



## **SPEAKING NOTES MAYOR DAVID RYAN**

APBOT – Mayors’ Address  
Pickering – Business Vision  
Annandale Golf & Curling Club  
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Good morning. Thank you for the warm introduction and thanks to each of you for taking the time to be here this morning.

As a business community, we are gathered here today to not only celebrate our successes over the past year, but to cast an eye towards the road ahead.

Before us, lies a vast highway lined with promise and opportunity.

Over the next few minutes, I want to celebrate our successes and discuss these opportunities, along with some of the accompanying challenges that we will need to address.

Before I continue, I would like to acknowledge our new Board of Trade President Don Terry. We all know Don, through the many community partnerships Ontario Power Generation has forged throughout our city and region or through his commitment to Big Brothers and Sisters and many other community endeavours. Don has a well earned reputation for leadership and I am looking forward to working with him in his latest role.

I would also like to thank Executive Director Kathy McKay for coordinating today’s function and for her continued efforts in raising the profile of our dynamic business community.

I would also like to recognize 2007 president and current Chair, Diana-Hills Milligan for her commitment and leadership over the past year. During that time, over 140 new members were recruited, including the milestone 500<sup>th</sup> member. Diana as always you raised the bar.

At this point, I would also like to acknowledge City staff.

Together, we are committed to working diligently on your behalf.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the Board of Trade for supporting the Pickering Rotary Club, by making it today's designated charity. I am proud to be an honorary Rotarian, and as you are all aware, the Rotary Club has done a tremendous amount of good work for the community.

I'm really looking forward to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pickering Ribfest, being organized by the Pickering/Ajax Rotary Clubs, which will take place on the weekend of June 6<sup>th</sup> in Esplanade Park, and is expected to draw over 20,000 people – I hope to see you all there.

Since I was first elected to Pickering Council, one of my main priorities has been and continues to be economic development. If we are ever going to erase the perception of being a bedroom community, we need to strengthen our economic and commercial base.

In order to be successful, my office, and City staff have made a concerted effort to strengthen the relationship shared with the Board of Trade.

As the definitive voice of our business community, you have been a strong ally in lobbying senior levels of government on important issues. On behalf of Council, I thank the Board of Trade for hosting the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, David Caplan, and demonstrating to him that our business community is united with the City in vision and purpose.

As well, we appreciate the Board's leadership stance on important issues, such as hospital funding, the expansion of Highway 407, and the application for the renewal of Pickering B operating licence.

Pickering is very proud of its burgeoning reputation as a preferred place for business and over the last term, Council has worked very hard to strengthen this reputation.

I am proud to report that in 2007, over 300 new highly-skilled jobs were created and we added 250,000 square feet of commercial expansion for existing companies.

And I can assure you that this is merely a prelude to a brighter and more prosperous era for our city.

I would like to take the opportunity, this morning, to make a very exciting announcement.

I am very pleased to announce that Norwegian engineering powerhouse, Aker Kvaerner ASA will be relocating and expanding its process technology company; Aker Kvaerner Chemetics from its existing Toronto location to Pickering.

This \$17.7 million dollar investment will feature a brand new 90,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, with 17,000 square feet of office space and will add a large number of highly-skilled technical jobs to our employment pool.

Aker Kvaerner ASA has worldwide revenues of approximately \$10 billion USD and employs approximately 24,000 people in 30 countries.

Through its subsidiaries and affiliates it is a leading global provider of engineering and construction services, technology products and integrated solutions.

The company plans to aggressively grow its operations in Pickering by 40 per cent in 2009.

And now, it is my pleasure to introduce to you some of Aker Kvaerner's key executives who are here today to show their support for Pickering.

Can you please stand as I call your name.

Michael Smallwood, Vice-President, Finance, Canadian Operations  
Robert Vanderland, President, Pickering Operations  
Bryan Saretzky, Manager, Financial Services

And with them this morning, the builder of its new state-of-the-art facility,  
Gary Elgar, President, Leeswood Design/Build Inc.

Can we all give them a warm welcome.

On behalf of the City of Pickering, I would like to extend a sincere thank you for your expression of confidence in our city.

And I understand that you will be joining the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade.  
Congratulations and thank you for helping to strengthen our commercial landscape.

2007 was a very good year for our city in terms of new business.

Last year, Wardrop Engineering expanded and consolidated its other GTA operations into its new Pickering office. Wardrop, a Canadian founded company with

international operations, was recognized as One of Canada's Top Employers for New Canadians in a recent national awards competition.

Wardrop and Aker Kvaerner are welcome additions to Pickering's emerging "EN3" concept.

