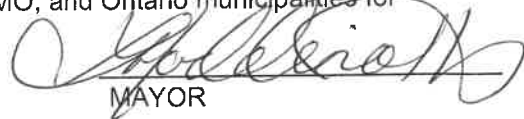
WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

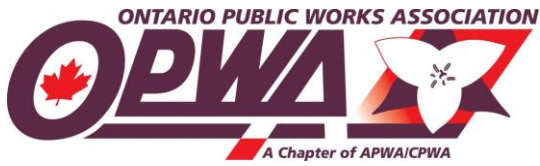
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.


MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by: _____	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: _____
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
 abstained from discussion and did not vote



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Public Works Association Announces 2026 Executive Committee and Board of Directors

The Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) is pleased to announce its 2026 Executive Committee and Board of Directors, as presented for election at the Association's recent Annual General Meeting.

OPWA will be led in 2026 by a six-member Executive Committee and a 14-member Board of Directors, providing a strong mix of public and private sector public works professionals committed to leadership excellence, sector collaboration, and advancing public works innovation across Ontario.

Executive Committee – 2026

OPWA is pleased to announce that **Marco Bertoia, City of Toronto**, will serve as **President for 2026**, having been elected President-Elect in 2025.

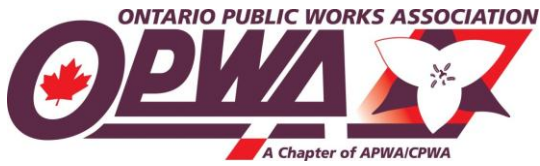
The following public works professionals were elected to serve as Executive Officers for the 2026 term:

- **President-Elect** - **Denise McGoldrick, City of Kitchener**
- **Vice President** - **Mariana Balaban, Norfolk County**
- **Past President** - **Max Ross, Retired**
- **Treasurer** - **Erik Nickel, City of Niagara Falls**
- **Secretary** - **Margie Chung**
- **APWA Council of Chapters Ontario Delegate** - **Ed Dujlovic, Retired**
- **CPWA Director** - **Angela Storey, City of Hamilton**

Board of Directors – 2026

Newly elected Directors:

- **Fariha Mannan, Region of Durham**
- **Angela Carley, TYLin**
- **Dave Ferguson, City of Brantford**
- **Enrico Stradiotto, Canadian Concrete Pipe & Precast Association**
- **Don Kudo, County of Wellington**
- **Haider Nasrullah, DeepRoot**



Ontario Public Works Association

Box 172, Main Post Office
Port Perry Ontario
L9L1A2

<https://ontario.apwa.org>

Continuing Directors:

- **Hiran Sandanayake, City of Ottawa**
- **Geoff Britnell**
- **Joseph Petrungaro, Region of York**
- **Mark Cavanaugh, Region of Durham**
- **Mark Zamojc, GEI**
- **Tracey Anastacio, City of Brampton**
- **Doug Keenie, R.J. Burnside & Associates**
- **Philip Rowe, R.J. Burnside & Associates**

At the Annual General Meeting, President **Marco Bertoia** outlined his vision for the year ahead:

“In 2026, OPWA will continue to strengthen connections across Ontario’s public works community, support professional development, and champion excellence in municipal infrastructure and service delivery. This Board brings together experienced leaders from across the province who are committed to collaboration, innovation, and supporting municipalities as they plan, build, and maintain critical public infrastructure.”

Contact:

Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA)

Email: info@opwa.ca

Website: <https://ontario.apwa.org>

Mayor and Members of Council,

Thank you for the opportunity today.

I am here to request a practical and lawful improvement to how property taxes are paid in the Town of Ajax: the introduction of an automatic credit card payment option for property taxes.

This request is not about reducing taxes, forgiving payments, or creating exemptions. It is about access, dignity, and fairness, and ensuring that residents who want to meet their tax obligations are able to do so in a way that reflects today's economic realities.

Across Ajax, many residents are under increasing financial pressure. Seniors on fixed incomes, persons living with disabilities, and working families living paycheque to paycheque are struggling with rising costs for housing, food, utilities, and healthcare. For many, the challenge is not unwillingness to pay taxes, but cash-flow timing and predictability.

