



January 2010

For Immediate Release

## York Regional Council – January 21, 2010

### ***The Regional Municipality of York receives Community Fund Spirit Award***

York Region Chairman Bill Fisch today commended staff on their involvement to help the United Way of York Region raise \$7.7 million for its 2009 fundraising campaign.

The Regional Municipality of York received the *Community Fund Spirit Award* for the third consecutive year for donating the most money to the United Way of York Region Community Fund. The Region's 2009 campaign successfully met its quarter-million dollar goal by raising \$252,568.

Congratulations were extended to York Region's United Way Committee Co-Chairs, Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Commissioner of Transportation Services and Deputy York Regional Police Chief Bruce Herridge for co-ordinating another successful fundraising effort.

### ***York Region to pursue development of 40-bed shelter site in Town of Newmarket***

York Regional Council has directed Regional staff to pursue development of a site located in the Town of Newmarket for a 40-bed shelter/transitional housing facility for homeless, single women.

The Regional Municipality of York currently does not have a shelter for women who are homeless and not fleeing abuse. This is a significant gap within the Region and a women's shelter is needed to provide support, stability and assistance to homeless women.

In 2006, more than 10,000 single women were living in poverty in York Region. Each year, more than 500 women are turned away from Violence Against Women and family shelters. The proposed shelter in Newmarket will provide both short-term emergency shelter and, in the long term, self-contained transitional units for women.

Regional staff will begin the studies required to determine site feasibility and begin the municipal approval process.

The Community Team, formed and initiated this project in 2009, includes a variety of representatives and is challenged to raise \$1 million to offset the capital costs of the facility and to develop a strategy to provide ongoing support for the operating costs of the project.

### ***York Region to purchase 60 new life-saving monitors for Emergency Medical Services***

York Regional Council has approved a \$1.4 million contract with Physio-Control Canada for the purchase of 60 LifePak-15 monitor-defibrillator units for York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The devices provide crucial patient monitoring and life-saving support for EMS paramedics and will be used to replace 51 older units currently owned by York Region.

### ***York / Dufferin joint Green Bin organics treatment facility update***

York Regional Council received an update on the progress of the York/Dufferin joint Source Separated Organics treatment facility, which will issue a Design/Build/Operate Request for Proposal before the end of January. A contract award is expected this spring.

The facility will provide York Region with up to 45,000 tonnes of Green Bin organic waste processing per year, with an additional 5,000 tonnes of capacity available for Dufferin County. The facility will be designed to accommodate a future expansion that will increase processing capacity from 50,000 to 100,000 tonnes per year.

A \$31.2 million budget is included in York Region's 10-year capital plan for this project. In 2009, York Region collected approximately 90,000 tonnes of organics and currently processes organic material at two contracted facilities located in London and Welland, Ontario.

### ***York Region receives Drinking Water Quality Management Standard accreditation***

The Regional Municipality of York received notice of accreditation under the Drinking Water Quality Management Standards (DWQMS) for its 10 drinking water systems. This operational standard ensures that in cases of emergencies where drinking water quality may be affected, procedures are in place to mitigate impacts.

### ***York Region recognized for 2009 Business Plan and Budget***

The Regional Municipality of York has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for the fifth consecutive year. The award is given to municipalities that meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award, York Region produced a Business Plan and Budget that serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications tool.

The GFOA is a professional association serving 14,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

### ***York Region meets Emergency Management standards for 2009***

The Regional Municipality of York has completed all the necessary requirements under the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act for 2009.

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and Ontario Regulation 380/04 require all Ontario municipalities to maintain an emergency management program in the event of an emergency or disaster.

To meet annual legislative requirements, York Region undertook several initiatives, including:

- A Critical Infrastructure Identification and Community Risk Profile
- Revising the York Region Emergency Response Plan
- Training for senior staff and an emergency exercise
- Publishing the "Seniors to Go" emergency preparedness guide

## ***York Region invests in new 140-unit building of affordable housing***

York Regional Council approved funding for a 140-unit apartment building to provide much-needed affordable housing for residents in York Region.

The \$38.2-million project will be purchased from Harbor Development and the Fram Building Group Ltd., and will be located at the southeast corner of Major Mackenzie Drive and Essex Avenue in the Town of Richmond Hill. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

This purchase is the result of the Region's strategy to enhance affordable housing in York Region. In addition to providing the necessary infrastructure repair to existing units, the strategy identifies possible partnership opportunities with the private sector. Fram Building Group Ltd. responded to the Region's request for proposals and presented a concept that best fit the Region's requirements.

Upon completion, the building will be owned and operated by Housing York Inc., the housing company of The Regional Municipality of York. The final building will include the following features:

- 140-unit apartment building
- A mixture of 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom units
- Modifications for people with disabilities
- Two levels of underground parking
- Security enhancements
- Close proximity to public transit
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED-NC) certification

This purchase is being funded through \$16.8 million from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, \$12.4 million from the Investing in Ontario fund and \$9 million from The Regional Municipality of York.

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

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, February 18<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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