



Joseph Dales recognized for commitment to York Region

York Regional Council stood for a minute of silence in memory of Joseph Dales, a long-serving municipal politician who passed away earlier this month at the age of 87. Mr. Dales served as councillor and reeve of Newmarket, warden of York County and mayor of North Gwillimbury (now Keswick) and Georgina.

Mr. Dales was lauded by York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch and Town of Georgina Councillor Danny Wheeler for his ongoing commitment to York Region (then the County of York) and the communities he served. He was remembered as a strong advocate of county-wide policing, fire, planning and servicing.

Mr. Dales, a noted environmentalist who was affectionately known as “Coho Joe” for his proposal to stock Lake Simcoe with Coho salmon, was presented with the George R. Richardson Conservation Award of Honour from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority in 2001 for his commitment to the environment.

A lawyer by trade, Mr. Dales was known for his pro bono work, particularly for the Chippewas of Georgina Island. For that, he was named Queen’s Counsel in 1965.

In addition to his political postings, Mr. Dales also served as president of the Newmarket Optimist Club.

York Region celebrates National Public Works Week, May 17-26

May 21st to 27th is National Public Works Week in York Region. The celebration was instituted as a public education campaign in 1960 by the American Public Works Association and is an important way to raise awareness of the excellent work performed by Transportation and Works staff throughout York Region.

York Region is celebrating this important week with student tours of Transportation and Works facilities, a sculpture contest among several York Region schools and free public open houses.

The open houses will take place on Saturday, May 27th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with each site collecting non-perishable foods in a snow plow as part of the Take a Scoop out of Hunger donation for a local food bank. Each site will feature a number of transportation and works vehicles, tours, activities, light refreshments and giveaways.

When: Saturday, May 27th – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Open House #1: YRT/Viva Rapid Transit depot
18106 Yonge Street, Newmarket (south of Green Lane)

Open House #2: York Region Waste Management Centre*
100 Garfield Wright Boulevard, East Gwillimbury (Woodbine Avenue and Davis Drive area)

Open House #3: York Region Operations Centre
90 Bales Drive East, East Gwillimbury (Woodbine Avenue and Davis Drive area)

To learn more about Public Works week and all of the events taking place, please visit www.york.ca

York Regional Council Highlights

Fairwood Public School acknowledged by York Regional Council for winning sculpture contest

York Regional Council presented an award to the Grade 4 class of Fairwood Public School from Keswick for winning the 2006 Recycling Sculpture Contest as part of National Public Works Week in York Region.

Fairwood Public School was one of several entrants into the contest, which asked participants to enter a sculpture made completely out of recycled material.

The class was given transportation to York Regional Council on a YRT bus and presented with a framed certificate by York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. The class also posed for photos with York Regional Council and was provided a pizza party at the York Regional Administrative Centre.

National Public Works Week runs from May 21st to May 27th.

Viva named most innovative transit system in North America

Viva Rapid Transit has been named the most innovative transit organization in North America by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) for its pioneering public-private partnership and its agility in getting from vision to reality quickly.

This is the first time a Canadian transit system has won the APTA Innovation Award since 1984.

The APTA nominating committee praised Viva as the first Bus Rapid Transit system of its kind, adding Viva's unique partnership between the public and private sectors and its rapid implementation of the project's first phase make it a new model for carrying out major transit projects.

Viva will be formally presented with the APTA innovation Award at the organization's annual conference in October.

York Region recognizes ESL Week 2006

York Regional Council will recognize English as a Second Language (ESL) Week 2006, which celebrates the contributions of ESL professionals to immigrants and the ESL community.

ESL Week 2006 will run from November 12th to November 18th.

York Region recognizes Pride Week 2006

York Regional Council will recognize York Region Pride Week 2006 – the sixth annual celebration of Pride Week in York Region – that recognizes the contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

York Region Pride Week will run from June 12th to June 18th.

York Regional Council Highlights

York Region reports significant Greening Strategy achievements for 2005

York Regional Council recognized the significant 2005 accomplishments of the York Region Greening Strategy.

