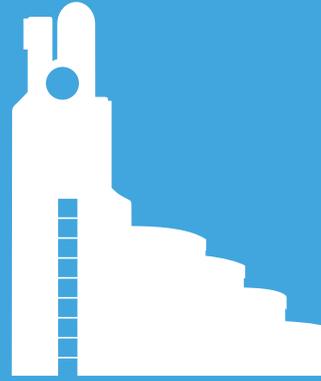


SUMMER 2022

YORK REGION MATTERS



York Region

Connect with us at:
yrmatters@york.ca
1-877-464-9675
york.ca



AURORA | EAST GWILLIMBURY | GEORGINA | KING | MARKHAM | NEWMARKET | RICHMOND HILL | VAUGHAN | STOUFFVILLE



Get out
and play **P2**



YORK REGION CHAIRMAN AND CEO AND MEMBERS OF REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wayne Emmerson, Chairman & CEO

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aurora.ca

Tom Mrakas
Mayor

EAST GWILLIMBURY

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Virginia Hackson
Mayor

GEORGINA

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Margaret Quirk
Mayor

Robert Grossi
Regional Councillor

KING

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Steve Pellegrini
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MARKHAM

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Frank Scarpitti
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Jack Heath
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Jim Jones
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Linda Jackson
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Iain Lovatt
Mayor

Stay connected! Subscribe to #YRMatters

York Region's e-newsletter helps us connect with our residents. Subscribe at york.ca/enews

MESSAGE FROM YORK REGION CHAIRMAN AND CEO

For the first time in two years we are celebrating the warm weather with large groups of family and friends. Weddings and celebrations are resuming. Thanks to your efforts, York Region's high vaccination rate is keeping COVID-19 hospitalizations low.

The Province of Ontario ended the requirement to wear a face mask in most indoor public settings, with the exception of long-term care and retirement homes. Your comfort level, however, is important. Be sure to assess

your own risk and wear a mask if you feel it is right for you.

While COVID-19 was the predominant issue for this term of Council, a number of other critical initiatives continued to advance. These include the Yonge North Subway Extension, a Municipal Comprehensive Review and updated Regional Official Plan, construction of the York University Markham Centre Campus and expansion of the YorkNet fibre optic network.



Wayne Emmerson
York Region Chairman and CEO

On behalf of the York Regional Council, please enjoy the summer and thank you for your continued support over the past four years.

ON THE COVER



Now is the time to enjoy everything York Region has to offer!

We pride ourselves on being communities to live, work and play, and summer is a popular season to get out and play.

During the beautiful summer months, spend some time on one of York Region's golf courses or tennis courts. Practice your diving in a local swimming pool and then plan dinner around a trip to a weekly (or daily) farmers' market.

York Region has an extensive network of trails and forests to explore – on foot and on wheels. Take the time to get out, enjoy the weather and become a York Region ambassador to visiting friends and family.

Looking for ideas for something to do? Visit experienceyorkregion.com for everything you need to make the most of the warm weather months.



Tell us what you think

We always look for ways to enhance our publication and include information you are interested in.

For a chance to win a \$50 gift card, tell us what you think about this edition and what you would like to see in the future at york.ca/yorkregionmatters



Walk and roll to a greener future

More people are choosing active transportation options like walking and cycling for recreation, fitness and to reduce stress. York Region continues to expand and improve roadways to support these types of travel, including updating sidewalks, cycling paths and bike lanes. People are also walking or riding their bike to transit stops and terminals, leaving their car at home and helping to reduce pollution.

York Region Transit (YRT) is actively pursuing options to accelerate fleet electrification and is starting to transition to electric buses with the goal of having a fully electric fleet producing zero greenhouse gases by 2051. To date, there are 12 electric buses operating across the Region, which run much quieter than diesel buses, reducing noise for riders and the community.

YRT provides local and bus rapid transit service in all nine cities and towns throughout the Region, providing millions of trips and more than 130 routes supporting passengers commuting to and from school, work or to key destinations and attractions.

Two new terminals are scheduled to open this year, providing customers with greater comfort, convenience and accessibility.

