



Homeowner Information and Natural Stewardship Guide



NEWSEATON



Welcome to your new community!

Welcome! We hope that the information contained in this guide will help you to discover and better understand all of the lifestyle options and amenities that your new home and community have to offer to you and your family. From parks and trails, to community services and programs, to connectivity and transit, to shopping and employment, and to an understanding the natural environment surrounding your new home we hope you will find **NewSeaton** a great community and a wonderful place to live and grow.



To the Resident:

Welcome to your new community!

As a resident of **NewSeaton**, your new home is situated within the watershed of the West Duffins Creek, an area that is rich in natural and cultural heritage and located within easy reach of the Lake Ontario shoreline. Your local community includes parklands, designated woodland preservation areas, naturalized storm-water management ponds that protect and conserve the natural functions of the area creek tributaries. All play a part in a home that is set within a community fabric of connected and scenic environmental areas. The **NewSeaton** team of home builders is committed to introducing you to the value and the conservation of these wonderful local natural heritage features.

The Seaton area is a landscape rich in natural heritage. The deep history of this landscape can be seen echoed in the defined valley systems, the Lake Iroquois Shoreline and other landforms that are a legacy of the glacial age. The natural areas in and around your community are precious and valuable. The creeks and valleys that frame New Seaton reflect the native vegetation and hydrology of the natural heritage systems and include numerous significant indigenous tree species and herbaceous plants. These areas also provide long-established habitat for local wildlife helping to preserve and sustain the health of the natural heritage of our region.



The City of Pickering reminds you that the open spaces adjacent to **NewSeaton** are considered to be part of the publicly owned natural heritage system and will be maintained for environmental protection, and public use purposes. Please note that uses such as private picnics, barbeque or garden areas; and/or the dumping of refuse (e.g. grass/garden clippings household compostable goods, garbage etc.) are not permitted on these lands. In addition, access to the valley corridor such as private rear yard gates and/or ladders are prohibited. Please also remember the impacts that excessive noise and lights from your property can have on the local environment.



It is important to retain existing natural heritage to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Through private stewardship, your actions will have an effect on the biological health and condition of the entire community. Private stewardship is one of the most important tools in reducing human impact on the environment. Stewardship does not require a lot of work and is simply your commitment to protect and preserve natural features in and around your community. There are many measures you and your family can take to maintain the balance of the local habitats by adhering to the following guidelines in the valley, wetland and woodland areas; within the local community parks and at home. Your cooperation and participation makes a real difference and is appreciated.

Benefits and valuable functions performed by these natural heritage areas include:

- *Enhanced scenic quality for your property and the community*
- *Noise attenuation*
- *Microclimatic benefits within open spaces*
- *Increased groundwater infiltration, maintenance of existing soil moisture regimes*
- *Filtering and cleansing of surface run-off as it drains into downstream watercourses*
- *Habitat and shelter for birds, fish and other wildlife*



The Duffins Valley and Woodland Areas

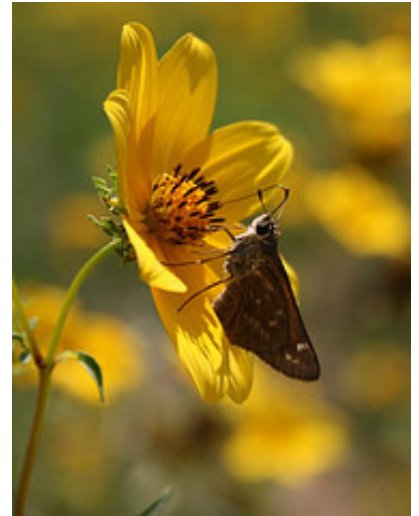


Living in **NewSeaton**, you have convenient access to a wide variety of natural landscapes through trail systems and open space systems.

Interaction with the natural environment is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the valley and woodland areas and enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle with your family and friends.

All wildlife plays an important role in a naturally functioning ecosystem, and a healthy and undisturbed animal population is a desirable asset to the natural heritage of any community. With this opportunity comes the responsibility of respecting and protecting wildlife. When using the natural areas, remembering the following guidelines will ensure that you will minimize your impact on the open spaces and environment around you.