At present, property tax payments rely largely on traditional banking methods. While these work for many residents, they can unintentionally create barriers for others—particularly persons with disabilities or residents who rely on alternative financial tools.

Allowing property taxes to be paid through automatic credit card deductions, similar to utilities and other essential services, would give residents a modern and flexible option to manage their payments responsibly.

This proposal is clearly supported by municipal law.

Under sections 8 and 9 of the Municipal Act, 2001, municipalities have broad authority to govern their administrative and financial affairs. Part XII of the Act authorizes municipalities to establish policies and procedures for the collection of property taxes. Adding an optional payment method is well within Council's authority.

From an accessibility standpoint, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires public institutions to identify and remove barriers to accessing services. Financial systems that depend solely on traditional payment methods can disproportionately affect persons with disabilities, particularly those with fixed incomes or mobility and cognitive barriers.

Providing a credit card payment option supports:

- financial independence and autonomy,
- predictable budgeting for residents on fixed incomes, and
- reduced risk of late penalties and arrears.

Importantly, this request does not require the Town to absorb additional costs. Any transaction fees associated with credit card payments can remain optional and resident-paid, as is common practice. Many residents already make these choices for utilities, insurance, and other essential expenses.

From a governance perspective, offering additional payment options can improve compliance, reduce delinquencies, and lower administrative costs related to enforcement. It reflects a shift toward preventative, resident-centred service delivery.

I am respectfully asking Council to direct staff to study the feasibility of this option, consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and report back with recommendations.

This is a modest administrative change that could make a meaningful difference for residents who are doing their best to meet their obligations.

Thank you for your time and your continued service to the residents of Ajax.

Proposer

Imtiaz Mohammed

[REDACTED]

2021 FEB -9 P 2:12

CORPORATE SERVICES

ATTACHMENT A – NOTICE OF MOTION (FINAL, COUNCIL-READY)

Town of Ajax – Notice of Motion

Mover: _____

Secunder: _____

Whereas the Town of Ajax is committed to equity, accessibility, inclusion, and responsible financial governance; and

Whereas sections 8 and 9 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorize municipalities to govern their administrative and financial affairs, including property tax collection under Part XII; and

Whereas the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 requires municipalities to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessing municipal services; and

Whereas seniors, persons living with disabilities, and residents living paycheque to paycheque may face barriers when limited to traditional property tax payment methods; and

Whereas providing additional optional payment methods may improve compliance and customer service without reducing municipal tax revenue;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. Council direct staff to review the feasibility of offering automatic credit card payment options for property tax payments; and
2. That the review consider administrative, financial, and accessibility impacts, including AODA compliance; and
3. That staff consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, as appropriate; and
4. That staff report back to Council with findings and recommendations.

PROPONENT:

Imtiaz Mohammed

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kassandra Brownridge](#); [Clerks](#)
Cc: [Nancy Henry](#); [Sterling Lee](#); [Christie McLardie](#)
Subject: Re: Rossland Road Meeting
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 5:43:09 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do NOT reply, click links (embedded links) or open attachment(s) unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kassandra,

It has now been nearly six months since the September 18 open house and my follow-up email later that same evening where I asked for greater clarity around spend-to-date, consultant costs versus completion percentage, and a detailed breakdown of funding and total project costs.

One of the key points I raised at that time was the need to get ahead of this project early in 2026 once the capital budget was finalized and funding sources were known. We are now at that point.

The 2026 Capital Budget reflects a total project cost of approximately \$57.46 million. The only detailed cost document currently posted on the Rossland IMO page remains Appendix S from October 2021, which reflected an estimate of approximately \$36.39 million. That represents a substantial change. The IMO page under the EA section also shows more than 20 studies completed between 2020 and 2022, indicating that significant work has taken place over several years.

With spring approaching and construction phases anticipated, providing the public with a clear and current financial overview is critical — not just now, but on an ongoing basis.