The Cornell Bus Terminal, minutes away from Markham Stouffville Hospital and Cornell Community Centre and Library, will connect and serve those who live and work in the Markham area and beyond. The Major Mackenzie Drive West Terminal and elevator pavilion in the City of Vaughan will support travellers to and from Canada's Wonderland and the new Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital.

For more information on walking and cycling trails, visit york.ca/trails. For transit information, visit yrt.ca



Safe summer living

Summer is a great time to get outside and enjoy the beautiful parks, beaches and attractions in York Region. Here are some tips to help you stay safe and healthy as you enjoy your summer plans.

Stay safe in the sun

Many of us love summer warmth, but too much sun and heat can be harmful. Please remember to:

- Cover up with lightweight, light-coloured clothing and wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Apply sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and wear sunglasses with UV protection
- Drink plenty of cool liquids before you feel thirsty
- Stay cool by seeking shade and planning activities during cooler times of the day
- Store sanitizer and disinfectant wipes safely and keep them away from direct sun

Be food safe

Food poisoning cases tend to increase during the summer. Follow these tips to help prevent illness:

- Clean your hands, equipment and surfaces thoroughly before and after preparing food
- Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from cooked, ready-to-eat food
- Cook food to a safe internal temperature using a probe food thermometer
- Chill leftovers within two hours after you prepare them

Fight the bites

Rabies is a virus spread through a bite, lick or scratch from an infected animal, and can be fatal if untreated.

- Contact your doctor immediately if bitten by an animal
- Keep up to date with rabies vaccinations for your pet
- Teach children to stay away from unfamiliar animals
- Avoid feeding, handling or coming into contact with wild or unfamiliar animals

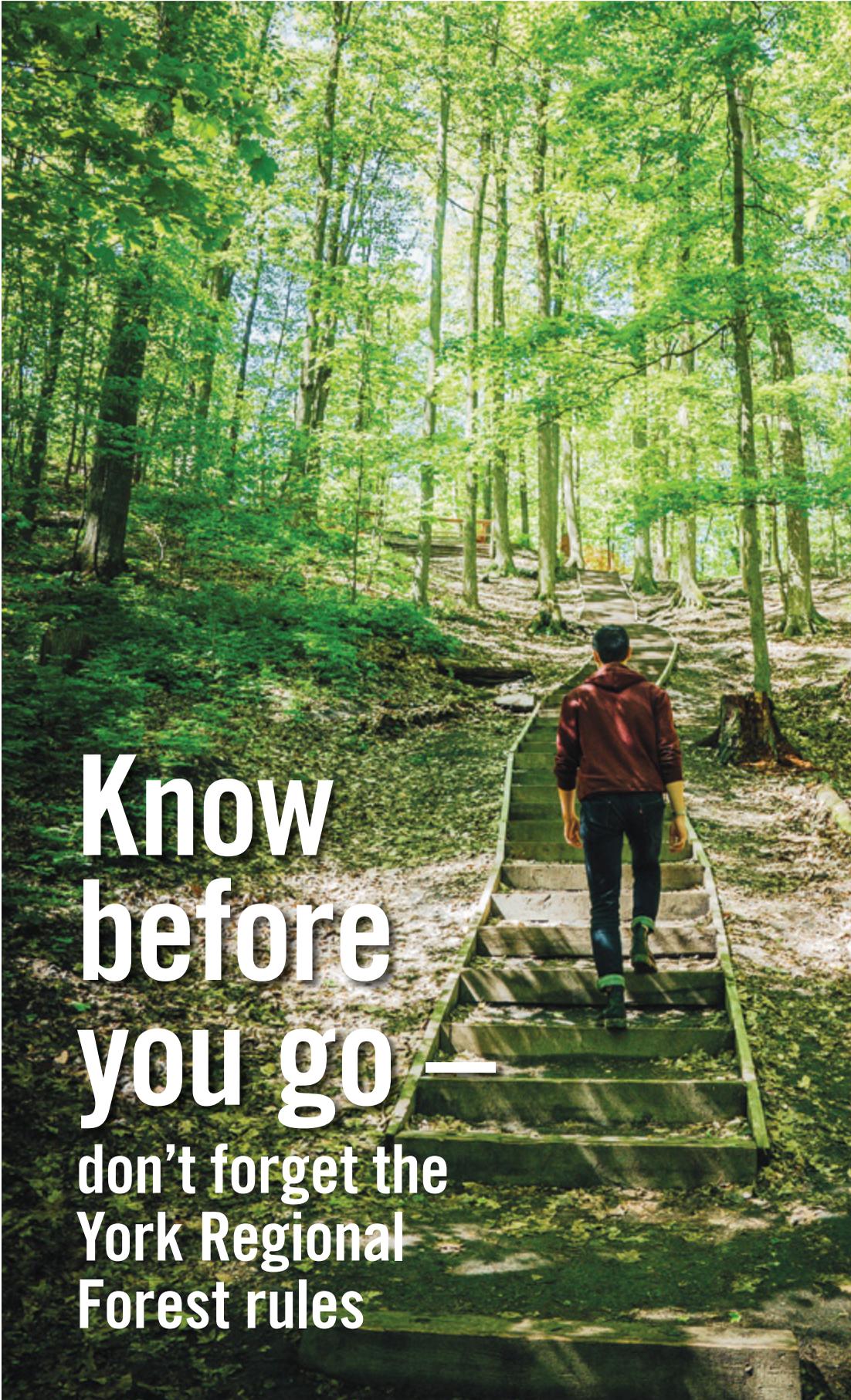
Lyme disease is spread to humans through the bite of an infected black-legged tick. Learn how to protect yourself against tick bites in the spring edition of York Region Matters, available online at york.ca/yorkregionmatters