- Do not remove any plants and refrain from planting in forested areas or areas of developing naturalization such as open space corridors or storm-water ponds.
- Do not remove any vegetation from forest edges. Leave the existing forest edge native vegetation as it provides habitat for a variety of wildlife and offers an increased buffer to the interior of woodlands.
- When walking your pets in the valley, local open spaces and woodlands, stay on the designated trail and keep them on a leash so that understorey plants and tree saplings are not damaged.
- Keep to the trail system. Do not ride your bicycle off woodland and valley trails. Do not create secondary routes through open space areas.
- Do not disturb animals in your garden or in the woodlands. Although they may appear friendly, wild animals can be dangerous. It is safer to view them from a safe distance.



NEWSEATON

Towards a Sustainable City

The City of Pickering along with the **NewSeaton** team of Home Builders and Developers are committed to Pickering and Seaton becoming an example of a contemporary, innovative and sustainable community. **NewSeaton** is developed to integrate with the surrounding landscape and environment and includes initiatives in design to reach the objectives of the City for a healthy and a high-quality of life for its residents. These objectives will be achieved through policies and actions for sustainability and environmental responsibility for the overall community and through green building techniques and innovative features for your home. These initiatives can be seen throughout your new home and the surrounding neighbourhood. From the preservation and protection of the local and regional natural environments; to Low Impact Development Techniques (LID), sustainable parks and extensive trail systems well planned and delivered by the City.

The City wishes you to know that Storm-water Management Facilities and the Natural Heritage System are intended to be naturalized / kept in a natural state. As such, the publicly owned natural heritage system may not receive routine maintenance such as grass and weed cutting.

Sustainable Placemaking .

“The transformation of the City of Pickering from a suburban community to a sustainable city.”

It's about transforming the City into a unique place that celebrates its past, capitalizes on its existing attributes and assets, while planning for today and future generations. It does not rely on conventional planning processes - the journey to achieve a truly sustainable city requires new and innovative ways of doing business.

The approach has 10 principles;

1. Draw on the expertise of the community
2. Encourage collaboration at all levels
3. Go beyond design codes; pay attention to function, appearance, and experience
4. Aim for zero impact as the ideal, in carbon and other footprints.
5. Design and plan for people
6. Strive to make Pickering a distinctive community
7. Adapt to change
8. Learn by doing: use pilot projects and experiments to test new ideas
9. Keep moving in the right direction; the journey will never be finished
10. Strive always to achieve the greater public good



Take Action

The City of Pickering has numerous initiatives and programs on going all in order to aid in creating a greener future for the community.

[ecoENERGY for Personal Vehicles](#)

Do you own a personal vehicle? Learn how to save money, use less fuel, and protect the environment on this website.

[Green Audit for Places of Worship](#)

Book an audit with Greening Sacred Spaces. The audit will cover topics such as air quality, energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, daily operations and maintenance. You will receive a comprehensive report on the findings, including recommendations and reference materials.

Become a member of [Smart Commute Durham](#)

Smart Commute Durham helps local employers and commuters explore and promote different commuter choices, such as carpooling, teleworking, transit, cycling, walking or flexible work hours.

[Car Heaven Program](#)

This program by Summerhill Impact provides charitable tax receipts and free towing of retired vehicles to donors, and recycles vehicles in an environmentally sound way.

[Mow Down Pollution Program](#)

This program by Summerhill Impact rewards people for relinquishing old gas lawnmowers by providing rebates on new cleaner ones and recycles old mowers responsibly.

[Simple Actions to Reduce Air Pollution](#)

We've compiled a list of simple actions that you can do to reduce air pollution.

Towards a Sustainable City

Along with your sustainable lifestyle choices combined with the features of your energy efficient home, **NewSeaton** has integrated specific sustainable engineering designs to make this a great community and a wonderful place to live.

These innovative and contemporary water conservation and other designs are not only a part of the overall community public lands through storm-water ponds, Bioswales and water cistern LID galleries, but are also integrated through your builders on many of the housing lots in **NewSeaton**. The maintenance of these facilities is critical to the success of the innovative approach to storm water management for the community. The most visible of these conservation and management features are rainwater barrels installed on many of the housing lots. It is important that you understand that these are a part of an integrated and engineered system tied to the overall community and approved by governing agencies and not simply an added option of your house.