I believe this should include publishing:

- Total costs incurred to date (with an “as of” date)
- A breakdown of those costs by category (EA, design, land acquisition, utility relocation, etc.)
- Consultant contract value, percentage of design completed, and percentage of consultant budget spent (as this was unclear at the September meeting)
- An updated detailed cost estimate reflecting the approved \$57.46M budget, similar in format to Appendix S
- A clear breakdown of how costs to date have been funded (DCs, reserves, debt, grants, etc.)
- Confirmation as to whether any additional studies, reports, or critical project documents have been completed since 2022 that have not yet been posted to the IMO page, and if so, when they will be made publicly available

Given the magnitude and duration of this project, actual costs should be updated at least semi-annually on the IMO page. Subscribers to the project should also receive email notifications

whenever new financial or project plan information is added.

This is a major capital investment with long-term financial implications. Clear, timely, and ongoing transparency will strengthen public confidence and ensure residents understand both the costs and the funding strategy moving forward.

I am copying the Clerk to have this email, along with my September 18, 2025 correspondence below, included on the March 23, 2026 Council agenda. Clerk, please confirm inclusion no later than March 11, 2026.

Thank you

Doug

On Thu, Sep 18, 2025 at 10:27 PM Dee G [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Cassandra. I want to thank you for taking the lead as host tonight and answering as many questions that Peter from RV Consulting could not answer. It was not an easy task for you.

1. Let me first sum up what I thought went well tonight.

- It was encouraging that the Town held such a meeting. I think this was long overdue given how important the project is
- The images shared (rendering's, full Rossland Rd map, projected phases, etc) were all helpful in giving people a better sense of the plans

2. Some things that I think we're missed opportunities.

- The consultant said that they were 60% through design, I can't remember the public being asked to give feedback on what they would like to see happen with Rossland. Yes some people provided feedback, but when will actual design samples and other questions go out to residents? Is this part of the plan? Because I didn't hear anything tonight that said it was.
- In the introduction by you, the Town should have delivered a quick 10 minute update of where Rossland Road has been, where we are and where it's headed. For example
 - Phase 1 of the Overall Rossland Rd project started back in 20XX and completed in 20XX when Rossland was widened from Riverside Drive on our western border with Pickering to Church St.
 - Phase 2 saw us widen Rossland from Church St to Westney Rd between 20XX to 2022. This project still has another component to do the top coat of asphalt and this is planned to do in 20XX
 - Phase 3 will now see us complete Rossland Road from Westney in the west al;l the way to Lakeridge in the East. Our current projected schedule as you will see tonight is to do this in 3 phases from Q2 2026 to Q3 2028.
 - Once this is done, Rossland Rd will become a true east to west 4 lane road to support not only current residents and businesses, but future one's as well.
- Acknowledge the challenges that have taken place with this current phase 3 over the past number of years and honestly explain why (don't just say the usual covid and inflation) Speak to the challenges with the decline in DC revenue and so on. But

underscore (if this is in fact the case) that the Town is now committed to see this project through

- You should have also provided an update of what has been happening with this current phase of the project. For example
 - What has been the spend to date on this project and on what (how much has gone to the consultants for design and what % of their work is done and what was the total budget allocated. So for example, if the consultant was budgeted for \$1 million in total for all work and they are 60% of their work done, if the actual costs to date are \$800,000, why are they \$200,000 over budget? This sort of thing should be explained and a detailed breakdown of total costs by buckets released
 - What is the latest approved funding and why there has been significant changes in recent years
 - How this is currently proposed to be funded and the challenges at we have been looking at
 - That these 2 critical questions will be addressed via the 2026 Budget that comes out in December
 - Commit to residents that once this is approved and known, it will be publicly shared via social media, the town's website and the Rossland IMO page so that residents have a full understanding of the go forward costs

I hope this doesn't come off the wrong way, but many residents I spoke to afterwards were surprised that there was no explanation or acknowledgement by the Town of the toll delaying this project for so long has taken on residents. Also, there was no explanation of why costs have exploded or how the project is going to be funded. While these might not be known, I think speaking to them and letting residents know that you can appreciate their frustrations could have gone a long way.

