



# Council Highlights



Thursday, September 22, 2011

## York Regional Council Highlights

### ***YRT/Viva fare change approved for 2012***

York Regional Council today approved a York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva fare change, effective January 1, 2012. The fare change will offset increasing service delivery costs and support YRT/Viva's rapidly growing ridership which is expected to exceed 21 million riders in 2011.

This is YRT/Viva's first fare change since 2009 and affects all cash fares, tickets and passes with the exception of the GTA Weekly Pass. Senior ticket and pass prices remain below the GTA average and discounted monthly passes and tickets continue to be an economical option for all riders.

YRT Mobility Plus fares will also be aligned with conventional fares as of January 1, 2012, allowing seniors and students to benefit from discounted ticket and pass rates.

The YRT/Viva fare change considers many factors, including rising contractor and fuel rates, consistency with other GTA transit systems and cost recovery. The 7.81 per cent increase will help raise YRT/Viva's cost recovery ratio to nearly 40 per cent, creating a more equitable cost balance between transit riders and taxpayers.

For more information about YRT/Viva services, please visit the YRT/Viva website at [www.yrt.ca](http://www.yrt.ca) or call the Customer Service Centre at 1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978).

### ***Speed limit changes on Regional roads***

York Regional Council has approved the following speed limit changes on Regional roads:

- Mount Albert Road from Highway 48 to 285 metres west of Birchard Boulevard reduced to 60 km/h from 80 km/h
- Mount Albert Road from 225 metres east of Royal Oak Road to York/Durham Line reduced to 60 km/h from 70 km/h
- Baseline Road from 824 metres east of McCowan Road to 920 metres west of Dalton Road reduced to 60 km/h from 70 km/h
- Ravenshoe Road from The Queensway to Thornlodge Drive reduced to 70 km/h from 80 km/h
- Morton Avenue from 527 metres east of The Queensway to Woodbine Avenue reduced to 60 km/h from 70 km/h
- 16th Avenue from Woodbine Avenue to 20 metres east of Highway 48 reduced to 60 km/h from 70 km/h
- 16th Avenue from 450 metres east of Bayview Avenue to 780 metres west of Woodbine Avenue reduced to 60 km/h from 70 km/h
- Highway 27 from Rutherford Road to 500 metres south of Nashville Road reduced to 70 km/h from 80 km/h and Rutherford Road from 500 metres south of Nashville Road to 300 metres north of Hedgerow Lane reduced to 60 km/h from 80 km/h

***The Regional Municipality of York Blue Box program adds greater level of sustainability***

York Regional Council today endorsed a Memoranda of Understanding with Ontario-based EFS-Plastics Inc. and Entropex to process rigid mixed plastics recovered through Blue Box recycling. Shipping plastics to plants within Ontario improves the ecological footprint of the program by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions associated with shipping materials long distances.

Items such as clamshell packaging and plastic tubs that have contained food or cleaning products will be manufactured into pellets and sold to companies to be incorporated into items such as garbage bins, outdoor furniture, tool boxes and automotive products.

York Region's Blue Box program is one of Ontario's most inclusive, and one of the first to accept mixed rigid plastics.

***The Regional Municipality of York to open Community Environmental Centre (CEC) in the Town of Richmond Hill***

York Regional Council today received a construction update on the Elgin Mills CEC, located at 1124 Elgin Mills Road East in the Town of Richmond Hill.

Scheduled to open to the public late October, the CEC will provide residents with a convenient location to recycle and dispose of materials not easily handled by curbside collection programs. Goodwill Industries and Habitat for Humanity will be located onsite to accept items suitable for reuse.

For information on York Region's recycling program, please visit [www.york.ca/waste](http://www.york.ca/waste)

***Left turn restrictions 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Town of Markham***

York Regional Council today approved left turn restrictions on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Longwater Chase East and Longwater Chase West in the Town of Markham between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Buses are exempted from the turning restriction.

***York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy lays groundwork for community collaboration***

York Regional Council today endorsed the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy which includes a long-term vision to support the overall well-being of both newcomers and long-term residents.

The strategy builds on York Region's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive community and identifies priorities to help newcomers fully integrate into the community economically, socially, culturally, civically and politically. The strategy is a focal point for collaborative action involving newcomers, service providers, community organizations, businesses and government.

York Regional Council was also provided with Changing Landscapes: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region. The report, based on data from the 2006 Census, provides research and information on the social and economic characteristics of people who arrived in York Region between 2001 and 2006. Developed under the direction of the Community Reference Group (CRG), the report's findings were instrumental in the creation of the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy.

Online versions of the [York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy](#) and the [Changing Landscapes: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region](#) report are available at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

### ***York Region recognizes October as Lupus Awareness Month***

York Regional Council today recognized October as Lupus Awareness Month to help bring awareness to the illness. Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can cause damage to tissue and organs in the body.

For more information about the Lupus Foundation of Ontario, please visit [www.vaxxine.com/lupus](http://www.vaxxine.com/lupus)

### ***York Region recognizes Franco-Ontarian Day and Character Community Week***

York Regional Council today recognized September 25 as Franco-Ontarian Day to acknowledge the contribution of Ontario's Francophone community to the cultural, historical, economic and political life of the province.

