



## York Regional Council – June 25, 2009

### ***York Regional Council pays tribute to the life of Markham Regional Councillor Tony Wong***

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch and members of York Regional Council observed a moment of silence for colleague Tony Wong, who passed away last week.

Through personal remembrances, Chairman Fisch noted Mr. Wong's outstanding contribution to the community and his dedication to helping some of York Region's less fortunate through his work on the Region's Community Services and Housing Committee. Town of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti recounted fondly the 12 years of public service they shared and praised Mr. Wong's invaluable contributions to the Town of Markham, the Region and the residents he served.

York Regional Council passed a motion extending condolences to Mr. Wong's family and friends.

Mr. Wong served three terms as Regional Councillor for the Town of Markham in 1997, 2000 and 2006, and was also elected as Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Markham in 2003.

During his terms with The Regional Municipality of York, Mr. Wong served on a variety of Regional Committees, including Planning and Economic Development, Health and Emergency Medical Services, Community Services and Housing, Housing York Inc. and the York Regional Police Services Board.

Mr. Wong was also an active participant on many Regional working groups and task forces, including the Simcoe York District Health Council, Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance and the Character Community initiative.

*Photo of Regional Councillor Tony Wong is attached*

### ***York Regional Council remembers first York Region Chairman Garfield Wright***

York Regional Council observed a moment of silence to pay tribute to Garfield Wright, first Chairman of The Regional Municipality of York, who passed away last week.

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch and Town of East Gwillimbury Mayor James Young both remembered Mr. Wright for his dedication to the community and his leadership during the formative years of Regional government in York Region.

York Regional Council passed a motion extending condolences to Mr. Wright's family and friends.

Mr. Wright was a former warden for York County, who was appointed as York Region Chairman by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario for the period of 1971 to 1974. He was elected for two subsequent terms from 1975 to 1976 and 1977 to 1978.

As York Region Chairman, Mr. Wright sat on all Regional Committees and also served on the York Regional Police Services Board from 1973 to 1975.

Mr. Wright had a long and distinguished career in public service, serving as a local councillor on the East Gwillimbury Township Council from 1958 to 1961, Deputy Reeve from 1961 to 1962, Reeve from 1964 to 1969 and Warden for York County in 1968.

*Photo of former York Region Chairman Garfield Wright is attached*

### ***York Region receives prestigious CAMA Award for Greening Strategy***

Mr. Ron Shaw of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) presented York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch and Regional staff with the *2009 CAMA Environmental Award* for the Region's innovative Greening Strategy.

York Region was selected ahead of dozens of other municipal entries for its "innovative and future-focused approach" to environmental decision-making, and for the numerous successes the strategy has achieved since its inception in 2001. These successes include the planting of thousands of trees, the adoption of sustainable forest practices, achieving high levels of resident engagement and the formation of several partnerships with environmental agencies to promote land and forest conservation.

CAMA is a Canada-wide network and national voice of senior municipal administrators which strives to nurture and build municipal administrative excellence by providing more than 400 members with knowledge sharing and learning opportunities, access to best practices and valued input into policies and programs aimed at ensuring healthy and thriving communities across Canada.

*Photo of award presentation is attached*

### ***York Region hopes to make weekend Thanksgiving Food Drive the biggest yet***

York Regional Council endorsed a resolution brought forward by City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio to help initiate the largest food drive in The Regional Municipality of York for the 2009 Thanksgiving weekend.

Proceeds will go to food banks in all nine area municipalities.

The food drive will be coordinated by York Region's Human Services Planning Coalition in partnership with local municipalities and other community organizations. The Regional Municipality of York will co-ordinate transportation of all collected food to local food banks with the assistance of York Regional Police, York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and York Region Transit.

There has been a significant increase recently in families and children accessing food banks across York Region, with more than 4,000 York Region residents (including 1,600 children) who rely on food banks every month. This represents a more than 50 per cent increase since the economic downturn began last year.

### ***York Region recognizes October 5 to 10, 2009 as United Way Week***

York Regional Council has declared the week of October 5 to 10, 2009 as United Way Week. United Way Week is a yearly event that kicks off the United Way's annual fundraising campaign. Last year, York Region's participation in the United Way fundraising campaign raised more than \$238,000.

### ***York Region recognizes October 25 to 31, 2009 as Character Community Week***

York Regional Council has declared the week of October 25 to 31, 2009 as Character Community Week. The week is sponsored by the Character Community Foundation of York Region and will feature mall displays and several events.