3. What I heard from residents and myself in terms of wants

- Minutes from this meeting and any other public meeting should be thorough (not simple bullet points) that explain what concerns were raised and who at the Town is taking responsibility for following up on items and communicating more broadly with residents.
- The residents near Lakeridge raised many key questions and I think they need some extra attention. My take on the reported completion totals over time (30% in early 2024, 60% in Nov 2024 and then as said by Peter 60% right now - almost 10 months since last Nov 2024) was frankly very discouraging because it said that nothing has been done by the firm for the past 10 months. This gets to the heart of what I have experienced as well and it is why I have been following this project so closely
- With that in mind, as I said at the meeting, the 2023, 2024 and 2025 project sheets all speak to "Design" being approved in 2022 and the 2025 budget sheets show $\$7,763,700 + 770,900 = \$8,534,600$ in previously approved funding. This represents 16.2% of the total $\$52,859,200$ budget in 2025. I would like a detailed sheet of what the total spend to date has been with an as of date as well, along with a breakdown of where those totals were attributed too. (for example design) and the total budget attributed to each attribute. (cost) As I said above, if the design consultants have a \$1 million budget and are 60% complete, I would like to see that their spend is \$600,000 or so to get a sense of where the effectiveness of the project stands.

As the gentleman (Paul I think his name was) said, the Town should be able to provide me with the final project costs from the Church to Westney portion of Rossland Road Widening that finished in 2022. Its been 3 years and this information should be available. I am interested in this because I'd like to get a sense of how effective the project was managed. If this can break out the total actual costs vs budgeted costs by cost attribute (design, land purchase, construction, etc) that would be helpful. Keep in mind that the final budget sheet for 2021 showed roughly \$9.2 million in total costs for the project, and this included costs before 2021. I want to see how effective the project was in coming in to budget.

- Peter spoke at the meeting about having to "coordinate construction phases with adjacent projects, and then he gave several examples of projects from a Tpwn's perspective (other road projects), but there was nothing that spoke to the various development projects happening along Rossland during or possibly during the same time. For example the new Medallion building near Audley and Rossland, the development at 154 Rossland, the new commercial centre mall at Salem and Rossland, the expansion of Spitty Road, a possible road into the Longos plaza through either the lands to their east or the forest in the south. If these projects are planning to move forward and the Town knows approximately when they will be happening (because they have already signalled to developers and or the Town needs the DC revenue like the Mayor has said), then this needs to be clear and a full plan that explains everything made available to residents. Commitments have been made NOT to do development at the same time as the road widening.(like at 154 Rossland) This was clearly stated in the October Council meeting by Staff and Council to residents and residents intend to hold you to this. By spelling everything out in a full plan, residents will have assurances that this is the case. It is important to keep in mind why residents feel this way. When the Grandview project was approved, residents were told that road widening would take place then as roads were dug up and that section of Harwood became impossible. But all that happened was new pipe was put in place to accomodate the Grandview build. No road was widened. So this time, as the Town committed, the widening must happen before the development.

Sorry for the long message, but I wanted to make sure my suggestions and open questions were very clear. I look forward to your follow up on the questions and requests above. I am sorry if I come off as frustrated, but it was clear that many other residents have similar concerns and frustrations. I think the meeting was a good start, but I would strongly recommend that you do mre meetings like this to keep the public informed and that you consider some of the suggestions above.

This is a major project and significant cost to the Town and residents. I am sorry to say this, but as a professional leader of large organizations and projects in my past life, I do not think that this has been managed as effectively as it could be. But it is not too late to change the direction. But one of the key things that needs to change is to be more transparent and to acknowledge the gaps to date. By doing this and then keeping folks honestly informed as things happen or circumstances change, you will get ahead of the negative perception many have of this project. And I am not talking about slick videos and more pictures of what things will look like. I am talking about factual information.