Pickering has well established energy and environment sectors – predicated on existing skilled labour and a highly specialized knowledge base.

The convergence of these disciplines has resulted in another emerging sector... Engineering is the third "E" in this concept.

There is a strong EN3 cluster developing in Pickering which differentiates it from other municipalities. Currently, the EN3 represents approximately 25 per cent of our total labour force and is rapidly becoming the foundation of our economic base.

Another example of an expanding business in Pickering's EN3 cluster is Intellimeter Canada Inc.

Last year, Intellimeter moved to a new facility in the city and doubled its office space to over 18,000 square feet.

In addition, Warren Beacom, the President of Intellimeter, also joined the DSEA board.

As many of you know, the DSEA, which began in the City of Pickering, is an organization dedicated to addressing Canada's rapidly evolving energy needs.

It was our intention to leverage the existing knowledge and resource base of an already strong hub of energy companies; to form an alliance to become a major player in the province's emerging energy strategy.

With the City of Pickering and its resident companies as a nucleus, the concept quickly expanded to include the lakeshore municipalities, more businesses, UOIT and Durham College and was ultimately adopted by the Region of Durham.

I am proud to say that an embryonic idea in Pickering has evolved to become one of the province's most prominent energy stakeholders. In fact, I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that the DSEA represents the potential of Ontario's burgeoning energy industry – with Pickering's EN3 cluster as an essential catalyst.

The success of the DSEA illustrates that while ideas are inherently powerful, it takes vision, advocacy and partnership to see them reach their full potential.

You have no doubt observed, that for me, partnerships is a recurring theme.

While I take a great deal of pride in Pickering's leadership status among municipalities, I will be the first one to tell you that we cannot operate in silos. While I and my colleagues on Council have a vision for the City of Pickering, we need collaboration and partnerships to implement that vision.

We need to work in partnership with our neighbouring municipalities, businesses and stakeholders within the framework of the city, region and province so that we can harness and focus our respective strengths and resources for our collective advantage.

Earlier, I mentioned that the Province of Ontario has significant interests in the City of Pickering. It has significant land holdings in Duffin Heights, Seaton, and our emerging downtown.

The Province, through its Places to Grow legislation has identified Pickering as an urban growth centre, and envisions another 20,000 additional people in our downtown over the next 20 years.

There has been unprecedented interest in developing our downtown. Our planning department is busy fielding inquiries and working on plans that will see a dramatic improvement to this key area including both residential and commercial development.

We are encouraged by the demand for a mixture of high density residential with both commercial and retail development.

One of the most visible examples of intensification will be the Bay Ridges Plaza redevelopment. This project incorporates two condominium towers, with ground floor retail, traditional townhomes and commercial live-work units, which will see approximately 1000 new residents.

Many of the purchasers are from Toronto, attracted by the close proximity to the GO Station, which has been a key selling feature of the project.

Further west, we will see the rise of a 10-storey mixed use LEED standards building at Kingston and Fairport Roads, which will contain a minimum of 37,000 square feet of commercial floor area and 200 condominium apartment dwelling units. The highlight of which will be its heavily manicured green roof - the first of its kind in Durham.

Kingston and Dixie Roads will see a revitalized destination area anchored by a large 100,000 square foot Home Depot store with complementary retail, restaurants and a residential component.

Brock and Finch boasts a high-end Energy Star certified, condominium townhouse complex; and a new 8-storey Chartwell seniors' residential building next to the Recreation Complex are also part of this dynamic mix.

To manage this growth in our downtown, we are developing a Downtown Intensification Program which will be launched later this year. The program will focus on: Visioning and Downtown Identity; Coordinated Programming; Major Transformational Projects; Community & Stakeholder Consultation and Outreach

Our objective is the creation of a cohesive, "Made in Pickering" downtown, which will be woven into the fabric of the city.

We will engage residents, businesses, developers and other stakeholders to ensure that a perfect balance of growth, urbanism, and community is achieved.

The long awaited office tower to be sited in the south lot of the Pickering Town Centre will be a visual landmark that will signify a new and prosperous era for Pickering, and is moving from concept to reality.

Over the past year, the City and the Ontario Pension Board have been actively promoting the project and I am pleased to say that discussions are under way with a potential anchor tenant.

The plan remains to link the tower to the GO station with an enclosed pedestrian bridge. Once completed, it will be the only work/transit hub of its kind east of Union Station. This will be a key selling feature for prestige companies looking to locate to Pickering and Durham Region.

GO Transit management has indicated its support for the project.

I recently met with Rob McIsaac, the chair of Metrolinx, and shared a productive conversation in regards to better utilizing the existing GO Transit and MTO lands in Pickering.