Check before you splash

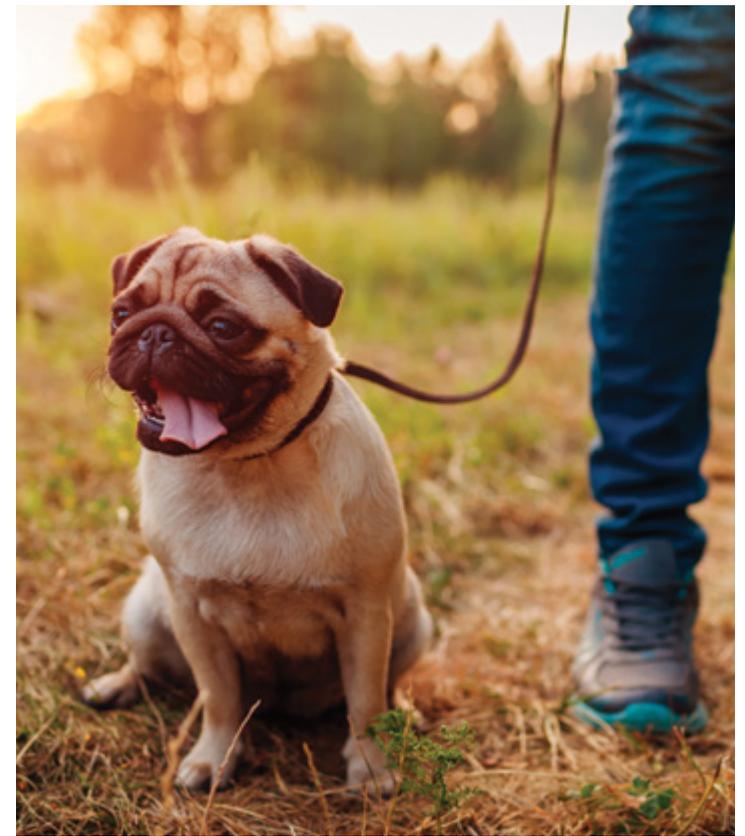
York Region Public Health samples water at public beaches and inspects public pools, hot tubs, splash pads and more to ensure they are safe. Remember:

- Before swimming at a beach, check if the water is safe; visit york.ca/beaches and check the sign posted at the beach
- Before using a public pool, hot tub or splash pad, check its inspection report at york.ca/yorksafes

For more information about summer safety, visit york.ca/health



**Know
before
you go —
don't forget the
York Regional
Forest rules**



The following rules are in place for all visitors to the York Regional Forest:

- Stay on established trails
- Do not cut or remove trees, plants, fungi or wildlife
- Do not smoke
- Do not litter
- Please be kind and act responsibly
- No motorized vehicles

- Dogs must be leashed at all times, except in designated areas

- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste

For on-leash tract rules, off-leash tract rules and enclosed dog off-leash area rules, visit york.ca/dogsintheforest

Visit york.ca/yrf for more information about the York Regional Forest.

