

## Council Highlights

April 22, 2004

<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Seals Run/Walkathon founded by Joe Persechini to take place May 30<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p>Amanda Tite, 12-year-old Easter Seals ambassador, joined Karen Baldwin, District Manager for the York Region Easter Seals Society, at Regional Council to promote the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Seals Run/Walkathon founded by Joe Persechini.</p> <p>Scheduled for Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in Newmarket, the Easter Seals Run/Walkathon, for which Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch is Honourary Chair, hopes to this year reach \$3 million in money raised for the Easter Seals. In York Region, approximately 400 families are supported by the Easter Seals Society, whose mission is to help children with physical disabilities succeed.</p> <p>Each year an average 250 staff from York Region and York Regional Police participate.</p>
<p><b>Firefighters of York Region present Council with plaque of appreciation</b></p>	<p>Alf Beasley, a firefighter from the City of Vaughan, and Shaun Mitchell, a firefighter with Central York Region Firefighters, presented a plaque of appreciation to Regional Council for its support of the 2004 Firefighters of York Region Calendar.</p> <p>The annual calendar raised approximately \$300,000 over the past two years for the three York Region hospitals and the battle against breast cancer.</p>
<p><b>Council approves release of 2004 York Region Business Directory</b></p>	<p>Council approved the release of the <i>2004 York Region Business Directory</i> containing thousands of business listings, plus information on Regional business and employment trends, and population and labour force analysis.</p> <p>The <i>2004 York Region Business Directory</i> is a valuable resource for business-to-business contact. It also serves as a marketing tool, highlighting population and employment statistics, providing interested parties with area municipal economic development contacts and promotes the Region and its many diverse business sectors.</p> <p>The Directory is based on information collected from the 2003 York Region Employment Survey, a door-to-door survey conducted in partnership with area municipalities with businesses located in selected employment areas in York Region. This data was also supplemented with information obtained from previous Employment Surveys for businesses located outside the 2003 survey coverage areas or those that the Region was unable to contact in 2004.</p> <p>The <i>2004 York Region Business Directory</i> is currently available for sale electronically on CD-ROM at a cost of \$175.00 by contacting the York Region Planning and Development Services Department at (905) 830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 1550.</p> <p>The print version, which costs \$50.00, and on-line version available free of charge from the Region's Web site at <a href="http://www.region.york.on.ca">www.region.york.on.ca</a> will be available in early May.</p>