If your home is equipped with a rain-barrel, then these are features that are to be left in place and it is important that you not remove them from your property. Whether or not you are one of the fortunate homeowners to receive one of these “rainwater harvesting” devices for your garden, we encourage you to consider installing rain-barrels or cistern systems to capture and use water. This will reduce reliance on municipal water and along with your other sustainable lifestyle choices will contribute to the environmental health of the community.

trca.ca/yards/#factsheets



Your Community Parks and Green Spaces

Park areas and public open spaces are an integral part of your community and are designed to provide a wide range of recreational activities and to help you interpret the natural heritage surrounding your home. It is your responsibility to protect these open spaces by simply:

- Keeping your pet on a leash and cleaning-up after them
- Disposing your litter and recyclable in the designated waste receptacles and recycling stations



Get outside and explore the great parks and open space that NewSeaton and Pickering has to offer! Home to over 220 hectares of open space and parkland, including over 85 parks, numerous sports fields and trails, and 3 conservation areas, the City of Pickering offers wonderful opportunities for recreation and a healthy lifestyle.



You can visit <https://apps.pickering.ca/knowledgebase/parklist.aspx> for a database of all parks in the city. This website lists and illustrates the amenities and activities that each City open space offers.

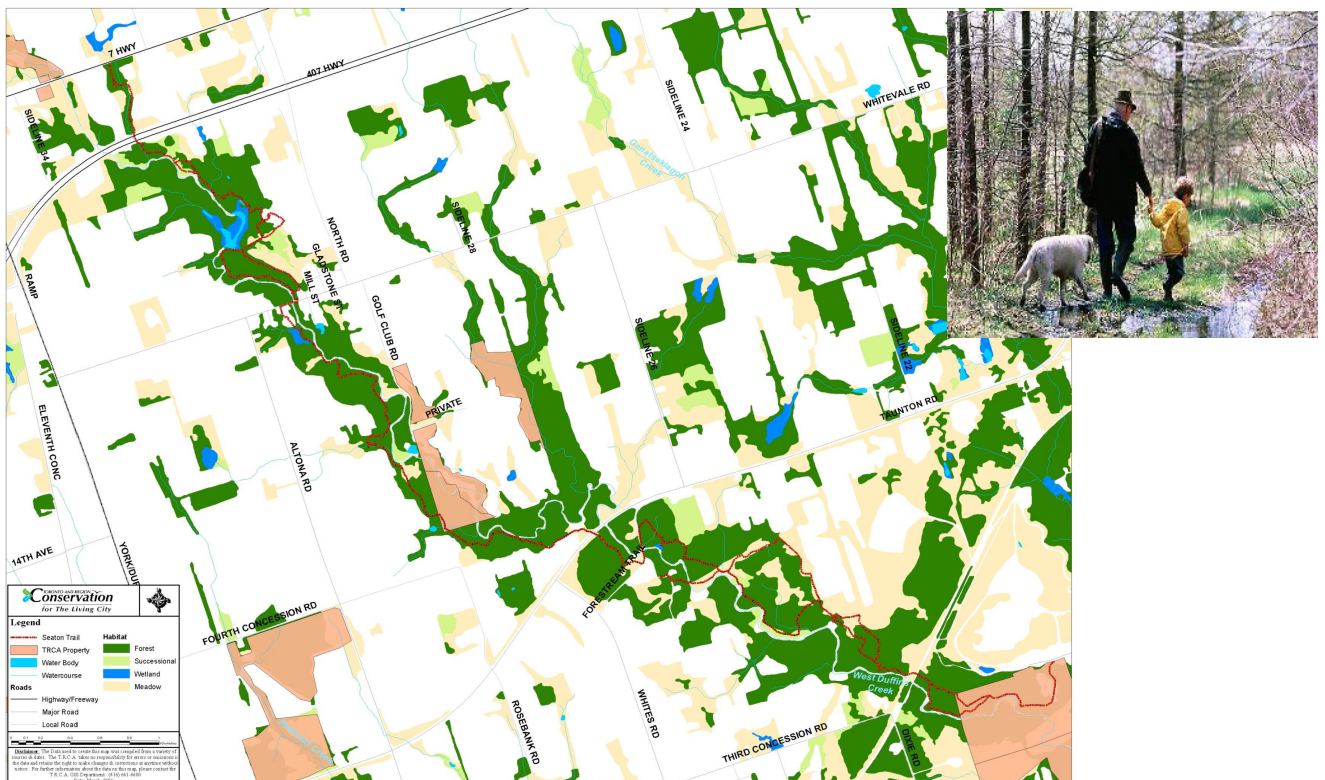
The Seaton Hiking Trail

The Seaton Trail is a linkage for the Trans Canada Trail connecting the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail through the Duffins Creek Valley System.