Since 2001 when it was first adopted, the York Region Greening Strategy has demonstrated the Region's leadership and commitment to the natural environment through projects aimed at environmental protection, rehabilitation and enhancement. In 2005, the Greening Strategy was involved in more than 50 projects and initiatives. Strategy accomplishments for 2005 included:

- 16 hectares (40 acres) of land within the York Regional Forest being reforested using a combination of professional planting, undertaken through the Federal Forest 20/20 Program and a community tree planting event involving the entire student body of the Ballantrae Public School
- 25 hectares (60 acres) of new wetlands being established within the Region over the next five years through a partnership with Ontario Streams
- Three forest festivals and nine special forest events in the York Regional Forest with over 700 attendees
- Adoption of a new Forest Conservation By-law in order to provide more tools to protect against unnecessary removal or degradation of our forest resources

As a key component of the Greening Strategy, York Region has committed to an annual \$1.4 million contribution to the Greening Securement Reserve to identify and secure properties across the Region for rehabilitation.

York Region waste drop-off centre pilot projects successful

York Regional Council received a report today citing successful result of two public yard waste drop-off pilot projects established in response to the closure of Halton Recycling's Newmarket drop-off facility last year.

In the fall of 2005, Regional staff worked jointly with King Township and Miller Waste Systems staff to establish alternative yard waste drop-off sites at King Township's Miller Sideroad Landfill and York Region's Waste Management Centre, located at 100 Garfield Wright Boulevard in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

The Miller Sideroad landfill site opened on October 8, 2005, accepting yard waste from residents and organic waste from the farmers located in the Holland Marsh free-of-charge. This site helped increase King Township's yard waste tonnage by over 125 tonnes to 422 tonnes in 2005.

The York Region Waste Management Centre opened on October 29, 2005, receiving public drop-off of residential yard waste free-of-charge. The centre received over 135 tonnes of yard waste in 2005.

Due to the success of these sites, both the Miller Sideroad Landfill and York Region Waste Management Centre will remain open in 2006 along with newly contracted Miller Waste Systems Bloomington Road facility and the Region's Georgina Transfer Station. All of the facilities will provide drop-off service to residents free-of-charge.

For information on drop-off times for each facility, please visit www.york.ca and follow the links under Solid Waste Management.

York Regional Council Highlights

York Region continues to work with the Government of Ontario on Highway 404 extension project

York Regional Council adopted several recommendations regarding the Highway 404 extension from Green Lane East in the Town of East Gwillimbury to an interim termination point at Woodbine Avenue/Ravenshoe Road in the Town of Georgina.

Regional Staff provided an update on ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the issues that have arisen.

The MTO have requested assistance from York Region to help expedite the early construction of the Highway 404 project. York Region staff have suggested they may assist with discussions between MTO officials and specific property owners in an effort to accelerate necessary land acquisitions.

Other project issues include:

- Configuration of the interim terminus point at Ravenshoe Road and Woodbine Avenue and its impacts on traffic flow and operations
- Allowance for a four-lane opening under the bridge being constructed over Mount Albert Road (in place of a two-lane bridge incorporated in current plans) to allow for growth and additional costs of bridge expansion in the near future
- Construction of a full interchange at Doane Road

The construction of the interim Highway 404 extension will provide substantial community and economic benefits to the Towns of East Gwillimbury and Georgina. Discussions continue and York Region's recommendation on the above noted issues will be forwarded to the MTO for consideration.

Consultants recommend thermal treatment and energy from waste to manage residual waste

York Regional Council received a report outlining a recommendation from consultants working on the Durham York Residual Waste Study that recommended using thermal treatment with energy recovery to manage waste that cannot be recycled or composted.

The preferred alternative follows months of technical study and public consultation in both York Region and Durham Region.

The thermal treatment of municipal residual waste will incorporate controlled combustion in a state-of-the-art facility that will also recover energy from the process. The thermal process studied was shown to have the least environmental impacts on land, water and sensitive habitats, with gas emissions that are less than the stringent air quality standards established by the MOE.

This process also yielded the greatest energy recovery of all options studied.

With the conclusion from the consulting team of a preferred alternative for managing residual waste, both York Region and Durham Region hosted a number of public information centres in May to further discuss options with residents. Following these sessions, residents had an opportunity to make a deputation at York Region's Solid Waste Management Committee and Joint Waste Management Group Meeting.