As part of MoveOntario's 2020 project announcement last summer, there were two new GO rail line projects designated specifically for Pickering, which will link both Seaton and the north Brock Road corridor at Highway 407.

As I had stated earlier, we need to stop the disengaged way of thinking in silos. While each municipality within the GTA has its own inherent challenges, we are all invariably linked by a few major issues. One of these is the underlying need to better facilitate the movement of people, goods and products across our regions.

We need to think creatively and beyond our borders. Utilizing existing hydro corridors, abandoned rail rights of way or the 407 corridor would minimize capital costs and provide strategic high-speed links across the region and GTA.

In turn, the Chair laid out his mandate to develop a Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton.

We discussed the need to develop “mobility hubs” which are basically central stations that link different modes of transportation such as rail, buses, cycling, walking and automobiles.

Further, these hubs will be destination points that offer amenities and services such as shopping, entertainment, recreation and family services.

In context of the GTA, I support a focused polycentric model where the main mobility hub will be located in Toronto with six to eight higher order mobility hubs in centres across the GTA.

As a result of Metrolinx’ consultation process, Pickering’s downtown district has been designated a priority location for a mobility hub, which will have direct access to Highway 401, the Brock corridor, Highway 407 and the future community of Seaton.

My vision for this mobility hub is a link to a vibrant downtown which includes a wealth of retail, restaurants, and community services, anchored by a new arts centre. A second link will connect to a satellite campus in Seaton for UOIT and Durham College, which would be a major transformational project for this master-planned community.

These are exciting development and transportation opportunities. I am very eager to get these projects underway, so once again, I am asking for the Board of Trade’s support in lobbying both the provincial and federal governments to invest the needed resources into these and other related projects.

While we are talking about transportation alternatives, I think it’s about time that the federal government made a decision on the proposed airport.

We all know that an airport in Pickering would have a tremendous financial benefit. It is expected that a Pickering airport would have an annual economic impact in the hundreds of millions on the local gross domestic product.

However, economic considerations are just one facet of the Sustainability model. Before an airport can be sited, the social and environmental impacts must be taken into account.

Whatever decision the federal government makes, Pickering will be prepared to move forward and act accordingly to implement the best possible solution. We just ask that a definitive decision be made – after 35 years we need to conclude this issue and move forward.

As the Regional representative on the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance Board of Directors, it has been my mission over the past year to promote both Pickering and Durham's unparalleled business advantages.

Last year, the GTMA organized a business mission to Denmark, Sweden and Holland with an emphasis on energy generation, sustainability and the environment.

I am proud that Pickering and Durham Region had the largest corporate representation on the trade mission.

This was an important two-fold message. Firstly, we are serious about attracting international business to our region. Secondly, we are leaders in both energy and sustainability.

Last month, I made arrangements to have the GTMA board meeting convene in Pickering in the OPG boardroom with Don Terry, as the new Board of Trade president and co-host.

We presented to the board directors all of the competitive business advantages and economic opportunities that our city has to offer.

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, the Board was so impressed the GTMA will be holding its next International Leadership Breakfast Club event in Pickering on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Al Dente Restaurant.

This will be the first time this type of GTMA event will be held outside of Downtown Toronto.

The theme of the presentation is Energy and the Environment as an Incentive for Foreign Direct Investment and Regional Economic Growth.

It will definitely be an interesting and timely discussion, which I look forward to moderating. I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to come out.

Last spring, Dr. David Suzuki during an official visit to Pickering, acknowledged that we are aligning our corporate vision and strategies with the tenets of sustainability.

In 2007, Pickering became the first municipality in Ontario to establish an Office of Sustainability. This Office was created through an internal reorganization of our Corporate Projects Division under the leadership of Tom Melymuk as Director.

Also last year, we launched the Sustainable Pickering website to make important information more accessible, and to encourage community engagement and feedback.

Please visit [sustainablepickering.com](http://sustainablepickering.com) to learn more about some of our related programs – Partners for Climate Protection, Sustainable Neighbourhood Plan, Benchmarking Sustainability, and other Environmental Awareness initiatives.

Pickering is one of a small number of Ontario municipalities to have Council-approved greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In 2007, we completed an energy-efficient relamping of City Hall with anticipated energy savings of \$70,000 per year, and an annual reduction of 400 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Our efforts have been acknowledged in FCM's Partners for Climate Protection program.

The City of Pickering has embarked on a journey to become the most sustainable community in North America

As part of our Sustainable Pickering Challenge, the City will be participating in the worldwide Earth Hour campaign to turn off lights for one hour on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm.