The Character Community Foundation of York Region is a group of volunteers and leaders from the community, government, education and business sectors working together to make York Region a desirable place to live, learn, work and play by nurturing positive character attributes.

### ***The Regional Municipality of York 2008 Annual Report***

The Regional Municipality of York's 2008 Annual Report is now available. Online copies can be viewed or downloaded by following the front page link at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

The report is available online and highlights the accomplishments and goals of York Regional Council, Regional Committees and departments. Housing York Inc.'s Annual Report is included as an accompanying document.

Hard copies of The 2008 Annual Report will be available beginning mid-July at the Information Kiosk at the York Region Administrative Centre located in the Town of Newmarket as well as other Regional public facilities.

### ***York Region's Water for Tomorrow Program welcomes summer with water savings for residents***

York Regional Council today received an update on some recent successes of the award-winning *Water for Tomorrow* water conservation program, including:

- **Toilet Rebate Program:** York Region residents in a single-family residence who purchase a high-efficiency toilet from an approved list can now receive a \$75 rebate per toilet (maximum of five toilets)
- **Landscape audits:** Qualified landscape advisors will be inspecting lawns and gardens throughout the summer to provide residents with advice on reducing water use in the garden
- **Water efficient garden workshops:** Fifteen completely-booked water-efficient garden workshops and seminars will take place throughout the summer

For information on these and the other water-saving initiatives offered by *Water for Tomorrow*, please visit [www.waterfortomorrow.ca](http://www.waterfortomorrow.ca)

### ***Viva orange to provide new connections to York University***

York Regional Council has approved a new TTC/Viva fare integration beginning in August to allow riders with TTC Metropasses or transfers to ride Viva orange within the City of Toronto. The new program will reduce overcrowding on TTC buses and allow more transit options between the City of Toronto and York University. As part of this program, Viva orange service will add late evening and Sunday service to TTC customers. The program is anticipated to generate approximately \$70,000 in additional annual revenue.

### ***York Region approves new transit street furniture guidelines***

York Regional Council approved new transit street furniture guidelines to improve York Region Transit (YRT) furniture appearance and consistency throughout The Regional Municipality of York. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued for street furniture design using the new guidelines, followed by an RFP for the supply, installation and maintenance of the updated street furniture.

The new Coordinated Street Furniture Urban Design Guidelines document incorporates existing Regional design policies with new contemporary elements. Together, they will link the appearance of street furniture, including transit shelters, benches and waste/recycling containers with each other and the surrounding community. The guidelines include a focus on comfort, safety, accessibility and reduced advertising clutter.

### ***Draft of Official Plan released for public consultation***

The Regional Municipality of York has released a draft of its new Official Plan and will circulate it throughout the summer and early fall to residents, partners and stakeholders for discussion and consultation. The final version is scheduled for approval by York Regional Council at the end of the year.

The draft York Region Official Plan is the final outcome of the *Planning for Tomorrow* initiative, a growth management planning exercise that has featured more than 80 meetings, including town hall meetings with various stakeholder groups, municipal councils and technical committees, as part of three phases of consultation with the public in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Throughout the fall, York Region staff will host a number of public meetings, and further details will be provided.

The draft Official Plan, background studies and reports, are available by clicking on the Draft Official Plan banner at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

### ***Recession causes increase in York Region Ontario Works cases***

Ontario Works cases within The Regional Municipality of York have increased by 201 at the end of 2008 and a further 521 in the first quarter of 2009. The increase in cases may cost the Region as much as \$1.55 million in reserved funds for 2009.

The period of employment time that is needed to qualify for Employment Insurance (EI) in Ontario often prevents unemployed workers from receiving EI. As a result, unemployed workers apply for Ontario Works as a means of support, increasing pressure on the system.

### ***York Regional Council approves EA submission for the proposed Durham-York EFW facility***

York Regional Council approved the final Environmental Assessment (EA) submission for the proposed Durham-York energy-from-waste (EFW) facility. The submission was approved by Durham Regional Council on June 24<sup>th</sup> and will now be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for final approval.

York Region partnered with Durham Region on the Durham-York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study in 2005 to manage the garbage remaining after reusing, recycling and composting. The EA process recommends the community of Clarington as the host municipality and Covanta Energy Corporation as the preferred vendor for the building and operation of the facility.

Subject to receiving all necessary approvals by early 2010, it is anticipated that construction of the facility could be completed in late 2013. If approved, York Region's share in the estimated capital cost for the design and construction of the facility is \$50 million of a total estimated cost of \$235 million.

### ***Next meeting of York Regional Council***

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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