A final version of the Consultant's conclusion, incorporating input from the public and agencies, will be received by York Region and Durham Region in June.

York Regional Council Highlights

York Region partners with local municipalities to create Waste Diversion Strategy

York Regional Council today approved, in principle, the Inter-Municipal Waste Diversion Strategy. The approval is subject to the outcome of public consultations planned for this summer.

The new strategy updates York Region's original Waste Management Strategy, approved by York Regional Council in 1998. An Inter-Municipal Waste Diversion Committee has been created with representation from all local councils and York Regional Council.

During the first quarter of 2006, individual discussions with staff from all municipalities and York Region were held. Discussions identified options to improve the waste diversion from landfill rates of the local municipalities, as well as improvements needed to existing waste diversion programs, barriers and timing associated with implementation of new programs and target diversion rates.

A variety of waste diversion options were discussed, identifying their potential to divert waste from landfills (listed as percentage of overall waste collected), including:

- Source separated organics or Green Bin diversion (30 per cent)
- Optimized Blue Box diversion (8 per cent)
- Improved yard waste diversion (5 per cent)
- Use of community environmental centres (5 per cent)
- Use of mandatory recycling by-laws (5 per cent)
- Use of bag limits and financial incentives (5 per cent)
- Increased promotion and education (3 per cent)
- Construction and demolition diversion (2.5 per cent)
- Textiles diversion (2 per cent)

The proposed strategy recommends a 65-per cent diversion be established as an initial target, with provisions to increase the target once the initial goal is met.

Beginning in June, staff from the Region and the nine local municipalities will hold public consultations to incorporate input into the draft strategy. Regional staff will bring the amended strategy to Committee and York Regional Council in the fall of 2006 for final approval.

Revised policy governing the management York Region's surplus funds and investments

York Regional Council approved a revised investment policy to promote best practices in the administration of the Region's surplus funds and investments, which totaled approximately \$953 million as of December 31, 2005.

This policy specifies the goals, responsibilities, methods and parameters of the investment program. Furthermore, it ensures the effective and prudent use of the Region's investable assets while enabling staff to maximize investment returns.

The revised policy was undertaken to comply with recent Provincial regulatory changes relating to investment diversity and credit exposures which provides new opportunities to responsibly enhance portfolio yields.

York Regional Council Highlights

2006 Development Charge By-law Review

York Regional Council approved the review of the Development Charge (DC) By-law, including holding a statutory public meeting before its expiration in June 2007.

As part of this process, York Region staff will review the impact of the non-residential discounts and propose options to phase out or reduce DC discounts in an effort to reduce the financial impact to the Region.

Rates for Child Care Fee Assistance increased

York Regional Council approved an average overall increase of three per cent for the 2006 Regional Schedule of Rates for Child Care Fee Assistance, effective January 1, 2006.

The Region administers a Child Care Fee Assistance Program, which currently subsidizes an average of 2,834 children per month. There are more than 23,000 licensed centre-based and home-based child care spaces in York Region. Of these, 18,640 (81 per cent) are covered by Purchase of Service Agreements.

A three per cent increase will contribute to the availability of subsidized spaces in York Region by encouraging operators to maintain or increase the number of spaces they make available for fee assisted children.

It is estimated that the cost of increasing rates paid to operators will be \$420,000, which has been approved within the 2006 Budget.

York Regional Council receives update on Provincial no-smoking legislation

York Regional Council received a report advising Members of the implications for York Region of the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* (SFOA), which comes into effect May 31, 2006.

The *Act* is intended to protect workers and the public from exposure to second-hand smoke and help prevent young people from starting to smoke. Local public health units are responsible for carrying out inspections and investigations of complaints in relation to the SFOA and for education at the local level.

The SFOA will prevail over the Region's No Smoking By-Law (NSBL), as it is more restrictive than the NSBL. However, the report recommended that the NSBL not be repealed when the new legislation comes into force, as the new legislation may be subject to constitutional challenges. The report recommends that the Region amend its by-law in the future rather than enact a new one.

York Regional Council Highlights

Controlled smoking areas in Regional LTC facilities approved

York Regional Council authorized the use of \$90,000 in capital reserve funds to renovate the existing controlled smoking areas at the Regional Health Centres to bring them into compliance with the new requirements in the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA).