I am proud that Pickering was one the first municipalities in the East GTA to commit to this initiative, and I encourage all of you here, as both residents and business leaders to take our lead and participate in this worthy challenge.

Through our Business Development Committee, and Sustainable Pickering initiatives, we will be encouraging businesses and organizations to join us on our Sustainability journey. We will be adopting LEED standards – as part of our commitment to ensuring all new development in Pickering meets or exceeds sustainability targets.

Pickering will continue to work with the provincial and federal governments to ensure our vision of Seaton as the most energy-efficient community in North America is realized.

Opportunities such as Seaton underscore the importance of managing development potential. I believe that it is a municipality's responsibility to plan for its future growth. However, the provincial and federal governments are still controlling much of our land and our destiny.

Last year, the Province completed the land exchange in Seaton and reduced the size of the employment lands in the development plan.

Therefore the challenge to reach our employment target of 35,000 new jobs will require a greater concentration of knowledge-based jobs instead of manufacturing which requires a broader footprint.

While I welcome this challenge, the Province has a responsibility to help us meet these employment targets. This means it would have to actively market these lands, and offer incentives for the right types of businesses to relocate here.

And I must vigorously reinforce the need to service the employment lands before any residential foundations are poured.

In a related matter, I implore senior levels of government to implement meaningful solutions that address the health and sustainability of the entire GTA. Our social infrastructure needs a complete overhaul. To say there is a health care crisis in our communities is an understatement.

The downloading of social programs and emergency measures has placed an unfair tax burden on our residents and businesses. Nowhere is this more evident than the funding crisis facing our hospitals.

We need to see a revised funding formula based on population that will complement the Province's Places to Grow strategy. West Durham is one of the fastest growing regions in the whole nation. And when Seaton eventually comes on stream, Pickering alone will grow by nearly 80,000 new residents. Does it not make sense to enhance services at the Ajax-Pickering hospital and consider the need for a new facility?

As the hospital is one of our community's most important assets, we need to steel our resolve and be consistent and persistent in our messaging to the Province.

And as I had mentioned earlier, the Board of Trade has previously lobbied the Province in regards to our omnipresent hospital issues.

I thank the Board for its past support and I look forward to partnering with you once more to have both Pickering and Ajax recognized as under serviced communities.

The annual Mayors' Charity Golf Tournament is a fundraising initiative, in its' fourteenth year, organized for the Hospital Foundation.

This year, we will be holding the tournament at the world class Deer Creek Golf Club for the very first time. With the larger venue, we have an opportunity to expand the

tournament – more foursomes, more holes to sponsor, more ways to promote your company, and most importantly, more ways to support your community.

With the change of venue and re-energizing of the tournament, we hope to double our donation to the hospital.

Please contact either my office, Mayor Parrish' office or the hospital foundation to sign up

The Mayor's Gala and Mayor's & Chair Charity Classic are success stories that can be shared by many of you.

Your generous support of these initiatives is an investment in our community that is already paying dividends.

In addition to supporting these events, I would like to thank the many residents and businesses that supported one of our most recent endeavours.

Communities in Bloom is a nationwide initiative, which fosters civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and the challenge of friendly competition.

Pickering participated in this initiative for the very first time last year.

We were heartened by the strong response received - especially from the business community.

The Board of Trade, Pickering Town Centre, Lenbrook and OPG are just some of the many corporate partners that championed our Communities in Bloom efforts.

And I am proud to tell you that due to such tremendous community support, the City of Pickering was awarded *Five Blooms*, the highest possible rating.

I am very proud of the outstanding effort put forth which is demonstrative of the pride, passion and commitment that flourishes in our community.

In addition to being awarded the *Five Blooms* rating, the City of Pickering capped off an extraordinary campaign by also winning the 2007 Environmental Awareness Award.

In closing, I would like to pass on one of the glowing comments submitted by the Communities in Bloom judges as part of their evaluation.

“All too often we do not see the value and unique heritage of our own community. As visitors, this tour of Pickering has brought lasting memories and the privilege of meeting a vast array of extraordinary people.”

So, in the end, what made the most lasting impression with the judges wasn't the amount of flowers and shrubs that we were able to plant.

Instead, what really resonated with the judges was our people.

More specifically, it was the way that our residents, community groups, **and businesses** embraced this initiative cohesively as a community.

This speaks volumes of you and your ongoing commitment to our city.

There are those who merely hope and dream.

While here in Pickering, we reach and strive.

It truly is an exciting time in the City of Pickering. I'm proud of the many shared accomplishments that we have achieved over the last four years and I look forward to building upon them.

I thank you for your continued support. As always, my door is open to you and I look forward to working with you in 2008 and beyond!