

April 2026

Volume 1, Issue 13

Advocating  
for  
safe  
cycling  
throughout  
Durham  
Region

## ***A Message from our President and Executive Director –***

***Ron Lalonde***

At our late fall AGM, we were pleased to welcome back Michael Kishinevsky to the Board of Directors representing the Uxbridge Cycle Club. At the same time, we would like to thank outgoing Uxbridge Cycle Club representative Kevin McConomy for his past support over the last number of years. There were no other changes to the Board or elected officers other than Chris Arnott has accepted the role of Board Chair.

My sincere thanks to all the executive for volunteering their time in support of safe cycling advocacy work.

With this year being a municipal election year, we should all be mindful of the fact that your local municipality is the key driver to improving cycling infrastructure within your community. As such, with local officials seeking your support as the fall election unfolds, be sure to ask questions regarding *how they intend to support cycling improvements within your community over the next four years.*

In closing, as the cycling season begins, stay safe in your travels and arrive back home to ride another day.

## **UPDATES**

### ***Marsh Hill Road***

In January 2024 we contacted to the Township of Scugog regarding the poor road surface conditions on Marsh Hill Rd. from Reach St. south to Scugog Line 4 as well as short sections having posted speed limits of 60 km/h where, generally, the speed limit was 50 km/h with 40 km/h in safety zones.

In March of this year, we again reached out to the Township for an update and are pleased to confirm that Marsh Hill Rd. will be reconstructed from 300m south of Reach St. to 300m south of Goodwood

Rd. The road will remain open during construction but expect gravel surfaces. The 60 km/h speed limits also be reduced will be reduced to 50 km/h at our recommendation.

There still remains the section of Marsh Hill Rd. south of Goodwood Rd. to Scugog Line 4 which we have asked to be included, however this is being differed to 2027.

### ***Toronto Bike Lane Removals - Bill Number 212***

The case against the Ford government's Bill 212 was initially heard in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on April 16, 2025. In court, the judge was very critical of the government regarding the province's evidence or lack thereof to justify the bike lane removals.

The judge eventually ruled against the government citing the removal of bike lanes was unconstitutional. The Ontario government is appealing the ruling.

### ***Ashburn Road Repaved***

Last April we wrote to the Town of Whitby regarding the poor state of Ashburn Rd. south of Highway 7 noting the loss of the rural paved shoulders due to earlier construction work. We can now report that additional paving work has been carried out and the rural paved shoulders have been restored.

### ***Winchester Road - Anderson Steet/Watford Street Intersection***

In our last edition we reported on the incursion of the reconstructed curb into the bike lane at the NE corner of the Winchester Rd/Watford St intersection.

Following discussions with the Region regarding the pinch point into the bike lane, the Region narrowed the vehicle lane markings as shown to the right and improved the identified cycle lane road markings. Although, not a perfect solution but a big improvement to the original construction.



### ***No Parking Zone Extended on Conlin Road.***



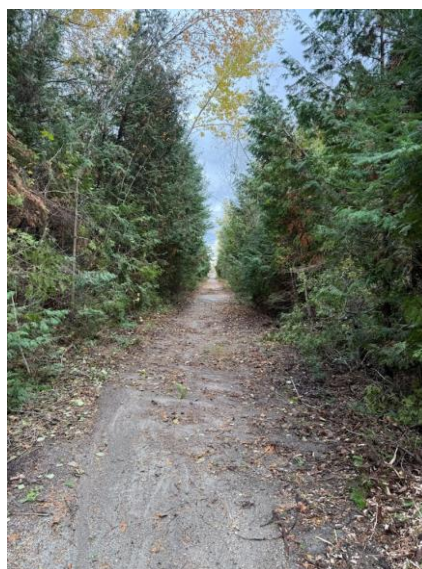
In April last year, we wrote to the Town of Whiby pointing out that commercial trucks were parking in the Conlin Rd. bike lanes beyond the No Parking zones by the Amazon warehouse.

It seems the Town agreed with our concern and introduced No Parking on both sides of Conlin Rd. from Thickson Rd. to the Whitby-Oshawa boundary.

### ***Trans Canada Trail (North Durham Rail Trail) - Lake Ridge Rd to Simcoe St.***



Before Clearing



After Clearing

We are pleased to report that the trail lease, Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance, secured \$25,000 in funding to remove all the ice storm damaged. The pictures above show the amount of effort needed to clear the trail that was completed late fall 2025.

The trail is now open for the benefit of all trail users and our thanks go to the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance (EOTA) for their diligence in getting the trail back in use.

In later developments EOTA has indicated they may withdraw as the trail leasee as they have insufficient funding to maintain the trail. In January we initiated correspondence with representatives from Uxbridge, Trans Canada Trail and EOTA for a possible resolution. Our suggestion is that the Region should adopt the trail as part of their recreational program. Currently, we have no further updates to report.

**Proposed Modular Nuclear Plant, Wesleyville**

Ontario Power Generation is reaching out to the general public and other interested parties for feedback regarding the proposed modular nuclear plant at the old Wesleyville power plant west of Port Hope. We participated in a virtual meeting with OPG representatives pointing out that Lakeshore Road is used by many club cyclists as well as being part of the Waterfront Trail. We expressed the need for an adequate detour route around the site during construction and any restoration of Lakeshore Road should include safe cycling infrastructure.