I think the next opportunity for the Town to present will be in early 2026 once the budget and funding sources are nailed down. And they better be because you just committed to residents that phase 1 of this project from Westney to Salem will start later in 2026. That is

great, but you better also explain how you intend to start the Harwood Road Widening as well in 2026. (costs, is those funding sources, risks, impact to nearby residents, what other Town projects are not happening) I know for example that Ward 3 residents are counting on many projects in 2026 and they are worried that Rossland and Harwood Rd Widening will eat up most of the budget or capacity to take on debt. And the projected debt levels are really concerning to me because they will have operational budget implications, which hits property taxes. And with the 2% infrastructure levy plus say a 3% MPI inflation rate, we are already at a 5% budget increase before any strategic investments are added (new staff)

Debenture expenditures on the operating budget went from \$1.9 million in 2024 to \$2.4 million in 2025. If we fund these projects heavily by debt because the reserves are not there, these debenture amounts are going to increase significantly. And if we see a slow down in investment income because the investments don't perform like they have in the recent past, we are going to have significant challenges. All of this needs to be clear.

I don't think anything I am saying is offside. I want the project to be done and believe it or not, I want the Town to succeed. But when things are not clear, in my experience, this is when problems arise and things go astray.

Look forward to your follow up

Doug

Summary of Accessibility Advisory Committee Activities

Report To: Council
 Prepared By: Sarah Moore, Legislative Specialist
 Date: As of February 25, 2026



Accessibility Advisory Committee – February 18, 2026 (AAC-2026-02)

Agenda Item	Decision(s)/Motion(s)
<p>Community Organization Overview: Canadian Hearing Services</p> <p>Madison Hencher, Hearing Care Counsellor (Durham Region) Canadian Hearing Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Hencher provided an in-depth overview of Canadian Hearing Services, detailing its mission, range of free and accessible programs for deaf and hard of hearing Canadians, and specific counseling and support services. • M. Hencher provided practical advice on hearing aid adjustment, the importance of aural rehabilitation, alternative assistive devices, and effective communication strategies for both service providers and individuals with hearing loss. • Members engaged M. Hencher with questions about Auracast technology adoption, regulatory barriers to using AirPods as hearing aids in Canada, the assistive devices program and funding limitations, community partnerships and referrals.
<p>Town of Ajax Customer Relationship Management System</p> <p>Alice Hooley, IT Project Manager and Business Analyst</p> <p>Andrea St. Hill-Moore, Manager of Customer Experience</p> <p>Jaclyn Grossi, Municipal Clerk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project staff presented the new ‘HeyJax’ Customer Relationship Management system, demonstrating its features, accessibility considerations, and integration with Town services. • The project team demonstrated the portal's navigation, including search functionality, categorized service requests, an FAQ section, and an active inquiries map. Accessibility features such as mobile compatibility, location tracking, and anonymous reporting were highlighted. • A step-by-step demonstration showed how users can submit requests, upload supporting documents, specify locations using maps or address search, and receive automated email notifications. The system

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Agenda Item	Decision(s)/Motion(s)
	<p>allows users to track the status of their requests and cancel them if needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members posed questions related to the transition from AppJax, and app, to HeyJax, a web-based system. Staff responded to questions. • Committee members suggested adding hyperlinks to main website resources, improving search suggestions, and providing more direct links to program registrations. • The project team welcomed suggestions from Members and noted the importance of user feedback for future system enhancements.
<p>Land Acknowledgement Discussion and Learnings</p> <p>Marycarmen Lara Villanueva, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M, Lara Villanueva presented information on the origins and institutionalization of land acknowledgements in Canada, their role in reconciliation, and the importance of recognizing ongoing colonial impacts. She led a reflective discussion with Members. • Members shared various perspectives on the Land Acknowledgment practice, some noting that the process has become performative. The need for inclusion of personal reflection, education, and meaningful action beyond recitation was identified. • Members expressed interest in more educational resources and historical context on the elements of history included in the Town’s land acknowledgement, such as treaties, and interest in hearing directly from the indigenous community. • M. Lara Villaneuva shared data related to the intersection of disability and indigeneity, offering to share additional resources and statistics. • Members identified an opportunity to align the reading of the land acknowledgement at the Committee meeting with the intersectionality of indigeneity and disability.
<p>Final Review - Draft 2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p>

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Agenda Item	Decision(s)/Motion(s)
Candidate Accessibility Checklist Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Moore thanked Members who had provided comments on the draft materials. She indicated that the documents would be formatted with Election branding prior to posting on the forthcoming Town of Ajax Election website.
Work Plan & Staff Updates	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the interest of time, this item was deferred to the March meeting.