<p><b>Council approves preparation of draft strategic directions document to be discussed at Economic Strategy Forum</b></p>	<p>Council approved a recommendation that staff convene an Economic Strategy Forum in May with economic and business stakeholder groups as part of the Economic Strategy consultation process. Council also approved that a draft strategic directions document for discussion be prepared and circulated for discussion at the Forum.</p> <p>York Region began consultation in the development of an Economic Development Strategy last fall with economic development partners, which included area municipal economic development staff and the Executive Directors and Presidents of the local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade. In late January and February, the Region consulted with small business, retail, technology and manufacturing, tourism and agriculture industries.</p> <p>The goal of an Economic Development Strategy is to develop an action plan that will result in the Region being a more competitive location for business. A final report and draft strategy will be reviewed by the Region's Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council in late June.</p>
<p><b>Free rides on York Region Transit</b></p>	<p>York Region Transit will allow uniformed members of police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) to ride for free on YRT buses.</p> <p>Having uniformed officers present on YRT buses brings an added level of public security, while further enhancing YRT's professional image.</p>
<p><b>Transit ridership continues to increase</b></p>	<p>In February 2004, York Region Transit conventional ridership increased 38.8 per cent over the same period in 2003. This number includes riders on the Yonge and Bayview routes transferred from GO Transit last year. Without these routes, YRT still posted an impressive 7.2 per cent increase during the month.</p> <p>Mobility Plus Specialized Transit also experienced an increase, with a jump of 15.9 per cent.</p>
<p><b>Council to request provincial government cover \$17 million shortfall to bring child care funding to 1999/2000 level</b></p>	<p>Council has approved a recommendation that the provincial government be requested to cover a funding shortfall of \$17 million to bring the level of child care funding to the 1999/2000 level.</p> <p>Council received a copy of <i>Child Matters Update 2003</i>, the Region's Child Care Service Plan, which states that provincial funding has not kept pace with the child population growth in York Region, resulting in funding for child care fee assistance, special needs resourcing and wage subsidy being 64% of provincial average.</p>
<p><b>Greenlands Property Securement – Calandra Property</b></p>	<p>Council authorized the purchase of the Calandra property, located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, for \$325,000.</p> <p>The 60-acre property was secured under a Conservation Easement by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, to ensure the property remains under perpetual protection. York Region intends to purchase the property and has submitted an application to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation for reforestation funds.</p> <p>A ceremony to thank the Calandra family for contributing the property is scheduled for May 7, 2004.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>White Paper on Watershed-based Source Protection Planning</b></p>	<p>York Regional Council will ask the Provincial Government for funding for all aspects of development and implementation of Watershed-based Source Protection Planning, including ongoing and new initiatives.</p> <p>The move came after Council received a presentation of the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) White Paper on Watershed-based Source Protection Planning.</p> <p>Council also agreed to ask the Province to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify future roles, tasks and responsibilities for all participants in the planning, implementation and long-term maintenance of the Source Protection plans</li> <li>• Recognize that realistic timelines are required to ensure that effective Source Protection plans can be prepared to reflect local conditions, need and capacity and build this consideration into the Source Protection Planning process</li> <li>• Revise the proposed approval process to clarify responsibilities and liabilities and to streamline the process to fit into the ongoing municipal planning framework</li> <li>• Establish a fair, cost-effective process for charging for water taking</li> <li>• Ensure that sufficient and appropriate resources are available to administer the Permit to Take Water Program in a timely manner</li> </ul> <p>The MOE White Paper was issued on February 12, 2004, to provide information on the planning aspects of proposed source protection legislation and improvements to the permit to take water program.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>York Region makes recommendations to the Province regarding Municipal Property Assessment Corporation</b></p>	<p>Council made strong recommendations to the Province to strengthen its mandate of the Ministry of Finance's Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), after hearing a presentation from the Vice President of the corporation during a recent Finance and Administration Committee.</p> <p>The report further recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Province, in conjunction with municipalities and MPAC, revise the formula used to determine MPAC's funding contribution from all municipalities to make the charges more accurately reflect the cost of providing local services</li> <li>• MPAC reallocate local staffing resources in order to better serve York Region assessment growth requirements</li> <li>• The "opting-out" provision of the <i>MPAC Act</i>, be reinstated to allow municipalities to seek alternative delivery for the assessment function</li> </ul> <p>The Region will pay approximately \$11 million for MPAC services in 2004. Service issues can delay assessment dollars that could otherwise be used to deliver the services needed by those new residents and businesses.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Province agrees to fund additional staff in Health Services' Infectious Diseases Division</b></p>	<p>Council authorized the Public Health Branch to hire seven additional full-time employees in the Infectious Diseases Control Division in the amount of approximately \$566,370, which is to be 100% funded by the province.</p> <p>The additional staff will assist in monitoring and controlling infectious diseases and enhance the Health Services Department's ability to deal with surges in activity related to outbreaks in diseases throughout York Region.</p>