The SFOA also applies to residential care facilities but is permissive of smoking in controlled smoking areas subject to compliance with stringent new requirements. Operators of residential care facilities have the option of permitting smoking, but only in a controlled smoking area.

The renovations will enable the Centres to continue to maintain controlled smoking areas for the residents of these facilities, thereby enabling those clients to retain the same rights as other citizens have in their own homes.

Regional employees encouraged to use alternate modes of transportation

York Regional Council has approved implementation of Smart Commute, a group of programs and policies that will encourage Regional employees to use alternate modes of transportation instead of driving alone to work.

Smart Commute demonstrates the Region's commitment to improving air quality as well as the health and productivity of employees. By looking internally to provide employees with alternate transportation options, Smart Commute will free up parking spaces and take cars off the road, which reduces polluting emissions and improves air quality for everyone.

Smart Commute includes the following initiatives:

1. Carpool Zone – web-based carpool ride-matching to help employees find matches for carpooling to and from work
2. Preferential Parking – for those who Carpool
3. Emergency Ride Home Program – for employees who use transit, walk, cycle or carpool to work
4. Bike Racks – installation of bike racks and incentives for employees that cycle to work

Reducing the number of single occupant vehicles to and from the workplace is a York Region goal and is consistent with the goals and mandate of the Corporate Clean Air Task Force.

The Region also offers employees a 50-per cent discount on York Region Transit/Viva tickets as well as compressed work week opportunities and flexible work hours, all of which contribute to reduce work-related single occupant vehicle trips.

The Smart Commute Program is the new name for the Employee Trip Reduction Program that was approved in October, 2005.

York Regional Council Highlights

York Regional Council to seek Provincial intervention in the Markham Bypass to Morningside Avenue link

York Regional Council will ask the Province to declare a Provincial interest in the proposed Markham Bypass link with Morningside Avenue and to intervene in the proceedings by taking an active role as co-proponent for the Individual Environmental Assessment (EA).

York Region will also ask the Regional Municipality of Durham, Town of Markham and City of Pickering to support York Region's request that the Province of Ontario take an active role as co-proponent for the EA.

The City of Toronto has reaffirmed its formal opposition to the contiguous alignment of the Markham Bypass with Morningside Avenue as developed through the EA. Toronto has notified the MOE that it has no intentions of assuming proponentcy for the Link south of Steeles Avenue and is no longer bound by the OMB-imposed policies to protect the corridor.

York Regional Council agreed it is critical that the issue of proponentcy be clearly addressed at this stage before the EA proceeds to a final decision by the Ministry of the Environment.

The Province has expressed a long-standing interest in protecting a high-order transportation corridor on the east side of the Greater Metro Area and recognizes the need for a significant inter-regional transportation corridor in that area.

Township of King's resolution supporting Ontario Farmland Trust's farmland conservation initiative gains York Regional Council support

York Regional Council agreed to support the Ontario Farmland Trust's farmland conservation initiatives as outlined in the Township of King's February 13, 2006 Council Resolution, including addressing the need to expand the Federal Ecological Gifts Program.

At its meeting of February 13, 2006, the King Township Council received a deputation by representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Farmland Trust calling for new legislation to enable the preservation of agricultural land.

In supporting the Township of King's resolution that encourages Federal and Provincial governments to consider farmland conservation initiatives, York Regional Council is supporting the notion that agricultural lands should be available for future generations.

York Regional Council

Highlights

York Region publications aim to influence travel and business decisions

The Regional Municipality of York released two publications to promote awareness of tourism and business opportunities in York Region.

The KeyNote: York Region's Conference and Meeting Planner aims to build awareness of the capacity and desirability of York Region as a meeting and conference destination. Targeted at conference organizers, *The KeyNote* lists the facilities, accommodations, features, services and access to recreational activities that event venues currently deliver to serve the needs of meetings and conferences.

Discover York Region: 2006 Visitors' Guide aims to attract visitors and residents to the many sites, activities and services that are available throughout York Region. These include outstanding outdoor, cultural, sporting, entertainment, shopping and dining activities that position York Region as a unique and desirable location for tourism.