To access Advisory Committee Meeting minutes and agendas, please visit www.ajax.ca/meetings.

Summary of Heritage Advisory Committee Activities

Report To: Council
 Prepared By: Sarah Moore, Legislative Specialist
 Date: As of February 25, 2026



Heritage Advisory Committee – February 4, 2025 (HAC-2026-02)

Agenda Item	Decision(s)/Motion(s)
<p>Heritage Permit: 562 Kingston Road West – Signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Sawchuck provided an update on the signage application for 562 Kingston Rd. West, detailing the negotiation process with the permit processing firm and the resulting design changes to better align with the property's heritage features. • M. Sawchuck reviewed the original sign proposal for 562 Kingston Rd. West noting a plywood sign with vinyl graphics that met bylaw requirements but was considered oversized and potentially obstructive to the property's heritage attributes. • He informed the Committee the applicant has revised the sign design by changing its orientation from parallel to perpendicular to the street and reducing the supporting legs from about 5 feet to 3 feet.
<p>Heritage Permit: 479 Kingston Road West – Update</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Sawchuck reported on the completion inspection for the daycare conversion at 479 Kingston Rd. West, highlighting deviations from the approved heritage permit. • The Committee discussed the visibility and maintenance implications of the unpainted stairs and railing, ultimately deciding not to pursue corrections for these elements due to their limited impact and practical considerations. • The Committee agreed that the existing fiberglass door did not meet the heritage requirements, and that the patch work above the door was poorly completed. • Members discussed a willingness to permit a fiberglass door if the applicant was unable to procure an authentic wooden door that met all code requirements.

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Agenda Item	Decision(s)/Motion(s)
<p>Demolition Clearance: 209 Squire Drive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Sawchuck presented the case for demolition of the deteriorated heritage property at 209 Squire Drive, leading the Committee through a discussion on documentation and potential commemoration. • He described the poor state of the 1890s house and noted the lack of public visibility and the absence of significant outbuildings. • Committee members debated the value and feasibility of commemorating the site, considering options such as a plaque, a video feature, or digital archives, and agreed to research the Squire family and available archival materials before making a final recommendation. • L. McEwan noted that the Library Archives will assist with the research. <p>Moved By: L .Patel Seconded By: M. Daniels</p> <p>That the Committee recommend that staff pursue the removal of the property at 209 Squire Drive from the Town’s Inventory of Non-Designated Heritage Properties upon the issuance of a Demolition Permit, and that no heritage designation be initiated for the property.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried.</p>
<p>Research: Ajax Street Names</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Sawchuck introduced a new research project to document the histories of Ajax streets not named after veterans, inviting committee members to contribute brief write-ups for inclusion in a forthcoming GIS mapping feature. • The initiative aims to provide concise historical context for a starting list of 25 selected street names, supplementing the existing database of veteran-named streets and enhancing the Town's digital mapping resources. • Committee members discussed various approaches to dividing the research workload, ultimately agreeing to have staff send out a shared document for members to select and claim streets for research.

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Agenda Item	Decision(s)/Motion(s)
<p>Interpretive Panel: Peak-Greenlaw Cemetery</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Sawchuck led a discussion on the replacement of the Peak-Greenlaw Cemetery interpretive panel, addressing options for interactive features, ethical considerations of AI-generated content, and the decision to proceed with a basic update and potential future enhancements. • The Committee reviewed the updated panel text and images, which correct inaccuracies and improve upon the previous version, ensuring all content is properly sourced and accessible. • The Committee decided to proceed with installing the new panel as planned, with the option to add a QR code for audio accessibility in the future, and to revisit more ambitious interactive features at a later date.
<p>HAC Video Ideas & Workplan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A – information item only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Sawchuck updated the committee on the status of heritage video projects and coordinated next steps for scriptwriting and content review. • The Committee is pursuing two types of videos: longer 'Heritage Minute' features and shorter, attention-grabbing 'Did You Know' segments for social media, with several topic ideas already proposed. • T. Kessler and P. Pryjma contributed draft content, scripts and imagery for initial videos.

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