Located along the West Duffins Creek. The trail runs 12.9 km from 3rd Concession (Rossland Road) near Brock Road, northwest to Highway 7 at Green River in North Pickering. The trail is rooted in historic and cultural heritage as it follows along traditional First Nations hunting and fishing routes. Features such as First Nations “Directional Trees” can still be seen along its route and also in the broader surrounding landscapes, providing way-finding to the valley itself. During the time of early European settlement of Pickering Township, the creek valley became a central location for water-powered granary mills and a former grist mill still exists today within the Whitevale Community. The Seaton Trail is immensely popular for hikers and natural history enthusiasts throughout the year and provides easy access to fishing areas.



There are several access points along the length of the trail. There is also free parking available at some of the Main Access Points including: Grand Valley Park - Third Concession Road west of Valley Farm Road, Foreststream Drive - east off Whites Road, Whitevale Park - on Whitevale Road Highway 7 in Green River.



Seaton Hiking Trail Map

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

New to the Community? Order your new resident waste kits.

Garbage Pickup

A four bag or item limit is currently in effect in the City of Pickering. The bags or containers must be untagged for bi-weekly collection per household. A standard size garbage bag or garbage can counts as one bag. Waste is collected biweekly on your regular collection day, garbage bags or reusable containers, when full, must not exceed 20 kilograms (44 pounds) each. A standard-size garbage bag, or garbage can, counts as one bag. Garbage bags that break when lifted will not be collected.



Blue Box Recycling

The City of Pickering has a two-stream recycling program currently in place (containers and paper fibres) which must be separated with two recycling containers. Materials set-out at the curb for collection will be delivered to the Region's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for processing. All materials must be washed before being placed in the blue box.

Please use an approved size blue box 83 litres (22 gallons) or less. Large oversized containers (some with wheels) are frequently over the weight limit of 20 kilograms (44 pounds) and pose a health and safety risk to collection contractors

Green Bin Compost

Food waste is to be separated from the regular garbage and set out along the curb each week in a large green bin. Review the region of Durham waste webpage to see items accepted in the green bin.

For more information, please visit <http://www.durham.ca/works.asp?nr=/departments/works/waste/wasteinside.htm>

Remember that there are animals, including rodents, who are very interested in your garbage and compost. It is highly recommended that you do not put these items curb-side overnight.



Environmental Milestones

Pesticide Free

The City of Pickering is a pesticide free community. Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers all have harmful impacts on the environment and particularly cause damage to hydrogeological features including wetlands, aquifers and wetlands. Be pesticide free and use a more natural approach to caring for lawns and garden ultimately benefiting the health of you and your family!

Idle Free

The City of Pickering has an [Idling of Vehicles By-law](#) that restricts and limits idling times. Generally, vehicles are not permitted to idle longer than 5 minutes., which is educating the public about negative impacts of motor vehicle idling and promoting good habits motorists should adopt.

Energy Saving

The city is expected to save in electricity costs annually while reducing service and operational costs as a result of the switch to LED (light-emitting diode) fixtures.



A Greener and Healthier Home – Reducing your Carbon Footprint



Natural landscaping reflects many of the principles found in recognized approaches to sustainable design such as LEED. From energy conservation to supporting wildlife in the garden, every home can take advantage of natural landscaping inside and outside the home.

There can be less maintenance to natural landscaping. In the early stages, thoughtful planning and care is required, but once established, the landscape can become virtually self-sustaining. In the long run it can be less expensive than traditional landscapes and less labour-intensive.

- Native species are often harder than foreign and exotic plant species and can significantly reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.
- Strategic placement of trees, shrubs and other plants can reduce household consumption of energy by modifying the micro-climate around your home. Energy savings not only are good for your wallet but reduce the emissions that affect climate change. Large deciduous trees planted on the south and west sides of a house create summer shade reducing or even eliminating air conditioning use.
- In the winter, tall evergreen trees on the north sides of the homes create windbreaks. In neighbouring open spaces these trees reduce the speed of cold winter winds impacting the home thereby resulting in lower heating bills. Planting close to house walls will also help buffer the home against cold winter winds.
- Drought tolerant plant selection in natural landscaping and the use of locally produced natural mulch in the garden reduces the demand on water use.