<p><b>Program allowed more than 300 children of families on social assistance and social housing residents to attend summer day camp</b></p>	<p>A Community Services and Housing Committee report informed Council of a program allowed 331 children of Ontario Works participants and social housing residents to attend summer day camp recreation programs last year. The program was provided by local municipalities and funded by the National Childcare Benefit Reserve Fund.</p> <p>The program was developed based on a study, which indicated that providing quality subsidized child care and recreation programs for children of Ontario Works families promotes an attachment to the workforce by their parents, begins to address child poverty, can reduce dependency on social assistance, health and social services and promotes healthy child development.</p>
<p><b>Council to request Province to make a timely decision on legislation banning smoking in public places</b></p>	<p>Council approved a recommendation that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care be requested to make a timely decision regarding province-wide legislation banning smoking in public places.</p> <p>Until such legislation is passed, York Region is proceeding with its plans to implement Phase III of the No-Smoking By-law on June 1, 2004. This final phase bans smoking from public places used for the sale and service of food and/or drinks licensed to serve alcohol, such as bars, taverns, adult entertainment lounges and night clubs. Public places used for playing billiards and games of chance including bingo halls and casinos are also affected unless a designated smoking room is constructed that is completely enclosed and separately ventilated.</p> <p>The implementation plan for Phase III, which is consistent with that of the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel, is multifaceted and integrates an educational campaign, GTA-wide communications, local media initiatives and enforcement activities.</p>
<p><b>Georgina resident Barbara Munro appointed to the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board</b></p>	<p>York Regional Council appointed Georgina resident Barbara Munro as a citizen member to The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board, effective May 2, 2004. Ms. Munro replaces Vic Wilson, who completes his term on April 30, 2004.</p> <p>Ms. Munro was chosen from a total 86 applicants who responded to advertisements placed in all local newspapers in York Region in December 2003 asking for applications from citizens to sit on the Police Services Board.</p> <p>Ms. Munro's term runs until November 30, 2006, or until her successor is appointed.</p> <p>The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board is a seven member civilian Board that oversees the York Regional Police. Four Board members are appointed by Regional Council and three by the Province of Ontario.</p>
<p><b>Council to recognize National EMS Week (May 17-21)</b></p>	<p>Council will recognize the value and accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paramedics during National EMS Week from May 17 to 21.</p> <p>Activities planned throughout York Region during the Week include the opening of new Paramedic Response Station in the Town of Markham, and a full day of activities at the York Region Administrative Centre such as demonstrations of emergency medical equipment and EMS paramedic skills, information displays and a display featuring the different types of EMS vehicles.</p>

<p><b>Province provides one-time funding for private well water safety</b></p>	<p>Council approved the receipt of \$9,000 in one-time funding from the Province to promote private well water safety in York Region.</p> <p>York Region Health Services will increase the number of workshops planned for owners and users of private water systems, which educate them on water quality and actions to be protect their water supply. Advertising and promotion literature of private water system safety will also be produced, as well as the distribution of materials at community events such as the York Children Water Festivals and Earth Week activities.</p>
<p><b>Additional provincial funding for Early Child Development</b></p>	<p>Council authorized an expenditure increase in the 2004 Public Health budget in the amount of \$341,415 for its Early Child Development Program. The additional funding will be used to hire 4.5 additional regular full-time staff to further initiatives in injury and family abuse prevention and promotion of healthy pregnancy and child development.</p> <p>The increase in funding from the Province was in response to the growing need for programs in injury prevention and the increase in demand for services for families at risk of family violence and postpartum mood disorder. Funding at this increased level is expected to December 2006.</p>
<p><b>Council to request funding for comprehensive survey to determine extent of violence against women in Ontario</b></p>	<p>Council approved a recommendation that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Minister of Community and Social Services be requested to provide 100% funding for a comprehensive survey to determine the extent of violence against women in Ontario.</p> <p>Initiatives that work to prevent this violence and then to provide safety and support the women and their families must reflect the complexities of the issue.</p> <p>A workshop to bring appropriate organizations and groups together is planned for the coming fall. This along with a comprehensive survey in 2005 will inform service providers of the extent, nature and distribution of violence against women, and lead to the development of a plan towards addressing violence against women.</p>
<p><b>Next York Regional Council Meeting</b></p>	<p>The next York Regional Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2004 at the York Region Administrative Centre in Newmarket, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber.</p>

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