**Traffic Light Sensor Improvements**



Traffic signal with radar sensor

As the Region moves to more radar-controlled traffic sensors that trigger light changes, we noticed that, at certain intersections, the radar was not picking up waiting cyclists which has always been a frustrating problem with the old buried sensors.

We contacted to the Region and subsequently met with Steve Kemp, the Region’s Manager of Traffic Engineering & Operations at the intersection of Dryden Blvd. and Garrard Rd. to review the cyclist dead zone at this location. Steve indicated it was a simple matter to adjust the radar beam’s sweep to pick up waiting cyclists which was subsequently carried out on the spot.



Dryden Blvd. and Garrard Rd Intersection

Moving forward, the Region will review, at our request, radar-controlled intersections that are on cycle routes and, if necessary, adjust the radar sweep to pick up waiting cyclists.

## **Ajax GO Station Area Redevelopment**

In December last year we were invited to attend a public meeting in Ajax regarding the redevelopment of the lands around the Ajax GO station. The primary goal of the meeting was for Ajax residents to comment on various options for the proposed high-rise buildings and surrounding infrastructure.

We left comments on the proposed trail systems in and around the proposed development and the need for safe connectivity to the GO station and the waterfront as well as comment on the various streetscape designs.



Ron in discussion with an Ajax planner

## **Regional Road 42/Highway 2 Intersection**

Last November The Clarington Cycling Club wrote the following to the Region of Durham requesting the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Regional Road 42 and Highway 2.

*“This intersection is heavily used by local cyclists and cycling clubs, as it provides an excellent stopping point at Algoma Orchards. Many riders use Regional Road 42 and Kurve Inn Road as a north–south connection from the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail to the Greenbelt Route, with Algoma Orchards serving as a bike-friendly rest stop.*

*We would like to request consideration for a traffic light at the intersection of Regional Road 42 and Highway 2. It is often very difficult for eastbound traffic to safely turn onto Highway 2. In addition, it would greatly improve safety for cyclists if the shoulder along this section of Highway 2 could be paved to a width of 1.5 meters on both sides.”*

So far, we have not received any response (we suspect staff changes at the Region may be a factor) but we will be following up with the request.

## **One Metre Awareness Campaign**



Last Year's Bus Stop Poster

We had a meeting with the Region in January regarding a repeat of last year's one meter safety campaign and are pleased to report that the Region will be rolling out a similar program this year which will run from June to September.

Last year's awareness campaign consisted of posters on transit buses and bus stops as well as road side notice boards in the northern communities.

This year the Region is hoping for Durham Regional Police Services participation.

We anticipate additional meetings with the Region as their program develops.

## **Lake Drive, Georgina Township**

Last summer, if you cycled along Lake Drive on the south shore of Lake Simcoe, you would have seen that, for a 7 km section, the westbound vehicle lane had been converted to an MUP. This was a seasonal closure by the Township to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Earlier this year the Township reached out to various cycling clubs and individuals for feedback and suggestions for improvements for this summer's planned lane closure.



A key issue was the conflict of pedestrians and faster road cyclists on the MUP. A solution that was put forward would have eastbound cyclists sharing the vehicle lane with traffic and, if returning westbound, to use a more southerly road rather than returning on Lake Drive.

The MUP would still be open to cyclists in both directions but the hope is that faster, eastbound riders would opt to ride in the traffic lane which would include more Share the Road signage and on-road sharrows to remind motorists that cyclist have a right to be on the road.

We give credit to the Township for having the foresight to reach out to the cycling community for an understanding of the concerns of cyclists and to work together for the safety of all users.

### ***Safe Cycling Forum March 2026***

We recently attended a safe cycling forum hosted by the Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality of Trent Hills. The speakers were an OPP constable and a representative from the Ministry of Transportation.

The focus of the presentation was around what an individual cyclist can, and should, do to ensure a safe ride including the rules of the road, helmet fit and awareness of your surroundings. The constable emphasized that the police were more focused with engagement, to make cyclists aware of the dangers resulting from traffic violations, rather than giving out tickets.

Of note: The OPP officer indicated a cyclist cannot receive demerit points for a traffic violation since he/she is operating a vehicle, not a *motorised* vehicle