Enjoy the view

Over the past two decades, York Region's Greening Strategy has supported planting more than 1.7 million trees and secured 1,500 hectares of land for conservation. Each year, the Region's trees and shrubs "breathe in" approximately 3,300 tonnes of air pollutants.

For more information on York Region's Greening Strategy please visit york.ca/greening



Enhancing York Region's roads to keep travellers moving



Your guide to this summer's local food is here!

Summer just got a lot fresher (and tastier). The 2022 York Farm Fresh Guide Map is now available. The map serves as a guide to finding locally grown and produced farm fresh products across York Region. It lists over 50 farms, farmers' markets and driving routes to help you easily source a wide variety of locally produced food.

Not only is local food fresher and better for the environment, but when you eat local, you help support the many farms

that call York Region home. Visit yorkfarmfresh.com or download the new mobile app to take the 2022 York Farm Fresh Guide Map with you on the go.



To improve the overall road network for travellers, York Region undertakes most construction between April and November.

In 2022, construction will be underway at more than 90 locations across the Region to enhance roads and transit, including road widening, intersection improvements, bridge/culvert rehabilitation and replacement and resurfacing of 243 lane-kilometres of roadway.

Drivers, please plan for changes and slow down when entering a construction zones. Speed limits are lower in some construction zones to protect road workers and travellers.

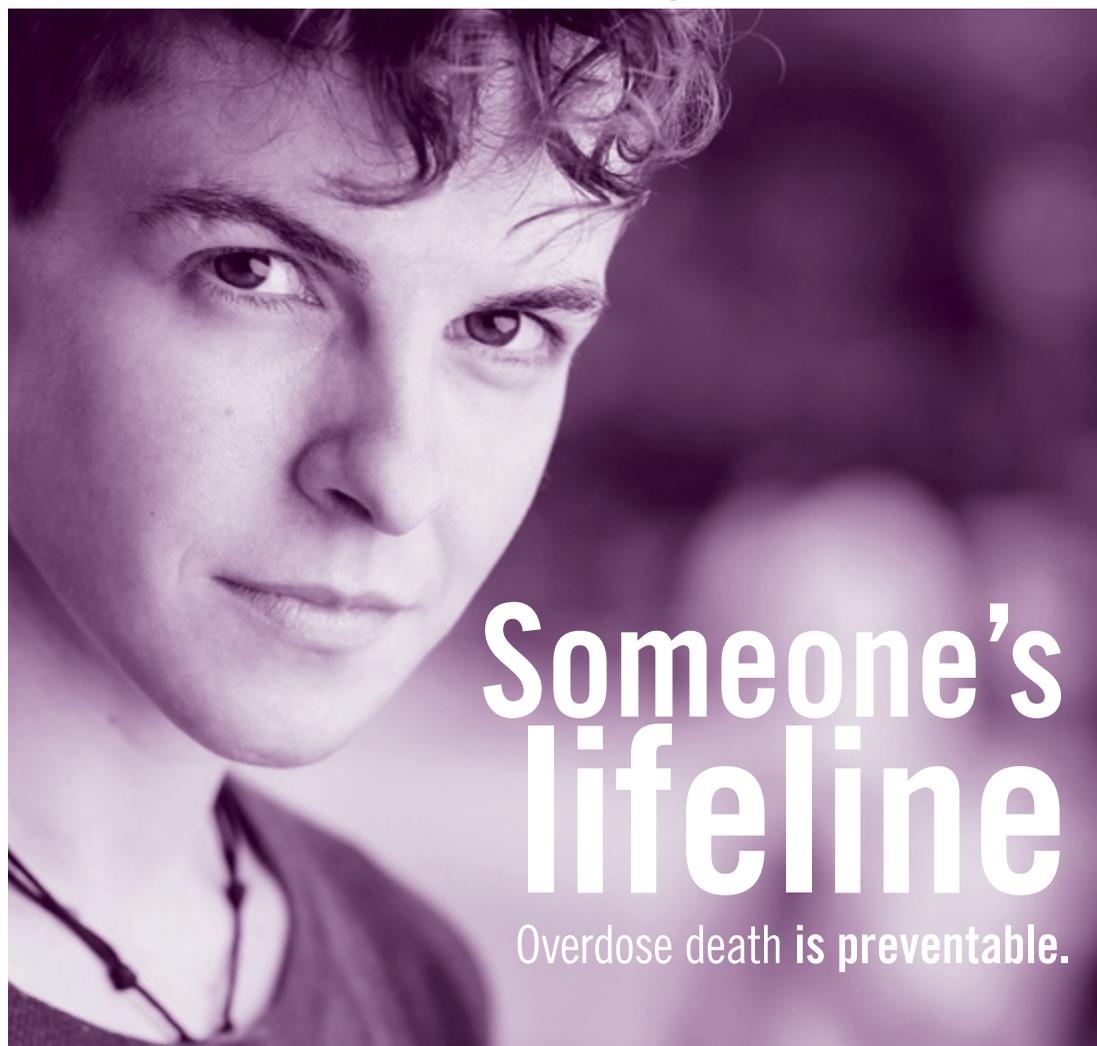
For the safety of all travellers and construction workers, please:

