

Monday, October 27, 2008

For Immediate Release

York Regional Council – October 23, 2008

The Regional Municipality of York recognized by Prosecutors' Association of Ontario

The Prosecutors' Association of Ontario has recognized The Regional Municipality of York "for contributing to the furtherance of justice while demonstrating exemplary commitment through its support to assisting and promoting the aims and objectives of the association."

On behalf of York Regional Council, Chairman Fisch conveyed his thanks and congratulations to the team, including:

- Director of Court Services Norman Scarratt, who is the lead on a province-wide Task Force advising the Ministry of Attorney General on ways to streamline the Provincial Offences Act system
- Senior Prosecutor Hans Saamen, who has been recognized on previous occasions for writing scholarly papers on precedent-setting cases
- Regional staff members of Court Services, including several who teach courses at community colleges across the GTA

In his role as the Region's Finance and Administration Committee Chair, Town of Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen joined Chairman Fisch in congratulating Regional court staff.

The Regional Municipality of York recognized by the Recycling Council of Ontario

A new promotional campaign in York Region's Solid Waste Management Branch received a Silver award in the Promotion category of the 2008 Ontario Waste Minimization Awards presented by the Recycling Council of Ontario.

The initiative, Household Hazardous Waste Cause & Effect Campaign, addresses the consequences of improper household hazardous waste disposal. It urges residents to be responsible by not disposing of their hazardous waste down the drain, in the garbage or down the storm sewer, but rather bring their household hazardous waste to one of York Region's four drop-off depots.

York Region's Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan garners its second national planning award

The Regional Municipality of York was recognized by the Transportation Association of Canada with the 2007 Sustainable Urban Transportation Award for its Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan.

This was the second national planning award York Region received for its Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan, the first being from the Canadian Institute of Planners also this year.

Improved conditions for walking and cycling for people of all ages, a convenient and continuous pedestrian sidewalk system and an on and off-road regional-scale cycling network are benefits York Region residents can expect from this master plan.

The master plan intends to guide York Region residents toward alternative commuter options such as walking, cycling, public transit and carpooling by giving pedestrians and cyclists priority. The plan was developed through extensive consultation with York Region's partners and stakeholders, including staff at the Regional and local municipal levels and the public.

The Regional Municipality of York and partners across GTA and Hamilton area received the inaugural Healthy Communities Award and Excellence in Planning Award

The Regional Municipality of York, along with Halton, Durham and Peel regions and the cities of Toronto, Hamilton and Mississauga, received special recognition awards from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute for the Smart Commute Initiative in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton. The Institute chose Smart Commute to receive the Excellence in Planning Award and the first-ever Healthy Communities Award.

Smart Commute is a GTA and Hamilton initiative that encourages carpooling, transit, cycling, walking and telework for employees of local workplaces and post-secondary institutions.

Through media campaigns, brochures, public events and the Carpool Zone, an online system for matching potential carpooling participants, Smart Commute's coalition of regions and cities has helped to remove 10,000 cars from our roads each day and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17,000 tonnes since the inception of the program in 2004. By 2008, the program included nine local Smart Commute organizations from Hamilton to Durham and has become an official service of Metrolinx.

The Excellence in Planning Awards recognize innovation, creativity, professionalism, problem-solving and communications in four categories: urban and community design, planning studies or reports, research/new directions and public education. This year's winners were chosen from approximately 30 entries.

Smart Commute was also the inaugural recipient of the Healthy Communities Award. Established jointly by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the award was created to recognize excellence in creating healthy communities. Smart Commute exemplifies the importance of active transportation in healthy communities.

2009 Capital Budget tabled at York Regional Council

The Regional Municipality of York today tabled its \$1.04 billion 2009 Capital Business Plan and Budget at York Regional Council. Highlights of the proposed capital budget include the following:

Rapid Transit projects - \$218.4 million

- Davis Drive dedicated bus lane from Yonge Street to Highway 404
- Spadina Subway Extension
- Highway 7 from Richmond Hill Centre to Kennedy Road

York Region Transit projects - \$63.0 million

- 31 new conventional buses and 18 replacement busses
- Two new specialized buses and four replacement busses
- Construction of a new transit vehicle garage

Roads projects - \$110.9 million

- 84 active major capital projects
- Transit supportive road projects
- Aggressive road rehabilitation program

Water projects - \$109.8 million

- Peel water supply expansion
- Asset upgrade and rehabilitation
- Elevated tank in the Town of Richmond Hill
- Georgina water system at Woodbine Avenue and Ravenshoe Road

Wastewater projects - \$270.8 million

- Duffin Creek Wastewater Pollution Control Plant (Phase 3)
- York Durham Sewage System Southeast Collector
- Upper York sewage servicing
- Construct York Durham Sewage System at Queensville / Holland Landing
- Keswick plant expansion

York Region Police - \$47.1 million

- Investigative and support services facility in Aurora
- 12 new Police vehicles, 103 replacement vehicles and one specialized tactical support vehicle

The Capital Business Plan and Budget will be reviewed at Regional Standing Committees throughout November and is expected to receive Council approval on December 18th.