### ***Up-coming Road Closures***

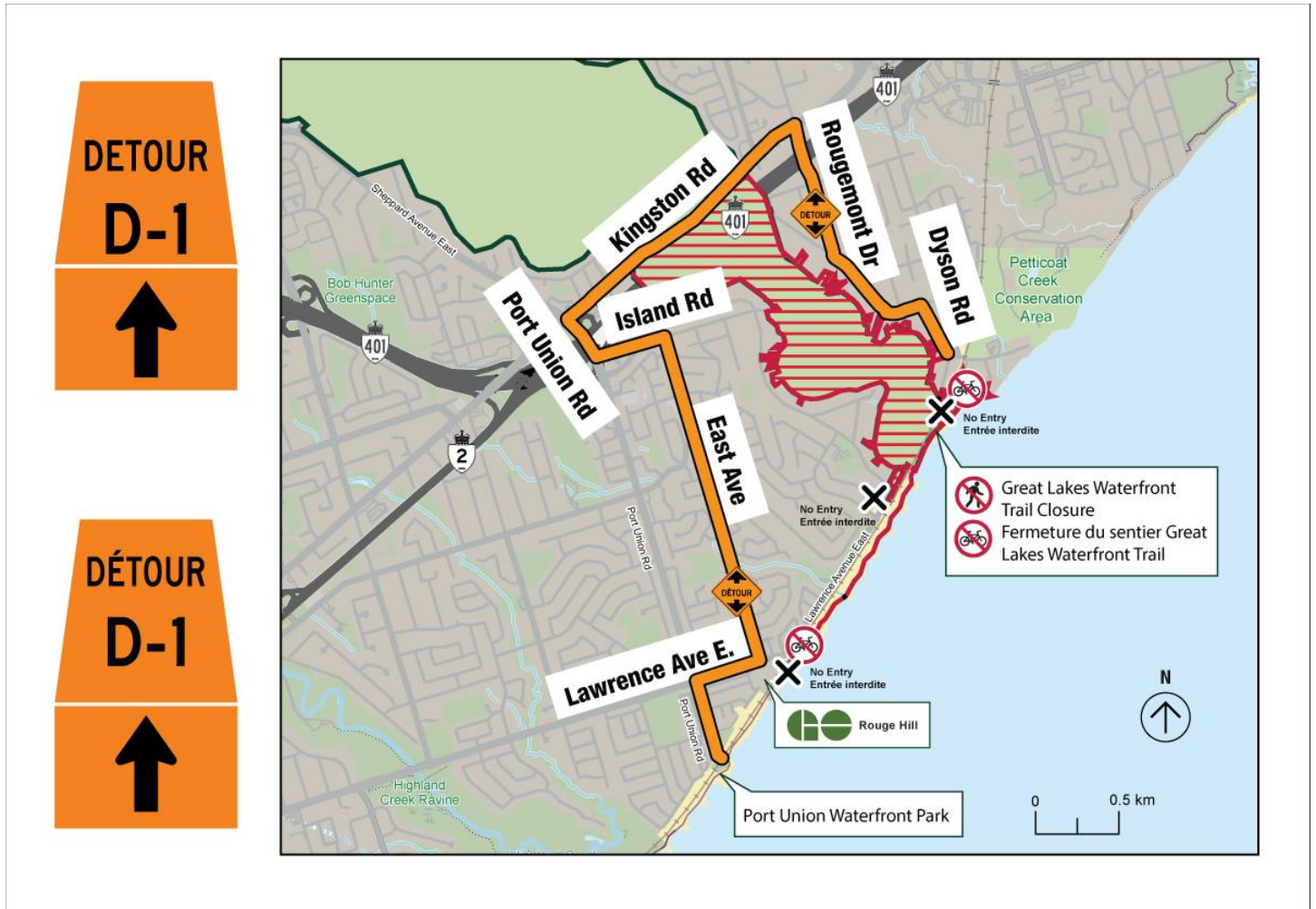
*Conlin Road - Between Stevenson Road and Walreg Drive.* Scheduled for this summer, Conlin Rd. will have lane restrictions for the installation of a new water feeder main by the Region of Durham. We have contacted the Region regarding suitable detour routes for cyclists and are awaiting feedback

*Thornton Road North – Between Conlin Road and South of Winchester Road.* Full closure, commencing this spring, for the total reconstruction of the road that will include bike lanes and a multi-use path on the east side. Avoiding this closure would be to utilise Anderson St. and Watford St. between Columbus Rd. E. and Conlin Rd. W.

## Waterfront Trail Closure - Rouge Beach

In November 2025, Parks Canada announced the temporary closure of the Water Front Trail at Rouge Beach until 2027 to allow for “improved infrastructure that will address climate change, flooding, erosion, species at risk, invasive species and ecological restoration.”

Parks Canada have indicated a detour route that, unfortunately, would involve cycling on Kingston Road and Port Union Road which have high traffic volumes and no safe cycling infrastructure.



Detour Map Provided by Parks Canada



### ***Become a Member***

If you belong to one of our four supporting clubs you are a DRCC *Affiliate Member*.

We also welcome non-cycling club cyclists looking to support our advocacy work.

You can join DRCC as an *Associate Member* for the low annual fee of \$10.00. Simply send an e-mail to: [info@durhamsafecycling.ca](mailto:info@durhamsafecycling.ca) and we will provide you with an application form.

We welcome comments and suggestions or, would you like to volunteer your services? You may contact us via e-mail or social media as noted above.

### **Contact Information:**

Web site <https://durhamsafecycling.ca>

E-Mail [info@durhamsafecycling.ca](mailto:info@durhamsafecycling.ca)

### ***We're Social***

X (Twitter)  @durhamrcc

Facebook  @durhamrcc

Instagram  durhamsafecycling

Bluesky  @durhamrcc