- Natural landscaping is wildlife friendly and more natural garden habitats create food and water for birds, butterflies and other animals.
- Conventional turf demands high water consumption to sustain. Consider limiting conventional turf within the natural landscaping. Native groundcovers and drought tolerant planting; or consider water conservation and rainwater harvesting with barrels or cisterns for use in the garden. In certain lots in the **New Seaton** community rain-barrels have in fact been implemented as a part of the storm-water engineering of the community and are to remain in place to contribute to the technical and environmental designs intended for the community. If you are fortunate to have received one of these installations as a part of your house purchase, take full advantage of it for your sustainable garden and remember that it is an engineered feature of the home that is required to remain in place.
- When fertilizing the lawn, consider using compost throughout the growing season instead of store purchased fertilizer. The organic material in compost is slow release and nourishes the soil, making your lawn easier to maintain. Leave clippings from the mower where they fall. This is the perfect fertilizer- free, convenient and full of nutrients.



A Greener and Healthier Home – Reducing your Carbon Footprint

Natural landscaping is not the only contribution that you can make to reduce our impact on the natural heritage areas that surround **NewSeaton**. Other easy practices that make a real difference and that you can do are:

- Drain downspouts into rain barrels. The chloride-free water will be valuable for gardening during summer dry spells.
- When watering of garden areas is required, the use of an inexpensive and efficient soaker hose will minimize evaporation and run-off and supply water more directly to plant roots.
- Where lawn is desired, maintenance of turfgrass should be restricted to cutting to not less than 75mm (3") height, weed removal by hand and occasional aeration will encourage moisture infiltration and assist in thatch decomposition.
- Employ proper swimming pool management techniques. Do not empty swimming pool water into the open space areas as this can kill vegetation and contaminates the waters of the watershed.
- Do not dump garden waste or grass clippings into the local natural areas. It can smother plants growing there and may contain invasive seeds that will spread in the forest and valley system. The publicly owned natural heritage system is to be maintained for environmental protection, and public use purposes. Please note that uses such as private picnics, barbeque or garden areas; and/or the dumping of refuse (e.g. grass/garden clippings, household compostable goods, garbage etc.) are not permitted on these lands. In addition, access to the valley corridor such as private rear yard gates and/or ladders are prohibited.
- Direct outdoor lights on your property away from natural areas. Use motion-detecting lights to minimize constant lighting in your
- Take all household hazardous waste to an approved waste recycling facility (Region of Durham -www.durham.ca) Cleansers, chemical residues and prescription drugs that are washed down your drains can eventually make their way into local water systems, endangering wildlife and contaminating our drinking water supplies.
- Consider using environmentally friendly household cleaners. A wide variety of environmentally friendly dish soaps, laundry detergents, and general cleaning products are available from your local grocery store.
- Maintain your vehicles to reduce leaks and drips and clean up any accidental spills.

We hope that this information helps you to better appreciate the natural environment surrounding your new home. Your appreciation and care of the local environment will make **NewSeaton** a great community. With your participation and commitment, we will all better appreciate, enhance, and protect the valuable natural heritage of our community.



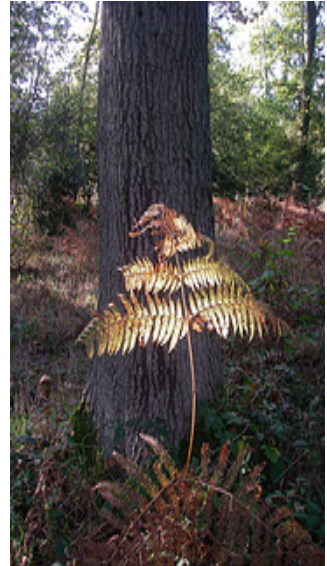
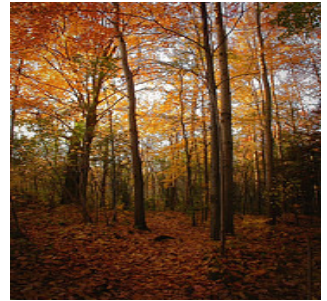
Helpful websites include:

<https://www.pickering.ca/en/index.asp>

<http://www.seatontrail.org/>

<https://trca.ca/>

<https://www.pickering.ca/en/cityhall/resourcesPickeringPlan.pdf>



A Greener and Healthier Home – Some Native Plant Species Suitable for your Yard

Trees

Red Maple
(*Acer rubrum* – not red cultivars of Norway Maple)
Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*)
Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
Douglas Fir (*Psuedotsuga menziesi*)
Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)
Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Shrubs

