



## York Regional Chair summarizes Council's achievements

York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch highlighted the achievements of York Regional Council over the past three years, including the Region being named one of the top 100 employers in Canada and one of the top 50 employers in the GTA. This award is a testament to the sound leadership of Council. Many of the criteria York Region was judged on for the award came directly from Council-approved programs.

Chair Fisch thanked all members of Council for their contribution of time and energy, a key factor in York Region remaining an enviable place to live and work. He highlighted the major accomplishments of this Council and recognized that the work, dedication, vision and leadership of all Council members were instrumental in guiding York Region throughout the past three years.

Council members addressed the contributions of outgoing members of Regional Council as follows:

- Chair Fisch recognized Aurora Mayor Tim Jones and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Sue Sherban
- Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Dave Barrow recognized Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell
- Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio recognized Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase
- Newmarket Regional Councillor Tony Van Bynen recognized Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor
- Markham Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti recognized Markham Mayor Don Cousens
- Markham Mayor Don Cousens recognized Markham Regional Councillor Bill O'Donnell

Chair Fisch concluded by stating that thanks to the efforts and the leadership provided by all Council members, York Region is highly regarded by residents, businesses, visitors and neighbouring municipalities. He also thanked Council members for the privilege of serving as Chair of Regional Council.

## The Regional Municipality of York wins housing award

The Regional Municipality of York received the 2006 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) housing award for Best Practices in Affordable Housing at a ceremony in Ottawa this week.

York Region won the award for leveraging innovative ideas and financial assistance from all four levels of government to transform a vacant wing of York Region's Newmarket Health Centre into Armitage Gardens, a 58-unit building of affordable and accessible homes for seniors and adults with disabilities.

Armitage Gardens features easy access to the Newmarket Health Centre, enabling residents to stay close to family members who require long-term care. The building is barrier-free and wheelchair accessible; 26 of the 58 units offer enhanced accessibility for people using mobility devices. The enhancements include roll-in showers, lowered kitchen counters, side-by-side door refrigerators, front control stoves and an in-suite storage area.

CMHC established its housing awards program in 1988 to recognize significant contributions to the advancement of Canadian housing. Presented every second year, the housing awards identify and celebrate the best practices in housing and share them with communities across the country.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **Implementation of new funding model for Ontario Works underway**

York Regional Council received a report providing information about the new outcomes-focused Employment Planning and Funding Model for Ontario Works.

The new model was introduced by the Province of Ontario in January 2006. Under the model, funding is now based on the achievement of earnings, employment and increased employability as part of a two-year cycle. The new model has many benefits, including the ability to set targets and negotiate in-year adjustments.

York Region will continue to play an active role in a working group assisting the Province with implementation of the new model.

## **Council authorizes business retention and expansion project for Whitchurch-Stouffville**

York Regional Council has authorized the Whitchurch-Stouffville Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Project, an important component of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's economic development program.

The project will involve an analysis of key business sectors within the Town: manufacturing, distribution, tourism, retail, commercial and home-based businesses to assess the current business climate and to develop strategies to further strengthen the local economy.

Scheduled for completion by early February, the project will help to improve the competitiveness of local businesses by evaluating and addressing their broader needs and concerns. Businesses that stay competitive are more likely to remain and expand within the community.

Supporting the growth and expansion of business enterprise is a cornerstone of the Region's Economic Strategy.

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The next Regional Council Meeting will be held Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.

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 website at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) under Regional Government.