The Region also proclaimed the week of October 24 to 29 as Character Community Week. This year, the Character Community Foundation of York Region celebrates 10 years of raising awareness about character development and celebrating the 11 Character Attributes chosen by the community. Community Foundation Executive Director Karen Addison, requested York Region's participation in the "Show us your Character Challenge" taking place throughout the month of October.

### ***Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority celebrates 60 years***

York Regional Council received a deputation from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority CEO Gail Wood recognizing the Authority's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Gail Wood acknowledged York Region for its ongoing support to the Authority and commitment to the environment. The Authority will be meeting with all its members to acknowledge the support given.

### ***The Regional Municipality of York recognizes child care workers***

York Regional Council today endorsed October 26 as Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day to recognize the skill, commitment and dedication of those professionals.

### ***York Region receives \$50,000 grant to develop an Archaeological Management Plan***

The Regional Municipality of York has received \$50,000 from Ontario's Creative Communities Prosperity Fund to support the development of the Region's Archaeological Management Plan.

Archaeological management plans are important planning tools for municipalities to protect existing known archaeological sites and to determine when it is necessary to undertake archaeological assessments of potential areas. They are also a valuable communications and education tool that can help residents and stakeholders better understand the cultural heritage of their community and recognize the importance of archaeological resources.

The proposed Archaeological Management Plan and the funding include:

- An inventory and mapping of all known and potential archaeological sites
- Guidance to assist the Region and local municipalities to further develop policies, procedures and protocols for development and to identify conservation strategies early in the planning process
- Extensive consultation and the creation of stronger relationships with First Nations and the Métis Nation of Ontario

Archaeological Services Inc. was awarded a contract to prepare a draft Archaeological Management Plan for York Regional Council consideration in January 2012.

***York Regional Council thanks those who responded to Sutton Fire***

York Regional Council today thanked Regional staff and agencies who worked together to help the residents of Georgina whose homes were destroyed by a devastating fire this summer.

The complex housed approximately 100 residents, ranging in age from three weeks to 82 years old. York Region responded immediately in coordination with the Town of Georgina, Red Cross and The Salvation Army to provide residents with emergency financial assistance, housing, health services, food and support through counseling.

Georgina Mayor, Robert Grossi added his personal thanks for the work undertaken to get the Town of Georgina through this crisis.

Today, all impacted residents have secured housing.

***York Region Official Plan wins two planning awards***

The Regional Municipality of York will receive two Excellence in Planning Awards from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute for the new York Region Official Plan.

The first award, in the Municipal Statutory Planning Studies, Reports and Documents category, recognizes the Official Plan for its high calibre of excellence in planning. The second award, a special Healthy Communities Award, is awarded jointly with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and recognizes the number of ways the York Region Official Plan will create and foster healthier and more sustainable communities.

The Regional Official Plan was developed through extensive consultation with York Region's residents, partners and stakeholders.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute will present the awards to York Region at an annual conference this October in Ottawa.

***York Regional Council endorses approach to develop an updated Economic Development Action Plan***

York Regional Council today endorsed the development of an Economic Development Action Plan that focuses on creating and retaining jobs in the Region and build upon the award-winning 2005 Economic Strategy.

The updated Economic Development Action Plan will focus on people, creativity and innovation as the basis for establishing longer-term goals that will guide program development. Staff will undertake an extensive consultation process to obtain input from stakeholders on approaches York Region may take to facilitate the creation and retention of jobs.

The Economic Development Action Plan will focus on:

- Determining York Region's economic strengths and identifying areas for improvement
- Encouraging creativity and innovation as the basis for a strong economy
- Developing strategic objectives for York Region businesses to compete regionally and globally

The new plan will be ready for York Regional Council's consideration in June 2012.

## **York Regional Council receives summary of residents' input to date on Vision 2051**

York Regional Council today received a summary of residents' input along with a progress update on the development of Vision 2051.

York Region residents and stakeholders are being asked to provide input on important issues the Region will face over the next 40 years and beyond, including community design, climate change, energy, transportation, waste management, water management, demographic changes, economic vitality, housing demands, human services and the safety needs of our population.

The feedback so far has assisted in the development of Vision statements that describe what residents want York Region to be like in 2051.

The topics include:

- Adaptability/flexibility
- Resiliency
- Community capacity
- Open communication
- Accessibility
- e-government
- Accountability and integrity
- Education
- Prevention
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Integration
- Inclusivity
- Sustainability
- Transparency
- Conservation

A draft of the Vision 2051 document will be presented to Regional Council for consideration and circulation later this fall. For more information and to sign up for the Vision 2051 mailing list, please visit [www.york.ca/vision2051](http://www.york.ca/vision2051) or call 905-830-4444, ext. 1532.

### ***The Regional Municipality of York sets United Way goal of \$380,000***

The Regional Municipality of York and York Regional Police announced a fundraising goal of \$380,000 in support of the United Way of York Region's 2011 staff campaign at its kick-off campaign this month.

United Way CEO Daniele Zanotti thanked the Region for its ongoing support of the United Way. Each year, the United Way of York Region assists one in three York Region residents overcome difficulties through the support of more than 40 agencies and close to 100 community programs.

The United Way of York Region has unveiled its 2011 campaign goal of \$8.6 million.

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

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, October 20, 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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Founded in 1971, The Regional Municipality of York is made up of nine municipalities and provides services to more than one million residents, 29,000 businesses and 495,000 employees.