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
Native foliage and flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.)
Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)
Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
Nannyberry and native Viburnums (*Viburnum* sp.)
Native-flowering Raspberries (*Rubus* sp.)
Native Bush-Roses (*Rosa* sp.)
Common Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*, not *opulus*)
St. John's Wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*)

Wildflowers & Groundcovers

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Large Leaved Aster (*Aster macrophyllus*)
New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
Bunchberry (*Cornus Canadensis*)
White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*)
Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Wild geranium (*Geranium Maculatum*)
Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)
St. John's Wort (*Hypericum calycinum*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)
Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Creeping Phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*)
Silverweed (*Potentilla anserine*)
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

The North American Native Plant Society list of growers is a great resource:

www.nanps.org/index.php/plant-sources/other-sources



A Greener and Healthier Home – Invasive Plant Species to avoid

There are numerous plants found at nurseries and garden centres that pose danger to the natural heritage area in your community. These invasive species are aggressive and result in monoculture and contribute to the degradation of local natural habitats. These species should be avoided in home landscaping.

A list of some common invasive species is as follows:

Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagaria*)
Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)
Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)
Garlic Mustard (*Allaria officinalis*)
Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)
Barberries (*Berberis vulgaris*)
Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)

Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
European White Birch (*Betula pendula*)
Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)*

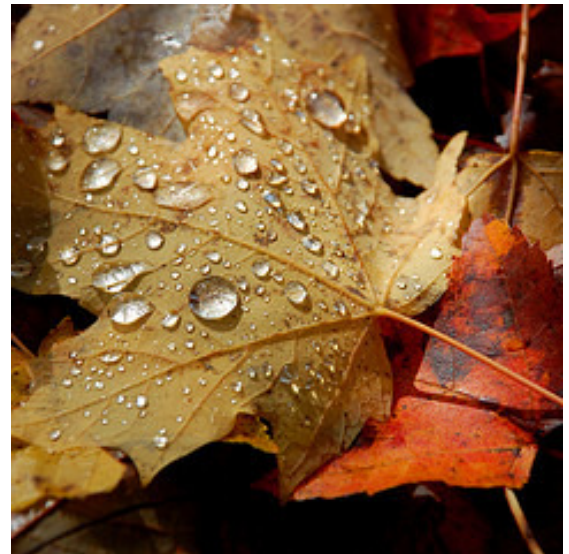
*All cultivars of Norway maple including the popular red/purple leaved varieties. They are easily confused with the native *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple). Norway maples are invasive and displace native species in local forest environments.

**Red or Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) - sadly, our native Ash trees are not recommended for planting in home landscapes. The infection of Emerald Ash Borer throughout Southern Ontario has placed all Ash at risk. Many native stands in our local forests have been decimated and are likely to disappear as a result of this infestation of an invasive pest species. This brings home to us the potential environmental consequences of introduced and invasive species.

A guide for alternative native species to these plants is available:
<http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead>



Purple Loosestrife



Norway Maple



Moneywort

The New Seaton Community Contacts:

The City of Pickering:

- **General Enquiries:** <https://www.pickering.ca/en/city-hall/Directory.aspx>
- **Services and Lifestyle:** <https://www.pickering.ca/en/living.aspx>
- **Recreation Programs:** <https://www.pickering.ca/en/living/LeisureGuide.aspx>
- **Community Events:** <http://calendar.pickering.ca/>
- **Sustainability:** <https://www.pickering.ca/en/sustainability.aspx>
- **Telephone enquiries:** Customer Care Centre - 905.683.7575
Toll Free - 1.877.420.4666

The Regional Municipality of Durham

- **General Enquiries:** <mailto:info@durham.ca>
- **Childcare:** http://www.durham.ca/social.asp?nr=/departments/social/childcare/childcare_inside.htm&setFooter=/includes/socialFooter.inc
- **Emergency Medical Care:** <http://www.durham.ca/health.asp?nr=/departments/health/durhamems/emsinside.htm>
- **Waste and Greenbin:** <http://www.durham.ca/works.asp?nr=/departments/works/waste/wasteinside.htm>
- **Police Services:** http://www.drps.ca/internet_explorer/index.asp

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

- **Durham Community Engagement Coordinator:** 647-401-7377
<https://trca.ca/get-involved/durham/>

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