- Slow down
- Give construction workers, emergency vehicles and vehicles stopped on the side of the road plenty of space
- Watch for pedestrians and cyclists

Visit york.ca/roadconstruction for information on construction underway or planned on the roads you travel.



Get a naloxone kit, save a life



Someone's lifeline

Overdose death is preventable.

In the past few years, opioid-related deaths have slowly continued to rise.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that counteracts the effects of opioid overdose from opioids such as fentanyl, heroin, and morphine.

Nasal or injectable naloxone kits are available **at no cost** for people who are:

- At risk of an opioid overdose
- A family member, friend or other person able to help someone at risk of overdose

We can work together to reduce harms and save lives by carrying naloxone and learning how to end stigma associated with opioid use.

Visit york.ca/opioids for more information, including how York Region and partners are taking action.

To get naloxone and learn more about harm reduction supplies, call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76683 or email substance@york.ca



Essential caregiver training helps to protect our loved ones

If you visit a loved one at a long-term, retirement or residential care home, one of the most important things you can do is learn how to stop the spread of infections during your visit.

York Region offers free, online training for essential caregivers, family members and visitors.

Visit york.ca/caregivertraining to learn more.



York Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee looking for volunteers

Do you have ideas on how to improve programs, services and facilities for people with disabilities? If you are interested in accessibility, are a York Region resident with a disability or work with residents with disabilities in York Region, the 2023

to 2026 York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee is recruiting this fall. Contact aoda@york.ca to learn more and to be notified when applications become available.



Curbside Giveaway Days ... treasures for the taking!

York Region residents are invited to place unwanted items, labelled FREE, at the curb for community members to browse and take for their own use, free of charge.

This is a great opportunity to declutter and find a new home for unwanted items, while also picking up something you may want or need for free.

Curbside Giveaway Days are held until the fall, so there's plenty of time to sort through household and garage items that need a second life. Visit york.ca/curbsidegiveaway for a list of dates in your community.

Items should be set out by 7 a.m. and anything remaining must be brought back inside by 5 p.m. that evening.

Visit york.ca/bindicator for locations where you can donate, recycle or dispose of items that were not



Your lawn and garden may not need as much water as you think

Follow these tips to keep your lawn and garden healthy while saving water and money at the same time:

1. Add a layer of mulch to your garden to help moisture stay in the ground
2. Choose a water-efficient sprinkler that shoots low to the ground; oscillating sprinklers lose more water to evaporation and wind
3. Install a rain barrel as a source of water for your flowers and vegetables – plants love rainwater!
4. Water your grass early morning when the sun is lowest to ensure water gets to the roots instead of evaporating
5. Water your lawn once a week (if there hasn't been a significant amount of rainfall) to encourage deep, strong root growth and ensure your lawn can better cope with hot, dry summer weather
6. Invest in a water gauge or sensor so you only water when necessary

For more outdoor water saving tips, visit york.ca/savewater

