Town of Whitby Backgrounder

For Immediate Release

Backgrounder – 2023 Budget Key Capital and Operating Investments

The 2023 Budget includes a $165 million operating budget that will support the continued delivery of the Town's programs and services including fire services, waste collection, parks and trails, maintenance of roads and community facilities, recreation, libraries, and many other important services.

The approved budget also includes a $185 million capital budget to support new infrastructure required due to growth and to keep existing infrastructure in a state of good repair. The approved capital budget includes priorities residents shared were important to them through the Town's budget engagement process earlier this year, like:

- Support for the continued revitalization of Whitby's downtowns, including:
  - improvements at Grass Park (enhanced seating options, pedestrian pathways, and gazebo),
  - parking lot reconstruction at Green Street and Colborne Street East, along with installation of an electric vehicle (EV) charging station,
  - Community Improvement Plan grants for local businesses,
  - on-road cycling improvements on Mary Street (at High Street and Garden Street), and
  - the continuation of the Sidewalk Patio program.
- Investment in Whitby's green spaces and the waterfront, including:
  - playground and accessibility improvements at seven (7) locations including Rotary, Glenayr, and Powell Parks,
  - cricket mat improvements at Brooklin Memorial Park,
  - pickleball improvements at Cullen Central Park,
  - enhanced lighting for baseball at Kelloryn Park and tennis at D'Hillier Park,
  - rehabilitation of the John Hulley Trail, including the addition of seating and rest areas, and
  - replacement of the Waterfront Trail bridge spanning Corbett Creek to improve accessibility.
- Funding to enhance the quality of Whitby's indoor and outdoor facilities, including:
  - the finalized design of the future Whitby Sports Complex for public tender in 2023,
  - reconstruction of the Myrtle Station basketball court,
  - replacement of Pier #2 at the Port Whitby Marina,
  - a permanent free menstrual product program at various Town facilities, including the Whitby Civic Recreation Centre and Iroquois Park Sports Complex, and
  - environmental sustainability upgrades at various Town facilities to continue progress on the Town's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The approved 2023 Budget also invests nearly $40 million in roads to improve connectivity and safety, including:

- 11 kilometres of road resurfacing, including on Burns Street West (from Annes to Brock Street), Bonacord Avenue (from MacKey Drive to McQuay Boulevard), and Hialeah Crescent,
- new traffic calming initiatives with an increase in annual investment planned for next year, following completion of a Traffic Calming Action Plan in 2023,
- streetlight projects on Lake Ridge Road (from Victoria to Dundas Street), at the intersection of Thickson and Rossland Road, and at the intersection of Rossland Road and Garden Street,
- annual funding for pedestrian crossovers, including at the intersection of Dryden Boulevard and Steele Valley Court/Bakerville Street,
- new and improved multi-use path and cycling connections, and
- investment to start the next phase of the Mid-Arterial Roadway (Garden Street to Thickson Road).