The 2009 Operating Business Plan and Budget (and proposed tax levy increase), will be tabled at the December 18th Regional Council meeting.

The Regional Municipality of York and local municipalities work together to reduce clean water inflow and infiltration into sewer system

York Regional Council today received a report on the status and future activities of the York Region Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program. Inflow and Infiltration refers to clean water entering the sanitary sewers from stormwater (inflow) and groundwater (infiltration). Together with the local municipalities, staff are locating the sources of inflow and infiltration, measuring the amount of clean water entering the system and identifying areas that would benefit from rehabilitation measures.

The Regional Municipality of York partners with University of Toronto on drinking water study

York Regional Council today endorsed an agreement between York Region and the University of Toronto, Drinking Water Research Group, to participate in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Senior Industrial Research Chair. The goals of this Research Chair are to provide safer tap water, deliver major innovation to the partners and distribute new ideas to the global water industry. The information gained by participating in the Drinking Water Research Group will be used at York Region's water treatment plants to develop and implement strategies to deal with the challenges of source water protection, operational efficiencies and environmental contaminants.

2009 Tourism Industry Partnership Development Program

York Regional Council today approved the 2009 Tourism Industry Partnership Development Program, a core component of the regional tourism program.

Regional staff members undertake a leadership role by providing strategic direction, holding educational forums, building partnerships, enhancing communications, assisting with business planning, developing product and partnerships and gathering information to assist the tourism industry to make effective decisions. Staff also respond to consumer inquiries and manage a website for consumers.

The program is a component of the 2009 Economic Development and Tourism operating budget and is subject to approval in the 2009 budget. Industry participation fees and sponsorships will partially offset the costs. The total York Region Tourism budget for 2009 is \$896,200 with a net tax levy impact of \$474,600.

2009 York Region Tourism Marketing Program

York Regional Council today approved the 2009 York Region Tourism Marketing Program, subject to the approval of the 2009 Economic Development operating budget.

The Regional Municipality of York supports tourism throughout York Region by collaborating with local municipalities and industry stakeholders to increase visitation and generate economic activity. The York Region Discovery Guide and the Conference and Meeting Guide are examples of the program's efforts.

In 2009, Regional staff will launch a new "Getaways" magazine featuring all-inclusive packages that bundle accommodation with tourism experiences such as golf, outdoor adventures, attractions, festivals and arts and cultural offerings to attract new overnight visitors to York Region.

All of York Region's promotions direct consumers to www.yorktourism.com, the visitor information portal that tourism businesses can participate in free of charge.

YRT/Viva fare change approved for the new year

York Regional Council today approved a York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva fare change, effective January 1, 2009. The change impacts all cash fares, tickets and monthly passes, with the exception of the Ride to GO cash supplement or monthly sticker and the GTA Weekly Pass. Despite the change, new YRT/Viva student and senior ticket and pass prices will remain at or below the current GTA transit fare average.

This fare change takes into account a number of factors, including current service contractor rates, fuel prices, consistency with other GTA transit system fares, cost recovery targets and the opportunity to discount fares for regular transit customers. Due to York Region's early budget cycle, YRT/Viva is typically among the first of the GTA transit agencies to announce fare changes.

An estimated 20 million riders chose YRT/Viva in 2008, with an increase to 21.7 million riders forecasted for 2009. For more 2009 YRT/Viva fare information, please view the [staff report](#).

York Region and the Heart and Stroke Foundation take action on sudden cardiac arrest

York Regional Council today thanked the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for the donation of 100 automated external defibrillators across The Regional Municipality of York.

An automated external defibrillator is a portable device used to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest. A defibrillator delivers an electric shock that momentarily stops activity in the heart, giving the heart an opportunity to restart normal electrical activity and resume beating effectively.

The new defibrillators will complement those already in place through HeartAlive, an initiative of York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to make defibrillators accessible in public places. Since September 2003, HeartAlive has installed 58 defibrillators in 31 Regional workplaces and trained more than 500 Regional staff, York Regional Police employees and municipal employees to use the defibrillators.

In 2007, the Ministry of Health Promotion announced a \$3-million donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario for the placement of life-saving defibrillators across Ontario. The Foundation asked York Region EMS to administer this initiative that targeted local municipal sites in York Region.

For more information on the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, please visit www.heartandstroke.com
For more information on this or any other health-related topic, please contact York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

York Region EMS to participate in study of early treatment of heart attack victims

York Regional Council today approved the participation of York Region's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the Strategic Reperfusion Early After Myocardial Infarction (STREAM) Study, in partnership with Southlake Regional Health Centre.

The STREAM Study project is a 2,000-patient international EMS trial that will evaluate the impact of patients diagnosed with a specific type of heart attack within three hours of the onset of symptoms.

The study will compare the outcome of those patients who receive clot dissolving drugs prior to admission into the cardiac catheterization laboratory versus those who are directly admitted to the cardiac catheterization laboratory. In York Region, Southlake Regional Health Centre in the Town of Newmarket is the designated cardiac centre.

For more information on this study or other public health and EMS related topics, please contact York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

Next meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, November 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket.

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