To obtain copies of the *Visitors' Guide*, *The KeyNote Conference and Meeting Planner* and other publications about York Region tourism opportunities, please call York Region Tourism at (905) 883-3442 or toll-free at 1-888-448-0000 or send your request via email to tourism@york.ca Visit www.yorktourism.com for additional tourism information.

Two publications promote York Region's competitive and adaptable economic environment

The Regional Municipality of York released two publications highlighting the Region's continued economic prosperity during 2005. The *Employment and Industry Report 2005* and the *Economic and Development Review 2005* showcase York Region's economic strengths, investment climate and diversity of employment.

The *Employment and Industry Report 2005* highlights York Region's employment growth trends by area municipality and industry sector, based on the information gathered from the 2005 York Region Employment Survey. The report offers an indication of how the Region's economy is performing and whether the economic development goals of York Region are being met.

The *Economic and Development Review 2005* outlines the growth and competitiveness of the Region's economy and provides an analysis of the key economic and demographic indicators. It can be used by businesses to provide insightful data about the size and nature of York Region's economy.

These documents are used by Regional Council, staff and public and private sectors as baseline information in the creation of economic investment strategies. Copies of these publications will be circulated to area municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, other business groups and key stakeholders. The reports are available via the Region's Web site at www.york.ca

To obtain copies of the *Employment and Industry Report 2005* and the *Economic and Development Review 2005*, please call York Region's Planning and Development Services Department at (905) 895-1231 Ext. 1550 or toll-free at 1-877-464-9675, or send your request via email to strategicplanning@york.ca

York Regional Council Highlights

Public invited to become involved in walking and cycling studies

York Regional Council approved a plan to invite the public to become involved in the planning process to establish a Regional walking and cycling network along with the necessary policies and guidelines.

Public consultations will ask how York Region can work with local municipalities to better connect local pedestrian and cycling systems into one regional-scale network. The consultations will also seek ideas on how to improve connections with transit nodes and encourage people to combine walking and cycling with using public transit.

Members of the public are welcome to become involved in any of the following ways:

- Attend consultation meetings and open houses
- Answer surveys
- Apply to sit on the advisory committee
- Speak out

Public Consultation Meetings

Two initial consultation sessions will be held as follows:

Tuesday, May 30th	York Region Administrative Centre 17250 Yonge Street Town of Newmarket	5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Seminar Room
Wednesday, May 31st	York Region South Services Centre 50 High Tech Road Town of Richmond Hill	5 p.m. to 8 p.m. First Floor Meeting Room

To participate in any of these activities or to learn more about the Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan Study, please contact Project Coordinator Eric Gupta at (905) 895-0191 Ext. 5146 or 1-800-464-9675, or by email at eric.gupta@york.ca

York Regional Council Highlights

A growing York Manufacturing Network encourages technological innovation and commercialization

York Regional Council received an update on the activities of the York Manufacturing Network, which was established in 2004 as a direct response to an objective in the Economic Strategy – to facilitate the establishment of an advanced manufacturing consortium in York Region.

Since March 2005, membership in the York Manufacturing Network has grown to 10 active and fully engaged members in York Region. Ongoing recruitment has resulted in five manufacturers currently indicating positive interest in membership.

The network fosters industry learning, knowledge sharing, networking, and continuous improvement amongst York Region manufacturers with the aim of encouraging technological innovation and commercialization.

The York Manufacturing Network operates as a local chapter of the Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium, a unique not-for-profit consortium of manufacturers and exporters that is recognized as Canada's largest manufacturing consortium and a leading knowledge industry network. The Consortium has expanded from 12 original members based in Owen Sound to include more than 550 manufacturers partnering through provincial branches in 44 consortia and 100 communities that span all regions of Ontario, New Brunswick and other areas of Eastern Canada.

For more information about the activities of the York Manufacturing Network, please refer to the May 25, 2006 [Report to Council](#).

Next Regional Council meeting

The next meeting of York Regional Council will take place on Thursday, June 22nd at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the York Region Administrative Centre, located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket.

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The contents of this summary are for information purposes only. Actual text of Council resolutions and official copies of reports to Council can be obtained from the York Region Web site at www.york.ca under Regional Government.